

Minutes of LWVME Board- June 7, 2010  
On the Porch, Irene Lane Cottage, Searsport, Maine

Present: Barbara McDade; Ann Luther; Martha Dickinson, Anne Schink ; Jill Ward (and Nicholas); Sarah Walton; Colleen Tucker; Polly Ferguson and Cathie Whittenburg

Absent: Michelle Small

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. and the Minutes of the April 8, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved, as edited online.

Ann reviewed the Treasurer's reports with us. The Treasurer's reports were filed for audit.

Barbara reported the following email vote: the Board unanimously approved a motion for LWVME to cosponsor a caucus on June 11 at the LWVUS Convention to cover the materials from the MD & ME Equality in Marriage studies, the reasons for this important recommendation, and strategies for encouraging Delegates to vote for this concurrence.

Anne Schink then led the group in a team-building exercise (ABS: Icebreaker: Leadership Styles using Leadership Compass activity) and program development brainstorming session (SWOT Analysis: Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats).

#### Fundraising/ Membership

Barbara, Anne S. and Sarah are on the Board's Fundraising Committee. We reviewed the success of our annual appeal. We have also instituted an online giving capability. Additional fundraising may depend on raising money for specific projects. We got a grant from LWVUS for the Oxfam/Sister on the Planet project. (Barbara will submit the final report to claim the second payment under this grant.) We have plans to write a grant proposal to engage an archivist to organize our material at the Fogler Library Special Collections. Barbara will take the lead on this, as well.

Jill, Martha, Ann L., Barbara, and Cathie are on the Communications Committee. Jill emphasized increasing our use of online tools for donations/solicitation of memberships. Jill suggested using Facebook to promote these online methods more and suggested posting "Did you Know" pieces to FB, taking info from PAC Study, for example.

Michelle, Sarah, Barbara, and Jill are on the Membership Committee. Jill, Barbara, Ann L. and Michelle will work on developing a "Calendar in a Box" to assist local Leagues in fleshing out a schedule of events to keep local members engaged. Polly mentioned importance of following up with existing and potential members who come to events, such as Alison's house party for Mary Wilson. Jill mentioned having a checklist of issues on our membership brochures to remind folks of what we do and solicit input on members' interests. Ann talked about her work on the Streamlining League process; the idea of having one visibility piece per month and six meetings a year, be it a house party, invited speaker, etc. She suggested that four members in each local League could comprise a Leadership Team to organize events. Anne S. mentioned that volunteers are looking for four things: Fun; Flexibility; Focus; and Friendship. Jill

suggested planning a “Welcome to the League” week to coordinate w. output of the membership letter. Barbara suggested sending an email to all members, seeking input on issues that interest them. Jill suggested using Survey Monkey to pose that inquiry and offered to set up such a survey.

Ann mentioned a Leadership Development program that we should discuss at next year’s retreat.

Advocacy: Ann L., Polly, Anne S., Barbara, and Cathie are on this Committee.

Ann L. reported that it’ll be a busy year this legislative year, with LWVME following approx. 200 bills

### Program

Ann L. mentioned writing grants to fund execution of new program; Anne S. suggested we write a textbook on how ME government works. Cathie reported on an impressive TX League brochure she found at the Capitol in Austin, TX, regarding how government works. Others mentioned similar resources produced by Maine’s SOS, and the former MPA Guide to Citizenship. Ann will bring materials we’ve developed over the years and Cathie will bring the TX brochure to the next meeting. Colleen volunteered to learn how to write a grant and Anne S. volunteered to work with her on that. Anne S. discussed the FOI Act and work on the InForME Board; Sarah mentioned that Maine had received an “F” in “transparency” from those testing ME’s compliance with FOIA. Anne S. offered to get us a speaker at the September meeting to discuss the InForME Board. Anne S. mentioned ongoing Portland Charter Commission developments and suggesting having house parties to provide local Leaguers with info regarding recommended changes.

PAC Study : Ann will send Interview Questions to Martha to be put in narrative form. Martha, Polly, Anne S. and Ann L. will formulate the study questions from the materials. Michelle will be asked to assist. Martha suggested a conference call, and Ann offered to set one up. Michelle is writing the 6<sup>th</sup> paper. The group is hoping to have all papers finalized by October/November.

### IRV

Good reports on Terry Bourcious’ presentation at Quad States. He’s a VT Leaguer and former legislator. Suggested we invite him to speak to other League members prior to our Local League concurrence meetings on IRV. Cathie offered to review the Minnesota State League’s IRV Study materials, which are available on the LWVME website in a section devoted to the IRV concurrence and develop an “Executive Summary” that we might use in educating our own members about IRV.

Keys Event The Board discussed whether we might hold this event in conjunction with the Maine Women’s Lobby’s day on the hill. It is thought that March would be good timing.

Voter Service- Polly, Colleen, Martha, Barbara, and Michelle are on this Committee.

Support for fleshing out more tools for the Forums in a Box concept was voiced. Discussion re: whether we have the human resources to conduct registration drives. Jill will look into whether LWVME might have a role in the upcoming November gubernatorial debates.

Easy Reader Voters' Guide The Board discussed whether this popular guide might serve as a fundraising opportunity, in that we could seek sponsorships for its publication. Anne Schink's daughter, Sarah, has offered to take the lead on distributing the guides. Literacy Volunteers of ME wants to be reimbursed for its staff time on this project, this year. LWVME is tasked with design, layout and printing of the guide. Anne S. and her daughter Sarah will work on project development plan and make a proposal to LWVME regarding its contribution to its creation and issuance. Anne S. will post an ad for a Project Leader on idealist.org or volunteermaine.org; Ann L. and Barbara work with Anne S. on this.

#### Technology

Ann L. will request League Easy Web to make modifications, i.e. a column on the right with FB link, calendar, Donate tab, What's New buttons, etc. Anne S. will ask the Emily Farley Fund for a grant to enable the filming of the oral history of Maine Leaguers; Cathie knows some videographers who might be interested in doing this. One goal would be to post these on YouTube.

Nominating Committee for 2011: Board members Sarah, Colleen, and Ann L. will serve and will seek the participation of an off Board member. Jill offered to go through the LWVME friend list to come up with suggestions.

LWVUS Convention Delegates and Advocacy Priorities for 2010. Ann, Barbara and Colleen will be attending as Delegates. Martha asked the Delegates to attend caucuses, keep an open mind, gather information and seek clarity on the NPV concurrence, and asked that they read a statement in support which she will write up, regarding the Safe Mining and Drilling Resolution. Sarah suggested reading the Science magazine article on the subject; Barbara will distribute that. The Delegates will be supporting the Marriage Equality concurrence effort in every way it can.

The Board adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen P. Tucker  
Secretary