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Maine Women's Lobby

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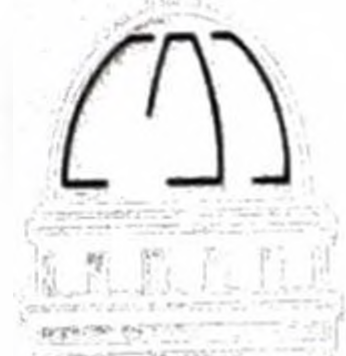
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Maine Women's Lobby

MAY 1988

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

P.O. Box 15, Hallowell Maine 04347

The Second Regular Session of the 113th Legislature finally came to a close on May 4th, marking the end of our first decade representing issues of importance to Maine women. Our 10th year scorecard gives us great cause for celebration: this year's agenda, promoting progressive policies to address the diverse needs of Maine women and their families, won 95% support from the Maine Legislature and includes a dozen new laws totalling more than \$10 Million! Our 1988 track record was an unprecedented success, thanks to the commitment and support of our membership! The final tally gives us great inspiration to meet that goal again in 1989!

In addition to a summary of these new laws, this final edition includes other items of importance and interest to all MWL members. A top priority is the list of nominations for this year's MWL Board elections -- please cast your votes and return promptly to P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347. Finally, our "Messages from the Chair" column by MWL head, Karen Heck, provides a review of our May 21st Annual Meeting, and our "prospectus" for the year ahead.

If you have questions about legislation, queries about other MWL business, or ideas for our 1989 agenda, please write or call Tory Leuteman (582-6269 evenings) or Joanne D'Arcangelo (773-0815). Have a great summer!

*****SUMMARY OF BILLS*****

Bills Approved by the Legislature and Signed by Gov. McKernan
Unless otherwise noted, all laws take effect on August 3, 1988

*AA to Ensure Family and Medical Leave in the State of Maine
(L.D. 2534, Am -- P.L. 1988, Ch. 661)

Sponsors: Rep. M. Clark, Sen. N. Clark, Spkr. J. Martin,
Rep. S. Zirnkilton

WLAC Sponsor: Maine Commission for Women

Summary: Entitles eligible employees up to 8 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth or adoption of a child, or the serious illness of self, child, spouse, or parent. Applies to all Maine businesses with 25 or more employees, and extends eligibility to workers who have been employed by the same employer for 12 consecutive months

Fiscal Impact: None

AA to Provide for Child Care and Child Development Training for Student Parents (L.D. 2150, Am. -- P.L. 1988, Ch. 767)

Sponsors: Rep. M. Clark, Sen. B. Gill, Sen. S. Estes, Rep. O. Norton

WLAC Sponsor: Maine Home Economics Association

Summary: Encourages local school districts to establish on-site child care services for student parents and child development training courses by allowing those costs to be recovered through the state education funding formula.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown future costs.

AA to Correct Inequities in the Maine State Retirement System (L.D. 2548 -- P.L. 1988, Ch. 823)

Sponsors: Sen. N. Clark, Spkr. J. Martin, Rep. D. Hickey

WLAC Sponsor: Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance

Summary: Repeals discriminatory provision in the state retirement laws by allowing state employees and teachers to designate anyone as beneficiary eligible for full survivor benefits (such status was previously restricted to a child, spouse, or parent).

Fiscal Impact: \$61,000

RESOLUTION, to Make the Language of the Constitution Gender Neutral (L.D. 2571)

Sponsors: Rep. J. Diamond, Sen. N. Clark, Rep. R. Foster, Sen. T. Perkins)

WLAC Sponsor: League of Women Voters

Summary: Proposes to eliminate gender-biased language from the Constitution of Maine. To be presented for voter approval on November General Election ballot.

Fiscal Impact: Cost of referendum

AA to Require Mandatory Medicare Assignment for Physician Services in Maine (L.D. 2324, Am. -- P.L. 1988, Ch. 719)

Sponsors: Sen. B. Bustin, Sen. Pres. C. Pray, Rep. K. Matthews, Rep. D. Hickey

WLAC Sponsor: Maine State Employees Association

Summary: Imposes a financial penalty on physicians and other medical providers who fail to post their policy regarding Medicare assignment.

Fiscal Impact: None

AA to Make Health Care More Accessible to Low-Income Elderly and Disabled Individuals, Pregnant Women, and Children (L.D. 2242, Am. -- P.L. 1988, Ch. 847)

Sponsors: Spkr. J. Martin, Sen. M. Pearson, Rep. J. Foss, Sen. B. Gill)

WLAC Sponsor: Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods

Summary: Establishes a federally-approved option to extend Medicaid benefits to pregnant women and infants whose family incomes are below 185% of the poverty level, and to eligible senior citizens, disabled individuals, and children up to 5 years old whose family incomes are below 100% of the poverty level (Effective 10/1/88).

Fiscal Impact: \$2,613,408 (State)

AA to Expand the Medicaid Dental Program to Include Adults
(L.D. 2492, Am. -- P.L. 1988, Ch. 836)

Sponsors: Sen. B. Bustin, Spkr. J. Martin, Sen. P. Gauvreau, Rep. J. Diamond

WLAC Sponsor: Maine Committee on Aging

Summary: Expands Medicaid dental benefits to eligible adults for emergency services, including oral surgical care for injury and infection, and other services necessary to relieve acute pain (Effective 1/1/89).

Fiscal Impact: \$215,000 (State)

AA to Increase the Minimum Wage (L.D. 2582 -- P.L. 1988, Ch. 738)

Sponsors: Rep. J. Diamond, Pres. C. Pray, Spkr J. Martin, Sen. D. Dutremble

WLAC Sponsor: Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods

Summary: Authorizes a \$.10 increase (to \$3.75) effective January 1, 1989; and another \$.10 increase effective January 1, 1990, unless the average minimum wage of the other New England States is less than \$3.85.

Fiscal Impact: \$72,177 (reflecting state cost for increased wages paid to boarding home employees)

AA to Increase the Work Incentive in the Unemployment Insurance Partial Benefit Structure (L.D. 2517, Am. -- P.L. 1988, Ch. 636)

Sponsors: Rep. C. Rydell, Sen. D. Collins, Rep. R. Joseph, Rep. A. Rand

WLAC Sponsor: Maine Association Interdependent Neighborhoods

Summary: Allows part-time wage earners receiving unemployment insurance to retain a greater percentage of their benefits as they continue to seek full-time employment. Previous state law passed in 1959 required a 1:1 reduction in benefits for each dollar earned, after a wage exemption of \$10. This law increases that exemption to \$25.

Fiscal Impact: \$298,000

AA to Clarify the State's Antidiscrimination Laws to Include Families with Children in Mobile Home Parks (Originally presented in L.D. 2152; Amended into mobile home omnibus bill, L.D. 2147, Am. -- P.L. 1988, Ch. 770)

Sponsors: Rep. C. Priest, Rep. P. Stevens, Rep. M. Clark, Sen. P. Gauvreau

WLAC Sponsor: Maine Women's Lobby

Summary: Extends current antidiscrimination laws against families with children to include mobile home parks, though includes provision permitting maintenance of "adult-only" parks in certain circumstances.

Fiscal Impact: None

AA to Amend the Harrassment Law (L.D. 2150, Am)

MWL Position: Opposed certain provisions

**Summary: Originally proposed to repeal "harrassment by characteristics" law passed last year to extend additional protection to minorities.
Successfully amended to retain this provision.**

***Other bills "amended into" supplemental budget (L.D. 2156, Am/S-489, effective upon Governor's signature, unless otherwise noted):**

AA to Improve the Standard of Living for Maine's Low-Income Families (Originally presented in L.D. 2212, sponsored by Spkr. J. Martin, Sen. P. Gauvreau, Rep. J. Oliver, Rep. J. Lisnik)

WLAC Sponsor: Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods.

Summary: Provides a 5% increase in the payment standard for AFDC families (budget also provides for 10% increase in the AFDC standard of need) (Effective 1/1/89)

Fiscal Impact: \$670,000 (State)

AA to Implement the Recommendations of the Job Reclassification Study of the University of Maine (Originally presented in L.D. sponsored by Rep. S. Bost, Sen. S. Estes)

WLAC Sponsor: Clerical, Office, Lab, and Technical Workers/MTA

Summary: Authorizes reclassification of jobs in the clerical, technical, office, and laboratory divisions in the UM system to ensure economic parity to/comparable worth with occupations in other divisions.

Fiscal Impact: \$2,800,000

****Other Legislation Included on MWL Agenda:**

\$3.5 Million Appropriation for Creation and Expansion of Child Care Services in Maine (Presented by Governor in Supplemental Budget: L.D. 2156, Am.)

WLAC Organizations/Position: Supported by Coalition for Maine's Children, Maine Women's Lobby.

Summary:

***\$651,000 for 179 contracted state-subsidized slots (The Dept. of Human Services will be required to designate a specific number of these slots for underserved areas in 3 model rural counties)**

***\$1,041,505 for 394 voucher slots for state-subsidized care: (191 of these will be reserved for children whose families earn between 0-80% of the median Maine income; 203 will be partially-subsidized vouchers for children whose families earn between 80-115% of the median income)**

***\$500,000 for 10% salary increases for contracted providers**

***\$75,000 for additional training for all child care providers**

and to ensure that DHS administrative rules will apply in service areas governed by DOL alone (through JTS), as well as in "co-located" districts in which both JTS and WEET are present.

Fiscal Impact: \$5.7 Million (not included in MWL total)

***Defeat of "Parental Consent" referendum effort.** (Petition drive initiated by "Committee to Improve Family Communications")

WLAC Organizations: National Organization for Women, The Maine Civil Liberties Union, The Maine Women's Lobby, Maine Family Planning Association, and The League of Women Voters.

Summary: Led by Maine N.O.W. and made possible by 93 tireless workers (including many MWL members) we conducted the successful challenge of the "parental consent" referendum petitions, thereby striking from the November General Election ballot a proposal that would have required the approval of a parent or a judge for minors under 17 seeking abortions. However, the proposal, which seeks to infringe on the Constitutional right to reproductive choice and would, in practice, place in jeopardy the well-being of teens in crisis, remains a top-priority of the anti-choice lobby: the proposal is expected to be reintroduced to the Legislature in January, 1989.

***Bills Not Receiving Approval:**

AA To Establish Child Care Availability for Individuals in the Substance Abuse Treatment System (L.D. 2205, Am)

Sponsors: Rep. M. Clark, Rep. J. Lisnik, Rep. R. Foster, Sen. N. Clark

WLAC Sponsor: N.O.W.

Summary: Proposed to establish 3 pilot child care service programs for individuals entering in-patient substance abuse rehabilitation programs.

Disposition: Unanimous OTP recommendation for \$300,000 funding request from Alcohol Premium Fund accepted by Legislature. Vetoed by Governor.

AA to Enhance Provisions of Head Start Services in Maine (L.D. 2213)

Sponsors: Rep. M. Killkelly, Rep. L. Chonko, Rep. F. Marsano, Sen. T. Perkins.

WLAC Sponsor: Coalition for Maine's Children

Disposition: Proposed a \$300,000 appropriation to fund a 5% increase in Head Start staff salaries and reinstatement of 30 slots eliminated by federal cutbacks, denied by Appropriations Committee. However, \$100,000 funding request for "maintenance of effort" was proposed and approved in the Governor's supplemental budget.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to all MWL Members, Past and Present Board Members, Friends, and Fans who attended our 10th Gala Anniversary Celebration, and who volunteered their time and energy to make the evening a memorable event and smashing success!!

***\$30,000 for additional staff in Resource Development Centers located in "Job Opportunity Zones"**

***248,000 for on- or near-site day care services for children of State employees in Augusta and Bangor**

***\$243,00 to provide an even state match for 6 model employer sponsored and supported child care centers (3 will be located in York or Cumberland Counties, 3 in other areas of the state)**

***75,000 for expanded before- and after-school child care**

***\$62,500 for child care services and programs for children of dislocated workers and employment trainees**

***\$230,000 for a one-time revolving loan fund for loans, grants, and technical assistance for development and expansion of child care facilities, to be matched with private foundation funds**

\$324,339 for 12 new DHS staff positions in child care divisions

\$41,000 for establishment of a Resource Development Center in York County

***AA to Establish the Additional Support for People in Retraining and Education Program (L.D. 2390, Am.)**

Sponsors: Rep. J. Foss, Rep. Glidden, Rep. G. Nadeau, Sen D. Dutremble

WLAC Organizations/Position: Maine Association of Inter-Dependent Neighborhoods, The Maine Commission for Women, The Maine Women's Lobby, and the Maine Chapter of the American Association of Social Workers actively supported amendments which supplemented/strengthened provisions in the bill as originally proposed, (Amend. submitted by Rep. M. Clark, Rep. P. Manning, Sen. P. Guvreau)

Summary: "ASPIRE", the Governor's comprehensive welfare reform program, creates a partnership between the Depts. of Labor and Human Services to administer pre-training, training, and job placement services for AFDC clients. Amendments supported by WLAC and adopted by the Legislature will: 1.) Prohibit economic sanctions against teen parents who fail to participate in the ASPIRE program; 2.) Exempt parents with special needs children from participating; 3.) Require DHS to demonstrate that adequate funds are available to serve the voluntary population before mandating participation by other recipients; 4.) Require the state (as of 1/1/89) to provide AFDC benefits to eligible first-time pregnant women beginning with the last trimester pregnancy; 5.) Ensure medicaid-like insurance benefits for participants for up to 1 year, and in some cases, up to 15 months, following loss of AFDC benefits resulting from employment obtained through ASPIRE; 6.) Require DHS to evaluate the operation and impact of the program and report its findings to the Legislature by 2/14/90; 7.) Automatically "sunset" or repeal the entire ASPIRE program on 7/1/90, unless continued by the Legislature through affirmative vote. MWL/WLAC-supported amendments also established specific language to ensure continuation of support services (such as transportation and child care) for participants up to 12 months,

"THANK YOU'S" DUE

Please take a moment to contact your legislator(s) who sponsored MWL bills to extend a word of thanks for their support and hard work. We must be as attentive to expressing our thanks after the session as we are to lobbying during the session. Please write or call today! (Number of * = Number of WLAC/MWL bills sponsored. Please reference summary of bills for specific legislation sponsored).

Sen. Tom Andrews
58 Gray St.
Portland 04102
774-6734 (*)

Rep. Steve Bost
158 Main St.
Orono 04473
866-7083 (*)

Sen. Bev Bustin
53 Cony St.
Augusta 04330
622-6903 (**)

Rep. Lorraine Chonko
New Lewiston Rd., Pe
Topsham 04067
725-8993 (*)

Rep. Marge Clark
5 Quarry Road
Brunswick 04011
729-4378 (*****)

Sen. Nancy R. Clark
RR #2, Box 37
Freeport 04032
865-3363 (****)

Sen. Donald Collins
4 Dorcas Ave.
Caribou 04736
498-8579 (*)

Rep. John Diamond
1860 Broadway
Bangor 04401
947-4960 (***)

Sen. Dennis Dutremble
3 Haley Circle
Biddeford 04005
282-6729 (*)

Sen. Steve Estes
P.O. Box 4
Kittery Point 03905
439-3479 (**)

Rep. Judy Foss
RFD #1, Box 310
Cousins Is., Yarmouth
846-5246 (*)

Rep. Ruth Foster
95 Main St.
Ellsworth 04605
667-2593 (**)

Sen. Paul Gauvreau
56 Tampa St.
Lewiston 04240
783-9527 (****)

Sen. Barbara Gill
268 Westbrook Street
South Portland 04106
773-4984 (**)

Rep. Dan Hickey
118 Sewall St.
Augusta 04330
622-1055 (**)

Rep. Annette Hoglund
56 Lane Ave.
Portland 04103
797-8898 (*)

Rep. Ruth Joseph
7 Aubrey St.
Waterville 04901
873-1220 (*)

Rep. Marge Killkelly
P.O. Box 180, W. Alna Rd.
Wiscasset 04578
882-5410 (*)

Rep. John Lisnik
RFD #1, Box 130
Presque Isle 04769
764-0827 (**)

Rep. Peter Manning
99 Falmouth St.
Portland 04103
774-4711 (*)

Rep. Ken Matthews
24 Garden Circle
Caribou 04736 (*)

Speaker John Martin
P.O. Box 25
Eagle Lake 04739
289-1300 (o) (*****)

Rep. Jeff Mills
P.O. Box 439
Bethel 04217
824-3290 (*)

Rep. Omar Norton
Narrows Pond Rd.
Winthrop 04364
377-8122 (*)

Rep. Jim Oliver
155 Brackett St.
Portland 04102
775-0105 (0) (*)

Sen. Mike Pearson
P.O. Box 454
Old Town 04468
827-4800 (*)

Sen. Tom Perkins
15 Main St.
Blue Hill 04614
374-5321 (**)

Sen. Pres. Charles Pray
101 Morgan Lane
Millinocket 04462
723-8880 (**)

Rep. Charles Priest
3 Federal St.
Brunswick 04011
725-5439 (*)

Rep. Anne Rand
61 Melbourne St.
Portland 04101
772-7704 (**)

"Thank You's", Cont'd:

Rep. Charlene Rydell
3 Baribeau Drive
Brunswick 04011
725-5803 (**, plus considerable work on child care, AIDS bills, and ASPIRE)

Rep. Patricia Stevens
251 Norwell Rd.
Bangor 04401
942-5894 (*)

Rep. Steve Zirkilton
P.O. Box 343
Seal Harbor 04675
276-3242 (*)

Last but not least, please write Governor McKernan to extend a special word of thanks for his support of the Family and Medical Leave Act, and this year's \$3.5 Million child care package, included in his supplemental budget proposal:

The Honorable John R. McKernan, Jr.
Office of the Governor
State House Station #1
Augusta, ME 04333

*****HELP SPREAD THE WORD!*****

Among the greatest victories of the year was passage of the FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE bill, which best declares our state's motto: Maine has led the way by enacting a progressive new labor law guaranteeing job protection for its working families.

It's imperative that we take every opportunity to inform working people of this great new law through our neighborhood and organizational networks!

Though the Maine Commission for Women will be conducting a public information program to alert Maine citizens to this and other policies affecting working families, we have included in this newsletter a poster summarizing the new law. We ask each and every MWL member to display it in an appropriate and prominent location in your workplace and/or neighborhood (e.g., employee bulletin board, laundromat, sandwich shop, etc). Also, please feel free to reproduce the poster for distribution or publication in other newsletters.

Last but not least, please remember that the Family/Medical Leave law will "sunset", or automatically repeal, in July, 1990, unless reaffirmed by a vote of the 114th Legislature. In order to restate a strong case for extension of the law -- and fight for amendments that may be necessary to strengthen it -- we need to collect anecdotes and actual cases which demonstrate its need in Maine workplaces. Please call or write the Maine Commission for Women (289-3417) with helpful information!

FROM THE CHAIR

What a terrific month for the Maine Women's Lobby! From the end of one of our most successful legislative sessions ever, to the 10th Anniversary celebration to the Annual Meeting, this has been an incredibly exciting and exhilarating 30 days and a wonderful way to begin our next 10 years.

This past legislative session garnered more than \$10 million in new and expanded programs for women and their families--not bad for a short session. In addition to working hard to pass progressive policies which address the diverse needs of Maine families, the Lobby was also part of the coalition which stopped the parental consent initiative from going to referendum. A round of applause for MWL lobbyist Joanne D'Arcangelo for the long days and nights she put into seeing that what we wanted was what we got!

The 10th Anniversary celebration was the perfect opportunity to celebrate what we have done in the past 10 years. It was a night filled with laughter and some tears, pride in our accomplishments, good friends--old and new--and enthusiastic support for each other. If it wasn't so much work, I'd say we should do it again next year, but I'm not sure the committee will have fully recovered by then. A thousands thanks to Deb Deatruck, Betsy Sweet, Eleanor Goldberg, Ann Goseline and Kathy Lyon for all of the hours they put into the planning, organization and execution. From the dinner (which even arrived hot!) to the decorations and the program, the whole night was an unprecented success--even financially! Thanks, too, to all of you who volunteered before, during and after--we couldn't have done it without you. (Anyone who has pictures they'd like to donate to the historical record, please send them to us for the scrapbook.)

Our annual meeting this year marks the beginning of a new season for the Lobby. Nominations for the new Board are included in this edition of the newsletter. It will be an exciting year for all involved and we are looking forward to setting the agenda for our next 10 years.

On behalf of the present Board, I would like to thank retiring Board members Deb Deatruck, Betsy Sweet, Annee Tara, Sarah Shed and Kathy Lyon for the tremendous effort they have put into the Lobby's work over the years. There is no doubt that their creativity and committment to the Maine Women's Lobby has been instrumental in making the Lobby the organization it is today. We will miss them terribly, but agree that they deserve a break!

This is the last opportunity I'll have to write this column and I want to thank all of you who have made the last year and a half a memorable one. I would like to publicly thank all of the members of the Board for their commitment, enthusiam and willingness to give their all to make the Lobby successful. It falls to Board to raise all of the money that the Lobby needs to operate each year and the willingness of board members to do that, in addition to all of the other activities in which they are involved, has truly been an inspiration to me.

I would especially like to thank the Executive Committee--Tory Leuteman, Vice Chair, for her work with Joanne, Kathy DeLois and the Legislative Committee; Marilyn Kirby, Treasurer, for her long hours trying to make ends meet; Merrie Allen, Secretary, for her work not only as Secretary but for her tremendous organizational effort on the Parental Consent defeat; and, Annee Tara, Development Committee for her tireless fundraising efforts. Their help and support has been invaluable to me and has made this last year and a half a lot of fun.

Being a part of the Lobby has changed my attitude about our ability to make a difference in the world around us. We're not helpless pawns in the game--we can and we do have an impact. That's the excitement of the Lobby and I thank you all for your part in making it work!

REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

On Saturday, May 21st, the Maine Women's Lobby held its annual meeting. The treasurer, Marilyn Kirby, submitted a financial report for the past year. The beginning revenue for the period was \$1,500, total revenue collected for the period was \$23,330, total expenses were \$20,981, leaving a balance of \$3855. The Chair, Karen Heck, reviewed the Lobby's activities for the past year. Our legislative efforts were very successful and the MWL now has over 860 members! The rest of the meeting was devoted to writing a Mission Statement. The statement was adopted by the members attending the meeting.

MISSION STATEMENT OF MWL

In order for women to realize their full potential and make their greatest contribution to society, they need equal rights, equal opportunities and the power to direct their own lives.

While some progress has been made toward eliminating the most blatant forms of discrimination, these overall goals have not yet been met. An active effort is necessary to create a social, political and economic environment that encourages and values women.

Because government can be a positive force in effecting social change, the Maine Women's Lobby will work to increase participation in government and to enact laws that protect the rights of women, provide equity for women, and assure women the opportunity to direct their own lives.

We will also work to educate the leaders and citizens of Maine about issues affecting women.

As society changes, the needs of women and the specific goals and actions of the Maine Women's Lobby may change. But we will remain committed to our overall mission of making it possible for women to realize their potential and to make their fullest contribution to society.

This is the statement that will guide us in deciding the goals, objectives, and activities for MWL in the coming year. Members' feedback and input are appreciated and encouraged!

In the fall a meeting will be held to determine the goals and objectives of the Lobby. All members are encouraged to participate in this important meeting. As MWL launches itself into its second decade, we must establish where we want to go, and how we want to get there!

Copies of Kathy DeLois's report, "The State of the Maine Women's Lobby," are still available. The report is guaranteed to stimulate your thoughts about the future of MWL. To receive the report, send \$3.00 to MWL, P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347.

BALLOT FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY

The following individuals are candidates for the Board of Directors. Please vote for ten (10) by placing an "X" beside the name of the person you wish to be elected. Return your ballot by June 10, 1988, to Maine Women's Lobby, P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347.

KATHY DELOIS, AUGUSTA. Kathy was the MSW intern working with the MWL in 1987-88. In her report Kathy recommended that the MWL needs to organize and focus itself as a body which is truly representative of the women of Maine. As a Board member she would commit herself to building a broad-based membership organization. Her issues of concern are: seeing women empowered to speak in their own voices in the political arena as well as other areas of life; rural women as a particularly underrepresented population; housing; transportation; and substance abuse among young females.

ELEANOR GOLDBERG, PORTLAND. Eleanor has served as a Board member since 1987 and would like to continue her participation on the Board. Through her involvement with the 10th Anniversary Gala, she has learned of the impressive accomplishments of the Lobby over the years and would like to take an active role in continuing these efforts. Eleanor works for the Sandy River Group, a real estate firm that is primarily involved with the development of health care facilities and housing alternatives for the elderly. Since moving to Portland in 1987 she has made an effort to explore and make a commitment of time and energy to politically and socially active groups that can make a difference in the quality of life. The Maine Women's Lobby is one of those groups.

KAREN HECK, WATERVILLE. Karen is the Deputy Director of the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program. She is interested in serving another term on the Board of the Maine Women's Lobby because of the opportunity it provides for making a difference in the lives of Maine women and families. It is exciting to be a contributor to the Lobby's success and the energy and commitment of the other directors makes the Board work fun!

TORY LEUTEMAN, N. WHITEFIELD. Tory has been a member of the Board of Directors for 2½ years and has served as Vice Chair of the Board, and Chair of the Legislative Committee. Tory is committed to involving more women in the legislative process, and the Lobby's activities in general. She is the Director of Mid-Coast Family Planning and has spent many years as an advocate and organizer in various areas.

MIMI MARCHEV, PORTLAND. Mimi served as MWL's lobbyist in 1986 and 1987. She has just returned from a one-year sabbatical in Mexico where she organized a Spanish language study program for women and worked with feminist groups. She is an attorney who has worked for years in the battered women's movement, locally with the shelters in Augusta and Portland and as a member of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She is interested in contributing her legislative knowledge and experience to MWL's activities and considers the legislative process as a way to achieve social change.

LISA MILLER, SOMERVILLE. Lisa is a public health professional who is president-elect of the Maine Public Health Association and treasurer of the Family Planning Association. She wishes to continue as a Board member to assist the Lobby's efforts to represent the needs of Maine's women to state policy makers. She is particularly interested in legislation that improves the status of low-income women and children, as that will make a noticeable impact on their health status.

ADAIR KATHLEEN O'REILLY, PORTLAND. Adair is interested in serving on the MWL Board because she wants to become involved on a state-wide level initiating and implementing legislation that will improve life for women and girls. She is active in Democratic politics, both statewide and locally, but would also like to focus more of her political energies on issues which directly affect women in Maine. She is interested in serving on the MWL Board because it is a "working" Board that produces results.

BARBARA REINERTSON, BATH. Barbara joined the MWL Board in 1987. She is Press Secretary to Congressman Joseph Brennan, working out of his Portland office. Prior to that she was in charge of legislation and public information at the State Energy Office. She has also worked for WABI-TV, WPOR-Radio, and WCSH-TV. She is eager to continue her work on MWL Board because of the work she does on national legislative issues affecting women. She is particularly interested in the issues of affordable housing and child-care.

REID SCHER, BRUNSWICK. Reid is the Manager of Hospital Licensing and Medicare certification with DHS. He has worked as a social worker with foster and adoptive families, abused women and children, pregnant and parenting teens. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Bath-Brunswick Helpline since 1984, serving as president from 1986-87. Reid is very committed to the issues and initiatives of the Lobby and wishes to commit his strong organizational and legislative related skills to the organization.

KATHLEEN URBAN, BRUNSWICK. Kathy has a background in nursing and healthcare management. She is currently the Executive Director of the Family Planning Association of Maine. She is interested in joining the MWL Board because it is an active voice and advocate for women's issues in Maine. It is an organization that produces tangible results. Kathy would bring strengths in general management, organizational development and planning and development. She is committed to using these skills in the development and planning aspects of the Lobby.

Do You Know About Maine's New.

FAMILY and MEDICAL LEAVE LAW*

THIS NEW LAW:

***ENTITLES** eligible workers up to eight (8) weeks of unpaid leave during a two (2) year period for the birth or adoption of a child or the serious illness of self, child, spouse or parent, with a physician's certification. In order to qualify for leave, the worker must have been employed by the same employer for 12 consecutive months, and must give 30 days' notice, unless pre-empted by emergency.

***APPLIES** to all public and private employers in Maine who employ 25 or more workers at one worksite. Though the employer is not required to continue paying for the worker's benefits while s/he is on leave, the employer must allow the absent worker to pay for continuance of benefits at the employer's group rate.

***GRANTS** job protection by guaranteeing that the worker will be restored to the same job, or a position equivalent in status, seniority, benefits, and salary. The restoration provision does not apply if, and only if, the employer can prove the worker cannot be restored due to conditions "unrelated to the employee's exercise of rights" under the Family and Medical Leave law.

FOR DETAILS AND MORE INFORMATION, CALL OR WRITE THE MAINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, STATE HOUSE STATION #93, AUGUSTA, ME 04333 (289-3417).

***Maine Public Law, 1988, Ch. 661; Effective August 3, 1988.**

[Please post in an appropriate location in your workplace or neighborhood. Provided by the Maine Women's Lobby, P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347]

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

. . . FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT: Fundraiser tickets, raffle sales, contributions, new memberships, renewals, and your phone calls and letters!

LITTLE KNOWN FACT: If our memberships doubled, we wouldn't have to rely on constant fundraisers! ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN THE MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY -- Today!

Name _____ Town of Legal Residence _____

Address _____

Phone Number(s): Day _____ Evening _____

Would you like to help with: Fundraising? Membership? Phoning legislators?
(Circle one - or more!)

My Contribution to the Lobby is:

_____ Life (\$500) _____ Sustaining (\$250) _____ Sponsoring (\$100)
_____ Supporting (\$50) _____ Contributing (\$25) _____ Individual (\$15)
_____ Other [Please make checks payable to: MWL, P.O. Box 15, Hallowell 04347]

The Maine Women's Lobby is committed to representing women of all economic means. We welcome any contribution you are able to make.



P.O. Box 15, Hallowell Maine 04347

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