Correspondence, 1976-1984 (American Association of University Women box 5, folder 9)

American Association of University Women - Maine Division Staff

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TO: All Interested Citizens
FROM: Sharon M. Lunner, Chairperson

The Maine Child Care Task Force, co-sponsored by the Departments of Human Services and Educational and Cultural Services was convened in September, 1983. The Task Force is a committee of volunteers comprised of public and private child care providers, consumer groups, business representatives, educators and others with an interest in this issue.

We have been studying the child care needs of Maine parents, and intend to recommend by September, 1984 innovative ways to use existing public and private resources to improve and expand the child care in Maine. Our major areas of focus are the quality and quantity of child care, including the issue of the latchkey child.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED
TO
PUBLIC HEARINGS ON CHILD CARE

Where:  AUGUSTA  Cony High School Auditorium, Cony Street
         BANGOR  Eastern Maine Vocational Technical Institute
                   Mechanicals Building, Hogan Road
         CARIBOU  Caribou High School Cafeteria, Sweden Street
         LEWISTON  Lewiston High School Multipurpose Room (V-116)
                   156 East Avenue
         PORTLAND Howard Reiche School - Cafeteria, 166 Brackett Avenue

When:  Tuesday, May 1, 1984, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.; 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Why:  We want you to respond to our preliminary areas of investigation and to give us your suggestions for inclusion in our final report.

(continued on next page)
SUBJECTS ADDRESSED ARE:

Employer-Supported Child Care Options

I. Legislation regarding:
   A. Information and Referral systems
   B. Tax credits for employers and employees for child care options at Federal and State levels
   C. IRS rule changes for flexible benefit and salary reduction plans

II. Public/private partnership for meeting child care needs
   A. Education of business community on employer-supported child care options
   B. Ongoing assessment of private sector need for child care through public meetings, seminars and conferences
   C. Child care and job training
   D. Child care for state employees

III. Financial assistance of a Resource and Referral System and support to other model programs such as:
   A. Family day care systems for small businesses, rural industries and firms needing specialized services such as evening and/or weekend care.
   B. Onsite child care facilities supported by a consortium of firms.

IV. Encourage business and industry to examine benefit plans and increased use of:
   A. Flexible benefits plans
   B. Salary reduction programs
   C. Flexible work schedules

Child Care Program Issues

I. Existing Services
   A. Replicate linkages among child care programs and model public health organizations (developmental, physical, immunization screening; parent supports; information & referral; health education; accident prevention; nutrition education)
   B. Facilitate provision of services to preschoolers with special needs through incentives (financial and non-monetary) and supports
   C. Facilitate provision of training for providers, regulators, volunteers and parents.
   D. Increase involvement of senior citizens in child care programs

II. New Initiatives
   A. Increase availability of child care programs for infants and toddlers
      1. Promote licensing regulations for center group care
      2. Differential funding for infant care

(continued on next page)
B. Promote accessibility of services (particularly public health, training and parent supports) by encouraging an outreach, in-home approach.

The Role of the Schools and Child Care

I. The need for statewide coordination of child care policies, services, funding and information.

II. The present and future role of the public schools in child care and in dealing with the issue of the latchkey child:

A. Use of school space and transportation
B. Training needs of teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators
C. Possibilities of public school/private sector cooperation
D. Community schools

III. Funding needs

IV. Legislative changes

V. Insurance issues

VI. Needs of pregnant teens and school-aged parents

VII. Changes in school curricula to include self-care, babysitting and parenting

VIII. Involvement of parent/teacher and community groups

IX. Further study of child abuse, neglect, and death with specific regard to the level of child care at the time.

RESULTS OF STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE TASK FORCE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT EACH HEARING

If you will be unable to attend, we encourage you to send written suggestions or comments by May 15, 1984 to:

Barbara Collier
Maine Child Care Task Force
State House Station 11
Augusta, Maine 04333
289-2971

Please post or make copies of this notice and distribute to your staff, organization or friends.
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: RAPe; INCEST; BATTERING

The Maine Commission for Women, the Maine Coalition on Rape, SURVIVE, and the Coalition of Family Crisis Services are sponsoring a two-day conference on Violence Against Women: Rape, Incest, and Battering. The conference is scheduled for March 15 and 16 in Augusta. The primary intent of the conference is to raise awareness of the extent of such violence and its interrelatedness, as well as its lasting impact on victims. The sponsors expect the conference will generate recommendations for action for the prevention of violence against women.

DAY I AGENDA

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Keynote Speaker: Freada Klein, expert in the field of violence against women. Holds a B.A. in Criminology & PhD in Social Policy

Lunch and film

Seminar I: Violence: Myths and Realities

Seminar II: Socialization of A Victim

Closing: A dance narration by Karin Spitfire entitled: "Incest: It's All Relative".

DAY II AGENDA

Greetings and re-cap of Day I, Agenda for Day II

Seminar III: Media and Violence

Seminar IV: Breaking the Cycle of Violence

Lunch and film

Specific Issue Workshop: Three sponsors will present workshops of specific interest to their organization:

S.U.R.V.I.V.E.- Incest

Maine Coalition on Rape - Rape

Maine Coalition of Family Crisis Services - Battering
January 27, 1984

Dear Folks:

The Maine Commission for Women, The Maine Coalition on Rape, SURVIVE, and The Coalition of Family Crisis Services are sponsoring a two-day conference on Violence Against Women: Rape, Incest, Battering. The general content and outline of the conference is included in the attached write-up. As the conference date looms ever closer, we would appreciate your assistance in spreading the word of the conference.

If your organization has a newsletter or any type of update mechanism, we would appreciate it if you would include mention of the conference in that update. The attached write-up can be used verbatim or in any way you choose to make it conform with your format.

We are developing a media strategy including press releases, psa's, and mass mailings of brochures. It would, however, be of great assistance, if you could give us space in whatever communication method you use. We will be disseminating further information in late February and early March.

If we can answer any questions for you about the conference, please call us at 289-3417.

Sincerely,

Peg Ricker
Administrative Assistant
DAY II AGENDA, Continued

Action sessions: The workshops will be followed by "action agenda" sessions. Participants will develop a list of recommendations to counter violence against women.

Day II will close with workshop participants sharing the recommendations of their particular group with participants of other groups.

Special services (child care, interpreter etc) will be provided upon request. All rooms will be handicapped accessible. Lunch is provided within the cost of the conference. More information will be disseminated throughout late February and early March through media sources. For further information contact: Maine Commission for Women

State House Station #93
Augusta, ME 04333 289-3417
-or-
Maine Coalition on Rape
Carol Wycoff, Chair
645-4931
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK - March 4-10, 1984 - focuses on the rich and inspiring heritage of women's contributions in the U.S. It coincides with International Women's Day - March 8 - proclaimed at the turn of the century to recognize the tremendous work of women in the labor movement and the international connections among all women.

The Maine Commission for Women urges all educational institutions, churches, community groups and individuals to organize events to commemorate the contributions of women.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

--Contact your superintendent or site principle to make certain that March 4-10 1984 has been designated for special observances on school calendars;
--Ask city and county governing bodies to issue a Women's History Week Proclamation recognizing the tremendous contributions of women locally or on a State level;
--Volunteer to help your local schools with women's history presentations;
--Ask your local libraries to put up special displays for National Women's History Week;
--Contact local banks and ask for donations to buy women's history materials for school libraries and resource centers;
--Contact local press (tv, radio and newspapers). Make certain that they know about the significance of the week. Ask if they will interview local women who have made contributions to the community;
--Ask women's organizations to sponsor essay contests in cooperation with your local schools. Students could write about the special women in their lives, or the women they see as role models, significant women of the past, what it means to be a woman in 1984, or a number of similar topics;
--Ask your church, synagogue, or place of worship to have a special remembrance in their service recognizing the important work of women or of particular women during National Women's History Week;
--Plan a special dinner to recognize and honor women who have made contributions to your community;
--Recruit other people to begin organizing.

We have enclosed a resource catalogue which is full of exciting ideas and materials. If you decide to sponsor events for this important week, please notify the ME Commission for Women by FEBRUARY 15, 1984. We would like to do a comprehensive statewide calendar for distribution.

Jeanne Bailey McGowan, Executive Director
NORTHERN MAINE WOMEN’S NETWORK: MINUTES OF THE MEETING
February 8, 1984

Attendees: Ellen Green, Isa Silva, Geeta Balakrishnan, Rosemary Baldacci, Jacquie Wagner, Nancy Jeffers, Rose Kerbleski, Carole McConnell, Ruth Osborne

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 29, 1984, 5:00 p.m. at the Towne Farm Restaurant, Mill Street, Orono. Betsy Sweet from the Maine Women’s Lobby will meet with us.

Item 1) Introductions: Ellen suggested that each person introduce herself and mention which agenda items were of interest.

Item 2) A. Women: An Economic Resources Committee meeting in Augusta: Formation of the newspaper idea: The newspaper promoting economic equity for women, is an idea that grew out of the conference, "Women: An Economic Resource, May 1983". There are two main purposes of the paper. One is to educate women about business and career opportunities in the workforce. The second purpose is to promote accountability among state legislators and programs regarding economic strategies. A sub-committee will be formed to investigate start-up monies and the business plan. Jacquie, Ellen, Rose, Rosemary, Carole and Tea expressed interest in forming the sub-committee about the newspaper. JoAnn Fritsche also had previously agreed to help the sub-committee research and write grants for start-up monies for this effort. Ellen has called a meeting of this sub-committee for Monday, February 27, 1984 at 7:30 p.m. at 287 French Street, Bangor. Please call 947-1593 if interested and plan to or are unable to attend.

The date for the next meeting of the Women: An Economic Resource Committee is for March 7, 1984 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the State Office Building Room 107.

B. Maine Commission for Women Projects and plans: Carole discussed the booklet on non-traditional occupations expected to be released in June 1984. Carole will supply outlines of the booklet upon request. Meetings on the booklet are held in Augusta. Call Carole McConnell at 942-3417 for further information. The Commission is also looking to fund a computer system which would hook up with women's organizations, coalitions and the Department of Labor.

Item 3) The Maine Women’s Legislative Agenda Coalition: (See attached for more information and contact people). The next network meeting has been scheduled with Betsy Sweet to get an update on the agenda. Further, we will discuss entrepreneurial opportunity and equity for women. People with expertise and experience on ideas on this area, are encouraged to call Ellen or participate at the next meeting at the Towne Farm Restaurant on Mill Street in Orono, Wednesday, February 29, 1984 at 5:00 p.m. Betsy will then be speaking at the American Association of University Women meeting 6:30 p.m. at the President’s House.

Jacquie told the meeting she will look into a bill in the Legislature dealing with bank loans and report back to the Network.

The Appropriations Committee meeting in Augusta on February 7th RE: LD 2020 An Act to Provide Funding for Rape Crisis Centers in Maine seemed favorable. (This is item 9 of the Legislative Agenda).

Ellen also relayed information from Deborah Leighton, Director of WEET, RE: Maine Job Start Bill LD 1911. The idea of the bill is to establish a revolving loan fund granting loans of $5,000 for businesses. It is an important bill worthy of our attention and that of our legislatures. Let them and Libby Mitchell know of your interest. (Representative Libby Mitchell, PFD 1, Augusta, ME 04330 or phone 289-3281).
Item 4) Governor's Task Force on Technology and the Technology Strategy for Women of Maine Committee: The final meeting on the Governor's Task Force is on March 13th. It is an open meeting and ideas or suggestions can be expressed at that time. The Task Force has not added components on human resources or expressed technology strategy in the context of economic development. Ellen has a copy of Technology Strategy for Women draft. If you have comments to make sooner, contact Deborah Leighton also of the Technology Strategy for Women of Maine at 289-2636. The next meeting of this committee will be March 14, 1984 at 9:30 a.m. The place is yet to be determined.

Item 5) Take Back the Night Rally: On Saturday, June 2, 1984, Portland will host the "Take Back the Night Rally" day conference and evening rally. On Friday, June 1, 1984 a "Take Back the Night Rally" candlelight vigil is being planned for Bangor. Concern for increasing public awareness on violence against women was expressed. Call Isa Silva at 942-4690 for further information.

Item 6) Other Announcements: Holly Near concert is Friday, April 13, 1984 at 8:00 p.m. in Lengyl Gym at the University of Maine at Orono. On March 1, 1984 at 8:00 p.m. University of Maine's at Orono Hauck Auditorium will host a theatrical performance by FOODFRIGHT dealing with eating disorders - bulima and anorexia. Lastly, to help cover mailing costs Ellen Green requested a small contribution be sent to 287 French Street, Bangor, ME 04401.

Respectfully Submitted,

Isa Silva

Dates of Meetings listed in these minutes:

1) Next Network Meeting: Wednesday, February 29, 1984, 5:00 p.m. at the Towne Farm Restaurant, Mill Street, Orono, ME.

2) Next Women: An Economic Resource Committee: Wednesday, March 7, 1984 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the State Office Building, Room 107.

3) Next Subcommittee meeting for newspaper: Monday, February 27, 1984 7:30 p.m. at 287 French Street, Bangor, ME. 947-1593.

4) Technology Strategy for Women of Maine Committee: Wednesday, March 14, 1984 9:30 a.m. and place to be announced.

5) Governor's Task Force on Technology, Tuesday, March 13, 1984 9:30-3:00 at the Augusta Civic Center.

Postscript: The Job Start Bill is receiving a great deal of attention. It is being amended to include money for technical assistance and to raise the amount of the loan from $5,000 to $10,000. With your support and comments to Rep. Mitchell, this bill might pass.
The Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition, comprised of sixteen organizations, has presented a package of legislation to the 111th Legislature. The package is designed overall to address the economic inequities we face. There are five areas of concern: Improving the Economic Status of Women who cannot or do not work outside the home; Creating Employment Opportunities; Economic Equity on the Job; Protection of Rights on the Job; and, the Protection of Women against violence. Specifically, there are nine pieces of legislation that we are supporting. What follows is a list of that legislation, a brief explanation, and the contact person and organizations in the Coalition who can give you detailed information.

An Act to Increase AFDC Payments - Sponsor: Representative Connolly
Cost: $1.5 million
Contact: Chris Hastedt, Pine Tree Legal 623-2971

This bill would provide a 5% increase in AFDC payments. Currently, entitlement payments are 72.5% of a 1974 Standard of Need. That means there are over 10,000 female-headed families in Maine living below the poverty level with a monthly income of approximately $350/month.

Creation of Transitional AFDC Health Insurance Pool - Included in Governor's package.

Cost: $150,000
Contact: Betsy Sweet, Maine Women's Lobby 622-5799

This program will be a pilot project hopefully included in the Governor's package. Initiated by WEET, (Welfare, Employment, Education and Training Program), this will provide health insurance benefits for those AFDC recipients who leave AFDC for jobs that do not provide health insurance. Currently, many women must quit their new jobs and return to AFDC because they have no medical coverage.

An Act to Target Employment Opportunities Financed Through State Construction Contracts

Sponsor: Representative Connolly
Contact: Jeanne McGowan, Maine Commission for Women 289-3417

This bill targets 25% of jobs created by State construction projects for Job Training and Partnership Act (JTPA) eligible people. One of the chief problems with JTPA is that the funds provide training with no assurances of jobs. This bill requires the State to use its contracting authority to encourage the employment of those trainees.

An Act to Create a State Funded Jobs Program

Sponsor: Representative Connolly
Cost: $3.1 million
Contact: Chris Hastedt, Pine Tree Legal 623-2971

This bill would create jobs with State revenue. It also creates a commission to identify high areas of unemployment in the State, a profile of the unemployed, regulations and rules governing the unemployment process. It also provides for a community business loan program and resources to provide additional money for job creation.
An Act to Negotiate Pay Rates of Classification

This bill gives the State Employees Union the right to bargain over pay rates of job classifications. This bill is of particular significance to us because Maine is currently doing a landmark comparable worth study of state employees whose results will be out in the fall of 1984. Whatever the results are, this bill will allow the employees union to implement the results through the bargaining process.

An Act to Increase the Minimum Wage - Sponsor: Representative Connolly
Contact: Chris Hastedt - 623-2971

This bill increases the minimum wage to $4.00/hr. Over 65% of those living on minimum wage ($7,200/yr. at 40 hours a week) are women. This bill would provide the first increase for these workers since 1981.

An Act to Keep Confidential Certain Documents of the Maine Human Rights Commission - Sponsor: Representative Diamond
Contact: Jeanne McGowan, Maine Commission for Women 289-3417

This bill would keep confidential documents of an investigation of the Human Rights Commission until a decision or resolution of the investigation is complete. This is designed to protect those involved in Human Rights cases from unnecessary publicity.

The Creation of an Assistant Information and Compliance Officer at MHRC - Included in Governor's package
Price Tag: $25,000
Contact: Betsy Sweet, Maine Women's Lobby 622-5798

This bill would create a position at the Maine Human Rights Commission to provide employers, employees and all those who are subject to and/or benefit from the Maine Human Rights Act with information and training in compliance with the Act. Often employers are cited for violations of the Act because of their lack of knowledge of their responsibilities. Also, employees often do not register complaints because they are not aware of their rights. This position would provide the MHRC with staff to take a more active role in guaranteeing human rights in Maine.

An Act to Provide Additional Funding for Rape Crisis Centers in Maine - Sponsor: Representative Bell
Price Tag: $100,000
Contact: Carol Wyckoff Coalition on Rape 645-4931

This bill will provide $100,000 in state revenues to the seven existing rape crisis centers and for the creation of an eighth center in the southern part of the state, to more adequately provide services for rape victims and public information about the problem. In the first six months of 1983 the incidence of reported rapes increased 66% over 1982. Experts acknowledge that only 10% of the rapes that actually occur are reported.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Branch Presidents, Program Vice Presidents and Membership Vice Presidents

FROM: Mary Purcell, President
       Ginny Palmer, Membership Vice President
       Elaine Lailas, Program Vice President

Attached is the 1984 Branch Report Form. Mandated in the Bylaws, this is the only vehicle through which the Association’s leadership can learn about what you are doing in your branch, so it deserves extra attention from you. The information is useful to us in planning for and evaluating our programs and services, as well as for sharing among branches. Also, many of you have used it as a tool in your own evaluation of branch activities.

Although most of the questions remain the same, we have updated the questions and modified the format to reduce the cost of processing the data. For your convenience in sending copies to the correct persons, we have attached a list of division presidents and regional directors. Please note that the response deadline is MARCH 31. We have set an early deadline this year in an attempt to report the results to you as early as possible.

We encourage you to use all your branch officers in completing this form. A branch board meeting would be an appropriate time for doing this. Keep in mind that this form does not attempt to cover all aspects of the branch’s activities; it focuses on the information needed by the current Association committees, particularly the Program Development Committee and Membership Committee.

In returning this report, please enclose your branch yearbook. It will provide us with necessary and additional details of your branch activities and accomplishments, which will aid us in planning future projects.

In summary:

- Involve your branch board in this important process.
- Mail to the Educational Center by MARCH 31.
- Don’t forget to include your yearbook.

Thank you!
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<td>VT</td>
<td>Lynn Whalen</td>
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<td>WA</td>
<td>Gretchen Ilgenfritz</td>
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<td>WI</td>
<td>Patricia Nichols</td>
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<td>WV</td>
<td>Wanda Simkins</td>
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<td>WY</td>
<td>Ilga Ross</td>
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Dear Branch Presidents,

I met on Friday (9/30) with Anne Underwood, Director of the Ereckinridge Public Affairs Center, at the Center. She gave me a full tour - the place is magnificent!

She suggested that AAUW members might like to stay there Friday night rather than in area motels. The layout is as follows:

1st floor: 2 singles
2nd floor: 3 bedrooms with twin beds - 2 of these share a bathroom, one has its own bathroom
   2 bedrooms with double beds
   4 singles, 3 of which share a bathroom
   4 singles, sharing a bathroom

cottage: 4 singles, sharing a bathroom

Rates: $30 for a single
       $20 per person in a double ($40 total)
       Cost includes breakfast of juice, coffee, and muffins.

We must have a minimum of 10 people wanting to stay there, and I must have the count by Friday October 14 at 8:00 am.

The rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve, basis, as they are somewhat 'uneven' - ie- some have shared baths, some don't, some are fancier and/or larger than others, etc. All are tastefully done. Think how nice it would be to be there that morning!

Drop me a postcard with names of those interested or give me a call. It is fine to call me before 8 am, which is why I specified the cut-off date and time above as I did. My address: Star Route 2, Box 163, Bath 04530; phone: 443-3954.

Thanks again for your help. See you October 22 - or better yet, October 21! 

Lucy Stein
June 6, 1983

Deborah B. Cravey
75 State Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Dear Mrs. Cravey:

Your call regarding the intention of the Bangor, ME branch to become the satellite of the Orono branch has been referred to me.

Since satellite formation and alliance must be with the approval of the established branch, we shall require a formal statement to this effect from the Orono branch, and a list of members who have transferred from the Bangor branch.

I have enclosed our revised guidelines for satellites (February 1983). The transfers to the Orono branch should be accomplished as soon as possible and this can only be done here in our records office when the Orono branch treasurer reports the transitions.

If you need more membership material, let me know and we'll mail them to you as soon as possible.

Re. the Bangor branch, it will have to be officially disbanded. I have enclosed three copies of the official discontinuance form which must be signed by the branch officers and approved by the state division.

If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to call our Membership Office.

Sincerely,

Tin My Thein, Ph.D
Director
Membership

Enclosures

cc: Marianne H. Pinkham, President, Orono Old Town Branch
    Diana Roak, Membership Vice President, Orono Old Town Branch
    Jacqueline G. Hayes, President, Bangor Branch
    Catherine Rowe, Membership Vice President, Bangor Branch