

LWVME BOARD MEETING – June 6, 2009
Alison Smith’s Lakehouse, Echo Lake, Fayette

Present: Barbara McDade, Ann Luther, Polly Ferguson, Colleen Tucker, Cathie Whittenburg, Jill Ward, Catherine Erdman, Sarah Walton, Anne Schink
Martha Dickinson (by phone)
Absent: Michelle Small
Guests: Alison Smith

Preliminaries:

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m., and the **minutes** of the May 1, 2009 meeting were amended to note Cathie Whittenburg’s absence and Catherine Erdman’s presence, and then approved, as so amended.

The **Convention Minutes**, as drafted and distributed by Martha Dickinson online, were approved.

No **Treasurer’s Report** was presented; Michelle will maintain the books until the end of the fiscal year (June 30th), commission an audit, and turnover the books and accounts to Ann Luther thereafter. Ann will sign signature cards and assume responsibility as Treasurer on July 1st.

There were no **E-mail votes** since May 1st.

Board Operations:

The Board laid out four primary goals for the next year:

1. Growing Membership; building sustainability and capacity
2. Increasing Visibility; Building brand enhancement by working on voter turnout; guides; election laws; Good Government issues;
3. Working on Issue Areas; and
4. Coalition Building.

The Board members selected Areas in which they planned to work, as follows:

Fundraising: Anne, Barbara and Sarah

Membership: Michelle, Colleen, Jill and Sarah

Advocacy: Polly, Anne, Cathie, Catherine and Ann

Communications: Martha, Cathie, Jill, Ann

Voter Service: Polly, Catherine, Barbara, Colleen, Martha and Michelle

It was agreed that each committee should select its own chair or alternate leadership structure, hoped for in time for the next board meeting.

Focusing on our Issue Areas, the Board laid out the following intentions/gameplan:

Voter Service/Education In general, we want to keep educational opportunities in mind relating to LWVUS priorities: Global Climate Change and Universal Health Ins.

Voter's Guide on 11/09 ballot questions - Work with *Literacy Volunteers*

Develop "Forums in a Box", aka "FIB"s

Maine Humanities Council's "As Maine Grows" play

Jill will contact them to set up Portland location if none currently scheduled; suggested locations: Piper Shores, St. Lawrence Church

Issue forums on ballot issues: TABOR, Excise Tax, Others

Voter Registration and GOTV efforts for 11/09

Work with Coalition Partners: League of Young Voters; Equality Maine, MPA, Anti-TABOR groups (Engage Maine, Ben Dudley), and WLAC

Naturalization Ceremonies:

Polly agreed to replace Colleen Sanders as point person

Anne mentioned that Literacy Volunteers wants to participate

Campaign Finance

PAC Study: finish 3 reports and develop consensus questions by end 12/09

Conduct consensus meetings, Board vote on any position resulting

Work with Coalition Partners to develop calendar of external events

Press releases at various stages

Use as focus for Keys to the Capital advocacy and education on 2/23 or 25/2010

Colleen will book Hall of Flags and Welcome Center, arrange for Tour

Anne will Chair event

Distribute PAC Study results and have press conference

MCCE: Ann and Alison are current League representatives; Jill is also on the Steering Committee Catherine and Martha are also interested in becoming more involved.

Election Law:

Advocacy Committee/ Lobby Corps

Will review new proposed legislation; use Coalition Building, Press Events

Cathie, Jill and Martha will develop Web 2.0 presence (Facebook, etc)

IRV Concurrence

Colleen will lead effort; **Cathie and Ann** will assist in looking at MN Study and Consensus Questions and develop strategy to best educate folks

Colleen will set up informational meeting at Piper Shores for September and contact Fairvote for educational materials beforehand

Schedule local mtgs for concurrence in October; Barbara suggested using Webinar Ann mentioned diskette w. "veggie demonstration" as useful educational tool

Early voting- LWVUS has no position; the Board determined to be new priority
Need to determine Board interpretation and establish Position
Ann agreed to call Julie Flynn and ask her to discuss this at our Sept. mtg.
Discussed need for Voter Education and Press/media outreach @ issue
Want to put together Forum in a Box kits for Pilot municipalities
Need to Recruit Help!!! –Identify Coalition Partners on this issue
Barbara agreed to take the lead on this effort

Secretary of State Issues: focus on maintaining/enhancing League's role with SOS
Random Audits-LWVUS has position; the Board determined to be new priority and will monitor implementation under new legislative Resolve
Redistricting-Board will study LWVUS' position on Apportionment
Board determined to be new priority, but will coast on this until December '09
Optical Scan RFP-Ann currently working on this
INFORME- Anne is our representative on this effort
Other issues discussed, determined as non-priority: Permanent Absentee, Centralized Voter Registration in Maine; Real ID; Non-Citizen Voting

Coalition Building

Ann, Jill, Cathie and Colleen agreed to work with Coalition Partners to:
Hold meetings / gather info on their calendars/plans for Advocacy and Voter Service; see where we can complement/support their efforts and vice versa
Cathie offered to develop a database of potential Coalition partners
Jill will contact the *Junior League*, Harris Parnell at the *League of Young Voters*, and keep us posted on *MCLU* and *Maine Women's Lobby* activities
Colleen will be the lead contact for *Equality Maine*; Jill and Cathie will back up
Other groups mentioned: BPW; Rotary; Kids Consortium

New Business:

Portland's Charter Commission
Assist Portland League with educating itself and voters about Commission's work
Colleen will set up a informational meeting with Pamela Plumb
Jill will talk with Harris Parnell, Exec. Director League of Young Voters
Marriage Equality Coalition-The Board unanimously approved joining the Coalition
Concurrence with CO position on TABOR discussed. The board voted not to seek concurrence with the CO position at this time.
Action item: Schedule "As Maine Grows" play dates (**Jill**)
Cathie agreed to look into the CO position and report back at the September meeting, in case we want to reconsider

Archiving/ Storing League materials

Ann will solicit bids for central storage facility and archival of LWVME papers Tabling kit, etc. and for Compliance issues

Barbara will take the lead in formulating a grant proposal seeking funds for an archivist to organize LWVME materials at the Fogler Library. The Emily Farley Fund is potential source for funds, since some of the material is from the Portland League.

Ann will download all past Minutes of LWVME Board meetings to our Members-only Website and **Colleen** will do this on a going-forward basis

Future meeting dates established: 9/10; 10/8; 12/10; 2/11 and 4/8;

Sarah will try to secure UMA conference room at Student Center for meetings

The meeting was recessed for the Ed Fund Meeting at 3:20 pm and re-convened at 3:46 pm, and adjourned at 4:20 pm, with kudos all around for a job well done!

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen P. Tucker, Secretary