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Maine Women's Lobby

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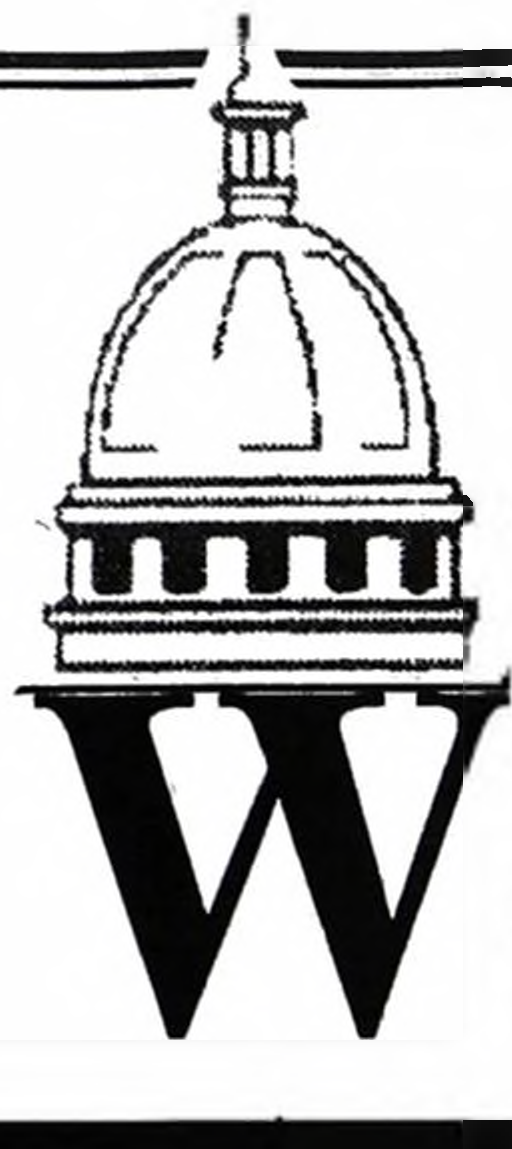
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Staff, Maine Women's Lobby, "Maine Women's Lobby News Letter (1993 - November) No. 5" (1993). *Maine Women's Publications - All*. 92.

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Maine Women's Lobby

November 1993

Number 5

CHECK OUT THE
COLORFUL INSERT
FOR HOLIDAY
GIFT IDEAS!

COVERAGE ENDANGERED UNDER CLINTON'S PLAN?

LOBBY CONCERNED ABOUT MAMMOGRAMS

By Christine Kukka

Because of the advocacy of the Maine Women's Lobby, routine mammogram screening is covered by Maine health insurers. Since 1990, health insurers have been required to cover routine mammograms for Maine women age 40 and older under a law spear-headed by the lobby.

But what is routine in Maine today may be in danger under President Clinton's proposed health plan reform.

According to preliminary reports about the White House Working Group's health reform package, routine mammogram screening would be covered only after a woman reaches age 50.

"While we applaud health care reform in the United States, we are concerned that women will not be extended health care that will protect their health and safety," said Laura Fortman, lobbyist for the Maine Women's Lobby.

Maine's own regulations follow American Cancer Society guidelines

that recommend women receive a routine mammogram every other year between the ages of 40 and 49 and then every year after age 50.

According to American Cancer Society statistics, a woman's risk of developing breast cancer is one in 2,525 at age 30, one in 622 by age 35, one in 217 by age 40 and one in 93 by age 45.

Unfortunately, Maine still does not require health insurers to cover routine mammograms until a woman is age 40, unless there is some symptom.

The Maine Women's Lobby encourages women to get routine mammograms. A. Patricia Angelone of Portland was diagnosed as having breast cancer five years ago during a routine physical. At the time, a routine mammogram was not covered by most Maine health insurers. Angelone and others fought this discriminatory oversight.

Continued on page 3

MWL CELEBRATES 15 YEARS!

Fifteen years ago, Janet Mills, Lois Reckitt and Linda Smith Dyer met to discuss what issues Maine's delegation to the National Women's Conference should address.

But the discussion drifted from a national agenda to recent defeats and disappointments that women had suffered at the hands of Maine's Legislature. Recently, a bill addressing domestic violence, which everyone supported, had been lost as a result of partisan fighting.

The loss was so complex, and such a debacle, that it was hard to continued on page 4

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LEGISLATIVE TERMS

The following is a list of abbreviations commonly used during the legislative session. They may help to make our legislative updates easier to understand.

P.H. — Public Hearing

In Cmte. — Bill is under study by committee of jurisdiction, following public hearing; an important time to lobby your legislator if s/he is a member of the committee.

OTP-AM — The bill has been amended and has received an "Ought to Pass" recommendation from the committee; pending before House and/or Senate, as indicated.

OTP — "Ought to Pass" recommendation issued by the committee.

ONTP — "Ought Not to Pass" recommendation from the Committee; if ONTP recommendation is accepted by the House and Senate, the bill is dead.

Div/Rpt — Divided Report, or split recommendation, is issued from the Committee in minority and majority reports, to be debated by the full House and Senate; an important time to lobby your legislator.

A.T. — A funding bill which has received all but final approval and has been placed on the Appropriations Table, where it will compete with other bills in the final days of the legislative session for funding; an ideal time to lobby your legislator if s/he is a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Enacted — Bill has received final approval in the House and/or Senate, as indicated; awaits Governor's signature.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 5, 1994, marks the beginning of the second year of Maine's two-year legislative session. The following is a partial list of bills that were "carried over," neither passed nor killed during the first regular session. All bills will be worked on by their committees which will make a recommendation to the entire Legislature.

You can have a significant impact on the legislative process by contacting your senator and representative either in person or through phone calls and letters. Other important ways of making your views known include "letters to the editor", speaking at public hearings and/or participating in the Lobby's phone tree. If you would like to become involved and need further information, please call the Lobby at 622-0851. One person can make a difference!

L.D. 999: An Act to Establish the Child Assistance Demonstration Program, presented by Rep. Cathcart of Orono

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to establish a "Child Support Assurance" demonstration project in three counties that would be an alternative to the AFDC Program for working families with child support orders. Offered on a volunteer basis, this program would allow families to work their way out of poverty by providing them with a monthly "child assistance" payment until the combination of their earnings and child support exceeds 125% of the federal poverty level (\$14,862 for a family of three.)

This program would provide specialized case management services to participants and offer two additional years of health and child care benefits after their income exceeds the eligibility limits to increase their chances of making a successful transition into the paid labor market.

L.D. 1514: An Act to Promote Family Financial Responsibility through More Effective Child Support Enforcement, Governor's Bill, presented by Sen. Harriman of Cumberland.

Proposes to enhance child support collections by authorizing the suspension of professional and/or driver's licenses of persons who do not comply with child support orders. Elements of this bill have been included in the state's budget document.

L.D. 1471: An Act to Amend Requirements of Licensing for Nurses, Presented by Rep. Holt of Bath.

Brings education in line with Maine's health care needs and provides future nurses with a clear path to technical and professional accomplishments.

L.D. 1285: An Act To Provide Family Security Through Quality, Affordable Health Care, Presented by Sen. McCormick of Kennebec and Rep. Rydell of Brunswick,

Proposes establishing a universal access health care system. Key components of this plan are: access for all citizens to comprehensive health care whether we are working or not, cost control with improved quality of care, and administration by a single publicly accountable, non-profit agency.

Continued on page 7

MAMMOGRAMS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

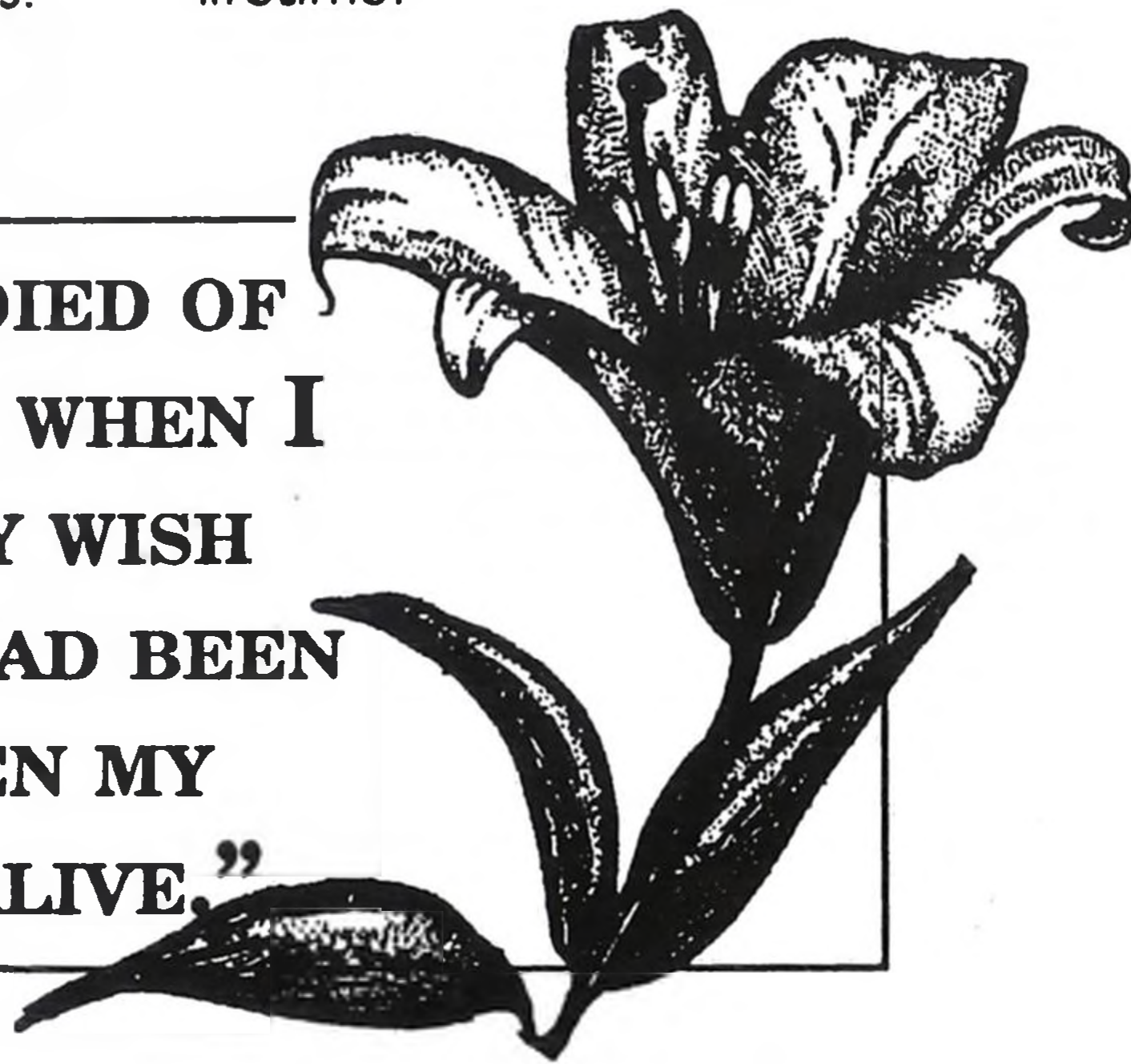
"I understand that mammograms uncover fewer cancers among women in their 30s than they do in older women," said Angelone, "but women in their 40s should have routine mammograms covered under the Clinton health plan."

Ginny Keegan of Freeport received routine mammograms during her 40s. When she was in her 50s, doctors were able to diagnose her breast cancer because they could compare her current mammogram with her past ones.

"While breast cancer is less prevalent in premenopausal women, their breast cancer tends to be more insidious and aggressive and metastasizes quicker," she explained. "There is no reason to exclude those women from routine mammogram screening."

The incidence of breast cancer has been rising at 3 percent per year since 1980 and it has become America's most commonly diagnosed cancer. One woman in nine will develop breast cancer in her lifetime.

"MY MOTHER DIED OF BREAST CANCER WHEN I WAS 10. I ONLY WISH MAMMOGRAMS HAD BEEN ROUTINE WHEN MY MOTHER WAS ALIVE."



They discovered changes in her breast tissue that indicated cancer.

"Fortunately, mine was diagnosed by routine screening," said Keegan. "My mother died of breast cancer when I was 10. I only wish mammograms had been routine when my mother was alive."

While the Maine Women's Lobby applauds reform of the current health care system, its leaders insist that women receive equal protection under health care reform.

Joanne D'Arcangelo, former lobbyist for the Maine Women's Lobby, hopes the Clinton health plan will provide the same mammogram coverage as Maine law currently does.

According to the American Cancer Society, if 1 million 45 year-old women were screened this year for breast cancer with high-quality mammograms, 1,500 breast cancer cases could be detected and 450 lives could be saved.

The Lobby encouraged women to keep themselves informed about Clinton's health care package and make clear to our lawmakers that there can be no loopholes or oversights when it comes to women's health. Women have been short-changed far too long by this nation's health care and medical research practices.

LOBBY HOLDS GREAT ESCAPE RAFFLE

It's time again for the Maine Women's Lobby annual Great Escapes Drawing. This has become the favorite fundraiser for many members and there are great prizes this year!

- Two nights for two at the Pointed Fir Bed and Breakfast in Tenants Harbor.

- Two nights for two at the Inn on South Street in Kennebunkport.

- One night for two at the Maine Back Roads Bed and Breakfast in South Berwick.

- Two tickets to a Boston Celtics game.

- A raft trip for two on the Kennebec River with Eastern River Expeditions.

- A day-long sail on Muscongus Bay donated by Ron and Suzanne Phillips of Coastal Enterprises Inc.

- A copy of Moving the Mountain: The Women's Movement in America Since 1960 by Flora Davis, donated by the Iron Horse Bookstore in Waterville.

These generous donations make it possible for you to dream about which Great Escape you'd like to make while you help the lobby raise much-needed money.

Look for raffle booklets coming in the mail or contact the Maine Women's Lobby Office at P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Maine 04347, 622-0851 for tickets. They're still a bargain at the suggested donation of \$1 each or six for \$5. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Breakfast of Champions on Jan. 21 so there's plenty of time to buy tickets!

15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

point any fingers. Maine women were simply not represented as an "interest" group in Augusta. Individual women went to Augusta to lobby for specific issues, but it was on a piecemeal basis with no follow through. Though legislators often assured women they would vote for their bills, many important bills were lost during compromise talks or because of last minute lobbying.

The three women agreed that women needed a continuous and professional presence in the state Legislature. During the summer of 1978, a nonprofit corporation was formed and a core group of 10 organizers met and announced the formation of the Maine Women's Lobby. More people were recruited and in the fall a board of directors was elected and the first lobbyist was on the job for the 1979 session.

There was no grant, no seed money, no parental organization or big name attractions. But there was dedication, integrity, hard work and an honest desire to make Maine a safer, healthier and fairer place for women.

Today, we have more than 900 members statewide. The lobby has worked successfully for a first-in-the-nation law providing workplace training to prevent sexual harassment. We have spearheaded family and medical leave legislation, freedom of choice, support for victims of rape or domestic violence, insurance coverage for routine mammograms, greater support for women and children living in pov-

erty and training for women to enter non-tradition and higher-paying occupations.

"It's hard to imagine what life for Maine women and girls might be like today if it had not been for the commitment and determination of lobby members over the last 15 years," said Linda Wilcox, chair of the lobby's Board of Directors.

On Oct. 30, the lobby held a celebration at the Sonesta Hotel in Portland.

An estimated 250 people attended the 15th Anniversary celebration and everyone enjoyed the chance to mingle with old and new friends while honoring nine Maine heroes. The honorees were people who through their work have provided many with the inspiration and the commitment to make life in the Maine the way it should be.

Joe Ditre was honored for his contribution to health care, Sherry Huber for her lengthy public service and Kennebec Valley Community Action Program was recognized for its advocacy and empowerment of low-income people.

Marilyn Moss Rockefeller was honored for her contributions to economic development, Chris Rusnov was recognized for grassroots organizing, Deputy Attorney General Vendean Vafiades was lauded for her role in women's leadership and three physicians were honored as special champions of reproductive freedom.

Two clear desires expressed during the dinner were: That the

issue of reproductive freedom be no longer on our agenda by our 20th anniversary, and that violence against women and children be a thing of the past by our 25th celebration.

Considering the next Governor of Maine will play a pivotal role in the achievement of those goals, the Lobby was pleased to see six gubernatorial candidates at the event. Jean Hay, who is running for the second Congressional District, also attended. U.S. Sen. George Mitchell stopped by to offer his congratulations.

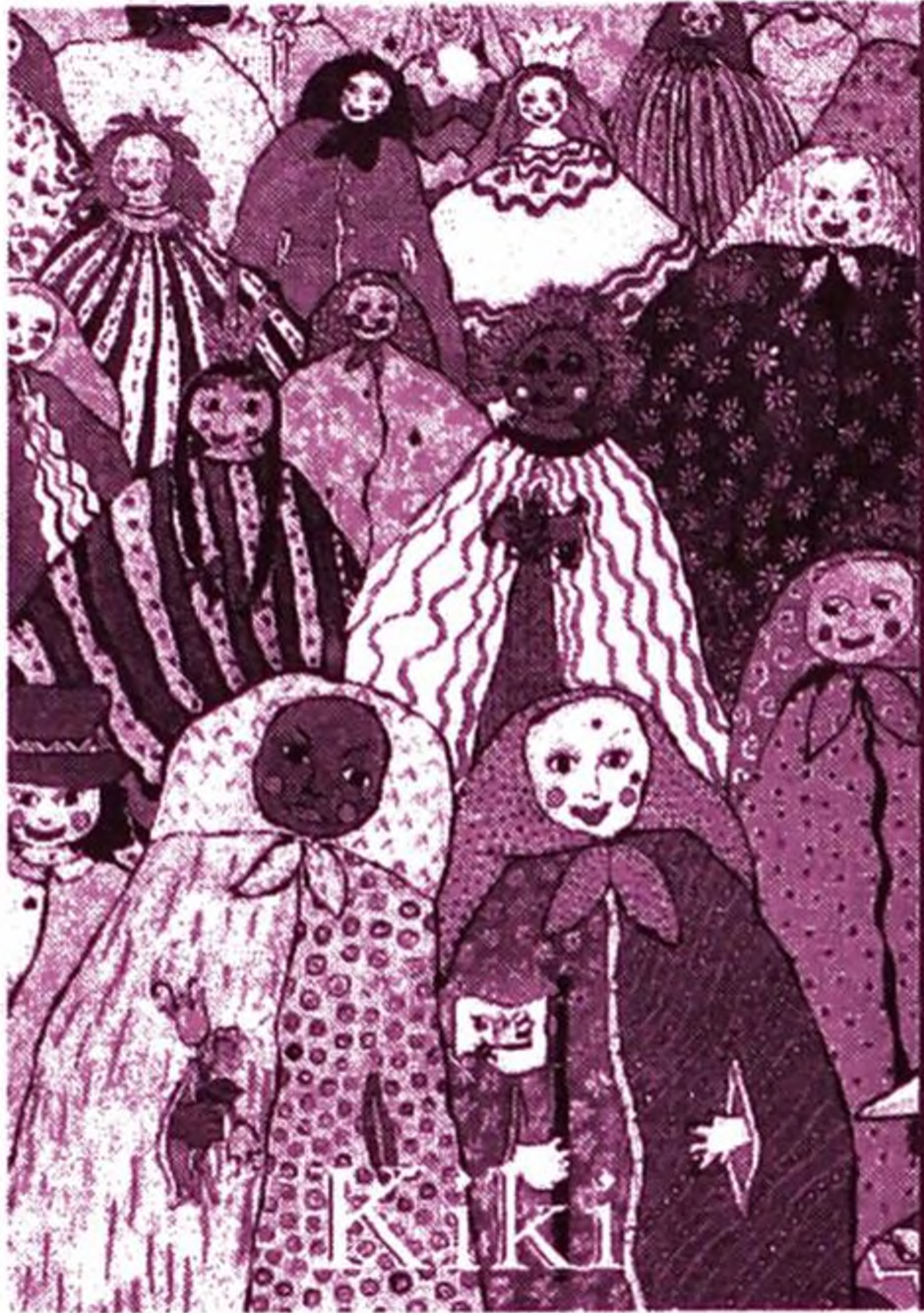
His words of thanks on the behalf of the thousands of women who don't even know we exists, but whose lives have been changed because of the Lobby's work, were gratifying to hear.

Sincere thanks and appreciation go out to the 15th Anniversary Committee made up of Debbie Deatrack, Joanne D'Arcangelo, Eleanor Goldberg, Karen Heck, Darrilyn Peters, Barbara Reinertsen, the wonderful emcee Betsy Sweet and Kathy Urban.

Holiday Gift Ideas

A gift from our catalog will add special meaning to your holiday giving.

Orders received by December 15 will be shipped in time for Christmas



NOTE CARDS

Striking and colorful "Many Strong and Beautiful Women" design by Kiki. 5x7-inch greeting card printed on recycled gloss stock using vegetable-based inks.

MWL price: \$1 ea.; 6 for \$5

T-SHIRTS

Heavy 100% pre-shrunk cotton featuring the colorful, multi-cultural designs "Many Strong and Beautiful Women" (pictured) or "Women Help Women" (not shown.) Sizes M, L, XL

\$15 each

BUMPER STICKERS • \$1 EACH

AGAINST ABORTION?
DON'T HAVE ONE.

I'M PRO-CHOICE
AND I VOTE

My Voice
Pro Choice

MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY GIFT MEMBERSHIP

For a gift that keeps on giving consider a gift membership in the Maine Women's Lobby. Send \$25 (or more) for each gift membership and the Lobby will send a card announcing your gift.

New Member

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Town/ST/Zip _____

Make check payable to Maine Women's Lobby and return to:
Maine Women's Lobby • P.O. Box 15 • Hallowell, ME 04347
Call 622-0851 for ordering information.

WOMEN IN POLITICS...

CHANGING THE FACE OF HISTORY

WOMEN'S HISTORY 1993

MaIne Women's Lobby / Women's Development Institute • P.O. Box 15 • Hallowell, Maine 04347 • 207-622-0851

POSTERS

The 3-color 1993 poster — "Changing The Face of History" — lists all the women elected to Congress and the Maine Legislature. Get yours . . .

1 — \$12.50
3 — \$25.00
Add'l @ \$5.00

ORDER FORM

Item	Qty	Size	Amount
6% Maine sales tax			
Shipping/Handling (From \$1-14.99, add \$1 From \$15 up, add \$3)			
TOTAL			

*Nifty MWL decal
with each order!*

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT LAW CAUSES CONTROVERSY

The Maine legislature now allows the Department of Human Services to revoke professional and driver's licenses of absent parents who fail to pay child support.

Some fear this mandate gives DHS too much control over people's income. The department argues that because of this power, child support collections are pouring in and many families - mostly single moms and their children - are receiving court-ordered child support for the first time. Which side is right?

The Lobby supported passage of this legislation last session. It has been well documented that incomes of divorced women decrease dramatically while divorced men see an increase in their disposable income. It is only fair to funnel some of that money back to the children.

**CHILD-REARING REQUIRES PATIENCE,
HUMOR AND LOVE...QUALITIES THAT ARE
DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN WHEN YOU ARE
STRUGGLING TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE..**

New legislation has been introduced that would revoke DHS' ability to suspend driver's license and professional licenses and replace it with a provision to report non-payment of child support to credit agencies. This is the same process used for other bad debts..

We are interested in your opinion on this issue. Have you or someone you know been affected by this legislation? Please call (622-0851) or write to us at P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347 to let us know.

Is pulling driver's or professional licenses too severe an action? Should non-paying absent parents be reported to credit agencies? Your input on this issue is critical!

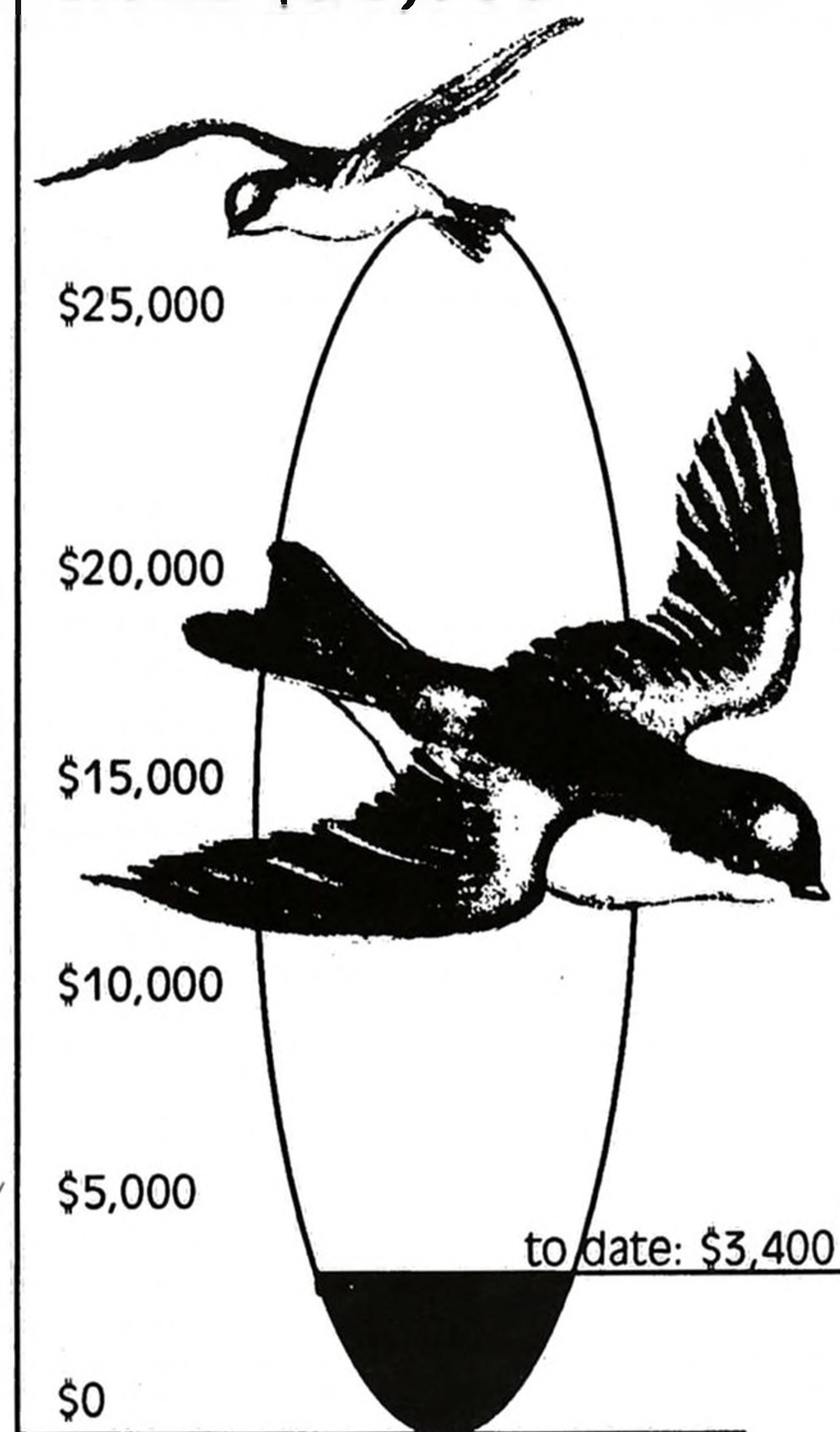
LOBBY FUNDRAISING LAGGING

The money we raise from our members covers half of our operating budget. This is the money that allows us to lobby for issues including equal health care, protection from abuse and equal access to jobs. Our fundraising goal from our members is \$26,500 this year.

We are now four months into our fiscal year and we have raised \$3,400 or 14 percent of our goal. We should have raised about 33 percent or \$8,030 by now.

We have a long way to go to achieve our goal and to keep fighting for women's rights in Augusta. Please renew your membership promptly and generously.

GOAL \$26,500



BAD BOSS STORIES

SHARE YOUR STORIES OF OUTRAGE

The Maine Women's Lobby newsletter wants to help you vent your bad boss stories and tales of outrage over sexist and unjust comments and treatment endured in Maine.

So how did your state legislator really react when you called to urge him or her to vote for the equal protection act?

How is life in the pink collar ghetto?

How about those obituaries that always mention she loved her children, but never say the same about men?

Share the story about how you were automatically demoted when your boss was down-sized out of a job.

One of the favorite stories in Augusta earlier this year came on the

heels of some pretty ugly legislating. When certain lawmakers and government officials suggested women lose their AFDC if they have additional children, one female lawmaker jokingly suggested that men in similar financial straits should be required to undergo vasectomies.

Looking pale and panicked, a gaggle of male lawmakers jumped up and grabbed their microphones in protest.

Equal treatment can be a scary concept to some.

Send your stories — without naming names unless you want to — the Maine Women's Lobby, P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Maine, 04347.



MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1993-1994

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Chair - Linda Wilcox of Monmouth
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Valerie Mitchell of Waterville

Victoria Murphy of Portland

Penny Plourde of Augusta

Lizzy Poole of York

Libbey Seigars of Coopers Mills

Betsy Sweet of Monmouth



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

L.D. 1185: An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care by Redefining the Practice of Advanced Nursing, Presented by Sen. McCormick of Kennebec

Proposes to increase access to primary health care by removing restrictions to practice that currently exist. It clarifies the eligibility requirements and the approval process for persons who practice advanced professional nursing.

L.D.1407: An Act Concerning Primary Care and Parental Rights and Responsibilities in Cases of Domestic Abuse, Presented by Rep. Cathcart of Orono.

Proposes preventing violent parents from using custody and visitation as a way to abuse children and/or the other parent. In cases where the parent has a history of family violence, the court shall only allow supervised child visitation at least until the parent has successfully completed a treatment program.

L.D. 1436: An Act to Eliminate the Statute of Limitation in Child Molestation Cases, Presented by Rep. Paradis of Augusta.

Eliminates the statute of limitation for civil prosecution of the crime of gross sexual assault and incest if the victim was under 16 years of age at the time the crime was committed.

L.D. 450: An Act to Expand Protection to Persons with Mental Illness and Mental Retardation. Presented by Rep. Gean of Alfred

Prohibits sexual contact between persons who provide service to persons with mental illness and mental retardation and the people who are recipients of those services.

In addition to these carryover bills, "emergency" legislation has also been introduced. The Legislative Council has accepted bills addressing domestic violence, human rights complaints, child pornography, child support enforcement, custody issues, long-term health care and child care.

MISSION STATEMENT OF MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY

In order for women to realize their full potential and make their greatest contributions 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, those 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 social change, the Maine Women's Lobby works to increase participation in government and to enact laws that protect the rights of women, provide equity for women and assures them the opportunity to direct their own lives.

The lobby also works 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. We remain committed to our overall mission of making it possible for women to realize their potential and make their fullest contribution to society.

RECRUIT THREE MEMBERS AND GET A FREE T!

I have recruited the following new Maine Women's Lobby member(s): Enclosed is a check or money order, made payable to the Maine Women's Lobby, from each new member.)

1. ☐ \$500 Life ☐ \$50 Supporting
☐ \$250 Sustaining ☐ \$25 Member
☐ \$100 Sponsoring ☐ \$1-\$24 Interested

Name _____ Phone _____ Business _____

Address _____ Town _____ Zip _____

2. ☐ \$500 Life ☐ \$50 Supporting
☐ \$250 Sustaining ☐ \$25 Member
☐ \$100 Sponsoring ☐ \$1-\$24 Interested

Name _____ Phone _____ Business _____

Address _____ Town _____ Zip _____

3. ☐ \$500 Life ☐ \$50 Supporting
☐ \$250 Sustaining ☐ \$25 Member
☐ \$100 Sponsoring ☐ \$1-\$24 Interested

Name _____ Phone _____ Business _____

Address _____ Town _____ Zip _____

YES! I have recruited three or more members at the \$25 membership level or higher. Please send me my free Maine Women's Lobby "Women Help Women" t-shirt. Size: M, L, XL Mail my free t-shirt to:



The Maine Women's Lobby Newsletter is the official publication of the Maine Women's Lobby.

Linda Wilcox, Chair
 Laura Footman, Lobbyist

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May 1, 1994

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