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Dawnbreaker Staff

Maine Division - American Association of University Women

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"Stop the World,
We Want to Get On"

We at the division level stopped the news (if not the world) for division members for the first months of our office holding. Why? . . . we were tossing around ideas . . . and it took a while. Our decision: to try this type of communication, mimeographed to save money on printing and to save time in preparation, and mailed directly to your home. In process is a new logo design for the mimeograph format. Conciseness of news items to keep you informed and in-depth reporting on one issue are editorial goals. We'd like to hear what you think . . .

FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

AAUW . . . WHERE ARE YOU?

May 16 and 17

circle this date on your calendar.
spring convention in Augusta. more later

dateline: Seattle, Washington.

We need a banner (3' x 6') for the national convention. Design should underscore the convention theme, Women in the World Community, or some aspect of the Bicentennial celebration. Ideas due: April 1. Send to: Marion Turner, 19 Potter St., Brunswick, ME 04011.

dateline: Seattle, Washington.

subject: Women Authors project of the Education Foundation (National) for the convention. purpose: focus attention on women authors during International Women's Year & raise money for the Centennial fund. your involvement: (via your branch fellowships chairman, who has the information) find the authors and their books.

The phone at 19 Potter St., Brunswick rings. Marion Turner, division president, answers. The question posed: why isn't AAUW joining with other concerned groups to support women in a statement to Gov. Longley. The Roberta Weil dismissal and Shirley Ezzy battle are drawing women together to defend their position and rights - - - where is AAUW?

Marion calls Velma Oliver in Orono and Peggy Hodgkins in Wilton to gather opinions of former presidents of the division. Their concensus: as a state unit AAUW can do nothing.

WHY? Why on earth can't we act on such a timely issue to women? Why else do we exist if not to promote the position of women in leadership roles???

The answer is found in our bylaws: Article 16 (Use of Name): "No action in the name of the state division shall be taken on any matter of state-wide scope on which the state division has

Winter Board Meeting action.

the learning resources project.

Victoria S. Robinson, director, reports progress . . . lots of progress. Articles are being edited; the schedule is being kept; 100-plus titles have been submitted. . . . but the search goes on. YOUR IDEAS ARE NEEDED NOW. Send title thoughts to Vici Robinson, Main St., Kingfield, ME 04947.

The Grant Story*

- part 1. Vici saw a newspaper notice offering money from the Dept. of Commerce and Industry to projects promoting Maine. Deadline: one week. Very organized, with solid material in manuscript form, Vici applied.
- part 2. Our project won one of the largest grants, \$1,000! Vici was pleased with both the money (much-needed) and the recognition of work well done by all involved (much-needed).
- part 3. The grant money has been withdrawn - a legal technicality allowed the retraction. So, no money will come but the recognition remains.
- part 4. moral of the story: keep alert to means of covering our costs. The next lead may bear fruit (money?).

*a true story

the division history (Velma Oliver, author) is being set in type. The target date for publication is April. One thousand copies are being printed, enough so each of you can purchase a copy. Tuck a dollar away/ it will be money well spent. Branches: have you contributed \$10.00? Please check.

no policy." In brief, we can act only on those issues approved in our legislative program. The clout of our 900-plus membership can be used only within the legal guidelines established.

A nuisance, you say. Perhaps, when an issue as explosive and unexpected as the Weil-Ezzy dismissals appears. But also, responsible. Because we act on the strength of an organization as large as AAUW, the mechanics need to be logical and orderly to avoid mass confusion, over reaction, and potential commitment of the entire group to a position held by only a few members.

Legislative concerns of members surfaced again at the winter board meeting in Augusta, 8 February. Can day-care centers be defended through testimony, etc., using AAUW's name? The answer: yes, because it falls under the legislative program item "support ways and means whereby the economic and family life of all Maine citizens be improved."

But one word of restraint: any action that you, a single member or your branch, take on behalf of the state organization must be cleared through Marcia Tappan, head of the legislative committee. She must know what is going to happen before it happens - not learn about it on the 6 o'clock news. Her address:

Marcia Tappan
Readfield Rd.
Winthrop, ME 04364
phone: 377-8519

P.S. The smoke has not cleared around the governor & legislature yet. Board opinion was to hold our activity until we can direct our energies toward issues that are clearly defined.

the \$200 travelship award from National was awarded to Caribou, our newest branch, to help pay expenses to the convention in Seattle. Reasoning overhead was that the branch (several months old) has had no time to raise money as the other fourteen branches have/ that this branch would benefit most from a member attending/ and President Jane Page has a member who is willing to go if some financial help is available. and there is. bon voyage.

nominating committee members
(for division program vice president, treasurer, and recording secretary)
Karyl Condit, Franklin Co., chrnm.
Barbara Howd, Orono-Old Town
Marilyn Whipple, Portland

citation award committee members
Theodocia Gray, MDI, chrnm.
Frances Seaman, Waterville
Cynthia Baldwin, Portland

want to get away from it all?
and meet interesting people?
and face spring with travel plans?
Sherbrooke, Quebec, University Women's Club invites AAUW members of Maine to attend a conference on International Women's Year 10 and 11 April 1975 in Lennoxville, Que. More details from your branch president or Marion Turner. What a lovely opportunity to practice international women's year!

The following are areas in which AAUW can act: (editor's note: the program is presented in condensed form; for a complete program ask your branch legislative committee members)

-energy

support conservation and priority uses
encourage research of new sources
provide public transportation system

-education

support equal funding of public systems
provide adequate funds for higher educ.
generally strengthen school programs

-natural resources

support anti-pollution legislation
support land-use regulation
support environmental education

-human resources

improve status of women in society
improve the economic & family life in Me.

-government

support governmental reorganization
prevent conflict of interest and insure high ethical standards.

As a result of the discussion concerning legislative action concerning women, the division board voted to reaffirm the Call to Action for Women. It seems especially pertinent in Maine this year/ and in the nation as a slumping economy threatens to erode the progress made by women in the past few years.

CALL TO ACTION FOR WOMEN

". . . to plan and act thus:

1. To ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and to lobby for appropriate implementation, legislation at the local, state and Federal level.
2. To influence all institutions of higher education to adopt policies

call to action/ cont.

guaranteeing equality of opportunity in admissions,
curriculum, financial aid, employment and promotion.

3. To encourage women to seek public office.
4. To place women on governing boards, boards of directors,
and commissions of colleges and universities, business
corporations, and government.
5. To change educational methods and materials to eliminate
sex role stereotyping.
6. To portray women fairly in communications media.
7. To facilitate societal attitudinal changes which
encourage women to develop their full potential.

the dawnbreaker
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next issue: what is AAUW worth to you - in income tax deductions?