

LWV-ME Board Meeting, September 16, 2010

Augusta, ME

Present: Barbara McDade, Ann Luther, Anne Schink, Jill Ward, Michelle Small, Martha Dickinson, Sarah Walton

Absent: Polly Ferguson, Cathie Whittenburg, Colleen Tucker

The meeting was called to order shortly after 10 am. Martha volunteered to take minutes in Colleen's absence. **Minutes of the August meeting were approved.**

Ann Luther gave the Treasurer's Report, which will be filed for audit.

We voted unanimously to recommend to the LWV-ME Ed Fund Trustees that the remainder of funds held by our fiscal agency should be released to the MCCE.

There have been **no email votes** since the August meeting.

LWV- ME Archives – nothing to report. We missed the cycle for a grant from the Maine Community Foundation and will apply to the Emily Farley fund. The grant will be to hire an archivist to create a finding aid for the League material we have donated to Fogler Library at the University of Maine.

Our **Privacy Policy** was readopted with minor amendments.

Next April 7, we plan our **Keys to the Capitol** event as part of a program of the Coalition for Maine Women, formerly known as MLWA. Anne, Polly and Cathie went last year to their Day on the Hill and think adding a program by us on a topics such as our PAC Study and How to Analyze a Bill would be a good complement to their program. Anne will go a meeting with the Women's Coalition on Oct 18. Anne has materials from PA that should be useful.

We could also do **brochures on 1) courts, 2) the executive branch, 3) analyzing a bill, and 4) county government.** Legislative brochures are covered well by state government. Anne will draft a grant proposal to produce and print perhaps 2500 of each brochure.

Barbara has contacted other **Quad States** leaders about plans for next spring's meeting, but no word back on the idea of inviting MA and CT and being open to moving venue to Portsmouth.

Membership: Jill reports that letters have been going out. Michelle will send renewal reminders soon. Jill has looked at our Facebook fans and found that few of them are members. She will type up her results and email to the Board. The Survey Monkey of the members is ready to go.

The **Calendar** Template for Local Leagues, aka, Calendar in a Box, is a good idea but will tabled until next Spring.

Communications: Jill reported that we have 165 friends on **Facebook**, and only 12 of these are members. We should see if we can recruit any of these as members before we invest more energy in our Facebook page. (LWV-ME has about 150 members.)

The October issue of the **Maine Voter** is in process. The next issue will be a February issue. We should try to get articles from our coalition partners for the February issue.

The **Documentary Film** and **Twitter** were tabled.

We changed the **dates of upcoming Board meetings** through the end of 2010 from Wednesdays to Thursdays. We will meet **Oct 14 and Dec 9**. Michelle made the changes online.

MCCE (Maine Citizens for Clean Elections): Ann reported on the 20/10 Tour, which MCCE is doing to celebrate 10 years of the Clean Elections Act by visiting at least 20 towns in Maine to make a PowerPoint presentation and talk about Clean Elections. (Ann showed us the PowerPoint during lunchtime.) Three lawsuits challenging clean elections are pending. Nov 18 in Portland, MCCE plans a fundraising gala featuring a nationally known speaker.

MFOIC (Maine Freedom of Information Coalition): Michelle met by phone with MFOIC on Monday; she is on their Board. MFOIC is applying for a grant from the Knight Foundation for a website on the Maine's FOI Act.

WLAC (Women's Leadership Action Coalition) has changed its name to Coalition for Maine Women. We need to send them \$100 to renew our coalition partnership. This was approved by unanimous vote. Anne will attend an Oct 6 meeting.

InForMe: Anne is on their Board. InForMe does the website for maine.gov and has won awards for their work. A new feature of maine.gov is that an absentee ballot can be requested online.

Maine Center for Public Reporting: Ann is on their Board and gave a brief report.

Lobby Corps – table until our next meeting when we set our legislative priorities.

PAC Study: Ann reported on work to be done. Martha will use Doodle and convene a phone meeting with Ann, Anne, Michelle, Polly and herself.

Portland Charter Commission: Anne reported that issues include the election of a mayor, IRV, and non-citizen voters.

10/10/10: International Day of Climate Change Action is October 10, 2010. The Downeast League will co-sponsor an event with Towns in Transition in Ellsworth. See 350.org to locate events all over the world.

DISCLOSE ACT: Ann reported that the Disclose Act passed the House with serious compromises such as exempting the NRA from disclosure requirements. It failed a cloture vote in the Senate so it cannot be enacted before Nov. election. LWV-US has asked us to support cloture with LTEs and messages to Senators Snowe and Collins. The LTE suggested by LWV-US will be printed in the October Voter. Jill volunteered to do the Forecaster. LWV-US has asked us (Ann or Barbara) to have a press conference in Bangor on Sep 22. Barbara will do.

Easy-to-Read Voter Guide: Sarah Robinson reported by phone on the progress of the Guide. The Emily Farley Fund has approved a grant of \$2650. Distribution will be done to libraries, Adult Ed, High Schools, etc. Jill will monitor lwvme.org email daily through election season. Sarah will get a temporary cell phone to use as contact number. We should mail a copy of the Guide to all of our members. Michelle will handle PSAs and press releases. [In an Ed Fund break at 2:30, the Board reconvened and voted to recommend to the Ed Fund that they spend \$2500 for production of the Easy to Read Voter Guide.]

Forum in a Box: Anne and Polly are doing a draft and will email it around to us. It was suggested that we do a moderator training at Quad States.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Dickinson, substituting for Colleen Tucker