

Minutes of LWVME Board- **August 18, 2010**
UMA Student Center, Augusta

Present: Barbara McDade; Martha Dickinson; Ann Luther; Jill Ward; Michelle Small; Sarah Walton (until one); Colleen Tucker and Cathie Whittenburg
Absent: Anne Schink and Polly Ferguson

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. and the Minutes of the June meeting were approved, as amended.

Ann L. reported that the audit was complete and reviewed the July 1-June 30, 2010 fiscal year Treasurer's reports. These reports were filed for audit. Barbara added that the auditor's report lauded Ann Luther for an "outstanding job" as Treasurer. The Board heartily agreed. Barbara will send the auditor a note, thanking her for her services, and LWVME will give her a free membership for the year.

The Board officially confirmed four email votes, as follows: authorizing the staffing of a table at Space Gallery for the showing of "You don't know Jack" (about Jack Abramoff and the influence of corporate money in government); to sign onto a letter thanking Maine's Senators for their work on climate change; to approve the new fiscal agreement between LWVME Ed Fund and MCCE; and authorizing the transfer of MCCE funds held in LWVME Ed Fund accounts to an account held by MCCE in its own corporate account.

LWV archival project. Barbara will contact Martha Harmon, a professional archivist, and Michelle offered to help Barbara with putting together a grant for funding.

Board Operations and Governance

Policy Review: The Board reviewed and slightly amended the Fundraising and Coalition policies; they were approved as amended.

The Board discussed whether to organize another Keys to the Capitol event. Everyone agreed it was a worthwhile event and expressed a desire to organize this in conjunction with the Maine Women's Lobby's Day at the Capitol event. Jill offered to contact Sarah Standiford to discuss the possibility of this collaboration.

Report on LWVUS National Convention in Atlanta in June. Attendants Ann, Barbara and Colleen all spoke enthusiastically about the event and Jill said she'd be interested in going to the next Convention.

Quad States: Positive feedback for this past May's event; excellent workshops, nice Sisters on the Planet celebration with our US Congressional delegation (Representatives Chellie Pingree and Mike Michaud and aides of Senators Snowe and Collins) and lunch with LWVUS President Mary Wilson. The Board discussed the request of the MA and CT State Leagues that they participate in next year's Quad States event. Barbara will confer with the other Quad States Presidents and report back.

Membership & Fundraising Jill has been sending out welcome letters to new and renewing members. Jill offered to follow up with her Bangor friend re: the possibility of forming a local league in Bangor. Jill reviewed the Survey Monkey survey with the Board and Sarah suggested an additional question which would highlight the benefits of League membership, specifically which attributes of League membership most attracted those taking the survey. Barbara will draft fundraising letters 1.) to past contributors and 2.) to others, targeting an October 24th launch date.

Calendar in a Box Discussion continued on what this entails, the need to flesh out a structure to help local leagues organize its activities.

Forum in a Box: Ann offered to put together a packet of materials on past programs, etc. The Board nominated Polly and Anne S., in absentia, to use those materials to determine what, if any, further instruction or materials might make this format more user friendly.

Communications

Jill has been posting materials to Facebook on a regular basis; she reminded those Board members on Facebook that they should re-post these postings to catch a wider audience. Martha asked that contributors to the next Maine Voter have their articles to her by early October.

Documentary film on LWVME history: Cathie spoke with a filmmaker who might be interested. Jill, Colleen, Ann L., Sarah and Anne S. will help Cathie flesh out what this documentary might entail. Question posed on whether grant \$\$ for such a film might be available from Maine Humanities Council, and it was suggested that the archival project be completed to organize materials in hand, before filming started.

Advocacy

MCCE 'is very, very busy; "best of times/worst of times". Its main focus continues to center around various court actions, such as the recently filed NOM lawsuit challenging Maine's Clean Elections matching funds provisions. MCCE may possibly file an amicus brief in the AZ case. There will be a reception in Portland on November 18th to celebrate MCCE's 10 Anniversary.

PAC Study

Ann established a September 15 deadline for Papers #5 and #6.

Climate Change: Downeast League is doing an event on "Global Climate Change Action Day", October 10, 2010.

Voter Service

Anne S. and Sarah Robinson have come up with a budget which includes printing costs. The library system will help facilitate distribution. They need to engage a designer. Five of nine candidates have not replied to questionnaire, including Reps. Pingree and Michaud. Julie Flynn has reviewed and commented on the draft guide. Michelle will do

pro/con statements on the ballot questions. It is anticipated that 25,000 copies of the Easy to Read Voter Guide are being distributed statewide

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Forums in a Box

Ann will put components on the LWVME members' page. The Board nominated Anne S. and Polly to beef up the "Forum in a Box" toolkit.

Board Operations

The Board reviewed the Fundraising Policy and Coalition Policy, both of which were approved as amended.

The LWVME Board adjourned at 2:10.

Respectfully Submitted

Colleen P. Tucker
Secretary