

**League of Women Voters of Maine  
Board Meeting, November 23, 2013  
Minutes**

Not present – Tammy Wing, Martha Dickinson, Colleen Tucker

**Preliminaries -**

**Minutes of the Sept meeting** – motion to accept, Leslie Harlow, second Val Marsh, unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Ann pointed out that there is no policy for what to do with extra donations, over and above dues. Normally state league keeps the extra. However, Portland got a dues add on, Ann gave it to them. Report filed for audit.

**E-mail votes for the record** - no votes for the record.

**Board Operations & Governance**

**Policy Reviews –**

Issue Forum Policy - Had a problem because Bangor League wanted to do an issues forum and Eliot Cutler was on the forum, though he had not yet declared his candidacy. Policy proposed to be clear if a candidate was declared they couldn't participate in an issues forum. Amended to draw the line when the open a campaign committee and begin fundraising. Motion to adopt as amended, Ann Luther, seconded Lorraine Glowczak, unanimously approved. Will put on website.

**Quad States** – Discussion on when they should be - Spring, Fall or every other year? Proposal to have Quads in early Spring, every year, and include CT and MA. Barbara will talk to other states.

**Bangor League Update** – Unfortunately, Betting the Farm only had three people show up. But one was a student from University who did good piece in the school paper. The Leadership team is meeting for dinner to decide where to go from here. Forums on independents and parties both very successful, registration days were good.

**Brunswick League Update** - Citizen Koch forum went well, people took the newsletter. Still having trouble getting core steering group together.

**Down East League Update** - Panel *Taming the Wild Blueberry*, 3 good panelists, about 30 people, well received. The same panelists could probably get together to address other groups if anyone interested. Contact Leslie for more info. Also had cosponsors so that was helpful in turnout.

**Portland League Update** - Don't seem to bump up attendance from new people so that's discouraging, but the meetings are very good. Had one on free speech and Planned Parenthood, had about 20 people. Speakers always happy with audience. Charter schools same meeting. Know Your County is next. Greater Portland Council of Government will be there. Jan and Feb meetings on agriculture study. Will have a Jan. 4th moderator training with Anne Schink. March round table program for helping immigrants as they arrive here.

### **Advocacy**

Ann Luther reported that the Advocacy Committee has some off board members which is nice. Next legislative session looking at national popular vote compact, early voting, clean elections. ranked choice voting working on the side. Need a schedule of volunteers to cover the state house to be sure someone is there every day.

### **Fundraising and Development Committees**

**Funding Committee Update** - End of the year fundraising appeal letters are going out, two versions, one to current members and one to non members. Passed around letters so people could write notes on them. Will also have email appeals on this.

**Major Donor Campaign** - Have identified 10 people to have meetings with. The one pager C-3 and C-4 documents need to be updated. Cathie will do this. Have done a few meetings, they have gone well. Will keep this going by looking at who the next ten might be. Thrilled to report that Leslie brought in a high donor who gave \$1,500.

### **Grants**

Recommend to the Ed. Fund that Val will write two grants for a half time staff person. One to Learner Foundation and one to Maine Community Foundation. And an additional grant to Maine Community for the archive project. Ann moved to recommend, Cathie seconded, unanimously approved.

Recommend to the Ed. Fund that Cathie will write grant to the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation for funds for the Voter Guide. Ann moved to recommend, Polly seconded. Unanimously approved.

### **Membership Committee**

**Membership Committee Update** – Currently 190 members statewide. The Committee would like to propose a dues structure change to try and increase membership. Have three options:

- 1) Add cut-rate membership of \$25.00, also continue with standard rate, could also add a higher level. This could increase membership but we would retain less revenue.
- 2) Add a Friend of the League level for \$25. They would be a donor without voting rights. Wouldn't have to give any of this to National.
- 3) Combine the two, have a special rate for the first year. Could consider if someone has lapsed for a few years they can come back at the \$25 level.

Discussed the three rates, possibly three levels, \$25 1<sup>st</sup> year, \$55 regular, \$100 mentor level. Mentor level would also get some sort of swag – mug, magnetic bumper sticker, etc. Also discussed lifetime membership level.

Ann moved to adopt #3, one year trial membership combined with mentor membership at \$100 that would include swag. New program won't come into effect until Feb. Table gift and lifetime membership for today. Cathie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Will promote this in Women's History Month, March, possibly with a kick-off event.

Leslie will research event venues and swag possibilities.

**National Renewal** - National wants us participate in their renewal pilot program. Concerns over whether or not we will be able to sign off on the content of the letter that goes out, would not want a D.C. address on the outside of the envelope. Would they be able to handle a \$100 mentor level of membership? Will go back with questions and report back.

### **Communications**

**Facebook** - 374 likes at the moment. Need to look at the Facebook friends who are not members and do something with them. Do we want to try doing a Thunder Clap for Women's History Month?

**Media** – Need to try and get more visibility for the League. Perhaps call in to the local MPBN call ins with questions and identify that we are on the board. Is there anyone interested in doing Twitter for the League?

### **Adjourn**

Val motion to adjourn, Polly second. Meeting adjourned at 2:35.