

LWVME BOARD MEETING –December 8, 2011
Women, Work and Community Conference Rm, UMA

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Barbara, and the Minutes of the September and October, 2011 meetings were approved.

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

There were no email votes since the last meeting.

Board Operations & Governance

Jill offered to review and run revisions to the League and Ed. Fund Security Policy by Ann Luther and bring forward for approval before the Board at our next meeting, February 9, 2012. She also offered to circulate the Candidate Forum and Coalition policies for our next meeting.

LWVUS's efforts on **Campaign Finance Reform and Disclosure**; they would like get LWVME active in Senators Collins and Snowe on board with this legislation and have \$60,000 to spend for outreach in Maine. After discussion, the Board moved and VOTED to collaborate with Maine Coalition for Clean Elections and to pursue the following course of action: Barbara will get back to Lloyd Leonard and advise we do want to participate in effort; will set up conf. call w. Lloyd, Barbara, Jill, and Alison Smith.

LWVUS Priorities: LWVME Board voted unanimously to recommend the following priorities to LWVUS: 1.) Campaign Finance Reform/ Corporate Personhood; 2.) Voter Rights/Photo ID/ Election Administration; 3.) Wealth and Income Disparity (Budget priorities; meeting human needs and tax policy.

Brennan Center Presentations in Maine

Lee Rowland, Esq. will be coming to Portland, Augusta and Bangor to talk about the biggest challenges to Voter Rights being faced by US Citizens in decades. The times/locations of these talks have been established, and the Board discussed numerous outreach efforts to pursue (email, postcards, flyer, Facebook, calendars in printed press, Anne Schink will contact Greg Kesich at Portland Press, etc.)

Advocacy

Biggest issues this session, so far: Photo ID and repeal of Clean Elections' law pertaining to financing gubernatorial elections. Since these issues will be dealt with early in the session, the Lobby Corps is already in touch with four key state senators about these issues. The complete list of bills is out, not yet reviewed. We also discussed the value of the Portland League meeting with the Portland City Clerk to discuss the City's experience with IRV.

Fundraising

The Board discussed how best to implement the fundraising plan put together by Jill. We discussed follow up phone calls; development of script; \$6,500 goal; follow-up emails (2); Jill and Ann offered to review/divvy up call list and work on script.

Membership

We now have 261 Facebook fans.

Membership Plan/ Coaching effort is underway with calls set up with Kate Rader, our State Coach. Anne Schink, Sarah, Martha, Ann L. and Colleen will participate in calls.

Anne S. has taken the lead on efforts to revitalize the Portland Local League and has sent an email inviting Portland area members to make their interest known if they want to join in; she has been approached by several interested members!

Status on Bangor area's potential for establishing a local league was discussed.

Downeast League (courtesy of Ann Luther) will be participating in a series of presentations on WERU; first show will be January 9th "Democracy in Action" with US Representative Chellie Pingree.

Program

PAC Study: Ann presented a comprehensive overview of the PAC Study results and how we can use the LWVUS position on PACs here in Maine. The Board considered and adopted the following position: "LWVME supports reform in the financing of state candidate PACs consistent with LWVUS' position on Campaign Finance Reform." Support was unanimous.

LWVME will not be participating in the **LWVUS Study on EDUCATION.**

We will participate in the **PRIVATIZATION Study.** Martha has posted the study materials on the LWVME website and will fix that link so that members can easily access them. We discussed setting up panel discussions on the issue with pro/con speakers. Anne S. and Martha will spearhead this effort.

Coalitions:

Anne reported that the Maine Women's Coalition will be doing a "Day on the Hill", and LWVME will be participating in that effort, rather than having a separate "Keys to the Capitol" event.

ERV Guide Next time, the Board resolved to agree on the language for the pro/con statements well before language goes to the designer; a LWVME committee will be assigned with this task. We will also start fundraising earlier; Literacy Volunteers of Maine will not be participating next year and will be a project of the LWVME Ed Fund, only. Also, any member who is a known advocate on any issue will not be named on the Guide. Ann L. MOVED that we recommend to the LWVME Ed Fund Trustees that it appoint a Committee by May of 2012 to work on the ERV Guide.

The Board adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen P. Tucker
Secretary