

Minutes of LWVME Board- February 23, 2011
University of Maine Augusta Student Center

Present: Barbara McDade; Ann Luther; Anne Schink ; Jill Ward; Michelle Small; Sarah Walton; Colleen Tucker and Cathie Whittenburg; Martha Dickinson (by phone 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.)
Absent: Polly Ferguson

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. and the Minutes of the December meeting were approved (with Michelle abstaining due to her absence).

Ann reviewed the Treasurer's reports with us. Donations are light and our income is under budget. Barbara will call LWVUS regarding the balance of our Sisters on the Planet grant to find out about getting the contribution owed from LWVUS and will ask Polly if she's interested in being our LWVUS liaison.

The Treasurer's reports were filed for audit.

Barbara will report email votes to me after the meeting. [Could include for the final version of the minutes.]

Board Operations & Governance

Board voted to ask Ed Fund to cover IRV education costs, estimated to be around \$500. Ann reported that the 990 EZ filing form was filed for the Ed Fund.

Board reviewed and re-approved the Web Site Policy, as is.

The Board approved the following Budget Committee for the 2011-2013 period: Ann Luther, Michelle and Barbara, as Chair.

Quad States will take place on October 15 & 16 in Wells: will focus on Membership. LWVUS will come to coach local Leagues.

Day on the Hill will take place on Wednesday, April 27. Activities will include tabling in the Hall of Flags (Ann to bring banner, Cathie to bring her display board on which we'll post recent LTE's, newspaper articles, and "How to Analyze Bill," and any other publications available; Sarah offered to cover set up and first shift at 8:00 a.m.). Anne Schink will be conducting a workshop on "How to Analyze a Bill". The Board voted to sponsor the tea and flowers at the Blaine House at a cost not to exceed \$250.00. Ann offered to compile a list of members who do not use email, and Michelle volunteered to send "save the date" postcards to those members; to save expenses, the Board decided to send postcards ONLY to those members who do not use email; members with email will get a "save the date" email message. Jill offered to post the event on Facebook and other Board members on FB should cut and paste on their own walls.
Anne will send the latest agenda to all Board members.

Nominating Committee: Ann reported that all current Board members had agreed to continue their service (THANK YOU!!), with Barbara, Ann and Colleen agreeing to be re-nominated for their current

positions; Jill is considering nomination for the position of Vice-President. The Board discussed other potential Board members to recruit.

State Convention to be held June 3 and 4:

Anne S. will call to inquire about having a Murder Mystery dinner at the Broadway, So. Portland location for the Friday evening dinner/entertainment. The Board discussed possible Keynote speakers and workshops, with thoughts of focusing on the Citizen's Initiative/ People's Veto issue and/or Money and Politics and/or an Alternative Media panel.

The Board unanimously approved Ann's motion to recommend a Study on Citizens' Initiative/ People's Veto.

Convention Voter; Ann outlined typical contents: President's Call to Convention; Slate of Nominees to Board, Proposed Budget, Convention Agenda, Statement of Recommended Program. Other articles to include the results of our IRV concurrence process. Martha will get the ball rolling, with the goal of having The Voter articles finalized by March 11th.

Fundraising

Barbara will draft a letter, and Jill agreed to edit it.

Membership

Ann L., Michelle and Anne S. will work on the logistics of putting out a new membership recruitment letter, with Michelle offering to put together the draft contents. Jill's revised letter will go out to new/renewing members. The Bangor League is still in the formative stage. We have 187 Facebook friends, Jill reports. Michelle, Cathie and Colleen expressed interest in attending the National Membership Recruitment Initiative taking place on March 25-27 in Warwick/Providence, RI. Anne S. will be conducting a workshop at the event. Most, if not all expenses will be covered by LWVUS. The Board voted for LWVME to fund any additional expenses, if necessary.

Advocacy

Lobby Corps

Current members include Anne S., Ann L., Sarah, Polly, Cathie, and Michelle

Clean Elections and Voting bills were heard last week; LWVME testified and we got a lot of great press.

Girls' Day at the State House will be held Thursday, March 24th. Sarah will be attending and tabling for the UN and agreed to (wo)man a table for LWVME, as well. The Board unanimously agreed to Sarah's motion to ask the Ed Fund for a \$250 contribution to the days' events. Cathie agreed to work on the LWVME display.

Anne Schink has scheduled a meeting with the new Secretary of State, Charlie Summers, at 2:30 pm today; she'll report back to the Board.

Coalitions

MCCE: Ann L. reported that we are awaiting the outcome of pending litigation and reported on the most recent favorable NOM decision

MFOIC: Michelle requested, and the Board unanimously agreed, to re-join at a cost of \$50. She reports that they recently obtained a \$4,800 grant to set up a website on the MFOA Act and other training and education efforts; the MFOIC is celebrating its 10th year of existence

Coalition for Maine Women: see discussion of Day on the Hill, above.

Anne S. requested that we re-join the Coalition for Choice; after a thorough discussion, a majority of the Board approved re-joining, with Michelle dissenting. Anne S. agreed to serve as the LWVME member to the Coalition.

InforME: Anne Schink reported on recent national award for best government website and discussed the controversy in distinguishing between private data and public record and the role of InforME as vendor. Michelle and Anne discussed the tension between the needs of InforME and the goals of the MFOIC.

LWVUS Advocacy Briefing to be held February 25th at 3 pm (phone):

Ann L. will participate and will ask Barbara to participate, as well.

Program

Ann reported on the PAC Study: Michelle is finishing up one of the last papers, and Martha and Ann are working on finalizing the paper based on the results of the interviews. The PAC Study Committee set a goal of completing the papers and holding the local league meetings by the fall of this year.

IRV Concurrence Colleen reported that all local leagues will be conducting meetings this coming Saturday, February 26th. Ellsworth will hold a second concurrence meeting on March 5, after which the local leagues will report to the Board for a determination of whether LWVME has reached consensus on IRV/RCV.

Publications

Forums in a Box: Ann L. suggested that the materials put together by Anne S. be presented in a two pocket folder; one side being for League participants in sponsored events and the other for non-League participants in League-sponsored events.

Sarah is updating the Courts pamphlet and Anne S. is updating the How to Analyze a Bill pamphlet.

Anne S. said that she has templates for a Know Your Community – the Discussion Unit; “Heart of the League” publication, and suggested that LWVME utilize these.

The Board agreed to put the status of our Archiving Project on our next meeting’s Agenda.

The Board adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen P. Tucker
Secretary