

Minutes of LWVME Board- September 1, 2011
Women, Work & Community Conference Room on UMA Campus

Present: Barbara McDade; Ann Luther; Polly Ferguson, Anne Schink ; Jill Ward; Sarah Walton;
Colleen Tucker

Absent: Cathie Whittenburg, Michelle Small

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and the Minutes of the July 18 meeting were Approved as revised, per attached.

Ann reviewed the Treasurer's reports with us. Donations are light and our income is under budget we had \$1,291 in our coffers at the end of July. Ann offered to start reporting on the funds held by the Portland League, which currently stands at about \$1,300.

The Treasurer's reports were approved and filed for audit.

E Mail Votes the only email vote recalled related to Ed Fund business.

Board Operations & Governance

Review of the LWVME Annual Calendar was TABLED.

The Board reviewed and edited the Fundraising Policy, and approved it, as amended.

Quad States will take place on October 15 & 16 in Wells: will focus on Membership and Leadership Development. Non-Partisanship will be a major focus. LWVUS is setting the agenda and financing the entire weekend, including hotel accommodations.

Maine Voter ; The Board brainstormed ideas for articles, to be submitted to Martha on or before 9/15/2011.

Advocacy: Ann reported that the Maine Legislature will be meeting for a short term to consider 102 executive appointments, the "bath salts" bill, Clean Elections "fix" and will adjourn by 9/30/2011 and are not encouraging the submission of new bills.

LWVME will not be taking a position on the redistricting plans under consideration; the Legislature will vote on the issue 9/27.

We will know by 9/9/11 whether the Secretary of State has confirmed that a sufficient number of valid signatures have been submitted on petitions filed to get a people's veto of the recent law eliminating election day registration ("EDR") on this November's ballot.

Jill is Treasurer and on the Steering Committee of the Protect Maine Votes coalition, and attends weekly meetings. Jill offered to speak with Julie Flynn at the SOS's Office to determine whether the EDR ban would be in effect for this November's election. Jill reports that polling shows more than 50% of those polled support EDR, and that of all organizations inquired about, the League of Women Voters polls highest in confidence and integrity.

Fundraising

Jill reviewed a very well thought out fundraising plan which sets goals and a framework for increasing membership and fundraising.

Membership

Our membership plan is tied in with our fundraising plan and the two committees will work closely together to meet our goals. Ann L, Sarah and Barbara were on a telephone conference with LWVUS re: LWVUS sending out membership renewals for 5 states as a pilot project. Ann L. MOVED to have LWVUS take over sending out renewal letters for all but the Brunswick League and the Board APPROVED the Motion. The Board discussed the importance of localizing the presentation/envelope/letter and Barbara will talk to Michelle about how she wants to handle the Brunswick League renewals.

Program

The Board APPROVED a MOTION to renew our membership to the Coalition for Maine Women for \$100.00.

MCCE: just got another \$30,000 grant and is busy working on the most appropriate “fix”, given recent litigation

LWVUS Advocacy “Clean Air Promise” contract was discussed, with a lot of questions asked re: timeline, \$\$\$, whether we could hire someone to participate; Barbara offered to find out and get back to us.

Climate Change the Board discussed the request from Janet Mills to write a letter; Martha explained the issue at hand to the Board, which voted to decline the request to write a letter, but asked that we be kept informed

Voter Service and Education

Forums in a Box: Anne S. led us in a discussion about the materials for use by League and non-League organizations and the difference between them.

Easy Reader Voters Guide: We are gearing up to publish 25,000 statewide ERVG and 10,000 Portland Area voter guides to include the explanation of the RCV method and mayoral candidates. We discussed the budget; in addition to seeking funds from the Ed Fund and the Emily Farley Fund, Sarah Robinson will be asking for sponsorships; the latest revisions will be sent around for proofing

Ed Fund Requests:

The Board MOVED to recommend to the Ed Fund that it pay \$4,230 toward publication of the ERVG.

The Board adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen P. Tucker
Secretary