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Maine Division - American Association of University Women

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DAWNBREAKER

MAINE DIVISION, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

WINTER 1988

Vol. 36, No. 2

Marge Erhardt
President

Glenda Dow
Editor

BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE MAINE DIVISION LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 1988

You ARE NEEDED to participate in the Maine Division legislative programs for 1988. These are:

1. INVOLVING YOURSELF IN THE 1988 ELECTION PROCESS

The months before an election offer special opportunities to educate candidates, the public and the press. Some say that the only time politicians listen is when they are running. We in the Maine Division (using the AAUW Election issues brochure to assist us) need to decide upon a plan and how to execute that plan. Branch Legislative Chairs - and OTHERS who are interested should plan to get together in early 1988 to develop our strategy.

2. DEVELOPING AND WORKING ON STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Every two years the Maine Division prepares a legislative program. This - although it uses AAUW guidelines as a basis - is focused on Maine issues. One example of a Maine issue exactly corresponding to a national priority is the current endeavors of classified employees of the University of Maine system to attain pay equity: Pay equity for women is a Level 1 priority of AAUW. (See report of Mary Skaggs below).

3. ACTIVELY SUPPORTING ASSOCIATION AND DIVISION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

For Level 1 priorities, AAUW takes a lead and invests staff time for lobbying; materials preparation; letters to Congress; and grassroots member organizing. For level 2 issues, AAUW works in coalition rather than taking a lead. Level 3 issues are those on a back burner. These priorities can change with circumstances.

Current Level 1 priorities are 1. Title IX - Civil rights restoration act. 2. Student financial aid - adequate funding

and sex equity. 3. Pay equity. 4. Family and medical leave.

4. HAVING AN ELECTION YEAR PROGRAM ON ASSOCIATION AND DIVISION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Note to branch Program Vice-Presidents and Legislative Chairs - If your branch has room for another program, consider one on AAUW Legislative Priorities and how those relate to Maine issues and to the '88 elections: educating local, state, and federal candidates as well as voters on issues of importance to AAUW. I am planning such a program for the Orono-Old Town branch and would be glad to share the format and materials of that program.

IF YOU ARE PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN ANY ONE OF THE ABOVE, please let your branch legislative chair know of your interest. One of the advantages of living in a state with a small population is that each of us can have an influence if we choose to exert-it!

Submitted by,
Marguita Hill, State Legislative Chair
3 Cedarwood Ave., Orono 04473
Tel: 866-4039



REPORT BY MARY SKAGGS* TO MAINE AAUW MEMBERS

The Associated COLT (Clerical, Office, Laboratory and Technical) staff of the University of Maine (ASCUM) have reached what we hope is our LAST hurdle in our fight for pay equity.

After a long standing dispute, ASCUM and the University have agreed, through Collective Bargaining, to include in the University's bill for special appropriation (January 1988), a request for \$2.7 million to fund implementation of the Revised Job Classification Program. We must convince the Maine State Legislature to fund the appropriation.

For almost five years, ASCUM and the University Administration have been working on a Joint Study Committee to revise and update the Job Classification system used to rate and evaluate classified jobs. The old system is archaic and discriminates against women. The new system will do away with pay inequities and sex discrimination.

ASCUM needs the support of organizations like AAUW if we are to achieve our goal of economic equity for women within the University. You can help by lobbying the Legislature in Augusta beginning in January, 1988. Calls and letters to your Senators and Representatives supporting this issue will also be helpful.

*Mary Skaggs is Chief Negotiator for the COLT union. Over the past five years she has carried a major load of the work involved in the job reclassification update.



REPORT FROM THE MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY

In early December I attended a meeting of the presidents of women's organizations in Maine. It became clear at the meeting that there are many organizations in Maine working on similar issues. Jean Hammond, who also attended, suggested that some information on the Maine Women's Lobby might be of interest to members of AAUW because of our common concerns surrounding women and their families and because the Lobby is actively working to address those concerns.

The Lobby is a grassroots membership organization which depends on membership dues to support the efforts of its lobbyist. The issues on which the Lobby works include, among others, economic equity, childcare, reproductive freedom, rape and domestic violence and employment and training. This year the Lobby's efforts will also include working to defeat the Parental Consent referendum. In addition to working at the State House, the Lobby also works on involving women in the political process by providing training to make individuals and groups aware of their ability to influence that process.

Basic membership dues to the Lobby are \$15 per year. During the year members are kept up to date on what is happening in Augusta through the Lobby's newsletter which is published frequently during the legislative session. Members can also get involved with a variety of activities from learning to lobby their representatives to recruiting new members and fundraising. If you are interested in knowing more about or in joining the Maine Women's Lobby, please write to us c/o P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Me. 04347 or call Karen Heck, MWL Chair at 873-4531.

MAINE DIVISION RECEIVES GRANT

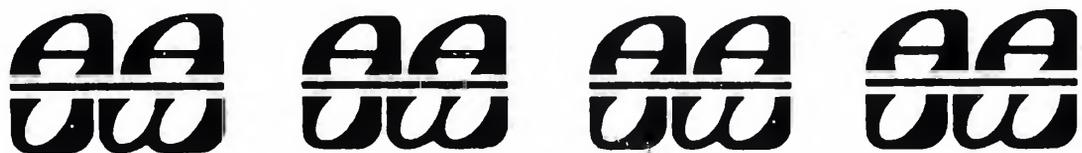
The AAUW Educational Foundation's Research and Projects Grants offer AAUW Branches and Divisions funding to implement public service projects which benefit their communities and enhance public awareness of issues of societal concern. Under this broad umbrella, the Maine Division did receive a \$3000 short-term Project Grant from the Foundation, which along with other funds raised, will enable us to meet all printing and distribution costs associated with the battered women's booklet.

As we continue with the Division Project, its development from an idea to the final completion should not only be a source of pride for all members but should also reveal the cooperation among branches, the Division and the Association.

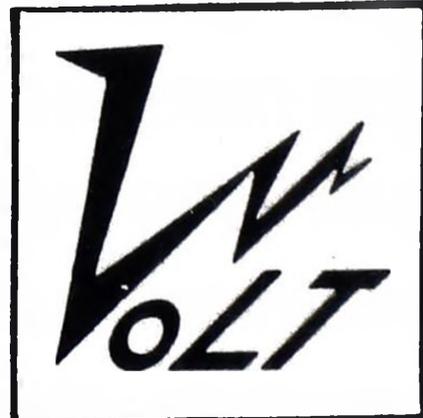
The Association develops issue topics for study and action. Out of the topic "Empowering Women" of a couple years ago, the Mid-Coast branch began to learn about the problems of domestic violence victims. From this exploration came the idea of a booklet to be made available to victims through the helping professionals. Since the project was beyond the scope of one branch, the Maine Division voted to take on this project. The Division was able to draw on the support and resources of many branches and individuals, as well as the Association for a grant. Because of this cooperation battered women will be able to have more control over their lives and aid in breaking the cycle of battering for their children.

The real benefits of the booklet can only come if it is widely distributed and used throughout the state. We continue to ask each branch and all members for cooperation in distribution. Look at your community and develop a list of all the helping professionals and resource locations where women seeking information and aid may find or be given the booklet.

Battering is a tragic social problem causing a great deal of suffering. We must continue to raise public awareness. Our purpose is positive societal change. Working together we can all make a difference.



MAINE DIVISION APPLIES FOR VOLT TRAINING GRANT?



Volunteer Leadership training is designed to offer skill-building workshops covering management, group dynamics, leadership styles, and communication. Training sessions will include techniques to resolve conflict successfully; interpret nonverbal communication; recognize various leadership styles; manage time and people; and plan projects. Trainees will learn steps toward problem solving as well as the dynamics of group development and participation. The training has been specifically designed for volunteers, but these skills are valuable in work environments as well.

Only twenty divisions will be selected to receive grants for this training. Jean Lamond from Waterville will chair the VOLT committee. Sixteen women will be selected to receive the training. They in turn must agree to lead two workshops with another trainer. In return for the training the grant requires that sixteen workshops be held in the division. Any member

interested in participating should contact Jean Lamond, 26
Evergreen Dr., Waterville, Me. 04901

Eight branches have already expressed an interest in
hosting a workshop. Branches will have an opportunity to
provide a community service, receive publicity, attract new
members, and make money.

This is a great opportunity for women to receive training,
for branches to provide a service and increase visibility, and
for workshop participants to receive valuable skills at a low
cost.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Division Board Meeting, Holiday Inn, Augusta	February 6, 1988
Dawnbreaker Deadline	March 15, 1988
Regional Conference, Mystic Connecticut	May 20, 21, 22, 1988

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

This will be the second issue to be mailed directly to the
members. For the mailing I obtain a mailing list from the
Association. I would appreciate it if the branch presidents
would check to make sure that all their members are getting the
Dawnbreaker. If there are members who are not receiving the
Dawnbreaker, please send me their name and address. My new
address is RFD#2 Box 4240, East Corinth, Me. 04427.

I would also like to encourage any division member who has
a concern about AAUW or has information that she/he thinks would
be important to members to write an article for the Dawnbreaker
and send it to me by the deadline. One does not have to be a
Division Board member to contribute to this publication.



SOLVE A MYSTERY



FIND A FELLOW

Since 1888, the cooperative fundraising efforts of AAUWs membership have provided 5,000 women with academic Fellowships for advanced education and research. In celebration of our centennial year, the AAUW Educational Foundation is beginning a year-long, world-wide search for over 2,500 former Fellows who have lost touch with the organization.

Your mission is to help locate them and find out what they are doing, what they have achieved, and how they have helped change the world:

First, contact the EFP Chair of your local AAUW branch. By early October, she will have received a "How to Celebrate the Centennial" guide complete with a list of the missing former Fellows, sample news releases, camera-ready ads and myriad hints on sleuthing techniques.

Offer your help, then follow through as a Find-a-Fellow committee chair or member. Remember always to look for former Fellows or news of them at every social, academic and professional event you attend.

Each AAUW Branch that finds a missing former Fellow will receive a reward, with a grand reward of \$1,000-seed money for future fundraising projects-going to the Branch that finds the most former Fellows *in time* for the Foundation's gala centennial celebration and conference in Washington, D.C. next June.

For more guidelines on how you can help find a former Fellow, contact your local Branch's EFP chair or Linda Clingan, Development Associate for Branch and Division Fundraising, AAUW Educational Foundation, 2401 Virginia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, 202-728-7618.

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