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Maine League of Women Voters Staff
Maine League of Women Voters

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Wangso Sobb

Issues deal with -

Comparable work
Above Gosh

The local
legislators come
talk about women
issues

at Turning Point -

approach

going from women
knowing less of "Female"

issues - when picked
off picked back to work

now angle on all issues - political

movement - dealing with political issues

We have begun to take ourselves
seriously - Believe in our self
to our right to be involved in
all aspects of political issues

Jan 24
248
D. L. L. L. L.
H. L. L. L. L.

Wangso Economic Status -

'Equality is a myth'

that's young think it exists

not even as 53% of population but
as a Special Group - Interest

126 Madison
942-468

Equality is not just something women gain
it improves the whole society

Women's Legislative Agenda ^{Coordinating} ~~Committee~~ - 15-20
represented

Job Targeting - 25% of jobs
created by state - must go to
truly unemployed

Increased AFDC payments
Standard of Need

Advocate - Development Persy - Persy
with Maine Human Rights
Commission

Human Rights Advocate - both sides
Training Sessions, info, brochure

Redeveloping bill for state employees
comparable with
Joint Pay/management
committee looking at it

Funding for Rape Crisis Center

now 7 centers totaling funding
\$23,000

Training Sessions

1. 'How to Lobby' Lobby Session
2. How to get involved through the Party - State, local level
Town & State Councils
3. Dem - SOW delegates must be women
Securitization of Poverty under development

DOES POVERTY WEAR A SKIRT?

Prepared by the
Maine Women's Lobby

Did you know that . . .

Each year women make up a larger and larger percentage of those living at or below the poverty line.

Did you know that . . .

If current trends continue, by the year 2000, 100% of those living at or below the poverty line will be women and children.

THE FACTS

I. Marital Status and its Economic Impact

- A. One of every three families maintained by a woman falls below the poverty line.
- B. Women maintain an increasing number of families. One out of six families was maintained by a woman in 1982 as compared to one out of eight in 1972.
- C. One out of every eight women in the labor force are maintaining families.
- D. The median family income for a family maintained by a woman was \$10,960 as compared to \$19,889 for a family maintained by a man.
- E. Between 1970 and 1981, the divorce rate doubled.
- F. Regardless of economic status prior to divorce, women and children are usually poorer after divorce.
- G. One study found that: 1) immediately after divorce men's income decreased by 11% while women's decreased by 29%; and 2) over a seven year period after divorce, the economic position of men, when assessed in terms of need, improved by 17% while the position of women declined by 29%.

II. Women in the Labor Force

- A. The average wage of a full-time woman worker is approximately 59% of the average wage of a full-time male worker.
- B. The wage gap between men and women has not decreased, and is almost the same as it was in the 1930's.

- C. Women now make up 43% of the work force. (1981)
- D. The majority of women work because of economic need.
 - 45% are single (25%), widowed (5%) or divorced (11%) or separated (4%).
 - 25% are married to husbands who earn less than \$15,000.
- E. Over the past two decades women have entered the labor market at an unprecedented rate.
 - a) Since 1960, 6 out of every 10 new workers have been women.
 - b) 62% of all women ages 18 to 64 years of age are in the labor market. (1981)
 - c) the largest percentage increases have been among married women (50% in 1981 versus 30% in 1960) and among women with children under the age of 6 (45% in 1981).
- F. As the labor force has expanded sex, segregation of jobs held by women is increasing. Although some women are entering jobs traditionally held by men, most are entering jobs which have traditionally been held by women; or are entering certain jobs which have traditionally been "mixed". As the percentage of women in these jobs has increased, the wages of these jobs relative to other jobs has dropped.
- G. The average woman worker is as well educated as the average male worker (12.7 years of schooling). Women workers with four years of college education had an average income equal to men with an eighth grade education. Women workers with a high school diploma earned an average wage equal to men who had not completed elementary school. (1980)

III. Older Women and Poverty

- A. Women 65 and over are the poorest segment of the population.
- B. Women over 65 are the fastest growing segment of the population.
- C. 60% of single and widowed women over 65 have as their sole source of income Social Security benefits which average \$300 per month.
- D. 85% of women over 65 have at least one chronic health problem which involves major expenses.
- E. The average age of widowhood is 56. One third of all widows live below the poverty level (\$4,190 in 1980 for a single person). Less than 10% of widows receive survivor benefits.

THE TEN INFORMAL RULES OF LOBBYING - OR EVERYTHING YOU WANTED
TO KNOW ABOUT LOBBYING BUT NEVER THOUGHT TO ASK



- #1 Consider yourself an information source. Legislators have limited time, staff, and interest on any one issue. They can't be as informed as they might like on all the issues - or the ones that concern you. You can fill the information gap.
- #2 Tell the truth. There is no faster way to loose your credibility than to give false or misleading information to a legislator
- #3 Know who else is on your side. It is helpful for a legislator to know what other groups, individuals, state agencies and/or legislators are working with you on an issue.
- #4 Know the opposition. Anticipate who the opposition will be - organized or individual. Tell the legislator what their arguments are likely to be and provide them with answers and rebuttals to those arguments.
- #5 Make the legislator aware of any personal connection you may have. No matter how insignificant you may feel it is, if you have friends, relatives, colleagues in common, LET THEM KNOW. Our legislative process is very informal and though it may make no difference in you effectiveness, it may make the difference
- #6 Don't be afraid to admit you don't know something. If a legislator wants information you don't have or asks something you don't know, tell them and then offer to get the information they are looking for.
- #7 Be specific about what you are asking for. If you want a vote, information, answers to a question - whatever it is make sure you ask for it directly and get an answer.
- #8 Follow up. It is very important to find out if your legislator did what he/she said they would. It is very important that you then thank them or ask for an explanation as to why they did not vote as they said they would, etc.
- #9 Don't "burn any bridges". It is very easy to get very emotional over issues you feel very strongly about. That's fine, but be sure that no matter what happens you leave your dealings on good enough terms that you can go back to them. Remember, your strongest opponent on one issue may be your strongest ally on another.
- #10 REMEMBER - YOU ARE THE BOSS! Your tax money pays legislators's salaries, pays for the paper they write on, the phone they call you on. YOU are the employer and they are the employee. You should be courteous, but don't be intimidated. They are responsible to you and nine times out of ten are grateful for your input.

Tips for working with your legislator if

They agree strongly with your position

1. Thank them
2. Ask them to take a leading/active role on this issue a) in the legislature among their colleagues b) in the media c) in the community
3. Ask for advice on whom else you should talk to, what supporting arguments they think are effective, any special legislative/p.r. strategy they think you should use.
4. Ask if they will "lobby" undecided legislators
5. Thank them again

They agree with your position

1. Thank them
2. Assure them of your continued interest in the issue and your continued support of their position
3. Ask if they would be willing to help in any way beyond their vote (if so, follow tips above)

They are undecided

1. Inform them of your interest
2. Present your argument as concisely and cleanly as possible.
3. Ask what their reservations are. Determine if they are political, personal, or due to a lack of information or any combination. Alter your lobbying strategy accordingly.
4. Offer to get any information they would like
5. Ask them if there are other individuals/organizations they would like to hear from
6. Get back to them. Keep in touch until they have made up their minds.

They are against your position

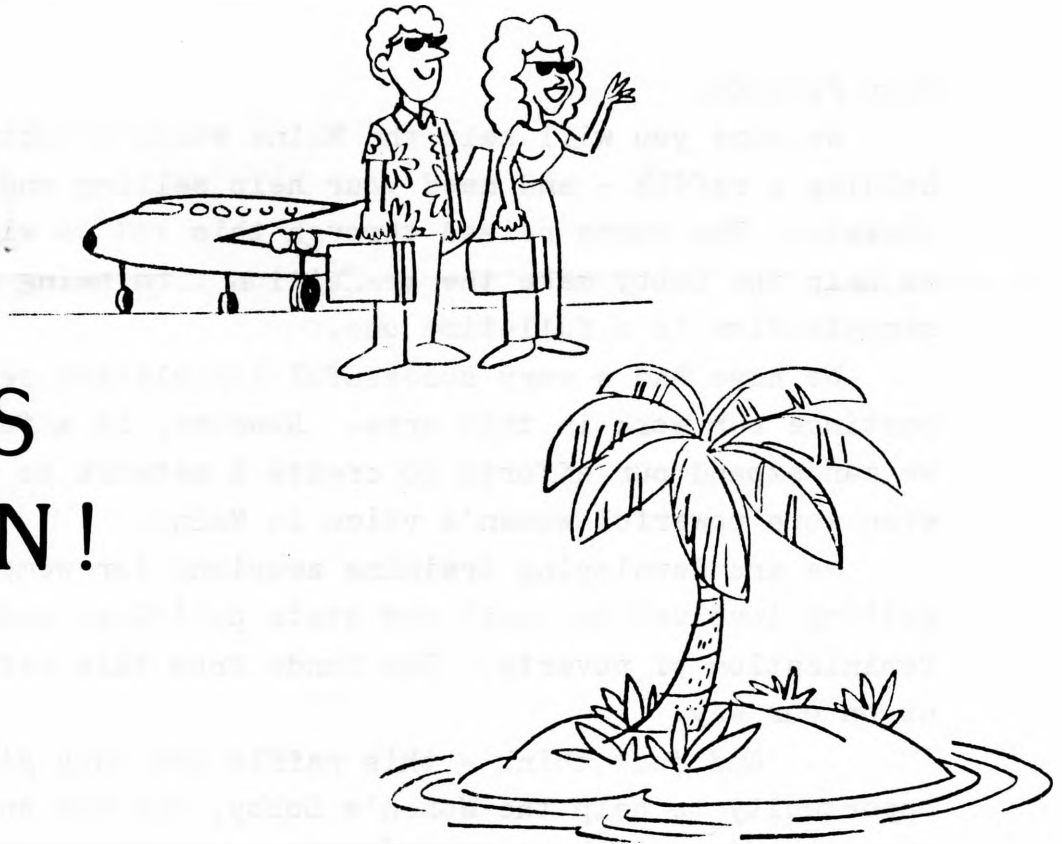
1. Determine how strongly they are opposed. If not too strong try and persuade them to change their mind.
2. If not "swayable, but not strongly opposed ask them not to lobby their colleagues

3. In RARE cases on a very close vote when you absolutely will not win unless they cooperate, ask them to "walk" (be absent) when the vote is taken.
4. If they strongly disagree, write and let them know of your opposition to their position, but don't waste your time and energy trying to move an immovable object.

Need a break from the winter blahs ?

Don't let cabin fever get you down

WIN A BAHAMAS VACATION !



You could be the lucky winner of up to eight days and seven nights for two on Paradise Island, Nassau. Vacation any time from June 1, 1984 to June 1, 1985 (or take the cash value of \$1,000). Trip includes airfare from Boston, accommodations at the hotel of your choice.

Drawing will be held January 20, 1984 at noon. You do not need to be present to win.

Donation - \$1 per ticket or twelve tickets for \$10

Return stubs and donations to MWL, Box 15, Hallowell, Me. 04347



Maine Women's Lobby



Maine Women's Lobby

October, 1983

Dear Friends,

We hope you will help the Maine Women's Lobby. We are holding a raffle - and need your help selling and buying tickets. The funds raised through this raffle will be used to help the Lobby make the transition from being a part-time organization to a full-time one.

We have had a very successful legislative session and will continue our work in that area. However, as a full-time organization we can expand our efforts to create a network to provide an even more powerful women's voice in Maine.

We are developing training sessions for women on lobbying, on getting involved in local and state politics, and on the feminization of poverty. The funds from this raffle will start us on our way.

... And just think - this raffle not only gives you the opportunity to help the Women's Lobby, but who knows? Maybe a trip to "Paradise" in the middle of the winter (or \$1,000 cash).

Please buy or sell the twelve enclosed tickets..... *
One dollar each or twelve for ten dollars. Then, return the donation and stubs to us at MWL, Box 15, Hallowell, ME. 04347 right away. The drawing will be Jan. 20 at noon.

For more tickets or information call the office at 622-5798.

Thanks for your help... and
keep your fingers crossed,

The MWL Board

* Raffle tickets make great stocking stuffers... birthday presents... nice surprises... things to send your mother....

P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Maine 04347

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY



"THE MAJORITY VOICE".

a newsletter of the maine women's lobby

Summer, 1983

Report from the Chair

Traditionally, the end of the session has been a time for the Board of the Lobby and our Lobbyist to sit back, assess what successes we've had, and catch our breath for a while. This year we are allowing ourselves to do very little sitting back and resting.

We feel that we need to build on the successes of this legislative session by focusing our efforts more clearly and those of other organizations with similar legislative goals. To that end we are inviting a wide variety of groups to come together in September to develop a common legislative agenda for the second half of this legislative session. We also hope to develop a lobbying and communication network among these groups to increase our collective effectiveness.

We will be spending the bulk of the summer and early fall putting together our own legislative program which will be presented at our Annual Meeting in October.

We have also started to act on some of the long range goals I spoke about in our last newsletter.

The Board has appointed Betsy Sweet, our very successful lobbyist to a full-time position as our Executive Director. We are actively pursuing major new sources of funding for the Lobby and are putting together plans to do some major grass-roots education and training programs for women and women's groups throughout the state. As soon as any or all of this is finalized we'll get the information to you.

As always, the Lobby is in need of volunteers. Clerical help, office volunteers, clever ideas and brilliant minds are welcome. Please call Betsy at the office (622-5798) if you can help.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer and are as excited about the Lobby's new direction as I am.

Steph

Legislative Wrap-Up



It's hard to believe that the 111th Legislative session has finally come to an end. It has been an exciting and exhausting whirlwind for me being new to the Maine State legislature and new to the Women's Lobby. Although our success rate on specific pieces of legislation was not 100%, the Maine Women's Lobby has fared extremely well this session.

We worked on an unprecedented number of bills (over 20 pieces of legislation), we got a lot of press coverage, increased our visibility both in the statehouse and the general public, and took some bold new directions in terms of issues that we deal with and alliances that we made.

This session has been a significant first for the Lobby in several ways: We became involved in economic issues not traditionally defined as women's issues (minimum wage, reshaping corporate tax structure, insurance coverage for social workers and nurses); we were out front in the legislature and in the press on a number of controversial issues (gay rights, abortion, joint custody); we entered into a strong alliance with organized labor, and we developed lobbying coalitions with other women's groups on a number of issues.

What has emerged from taking these significant first steps is a clearer sense of purpose for the Lobby. We need to more fully address the economic situation of women in Maine and we need to develop a strong and effective grass-roots network of women around the state that can lobby to see that our "Majority Voice" is heard and taken seriously.

We have certainly taken large strides in that direction this session and I, for one, am excited about moving into a year-round operation that can make our vision a reality.

Looking at specific pieces of legislation the Lobby had a good, if uneven record. We worked directly on twenty-one pieces of legislation and, numerically speaking can count fifteen victories, two losses and four "draws" (bill withdrawn or partially won). Overall, we did fairly well on social policy issues and fared less well on economic issues.

Capitol Gains

LD 59 - A State Equal Rights Amendment.

This bill was approved overwhelmingly and will go out to public referendum in Nov. '84.

LD 115 - "An Act to Prohibit Abortion by Saline Injection"

Withdrawn in committee and never made it to the floor for a vote.

LD 201 - "An Act Relating to Abortion in the Third Trimester"

Met the same fate as 115

LD 480 - "An Act to make Joint Custody The First Order of Preference in Child Custody Cases"

Was compromised at MWL suggestion. It is now law that joint custody must be granted when parents agree. The other more controversial aspects of the bill have been committed to study and will be reported out as legislation in the next legislative session.

LD 647 - "An Act to Make Confidential Certain Documents of the Maine Human Rights Commission"

This bill was compromised to include only third party documents, will make it safer for people to file discrimination charges.

LD 757 - "An Act to Require that the AFDC Program promote Family Unity."

This bill allows unemployed parents to receive AFDC benefits even if they are still married and was included in the Part II Budget.

- LD 789 - "An Act to Establish Apprenticeship Opportunities in State Government for Receipts of the AFDC Program"
A very exciting bill that targets a certain number of state jobs as apprenticeable and targeted for AFDC recipients.
- LD 841/842 - These two bills were aimed at increasing the state's involvement in the administration of the General Assistance Program. Another bill - aimed at severely restricting general assistance was also submitted. All three were compromised into a version that does provide for standardized forms and some state supervision - both of which were badly needed.
- LD 955 - "An Act to Extend Consumers Freedom of Choice Regarding Mental Health Services."
This bill requires companies that provide mental health insurance to reimburse licensed social workers and certified mental health workers (mostly women) in addition to psychiatrists and psychologists.
- LD 1653 - "An Act to Ensure State Enforcement of Equity in Education."
A Lobby sponsored bill to provide for state enforcement of Title IX Regulations through the Maine Human Rights Commission. The bill was not funded (much to our disappointment) but the language was passed.
- LD 1134 - "An Act to Establish a Program of Emergency Assistance to Needy Families with Children."
Enables the state to participate in an optional federal program for needy children - was included in the Part II.

- LD 1306 - "An Act Concerning Confidentiality of Information"
This bill protects confidentiality of information given to sexual assault counselors.
- LD 1728 - "An Act to Limit Payments to Health Care Institutions which Engage Persons to defeat the Organization of Collective Bargaining Units."
This bill limits payments (i.e. Medicaid, Medicare,) to health care institutions that are found to have used such monies in union-busting activities.
- LD 1784 - Majority Report on the Budget from the Appropriations Committee (Part II Budget and its Funding Mechanism). See "Capitol Ideas" column for detailed explanation.

Capitol Losses

- LD 679 - "An Act to Include the term 'Sexual or Affectional Orientation' in the Maine Human Rights Act"

Known as the Gay Rights bill this is the third time this bill has been introduced. It passed by six votes in the Senate for the first time ever, but was defeated by a surprisingly wide margin in the House. Efforts are now underway to come up with a more comprehensive bill with a less controversial title for the next session.
- LD 1138 - "An Act to Increase the Minimum Wage".
This bill in its compromised form would have increased the minimum wage 15¢/hr - from \$3.35 to \$3.50.

MINIMUM WAGE

This bill was one of the most significant pieces of legislation the Lobby worked on this session and although we lost the war - we won the battle in many ways.

The Maine Women's Lobby testimony at the public hearing on this bill marked the first time in Maine that the minimum wage was identified as a women's issue (Over 65% of those working at minimum wage are women). We were able to point out the large number of women working forty hours a week who do not even come close to making poverty level wages. At the same time many of the programs designed to aid the working poor - food stamps, child nutrition programs, etc. - are being drastically cut. These women are between a rock and a hard place.

We were very disappointed with the 11-2 "ought Not to Pass" report that came out of the Labor Committee. But we were able to turn around that vote in the House and only narrowly missed winning it in the Senate.

In this effort we made strong alliances with organized labor groups, wrked very closely with both the HOUse and Senate leadership, and were instrumental in getting other women's organizations (most notably Business and Professional Women) to take a public stand on the issues.

Our efforts culminated in an editorial response to an Anti-Minimum Wage increase editorial on Channel 6 in Portland. The text of that editorial was as follows

.....
"Far from being commended, the MWL believes Maine State legislators should be condemned for not supporting a 15¢ increase in the minimum wage.

Opponents aregue that an increase in the minimum wage will send the wrong message to business. We find it hard to believe that the state's business climate rises and falls on a 15¢ increase to the state's lowest paid workers.

This state has bent over backward to attract business by fashioning special tax policies and grantin outright

giveaways to private industry - We gave 16 million to Bath Iron Works, granted a large tax break to Pratt and Whitney in addition to providing them with a specially trained workforce.

At the same time, Maine has 100,000 minimum wage workers - 65% of whom are women - who have worked without an increase since 1981. These workers make less than \$7,000 a year - less even than the established poverty level for a family of three.

But the legislature would have us believe that the future of Maine's economic development rests on the sacrifice of these workers.

If our business climate truly depends on the two extra gallons of milk a week that this bill would provide, then the legislature has much more serious problems than the minimum wage to contend with.

The United States is the richest, most industrialized nation in the world, yet we have men and women who work 40 hours a week who cannot feed their families or pay the rent. We think that's criminal.

It is time for the Maine State Legislature to truly muster their political courage and support this 15¢ increase in the minimum wage."

.....

Sen. Larry Brown quoted this editorial on the floor of the Senate and credited the Lobby with changing his vote from a nea to a yea. And though we ultimately lost we won in the sense that for the first time members of the Legislature, the business community, Labor, women's groups and the Women's Lobby were forced to recognize a key economic policy as a women's issue.

This struggle has given us the credibility and impetus to take a further look at the impact of economic policies on women.

Draws



LD 685 - "An Act to Establish Funding for Programs of Preventive Intervention and Family Support"
This bill would have increased the marriage tax from 10 to \$20 to provide funding for early intervention in family violence. Although the concept is a good one, the method by which these funds were to be distributed and the limitations on the funding presented complications. The final defeat of this bill means that we can come back next session with a cleaner, more effective bill.

LD 953 - "An Act to Decrease Exemptions In Child Support and Alimony Cases."
Withdrawn at the Lobbys request

LD 1026 - "An Act to Conduct a Maine Labor Training Study"
This bill would have established a commission to study trends in the labor force and how best the state could respond to those needs. MWL successfully ammended the bill to include the special needs of women, but the bill was withdrawn.

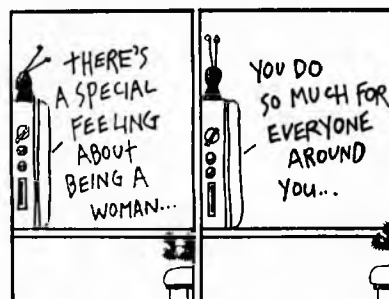
LD 1218 - "An Act to Adjust Annually the AFDC Standard of Need to Eliminate Inflation - Induced Decreases in Recipients Standard of Living"
Currently, AFDC grants are based on a 1974 standard of need. This bill would have provided for an annual cost-of-living increase plus a percentage to make the standard current and accurate by 1989. This bill did not pass, but a 5% increase was included in the Part II Budget.
This is an area where education and legislation is sorely needed.

Legislatively we did fare well. The weakest areas, as I mentioned, were in economic areas that are "non-traditional" issues for women's groups and the Maine Women's Lobby.

Another weakness is that with the exception of one bill (LD 1653) we were reactive all session - continually responding to other people's,group's intitatives. This points to the need to develop our own legislative agenda and establish and maintain an effective grassroots network that can effectively put forward that agenda.

The coalition meeting on Sept. 10 will be a step in that direction.

In the meantime we can pat ourselves on the back for a job well done this session and roll up our sleeves another notch to get ready for the next...



CAPITOL IDEAS

. . .An occasional column on what's happening (or not happening) at the State House . . .

"Money Talks: The MWL and the Appropriations Process"

For the last two weeks of the legislative session I spent most of my time as a lobbyist in the Appropriations Committee room. Everyone pondered the same questions - Would our program/agency/bill get funded? Partially? Totally?

As the days wore on and income projections for the state worsened, money was tighter and the sense of competition grew among the ten or twenty lobbyists that were watching bills. It finally came down to a fight: the elderly vs. the handicapped vs. education vs. legal services for the poor vs. women vs. children, etc. We all sat there fighting, scrapping, clawing for the crumbs.

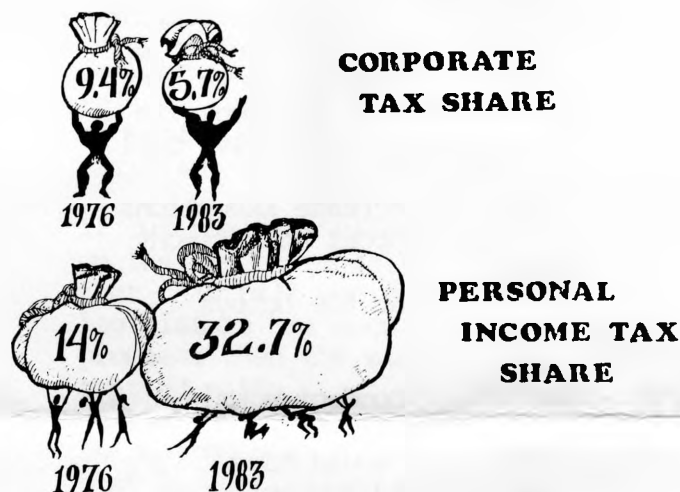
The process was disheartening if not disgusting and the MWL became more determined than ever not to fight for the crumbs.

I talked to people about our disgust and tried to find out where the real money was - big money that could be tapped so that all these important bills and services could be funded. At the same time the Democrats were looking for a way to raise money without increasing personal taxes, Republicans wanted to cut the budget further and a compromise on the budget seemed unlikely or impossible.

Rep. Tom Andrews (D-Portland) had introduced a bill earlier in the session reforming the corporate and personal income tax structures. Everyone (including me) had assured him that the bill would go nowhere, but with the economic crunch on there was renewed interest in the concept.

I began to do some research on the corporate and personal taxes in Maine and found that corporate taxes had decreased as a percentage of income taxes and state revenue by about half and personal shares had doubled. It was clear where the "big money" was - and we went for it.

In 1976 Corporate taxes accounted for 9.4% of total state revenues - in 1983 it had dropped to 5.7%. As a share of the taxes the state takes in, it was reduced from 32.2% to 14.9%. At the same time personal income tax revenues increased from 14% of the total revenues to 32.7% and as a share of tax income went from 67.8% to 85.1%. By reversing the trend in declining corporate contributions to the state we could generate anywhere from 12 to 17 million dollars in additional revenue.



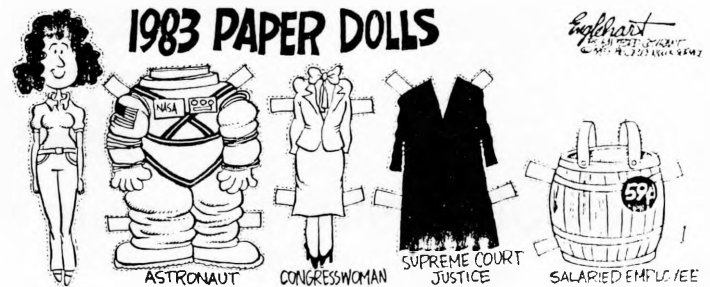
The MWL helped to prepare fact sheets and graphics to gain passage of this tax change so that the Part II Budget could be passed and the important human needs groups would not be reduced to fighting each other for the crumbs.

The Part II budget was passed and funded with a majority of the programs in tact. In the next newsletter we will present an in-depth analysis of the budgets - both Republican and Democratic, but it must be considered a successful process for MWL because we were very instrumental in stepping back, looking at the "big picture" and providing a creative solution to a difficult fiscal situation.

What is clearer to me now more than ever before is that as we examine the needs of women in the state and develop programs and projects to meet those needs at the state level we must also pay close attention to how those projects will be funded and help to provide the mechanisms to do so.

upcoming events

- July 26 - Maine Women's Lobby
Aug. 23 Board meetings. 6PM
Sep. 27 in Brunswick. All
members welcome. Call
the office at 622-5798
to confirm time and
place
- Sep. 10 Women's Legislative Agenda
Meeting. 10-4. Augusta
- Sep. 23- Common Ground Fair,
25 MWL will be selling
fruit salad. Volunteers
needed!
- Oct. 1 "Economic Justice For Women"
MWL Annual Meeting.
Time and place to be
arranged.



Fundraising

Membership

Although the summer is usually a time to slow down and vacation, it is PRIME TIME to get new Women's Lobby members. Our beautiful new brochures are in - use them! Be sure to order a batch (along with some extra newsletters) to put in your public library, food coop, local bookstore, visitor information centers, and at every fair and garage sale you can find. Also be sure to carry some in your purse to give to family and friends at the least suggestion. ..

Coming Soon - Maine Women's Lobby buttons. An easy way to get the word out and get new members.

To order either contact:
MEMBERSHIP, Maine Women's Lobby,
Box 15. Hallowell, ME. 04347 or call
622-5798 (MWL office).

In six months we have increased our membership by 45%. By September with your help we can make it 100%.

As Stephanie mentioned, the Lobby is undertaking major new fundraising efforts. The Fundraising committee is looking for volunteers to help organize and conduct fundraising efforts. As you know, our entire financial resources come from membership dues, donations, and fund raising events. Our efforts to date have been very successful and any support you have given is very much appreciated. However, we still need to raise additional money to meet our financial obligations.

How about hosting a fundraising cocktail party in your home? A BBQ? Or writing a letter to friends you think would be interested in donating? Perhaps a garage or bake sale - proceeds of which will go to the Lobby? The possibilities are only as limited as the number of people to do the work. Anyone willing to devote any time or energy to the nasty task that enables the organization to stay alive please contact the Fundraising Chair - Delores McLaughlin at 495-2914.

Bulk Permit # 452
Non-Profit

Maine Women's Lobby
Box 15
Hallowell, ME 04347

ANNUAL MEETING - OCT. 1

Mark your calendar! This annual meeting promises to be special. With the theme "Economic Justice for Women" the days activities will include a keynote speaker, a round table discussion by experts on various aspects of economic policies that affect women in Maine, workshops on organizational development for the Lobby, board elections, a legislative report and agenda for the next session, and a "social" with our legislators.

Please plan on attending - and if you can help set up the meeting let Betsy know at 622-5798.

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY



1/84

"THE MAJORITY VOICE"

a newsletter of the maine women's lobby

Report from the Chair

The 111th Legislature will convene its Second Regular Session in January, and for the sixth consecutive regular session the Maine Women's Lobby will represent the interests of Maine women with a full-time lobbyist. It is hard to believe, but MWL has become an institution.

Some of you may recall that I chaired the Board of Directors during 1980. I am excited about the opportunity to serve again because I believe MWL is at a cross-roads. The time is now for MWL to become a stable, mature, "middle-age" organization or it will probably not be around much longer.

In order to further the interests of Maine women, the MWL Board decided last spring to take two actions: (1) establish an educational foundation with tax deductible status; and (2) retain year round staff. These two activities will allow MWL to better represent the interests of Maine women. In particular MWL and the MWL Foundation will be focusing on the economic problems of women, and State budget process and effect. It is our intention to also conduct training sessions on involvement in local, county and state politics as well as the lobbying process.

The Maine Women's Lobby knows that these programs are needed in the state and is confident that we will be successful in designing effective year-round programs to meet our goals and the needs of Maine women.

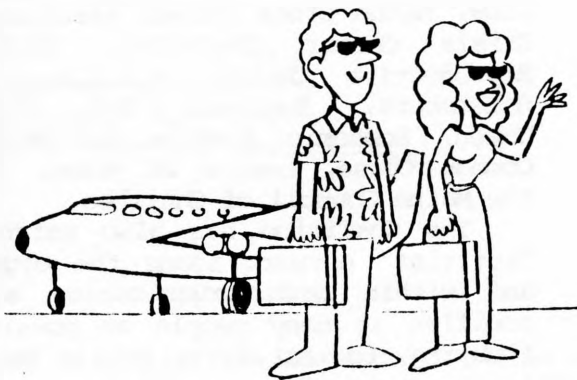
Your support is essential to success.
As always we need more members and addi-

tional contributions. Please make an effort to secure at least one more member for us. A membership form is enclosed.

Finally I want to thank Stephanie Smith for contributing her time and energy to MWL as Chair last year. Everyone who worked with her appreciated her ideas and her efforts. Many thanks, Steph, from all of us.

Finally, from each Board member to each member and your family, may you have a peaceful and joyous 1984, and may we all enjoy a progressive legislative session in 1984.

Trip to "Paradise" ?



Raffle Update

Inside....

Upcoming Legislative Session

It's hard to believe the State Legislature is about to begin again. This time around, they will be in session for only 50 days and bills are allegedly restricted to emergency items, budgetary matters, and any initiatives from the Governor's Office.

The Legislative Council recently met to decide what bills would be allowed in, and there are a number of bills the Lobby will be looking at. They include: Minimum wage, an increase in AFDC, State funding for Rape Crisis Centers, targeting 25% of jobs created by State funds for Jobs Training and Partnership Act (JTPA) participants, negotiability of pay rates of classification, the inclusion of a Compliance and Information Officer at the Maine Human Rights Commission, a jobs creation bill, AFDC/Unemployment bill, confidentiality of Human Rights Commission Investigations, and a health insurance pool for AFDC recipients who are in job training/job programs.

In addition, there will be a number of bills introduced in the Governor's package (which we haven't seen yet) which are a result of the Department of Human Service's "Child Death Study."

One of the most exciting aspects of the upcoming session is the successful formulation of the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition (reported on last newsletter). This coalition of over 15 groups is choosing its top legislative priorities and will hold a press conference at the State House on January 12 at 11:00 A.M. to announce them.

Groups who are part of the coalition include MWL, NDW, Me. Commission for Women, CLUW, Maine State Nurses Association, Rape Crisis Center Coalition, Alliance for Reproductive Choice, M.A.I.N., Displaced Homemakers, Business And Professional Women, Economic Justice for Women, AAUW, Common Cause, League of Women Voters and the Maine Council of Churches.

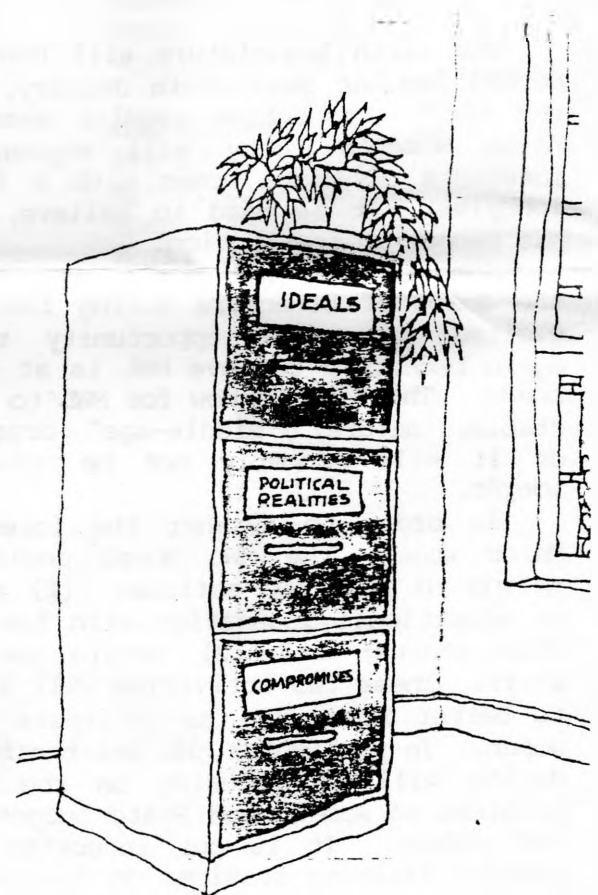
The Coalition has also established an "activist" network among the organizations and within each organization so we may mobilize as many people as possible to do lobbying, to testify at public hearings and

create public support for the Coalition's legislative agenda.

There certainly is safety and power in numbers and this coalition effort promises to make this session the most effective and exciting ever. It's also exciting that this mechanism is in place so we can propose a comprehensive women's package in the 112th Legislature.

Again, anyone interested in or willing to help with lobbying or other legislative work this session, please call me at the office -- 622-5798.

-Betsy Sweet.



DOES POVERTY WEAR A SKIRT?

For those of you who were unable to attend, the MWL annual meeting (Oct. 15) was a smashing success! Close to 100 people attended the all-day meeting at Colby College in Waterville. We had two excellent keynote speakers, Erica Bronstein and Trish Riley, who addressed the topic "Does Poverty Wear A Skirt?" (Summaries of their speeches follow.) We also got an overview of MWL's work last session and the prospects of legislation in the second half of the 111th Legislature.

The afternoon was used to present "mini" training sessions in three areas: "Getting Involved in Politics," "Lobbying On Our Own Behalf," and the "Feminization of Poverty." All three workshops are prototypes for what we hope will become day-long training sessions to take around the state as part of the activities of MWL's educational arm.

Overall, the conference was informative, energizing and provided the impetus and enthusiasm for MWL to continue its ambitious program through the next year. As one participant said, "Inspiring to feel the energy of so many committed and talented women together. It alleviates the sometime felt feeling of despair."

What follows is a summary of the keynote addresses given at the Annual Meeting by Erica Bronstein and Trish Riley. Many thanks to Kathy Lyon - a Brunswick MWL member - for editing and summarizing their remarks.

Erica Bronstein is a Labor Education Specialist with the Bureau of Labor Education at UMO. A Lobby Member, Erica addressed the theme "Does Poverty Wear A Skirt?" from the perspective of working women.

Trish Riley is the Director of Maine's Bureau for the Elderly. She is a long-time member of the Maine Women's Lobby and currently serves on the board. She is also the Chair of MWL's Legislative Committee. Her remarks on "Does Poverty Wear a Skirt?" were from the perspective of older women.

Bronstein

For Ms. Bronstein the conference was a special experience. She perceives the Maine Women's Lobby as playing an important role for women, because such organizations encourage personal growth. As women we confront "daily distortions and myths about what it means to be female..." Ms. Bronstein values the opportunity to test some myths extant against "my own sense of reality ... by talking with other women." "So I've been looking forward to today with the expectation that together we will be able to gain more clarity about what is really happening to us as women and to move towards changing this."

One image which has become myth is that "the 70's was ... a decade of women's liberation." Indeed this image of success applies to a lucky few but the reality for most women is that "things are not getting better, they are getting worse. The 70's has been a period where a new and frightening development has taken place -- the slipping into poverty of hundreds of thousands of women." Another myth is "that the poor, with few exceptions, are undeserving, probably part of a long line of welfare chiselers." The reality is that "this year over 150,000 women who were never before poor will become poor. Many are women like ourselves." They will lose jobs, or be divorced or widowed. Myth #3 is "that if you're willing to work, you won't be poor." The reality is that "over 1/4 of single mothers who work still fall below the poverty line." "We still earn less than 60% of what men earn." "And this is true across all job categories -- we are paid less than men even when we do the same work. But in the vast majority of cases, we are not doing the same work as men. The job market is highly segregated by sex." "Most women who fall into poverty first make a valiant effort to survive in this job market ... but turning to AFDC is an act of desperation which does not protect a woman and her children from poverty."

In Maine, for example, welfare payments are currently established at 75% of the poverty level in 1974 -- a woman with 2 children receives between \$4-5,000 a year."

Our real challenge is to develop an effective kind of feminism to respond to the feminization of poverty. Influenced by the poet Adrienne Rich, Ms. Bronstein suggests that "we must make profound changes in our way of seeing the world ... we must challenge the existing values of the established academic community." "While we need to continue our work around women's issues ... and to fight to maintain and extend social programs ... this is not enough."

Ms. Bronstein then describes a broader vision based on her insights into the basic power relations in our society. "I came to believe that our inferior position as women has roots in economic inequality and that organizing women to redress economic injustices is a necessary part of our struggle for liberation."

"The increasing impoverishment of women is the tip of a larger iceberg, an early warning sign that we have entered a period where past gains are being rolled back and economic and political inequality are increasing throughout our society. The general worsening of times presents us with opportunities for new coalitions. We are seeing the budding coalitions of women, workers, peace groups, the elderly, minorities, the handicapped, the poor and other disempowered groups. The Maine Women's Lobby has been an important part of this emerging coalition in our State." Ms. Bronstein describes her own experience working with unions as having been an excellent opportunity for reaching "large numbers of women who were not yet part of the women's movement." After eight years of involvement with the labor movement, she is convinced that "it can be a powerful ally for accomplishing many of our aims as feminists."

In looking at women's economic position, it is striking that while more than 50% of all women are working outside the home, only 16% of women workers are in unions. Yet the economic benefits of unionization for women are impressive -- 30% higher pay than women who are not organized plus many other benefits such as

Riley

"Old age is nothing more than the sum total of a lifetime, and the sum total of a culture as rich as ours is at best depressing. It reveals to me a failed system."

Public policy reflects commonly held myths about the older American. Such myths are: all older people are deaf; old people with arthritis or other disabilities are sick and hopeless, and all old people are passive, low-functioning members of society who watch TV. Public policy response to these myths include giving the employer the right to force retirement on the older American over 70 regardless of abilities (Maine is an exception) and encouraging the sequestering of impaired older people in nursing homes as if they were ill and incompetent. "5% of America's elderly are in nursing homes and 80% of these people are poor women. Many older poor women who do become ill are cared for by other women in their own homes who are nearing old age themselves.

Who is this 'old woman?' She is a woman in her 60's, 80's or often 100's. She saw suffrage, survived four wars and raised a family during the Great Depression. She survived on an income similar to that of a present day AFDC mother and consequently knows that struggle. She raised children and cared for the dying in her family. Older women are survivors! This reality is contrary to the implications of public policy that older women are sick, needy and nonproductive.

If these women had worked, they would find the dollar they earned in their prime working time is now worth 22¢; in addition to their not having access to health insurance or pensions. "Because they raised families, they interrupted their work life and are eligible for very few benefits in old age." "The ultimate irony is they were expected to live in retirement for 3 to 4 years and in fact often live in retirement for 21 years." Without pensions, with devalued savings, coupled with longevity, even the best savers among them now have run out of money. The average yearly income for the older woman in Maine is about \$3,000. Major legislation aimed at helping older people wasn't introduced until 1965,

at which time the older American's Act including Medicaid, Medicare was enacted. But this "Public Policy accepts that there is a finite pot of gold and that it must be shared" or split up amongst needy groups. This notion invites putting one needy group against another. Some statistics: 60% of people over 65 are women. The average age in a nursing home is 80 and most are women. 2.8 million women over age 65 are in poverty compared to less than 1 million men. 12 million women do not have access to retirement pensions. 54% of women over 65 are widows and 22% of these women live in poverty as compared to 7% of married women. Finally, 65% of all widows would live in poverty if not for government transfers. Despite this fact it is "hogwash that old people are breaking the budget." The reality is that Medicare pays only 40% of actual out-of-pocket health costs for older people. Through a complex series of disallowable costs, a series of premiums and co-payments, Medicare does not pay the bill. In fact, older women are paying as much out of their own pockets today as they were before Medicare in 1964. The cost of health care has escalated significantly more than the cost of living, largely due to hospital and doctor bills, not because there are too many older Americans. In addition, the public policies inherent in Medicaid and Social Security Insurance basically reinforce poverty through a series of disincentives, under a curious set of discriminations. (For example an old woman living alone may receive SSI. If she moves in with a relative or friend, she may lose SSI and at least have it reduced by 30%.)

When one looks at old women one sees the new poor; women who did work all their lives but because they interrupted their work outside the home by caring for families they have no pensions, limited health care and no savings in their old age. One sees the new poor; women surviving on part of their husbands pension or more rarely their own pension. One sees the always poor; women who have "suffered life time consequences of not enough money to pay adequate shelter or health care." It is clear that society must make public policy more humane vis-à-vis women and the working world.

Bronstein (con't.)

sick days, pensions, maternity leave, health insurance, flex-time, affirmative action and on-the-job training which would be otherwise unattainable or at the employer's discretion. On many of these issues, such as the fight for comparable worth, unions have played the leading role, for example, the MSEA in this state." "What I hear from many women is that protection of a union allows them to reclaim some dignity and power on the job." "The current economic and political situation indicates a fundamental commonality between the women's movement and the labor movement. Both are currently under attack from the same sources." "We have seen that these attacks are especially virulent when women start to organize as workers. In order to understand this opposition, we need to ask who benefits from the present situation." If women make 59¢ on the dollar, what happens to the other 41¢. 41¢ (wage gap) times the number of working women = 223.5 billion dollars profit! "Business and corporations have a tremendous economic incentive in continuing women's economic and social inequality." "In pursuit of higher return on capital, corporations are divesting in productive capacity in this country and investing overseas or in mergers and financial speculation. Money is being made but industry is declining. Skilled jobs are being replaced by jobs at Burger King. These are the women's jobs of the 80's." "Another factor which has been shown to contribute to unemployment especially for women, is the high level of military spending." "... research indicates that when money is allocated to the defense industry and away from other industries or social programs, women are the primary losers." "Together people are seeking to define a vision of society which places maximization of human potential ahead of maximization of profits. I believe this is the essence of a feminist economic vision."

Riley (con't.)

Quoting from S. de Beavoir 'What must a man be so that in his old age he will still be a man? The answer is simple he must have been treated as a man.' Excusing the sexist language, "This notion speaks to a fundamental public policy of equality (ERA) and to a broader view of aging." In other words, we ought "not look at old people when they get there but look at how we all age. How do we age? We age as we work." The aging process in our culture entails meeting narrow expectation for work-related behaviours coupled with rigid patterns of personal development. We are all expected to pass thru life the same way. If we deviate from these expectations we will not have an income. We will lose provisions for pensions and health care benefits. In addition, this same public policy brings us to "a screeching halt at age 65 or 70, looking forward to 21 years in which we have no roles, a low income and a great deal of time." Using appropriate mechanisms, unions for example, we need to help older women primarily, but ourselves as well by reallocating life time income, leisure and work lives. "Why do we work a 40 hour week with 2 weeks off? Why can't we leave and raise children, change careers or return to school? Until we have a manpower policy that allows this, we will always have an elderly population that looks like the one I just described, and it will be women." The only way we can have an old age policy that's realistic and supportive is for we women to participate in the definition of the aging process and the development of the public policy towards work expectations. We have to be aware of pensions and health plans. "It's not enough to argue about minimum wage without arguing for the benefits that are absolutely essential today if we're going to be in a better [position tomorrow] than the old women of today." "The poor old women today have nurtured society and have much to teach us. Yet they live in poverty. That legacy is frightening. It needs to be changed. We're tomorrows old ladies and we need to think now what kind of old age we want to have."

Raffle

By now all of you have received at least 12 (count them!) golden opportunities to win a trip to 'Paradise.' The final push is on. We must sell a lot more tickets to make this a financial success for the Lobby. Remember those long lost friends and relatives you've been meaning to get in touch with? Selling these raffle tickets is a perfect opportunity. And they make great gifts....

Also if you can help sell them at the Bangor Mall January 13 or 14, please call the office.

You can sell tickets up until the last minute but all raffle stubs and money must be returned to Box 15, Hallowell, 04347 NO LATER THAN JANUARY 18 AT NOON. Please, send money in as soon as possible, but absolutely no later than January 18. The drawing will be January 20th at noon. ... Keep your fingers crossed!

New Committee Structure

The Maine Women's Lobby board has adopted a new committee structure. Previously, standing committees were made up of all board members. Now each committee chair will be a board member and they will find Lobby members at large to serve on the committee. Standing committees include:

- Legislative
- Fund-raising
- Membership
- Program

If you are interested and willing to serve on any of the above committees, please contact Betsy Sweet at the office (622-5798).

Membership Meetings

In the past months the Lobby has had lots of public exposure. We've spoken to local chapters of AAUW, BPW, The Jaycee Women of Maine, and the League of Women Voters.

Also, we held our own membership meeting in Bangor. Over thirty women attended the evening session where we talked about the Lobby, the issues address, and what individual members and groups can do. It was a good meeting and an excellent way to publicize the Lobby and get new members.

If you think people in your community would be interested in having a similar meeting just let us know. A member of the board or the executive director would be happy to attend.

New Board Elected

After the Annual Meeting elections were held for 7 board members. Four current board members were re-elected: Deb Deatrack, Paula Gaudet, Meri Lowry and Bonnie Provencher. Three new members were added: Nancy Hill, Sharon Lenner, and Marcy Vachon. Nancy is a registered nurse, a former City Councillor, and is currently the Mayor of Waterville. Sharon is the Director of the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME), lives in Hallowell and is particularly interested in strengthening the Lobby politically and financially. Marcy is from East Lebanon, Maine. A student and political activist, Marcy wants to help the Lobby build a strong, organized network of women.

Congratulations to all of you — it should be a challenging and exciting year.

At our first board meeting after the elections new officers were elected.

They are: Chair -- Linda Smith Dyer
Vice-Chair -- Anne Gosline
Treasurer -- Ellie Molter
Secretary -- Sharon Lenner

WON'T YOU JOIN US IN THE LOBBY?

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$20.00 _____

\$10.00 _____

Dues \$ 5.00 _____

Make check payable to the Maine Women's Lobby, P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347.

The primary sources of Lobby funds are the dues and contributions of its members. Dues are maintained at \$5 to make it possible for all to join. Please consider an additional contribution.

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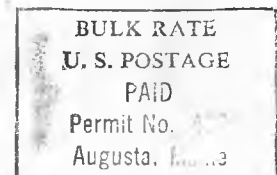
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Maine Women's Lobby
Box 15 Hallowell, Me. 04347

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Marianne Pinkham
15 Elm St.
Old Town, ME 04468

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY



"THE MAJORITY VOICE"

a newsletter of the maine women's lobby

March, 1984

Report from the Chair

The inevitable has happened. The MWL Board voted at the last Board meeting to increase annual membership dues.

Those of you who have been members from the beginning will remember that for the first several years MWL dues were only \$2.00. More recently dues have been \$5.00 and many, many members contribute more.

The recent Board action sets dues at \$15.00 beginning with memberships for the next fiscal year (July 1, 1984). As we do not wish to exclude anyone who supports MWL activities and wishes to be a member, the membership form will include an "other" category for any person for whom \$15.00 is a financial hardship.

MWL is still not a "fancy" organization. The dues pay the salary of the Executive Director/Lobbyist, newsletter, rent (\$50/month, would you believe), telephone and other printing. MWL has never been able to sustain itself on dues alone, but has relied upon the Board and other members to hold fund raising events. However, the expansion last year to staffing on a year round basis has increased our commitments and we must generate the financial resources to meet that.

The MWL has increased its activities. It has increased its public visibility and it has increased its political and lobbying credibility. Your continued support will be vital to continuing growth.

- Linda Dyer

Capitol News



The Second Half of the 111th Legislature is well underway, and it promises to be a hectic and productive session.

The Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition now has 17 member organizations spearheaded by the Lobby. On Jan. 12 we announced our legislative agenda to the Press and the Legislature and raised much interest in our program and groups. What follows is a list of those bills, the organizations taking prime responsibility for the bill and who to contact for further information.

So far, we have had action on only two items: the creation of a compliance and info. officer at the Maine Human Rights Commission was not included in the Gov's. budget. On a more successful note, we had an excellent hearing on the Rape Crisis Bill (L.D. 2020) in front of the Appropriations Committee. There was wide representation from the Rape Crisis Centers, legal and medical professionals, mental health workers, police, and women's groups. Everyone is hopeful that this bill will be passed.

In addition to the Coalition bills we are keeping an eye on the following:

AFDCU - A bill which provides AFDC benefits to two parent families where one or both parents are unemployed.

Job Start Bill - A bill to provide start-up capital for low-income entrepreneurs.

A bill to license birthing centers.

A bill to provide State Tax Exemption for day care

A whole package of budgetary items from the Department of Human Services as a result of the Child Death Study.

None of these bills have been heard yet, nor has the Lobby taken a formal position. We will be keeping our eye out and will let you know what happens and what MWL's action has been or will be.

As always if you have any interest in becoming more involved in lobbying, coming to Augusta for the day to see first-hand what's going on, please just let me know and I'd be happy to have your help!

Augusta Fundraiser



We're jazzing it up this year! The sixth annual Augusta MWL fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at Jonathan's restaurant. Tickets are \$12.00/person and include hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and a special performance by the Bellamy Jazz Band.

Please join us ... we guarantee a good time!



THE WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA COALITION

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
622-5798

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 unemployment population, and remedies to Maine's unemployment problems. It also provides for a surtax on business - once employment rises above 8% to provide additional money for job creation.

An Act to Negotiate Pay Rates of Classification

Sponsor: Senator Bustin
Contact: Ann Gosline, Coalition of Labor Union
Women - 622-3151

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 northern 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 86% over 1982. Experts acknowledge that only 10% of the rapes that actually occur are reported.

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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 unemployment population, and remedies to Maine's unemployment problems. It also provides for a surtax on business - once employment rises above 8% to provide additional money for job creation.

WIDEN THE GENDER GAP REGISTER VOTERS

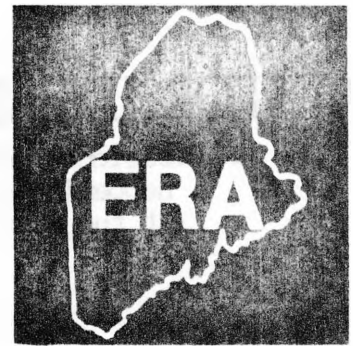


Pollsters indicate that women vote 15-20% differently - more progressively - than men. And although we may not elect a woman as the next President, women may elect the next President.... And we will have a significant impact on local, state and national elections, too.

To ensure that we have the greatest impact, we must register voters. Now is the time for you to become a notary so you can register voters on the spot. To do so:

- 1) Contact the State Dep't.
Station 101
Augusta, 04333
and request a notary application.
- 2) They will mail you an application.
- 3) Fill out and mail in application with \$10 fee.
- 4) Go before dedimus justice and get sworn in.

It's a very easy process. If you do become a notary and are willing to register voters please let the NWL know so we can utilize your services.



ERA FOR ME

And you! The campaign to ratify the State Equal Rights Amendment on the November, 1984 ballot in Maine was officially kicked off Feb. 1 in Augusta. The steering committee (President Linda Dyer is the NWL representative) announced the organization of a statewide, grass-roots campaign to ratify the ERA and to raise \$84,000 in 1984 to run the campaign.

The Maine Women's Lobby as an organization will certainly be involved in the ratification campaign, but if we are to succeed each one of us must become involved as individuals. Specifically the campaign needs:

- 1) Financial Contributions
- 2) People in each county willing to serve as ERA contacts/coordinators.
- 3) Notification of meetings, fairs, films anyplace where an ERA booth can be set up, buttons sold and literature distributed in your area.
- 4) People to buy and sell ERA for ME buttons (75¢/button).
- 5) Anyone who is interested in being involved in the campaign to fill out the enclosed questionnaire/volunteer form.

Please do as much as you can. We cannot afford to lose this one - and won't with your help.

Send questionnaire and information to ERA for ME. P.O. Box 423, Downtown Station, Portland, Maine 04112.

CAPITOL IDEAS

. . .An occasional column on what's happening (or not happening) at the State House . . .

Anne Gosline
MWL Board Member

COMPARABLE WORTH

The fight for comparable worth, or "equal pay for work of comparable worth" is recognized as the most important pay issue of this decade for women. Full time women workers make on the average on 59¢ to every dollar earned by the average male worker. A recent study performed by the National Academy of Sciences for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that up to 40% of the wage gap cannot be explained except as the result of sex discrimination in wage setting. As this study indicates, the 41% wage gap has not decreased since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and will not decrease until the wages of jobs held predominantly by women are raised to a non-discriminatory level.

The Maine Women's Lobby and the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition are supporting L.D. 525 because of its connection to comparable worth issues. L.D. 525 will restore to Maine state employees the right to negotiate with management over the system used to set rates of pay of job classes, and over the pay rates of classifications in relationship to the system. (State employees had this right until the Maine Supreme Court took this right away due to a perceived conflict with a procedural statute. Private and municipal sector employees all have the right to bargain over the rates of pay of job categories.)

L.D. 525 is important to organizations concerned with comparable worth because the Maine state pay rate system is now the subject of a comparable worth study. State employees negotiated \$100,000 for a comparable worth study which is being conducted by a consultant picked by a joint labor-management committee. This labor-management committee will be involved in all aspects of the study, and a wider group of state employees, half chosen by the union and half by the management side of the committee, will be trained in comparable worth issues and will do the analysis which will provide the data for statistical analysis by the consultant. Because of this extensive union involvement, the Maine study is considered the national model for "self education" by employee representatives by Alice Cook, a national authority on comparable worth.

The Maine study is also the first comparable worth study to analyze the "Hay Job Evaluation System." The Hay system, a widely used job evaluation system, was adopted by the Maine state personnel system before collective bargaining for state employees began. It has never before been the subject of comprehensive comparable worth analysis. Maine's study is therefore very important not only to Maine's women employees, but to women in other states whose jobs are classified by a Hay job evaluation system.

The Maine Women's Lobby and the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition support L.D. 525 because the right to bargain over the pay rates of classifications is important to full implementation of comparable worth. Nationally, comparable worth

WIDEN THE GENDER GAP



Recent polls show that women vote differently — 15-20% more progressively — than men. This is called the political gender gap. Clearly, women's political power is increasing, still, women make 59¢ for every dollar earned by men, women are entering poverty faster than any other segment of the population, and the Equal Rights Amendment has not been ratified. To close the economic gender gap we must widen the political one.

The Maine Women's Lobby Means To Do That

Through a full time lobbying effort at the statehouse, through grass-roots organizing, and through training sessions for women on politics and economics the MWL is translating women's power at the polls to a strong political force that will affect the laws and policies of this state

We WILL widen the gender gap IF you help.

Won't you join us in the Lobby?

Yes, I want to join the Lobby

Enclosed is my contribution for membership of \$____ (\$5 Minimum)

Name _____

Address _____

(return to MWL, Box 15 Hallowell, 04347. 622-5798)

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WE NEED YOUR HELP

Many people are at a loss to explain why state ERAs have lost in numerous states in the past several years, in spite of polls indicating overwhelming support. In 1975 New York and New Jersey had state referendums. Polls indicated approximately 80% of the people were supportive. Both referendums lost. Apparently ERA supporters believed they would win without much effort. Anti-ERA people pumped large sums of money into television ads distorting the impact of the ERA just days before the vote, leaving supporters no time to organize and raise money.

The lesson to be learned is that we must not become over confident. We must organize early and well. We must be prepared for whatever tactics are used by the anti forces.

Please return the form below to: ERA for ME,
P.O. Box 423, Downtown Station, Portland, Maine 04112

I want to HELP! I am willing to:

- ☐ Contribute money. Enclosed is \$_____. I will pledge \$_____ more.
- ☐ Be an area co-ordinator
- ☐ Help organize a fundraiser in my local area
- ☐ Help organize an information meeting in my local area
- ☐ Appear on a local radio talk show
- ☐ Arrange a spot on a local radio show
- ☐ Appear as a speaker with local groups (i.e. colleges, Jaycees, Girl Scouts)
- ☐ Arrange with local groups for a speaker
- ☐ Ask ten friends to contribute money
- ☐ Make telephone calls
- ☐ Work at an information booth at malls, fairs, etc.
- ☐ Help with voter registration
- ☐ Distribute literature
- ☐ Write a letter to the editor of my local paper
- ☐ Put a sign in my yard
- ☐ Put a bumper sticker on my car
- ☐ Other _____

Please list any skills or experience you have that would help the campaign, such as speaking, writing press releases, producing brochures, fundraising, writing tv or radio ads, office skills, press contacts:

Events in my local area between April, 1984 and the November election where an information booth could be used include (give name of event, date, and location):

Name: _____ Telephone: (home) _____ (office) _____
Address: _____



studies have been implemented only where unions, along with women's organizations, have been the moving force behind them. Full implementation by upgrading female-dominated jobs to the level of male-dominated jobs (rather than by freezing or even lowering wages of male-dominated jobs to the detriment of both) has been successful only where unions have bargained the results. It has been found that unless comparable worth settlements have the full weight of employees' unions behind them, there is not sufficient pressure to fund the remedy. Even if the executive branch and/or the legislature is well-intentioned, the pressure generated by the employees' unions has been necessary to justify the expense to the public.

Finally, because the Maine study is a very sophisticated study which will identify problems with the Hay System rather than necessarily dictating results, it is especially critical that the state employees who have been involved throughout the study have an equal say in how the problems should be remedied.

Raffle Report

We did it! Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of many Lobby members, the first MWL Raffle raised a total of \$5,892. With expenses of \$2,160, we netted over \$3,700!

The lucky winner of the dreamy Bahamas vacation prize was Donna Mundy of Portland.

In terms of dollars, this was one of the most successful fundraising ventures the Lobby has undertaken since our expansion to a year 'round organization.

A special thanks goes to Board members Carol Lenna and Debby Deatrich, who organized the raffle; as well as Meri Laurey, Bonnie Provencher, Linda Dyer, Stephanie Smith, and Louise Hinckley, who provided much assistance. Among the many Lobby members and friends who counted and stuffed endless envelopes were Sue MacPherson, Jackie Vaughan, Wendy Widmann, Susan Adler, Jerry Bley, and Executive Director Betsy Sweet. Kudos to those of you who staffed booths at various shopping malls, and to everyone for not being bashful about selling tickets to all your friends and relatives. It was truly a great team effort. ... And Donna, don't forget to send us a postcard!

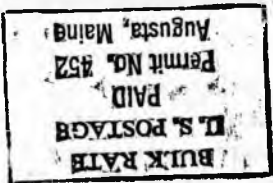
Membership

The LOBBY needs to continue to broaden its membership base. YOU can help. Contact this office (622-5798) if:

1. You're willing to person a MWL at a Democratic or Republican Caucus in March
2. Willing to hand out the enclosed leaflet at caucuses, meetings, shopping malls, craft fairs, etc. Any appropriate event between now and Nov. 4. (Feel free to reproduce the leaflet on your own, or contact us and we will get you bulk copies.)
3. You belong to or know of an organization that might be willing to include a small article about the Lobby and a membership form in its publication.

3

Marianne Plinkham
15 Elm St.
Old Town, ME 04468



Maine Women's Lobby
Box 15
Hallowell, ME 04347

upcoming events

- March 3 "Sweet Honey in the Rock*" Concert. Bowdoin College. "An incredible black a capella political women's group. SUPERB!"
- March 4 Democratic Caucuses (good MWL leafletting opportunity)
- March 6 MWL Augusta fundraiser
- March 7 6:00 P.M. MWL Board Mtg. (call 622-5798 for location)
- March 8 International Women's Day celebration at Colby College focusing on Women and Eastern Europe. Call 873-1131 for details.

March 15-16 - "Violence Against Women: Rape, Incest, and Battering" Conference sponsored by Me. Women's Commission, Coalition on Rape, Family Crisis Services Coalition, SURVIVE. At Augusta Civic Center \$25/day, \$40/2 days. Call Peg Ricker at 289-3417. Limited scholarships available.

March 22 Helen Caldicott, author of "Nuclear Madness" in Portland.

April 14 "Beyond War: A Woman's Convocation" 9-4 PM. Jewett Auditorium. UMA \$6.00 Contact Vinita Buans 685-9205.

THE WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA COALITION

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.

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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
622-5798

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
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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.

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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 unemployment population, and remedies to Maine's unemployment problems. It also provides for a surtax on business - once employment rises above 8% to provide additional money for job creation.

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Sponsor: Senator Bustin
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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.

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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.

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Price Tag: \$25,000
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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 northern 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 86% over 1982. Experts acknowledge that only 10% of the rapes that actually occur are reported.

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We Are On The Move...

... and it's time for you
to move with us by renewing
your membership for 1984-85!

Dear Maine Women's Lobby Members,

The Maine Women's Lobby is on a roll... We have just completed another very successful legislative session. Among our many victories were increased benefits for AFDC mothers, the funding for Rape Crisis Centers around the state, funds for a loan program for low-income entrepreneurs and (if the Governor signs it) an increase in the minimum wage.

This session we also spearheaded a very successful coalition of seventeen organizations across the state who helped make some of our successes possible and who is already putting together a Women's Legislative Agenda for the 112th Legislature.

And, we have transformed the Lobby into a year round organization that has been able to train hundreds of Maine citizens to lobby on their own behalf, focused attention on the declining economic status of women, is developing creative and effective solutions to address the inequities women face and has continued to raise awareness about and interest in women's issues from Caribou to Kittery.

We want to carry these same kind of victories into November 6 and beyond. Although we will not elect a woman President this time around, women may provide the electoral margin that elects the next President... and the Senate... and the House... and 184 Legislators in Maine... and decides if Maine will ratify a state ERA. The Maine Women's Lobby, through voter registration and get out the vote drives and the provision of electoral information will see that the "Gender Gap" is alive and well and DOES make a difference this November.

Stick With A Winner !

All this work has been possible only because of your membership dues and generous financial support. There is no shortage of work to be done or enthusiasm or ability to do it. The only thing that can hold us back is a lack of money. As you are aware, membership dues and fundraising events are MWL's only source of income so . . . PLEASE RENEW NOW for the 1984 -85 season and be as generous as possible.

This year, in order to increase our financial stability and to do some of the things we haven't had the resources to do, the MWL is offering a quarterly pledge program. Through this program we are asking you to give money to the Lobby each quarter (July, October, January and April). This money will enable us to do a Legislative alert during the session, improve the quality of our newlsetter, acquire some basic office equipment and print resource materials to carry the MWL message farther.

Your participation in the pledge program is greatly needed and will be greatly appreciated. Please consider pledging as a convenient way to support the Lobby throughout the year.

1984 is a critical year. With your help, the Maine Women's Lobby can keep Maine moving along the path toward equality and justice for all.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you,

Anne

Anne Gosline
Chair, MWL

P.S. If you have renewed since May 1, or are a new member, thanks already! Why not pass along this to a friend?

____ Yes, I'm sticking with a winner. Enclosed are my dues for 84-85
____ \$15 ____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ Other

____ Yes, I will support the Lobby throughout the year by pledging
____ \$15 quarterly ____ \$25 quarterly ____ \$50 quarterly
____ Other (membership included with pledge)

____ Please contact me with more information about the pledge program

By-Laws: I ____ approve, ____ disapprove of the by-laws changes in the newsletter.

**Please clip and return this in envelop provided as soon as possible.
Thanks.

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY



"THE MAJORITY VOICE"

a newsletter of the maine women's lobby

May, 1984

Report from the Capitol

The second half of the 111th Legislative Session is over! Once, again, we had a very successful year in Maine. In raw statistics we dealt with 17 pieces of legislation: we won 11, lost 3 and had 3 draws.

Most of the legislation we worked on centered around economic equity for women. Although our dream is still far from realized we were able to make significant gains in the areas of AFDC, wages, jobs and employment as well as several non-economic areas. Most importantly, as you will see from the list of bills below, we continued our educational efforts to ensure that legislators (and the public) define women's issues very broadly and to make them realize that women have a special perspective on all issues. On that front we made great strides forward.

The Lobby continued to improve its credibility, visibility and political clout throughout this session. Two factors that were critical to that process were the formation of the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition and the "Gender Gap" and the fact that it is an election year.

The "Wrap-Up" on the Women's Legislative Agenda is included in this newsletter. The Lobby worked hard on all these pieces of legislation although we did not always take the lead roll. You can see that our record was a good one, particularly given the fact that when we announced our agenda at a press conference the most often heard comment was that we were "dreamers". This coalition proved, above all, that women can work together on a progressive political agenda, and that by sharing our resources and strengths that we form a political force that has clout and can deliver.

The Lobby worked on seven additional pieces of legislation - six of which were victories:

- LD 1842 - "An ACT to Require that the AFDC Program Promote Family Unity." This bill will allow unemployed parents, still living together, to collect AFDC benefits.
- LD 2114 - "An ACT to Recognize National Women's History Week." This bill, which sets aside a week to recognize women's role in history was a project of the eighth grade class of the Carl B. Lord school in Vassalboro.
- LD 2440 - "An ACT to Ensure Statewide Uniformity in Procedures for Body Searches and Body Cavity Searches of Arrestees by Law Enforcement Officers." This bill sets guidelines for search of arrestees and is designed to protect against abuse of such searches
- LD2466 "An ACT to Revise Child Custody Terminology, Enact 'Best Interest of the Child' Criteria, to Provide for Mandatory mediation in Cases of Separation, Annulment of Divorce where there is a Contested Issue Involving Children". A result of last year's "joint custody" battle, this bill was a recommendation of the Study Commission on Joint Custody advocated by the Lobby
- LD 2384 "An ACT Relating to Alcohol-Related Birth Defects". This controversial bill would have posted in bars and places of sale a 6X9" warning sign to pregnant women about the effects of alcohol on the fetus. The MWL opposed the bill based on discrimination against women and the potential for increased harassment of women based on their personal health decisions. We also urged, however, that educational materials be distributed through PSAs, physicians offices, highschools, etc.
- LD 1819 "An ACT to Reenact a Provision for Protective Orders in Crimes Between Family Members"

Our only loss was an attempt to amend the portion of the Department of Human Services Budget which included approximately one million dollars in state and federal funds for Pre-Natal care for low income women. We agreed with that program and its necessity but felt that low income women deserved to have a choice in whether to carry their pregnancy to term and the state had the responsibility to make that choice economically possible. Funds were not included but we were invited by several members of the Appropriations Committee to submit a bill next year (P.S. We will!)

Finally - ALL of us fared better because it is an election year and the media attention on the "Gender Gap" has recognized women as a viable political force that may well decide many elections this November. One of our critical jobs is to see that that perception becomes a reality.

If you have any questions on the details of the legislation we worked on or any aspect of our legislative work please call Betsy at 622-5798.

Legislative Wrap-Up



WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA COALITION

The Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition was formed by seventeen organizations in September, 1983 to put forward a progressive agenda for women in the second half of the 111th Legislature.

Our legislative package was formulated (within the limitations of admissible legislation in the second session) to begin to address the economic inequities we face.

We proposed seven pieces of legislation and two budget items. In strict numerical terms we had four wins, three losses, and two draws.

VICTORIES

LD 2450 "An ACT to Increase AFDC payments".

This bill called for a 5% increase in payments to AFDC recipients (93% of whom are female) above the Governor's request for a 5% increase. We succeeded in getting an additional 2½% raise effective Jan. 1, 1985.

LD 2020 "An ACT to Provide Funding for Rape Crisis Centers in Maine"

A stunning victory, we were able to get \$100,000 appropriated for the seven existing rape crisis centers and the establishment of a center in the northern part of Me.

Creation of a Transitional Health Insurance Pool

\$150,000 was included in the Department of Human Services Budget for a pilot project to provide transitional health insurance for AFDC recipients who enter the work force and do not receive medical coverage from their employer.

LD 2236 "An ACT to Increase the Minimum Wage"

Although the Governor has not yet signed this bill, the fact that it received legislative approval was a clear and decisive victory. The bill approved provides a 10¢ increase every year for three years.

LOSSES

LD 525 "An ACT to Negotiate Pay Rates of Classification"

This bill would have allowed state employees to negotiate over their pay rates of classification - a right we believe would have led to the successful implementation of the comparable worth study now being conducted. We were able to get the bill approved by both bodies of the Legislature, but the Governor vetoed the bill.

LD 2171 "An ACT to Create a State Funded Jobs Program"
This bill which would have provided funds for the creation of a public jobs program was killed in the Appropriations Committee.

Creation of an Assistant Information and Compliance Officer at the Maine Human Rights Commission
This Human Rights advocate position was not included in the Governor's budget.

DRAWS

Two bills, "An ACT to Keep Confidential Certain Documents of the Maine Human Rights Commission" and "An ACT to Target Employment Opportunities Financed through State Construction Contracts" were withdrawn by the sponsors of the legislation because drafting and technical difficulties arose. We have been assured that these bill will be submitted in the 112th Session

ONWARD

Though numerically our victories are not stellar, the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition must be judged as very successful this session for several reasons. First, we did win four major legislative victories, three of which "politicos" told us did not have a chance of passage. Secondly, we have established the women's movement as a movement concerned with, dramatically affected by, and with expertise in broad economic policies that effect all Maine's citizens. Finally, we have demonstrated that above all else we can and will work together. We now have in place a very effective network and a working coalition that can look forward to an exciting and successful legislative session next year and for years to come.

WHAT WE CAN'T
DO ALONE
WE CAN DO
TOGETHER



By-Laws Changes

According to our By-Laws any changes in those by-laws must be approved by 2/3 of the voting membership. The proposed changes are as follows: (changes underlined)

Sec. 3. Any person who subscribes to the purpose of the Maine Women's Lobby, upon payment of dues, shall be enrolled as a member for a period of twelve months from such payment, or such lo-ger period as the Board may determine in accordance with Section 9. A general membership meeting shall be held annually.

Sec. 9, The fiscal year shall be July 1-June 30. Dues shall be set by a two-thirds vote of the Board for memberships periods of one year or such longer periods as the Board may determine.

Section 3 Amendment will allow the Lobby to do a month-by-month renewal system and will allow us to hold our annual meeting at any time (currently required to be in September).

Section 9 Amendment will allow the Lobby to establish a "Lifetime Membership" category for those who donate \$500 or more.

Please vote on these changes in the box provided on the dues renewal notice. Any question? Contact Anne Gosline 622-3151.

New Officers

Congratulations to our new officers Anne Gosline - Chair and Debbie Deatrack - Vice Chair. Many thanks to Linda Smith Dyer, the outgoing chair, for devoting time enrgy and ideas to the Lobby throughout the Session.

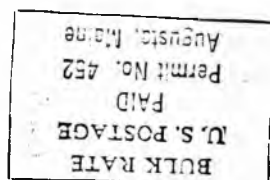
HELP!

Desperately needed are the following office supplies:

- *electric/correctable typewriter
- *typewriter stand
- *filing cabinet(s)
- *book case
- *VOLUNTEERS to type, file, do mailings and help with membership information

If you have any of the supplies (we will pick up) or can help please call Betsy at 622-5798.

Marianne Plunkham
15 Elm St.
Old Town, ME 04468



MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY
BOX 15
HALLOWELL, ME 04347

upcoming events

- June 1-2 Regional Displaced Homemakers Conference - Portland
Contact D.H. at 622-7131
- June 1-3 "WOMEN, TAKE BACK THE NIGHT" Demonstration, Workshops
Portland. BE THERE. Call 773-3333
- June 2 "Wall ' n ' Roll" to benefit Me. Association of
Handicapped Persons. Call 774-4360 for details
- June 12 PRIMARY ELECTIONS. VOTE - Your vote could make the
difference.
- June 23 Waldoboro Days Triathlon to Benefit the Family Violence
Project and New Hope for Women. 5 mile
canoe, 6.2 mile run, 25 mile bike. Competitive
and recreational calsses/indivduals and teams.
call 623-3569 for info.

meet me in the lobby ...

The Lobby isn't a place . . . it's people. People who recognize the need for an active voice on behalf of women in the state legislative process.

In 1978 the Maine Women's Lobby was organized to provide this voice. Hundreds of people throughout the state have joined the Lobby to work for the passage of laws that protect the rights of women, that provide equity for women, that assure women an equal opportunity to direct their own lives.

You can be a part of this historic effort by joining the Lobby.
You will. . . .



Have an active voice in the state legislature through the Lobby's full time lobbyist

Receive the Lobby newsletter and other news alerts for the latest information on bills and issues of concern to women

Join a network of active people who are dedicated to improving and guaranteeing the status of women in Maine

Become part of one of the most effective public policy groups in the state of Maine

Won't YOU join us in the

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Membership* _____\$5 _____\$10 _____\$25

* The only source of Lobby funds are the dues and contributions of members. Dues are kept at a minimum of \$5 to make it possible for you to join. Higher contributions are welcomed.

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Maine Women's Lobby
P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Maine 04347

**Meet Us
in the
Lobby...**



Maine Women's Lobby

P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Maine 04347

Bulk Rate
US Postage Paid
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Augusta, Me.

**Maine
Women's
Lobby**



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You can be a part of this historic effort by joining the Maine Women's Lobby. You will...

- Join a network of active people who are dedicated to improving and guaranteeing the status of women in Maine.
- Have an active voice in the state legislature through the Lobby's full time lobbyist.
- Receive the Lobby newsletter and other news alerts for the latest information on bills and issues of concern to women.
- Become part of one of the most effective public policy groups in the state of Maine.

THE LOBBY TAKES ACTION

Every session, the Maine legislature considers thousands of bills. The Maine Women's Lobby identifies the issues critical to women.

The number of Maine women in poverty increases every year. A majority of these women are elderly and living alone or single and raising children. To reverse this

alarming economic trend, the Lobby works to:

- Prevent social service cutbacks.
- Increase AFDC and General Assistance benefits.
- Secure funding for job training programs such as the Displaced Homemaker Program.
- Create opportunities for flexible work hours, job sharing, and adequate child care.
- Obtain equal pay for work of comparable value.

Although it is constitutionally guaranteed, reproductive freedom is continually threatened. The Lobby works diligently to see that our right to choose is protected.

For women in Maine, equality is not granted by the Constitution. The Lobby is a leading force in the push for ratification of a State Equal Rights Amendment.

AND WE ARE EFFECTIVE

"The impact of the Maine Women's Lobby is significant, and laws affecting women are improving as a result of their action. All women are better served because of their presence. I'm proud to be a member."

—Sen. Nancy Clark

"It is exciting to participate in the process of positive change for women and to know that as my two daughters begin to explore their lifestyles and career options, they will benefit because of the efforts and support of the Maine Women's Lobby."

— Francie Davis

"The Maine Women's Lobby was crucial in getting the funding for the Displaced Homemaker Act. The Displaced Homemaker's Act has been instrumental in getting me back on my feet as a widow."

— Audrey Daigle

A number of Maine women like myself were concerned with the absence of a constant presence in the legislature. While other organizations address many needs of women, none directed its resources toward a fulltime lobbyist for women's issues. I, as a founder of the Lobby, am extremely pleased with the growth of the Lobby and our success in the Legislature."

— Linda Smith Dyer

Our membership is diverse and represents a vital force in Maine — a force that will improve the quality of life for all of Maine's residents. The only thing missing in the Lobby is You...

WON'T YOU JOIN US IN THE LOBBY?

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

\$20.00 _____

\$10.00 _____

Dues \$ 5.00 _____

Make check payable to the Maine Women's Lobby, P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347.

The primary sources of Lobby funds are the dues and contributions of its members. Dues are maintained at \$5 to make it possible for all to join. Please consider an additional contribution.