

LWVME BOARD MEETING –April 14, 2011
Telephonic Conference call

Present: Michelle Small, Ann Luther, Polly Ferguson, Colleen Tucker, Cathie Whittenburg, Sarah Walton, Anne Schink,
Absent: Barbara McDade, Jill Ward, Martha Dickinson

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Sarah Walton, President pro tem, and the Minutes of the February 23, 2011 meeting were approved.

Ann reviewed the Treasurer's reports with us. Donations are light and our income is about \$1000 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. Polly has agreed to act as our LWVUS liaison, and has been in touch with Barbara regarding how she might best serve in that capacity.

The Treasurer's reports were filed for audit.

The following email votes were confirmed by the Board, as follows:

1/18/11 PASSED-to accept the IRV Paper and Questions;
2/13/11 PASSED-to change Board meeting date to February 23, 2011;
3/25/11 PASSED-Budget to recommend for approval at LWVME Convention for 2012-2014 period, which includes an increase in MAL dues and Per Member Payments.

Board Operations & Governance

There was no policy to review this meeting.

The final draft of the newsletter is circulating to be reviewed, polished.

Day on the Hill will take place on Wednesday, April 27. Activities will include tabling in the Hall of Flags (Ann to bring banner; Sarah offered to cover set up and first shift at 8:00 a.m. and reported that she had a fantastic tri-fold display prepared by Cathie; Michelle will join Sarah for the morning shift in the Hall of Flags). Anne Schink will be conducting a workshop on "How to Analyze a Bill". Anne urged members to register online. Ann L. offered to email reminders to our members.

State Convention to be held June 3 and 4:

Anne S. confirmed the dinner/theatre at Events on Broadway, So. Portland location for the Friday evening. Professor Ron Schmidt is confirmed for the afternoon speaker slot, and Sec. of State Charles Summers is considering the morning slot; Anne S. is following up with him. The old Board's pre-Convention meeting will take place Friday at 4:30 at Ann Luther's Portland home. Colleen reminded folks that she needs some content to complete the Convention Workbook, specifically, the Downeast League's report and the Lobby Corps' report.

Fundraising Ann suggested a reminder mailing to those past funders who didn't contribute to LWVME this year. The Fundraising Committee is comprised of Barbara, Anne S. and Michelle. Because these members have a lot on their plates right now, Colleen will draft a letter for review/polishing.

Membership

Anne S. and Michelle shared their impressions of the recent weekend Membership Recruitment Initiative training session which they recently attended in Providence, RI. Anne S. led the Board in a review of the MRI workplan created at the conference, and the Board approved the workplan, which focuses largely on resuscitating the Portland League. Ann L. said she would order more membership brochures for us.

Michelle drafted a new membership recruitment letter which has circulated and been edited to final form. She will be shipping the letters, envelopes, labels and remittance envelopes to Anne S by the end of next week for compiling/ mailing.

Advocacy

Lobby Corps

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

The Lobby Corps testified against the Photo ID Bill and Bill to overturn same day registration. Ann L. has written and delivered testimony with MCCE on PAC and Clean Elections bills; Michelle has written testimony on IRV and Ethics and Disclosure bills; and Anne S. has written and delivered testimony on Anti-Choice and Prescription Drug bills in conjunction with our work with the Coalition for Maine Women and Coalition for Choice. It has been a very, very active legislative season for our Lobby Corps.

Girls' Day at the State House was held Thursday, March 24th. Sarah reported that approximately 100 girls and 50 female mentors attended the successful event. She said that Cathie's LWVME display was great.

Coalitions

MCCE: Ann L. reported that they are following approximately 20-30 bills and have been very active at the Capitol with press conferences and legislative testimony at public hearings. We are awaiting the outcome of pending litigation in AZ and working on how to assure that Clean Election funding is available for the November 2012 elections.

MFOIC: Michelle reports that they are working on setting up a website on the MFOA Act and other training and education efforts, using their recent federal grant monies.

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

Coalition for Choice: see Advocacy, above.

Program

Ann proposed that we review the LWVUS position on PACs and use the information gathered through the PAC Study as a basis for advocating on pending legislative bills when and where the LWVUS positions and our knowledge allow, rather than seek to create a new, stand-alone position on PAC reform. She read the LWVUS position and the Board agreed that it would enable us to speak on a wide variety of concerns, and that the LWVME PAC Study results would enable us to do so with more confidence and authority. Colleen suggested that we devote time during our summer retreat at her family's Searsport cottage to a discussion on how we could best make use of the information gathered through the PAC Study process; Ann L. will compile prepare a synopsis for the Board to use in its discussions.

IRV Since our last Board meeting, the LWVME has adopted a position approving IRV/RCV. The position has garnered us favorable press and membership interest. Colleen offered to contact the League of Young Voters, Maine People's Alliance and Portland City Clerk's Office to see whether they are planning on community outreach to educate Portlanders about using the IRV/RCV process for its November 2012 mayoral election. She also reported on a national teleconference she "attended" with Rob Ritchie of Fairvote and interested parties in CO, AZ (Barbara Klein), ME (Rep. Diane Russell, Nathan Smith), MN, MA, and CA, which focused on overall messaging (IRV? RCV? "Majority winner", etc.), what's needed and what's going on in ME.

The Board adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen P. Tucker
Secretary