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## Maine Women's Lobby News Letter (1995 - March) No 11

Maine Women's Lobby Staff

*Maine Women's Lobby*

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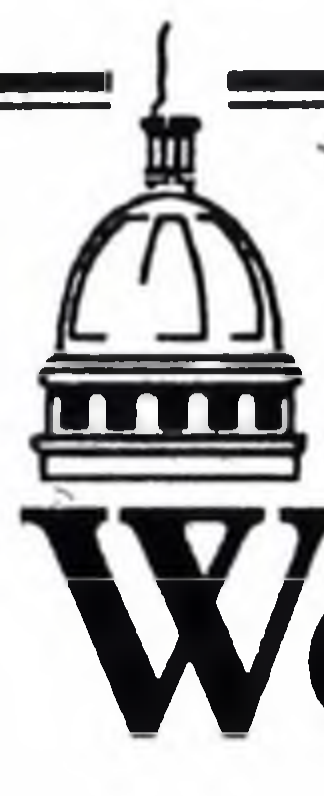
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# Maine Women's Lobby

March 1995

Number 11

## WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY PROJECT FINDINGS:

The research phase of the Women's Economic Security Project (WESP) is complete, as we reported in our last newsletter, and work has begun on the final phase, which is to disseminate the findings and begin work on welfare reform. The major findings include:

- Maine's labor market is not offering women jobs that are sufficient to support a family. All three portions of the research (the AFDC recipient survey, the labor market analysis conducted by Stephanie Seguino, and the focus groups) documented the lack of decent paying jobs with benefits.
- The problems facing women in the labor market were worse for women on AFDC. Respondents to the AFDC survey were asked to list their last five jobs: 19% paid minimum wage; 53% paid \$5.00 per hour or less; only 16% offered affordable health insurance. Wages paid to those respondents averaged \$5.37 per hour, compared with \$7.87 per hour for all Maine women. A higher percentage of AFDC recipients (81.6%) worked in low-wage jobs, as opposed to all Maine women (55.7%).
- Women on AFDC want to work, do work and have worked. 93.4% of the survey respondents reported wanting to work; 73.2% had worked for pay in the last five years. Nearly half (44.9%) of the respondents reported having gone off AFDC and come back on again. Two-thirds left to get a job and—not being able to make it—returned to AFDC.
- Despite their work effort—or perhaps because of their work experience—AFDC recipients worry about the costs of working. Focus group participants commented on the percent of their pay check going immediately for child care, or losing other benefits, such as health coverage for their families. In the survey, the most frequently mentioned concerns about going back to work were not being able to earn enough to support their families (78%); not finding a job with affordable health insurance (74%); and not finding dependable, affordable child care (52.3%). 52.2% did not have access to a dependable vehicle. Others described barriers to work as their own poor health (23.5%) or their children's health (10.5%).

Clearly, work must be done to open up economic opportunities and reform the welfare system to provide necessary supports for women raising children. For more information about the project, contact the Women's Development Institute (622-0815). For information about the Lobby's response to this sobering look at women in and out of the workforce, see our Legislative Agenda story in this newsletter.

## STUDY OF WOMEN IN MAINE'S ECONOMY FINDS MANY LIVING ON THE EDGE

A portion of the research for the Women's Economic Security Project (WESP), conducted by Stephanie Seguino, research associate at the University of Maine's Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy, focused on gender differences in income, educational attainment, employment and poverty rates. The study is an early step in determining the needs of women in the labor force, and paints a startling picture of economic disparity between men and women. Among the results:

—More Maine women than ever are in the labor force. In 1980, 47% of women over 16 were employed and, by 1990, that had increased to 60%. Women who are single parents are more likely to be in the workforce than are women from two parent families.

—Between 1980 and 1990, women made significant inroads into professional and managerial jobs, which tend to be higher paying, with over a quarter of women over 16 employed in those occupations in 1990. The majority of women, however, are concentrated in just three occupations (sales, administrative support, and service occupations.) These occupations are characterized by low hourly wages, few fringe benefits, and high rates of unemployment.

—For full-time work, women earn only 66% of what men earn, on average. Women with bachelor's degrees earn, on average, less than men with high school diplomas.

—For a single parent with two children under 6 to meet a basic needs budget, she/he would have to earn \$455 per week (\$11.39 per hour for year-round full-time workers). On average, women earn less than three-quarters of this amount.

—Almost 60% of female workers in Maine are concentrated in retail trades and service industries. Respective weekly earnings in those industries are low, relative to the state average (\$416)—\$247 per week in retail trade and \$385 per week for services in 1992.

—The percent of all persons in poverty rose from 10.8% to 15.4% between 1989 and 1993. The poverty rate for female headed households with children under 6 rose from 58.2% to 63% from 1979 to 1989.

Ms. Seguino identifies several factors for these findings: occupational segregation of women into low-paying jobs, women's primary responsibility for care of children, and, significantly, wage and employment discrimination. "Overwhelmingly," she says, "people want to work. It is important to understand that it costs money to go to work, for such expenses as child care and transportation. Given that, we should look at how much women need to earn in order to afford to go to work. People with children have an enormous amount of unpaid labor to perform. When single parents go out to work, the work at home still needs to be done. They have to be able to earn enough to pay someone to take care of their children.

Seguino's basic-needs budget includes seven types of expenses: for a single parent with two children under 6, child care is the single largest, followed by housing, food and health care. Seguino estimates that for households in this category, \$1,974 per month is a minimum. "Although

*Continued on page 5*



## Keeping You Informed . . . ... from the Chair

Traditionally, January has been, for us at the Lobby, a time to celebrate the Roe v. Wade decision, establish legislative priorities, and be active and present at the State House. However, as we reflect on the increased violence at women's health clinics in Maine and mourn the deaths of two women in the Boston area, it is clear: this has not been a January to celebrate. Rather, it is a renewed call to action: to defend and protect our rights to choose and to secure the broadest and safest possible set of reproductive health services.



Current activity in the state serves as an almost daily reminder that we are not immune to the violence seen in other parts of the country. And certainly, opponents of our right to choose are mobilized and active here in Maine. We must provide reason and facts to counter their emotional and ill-informed arguments. Know that we are energized and active on this front and are aggressively securing resources to assist us in this effort.

As always, you can count on the Maine Women's Lobby to continue to play an active role in all Choice dialogue and related legislation. Our efforts are strengthened by our members' involvement. If you can be available to testify at hearings or help us in lobbying, please call Laura Fortman at 207-622-0851. If you can't be there in person, but want to lend some extra support, consider recruiting new members for the Lobby or sending an additional contribution to supplement your own membership dues.

Defeating Anti-Choice legislation is one of our major priorities for this legislative session. Additionally, we will persist on all Welfare Reform efforts and associated legislation as well as work to free all Maine peoples from discrimination. Guaranteeing women in Maine access to both reproductive and economic security and a life free from violence and discrimination are key themes the Lobby will advocate in 1995.

We have several activities in process over the coming months:

—February will mark the kick-off of our 1995 Women's Issues Leadership Campaign, our effort to solicit contributions of \$250 or more. This year's goal: at least \$20,000. Board members Jessie Marin and Susan Aaronson, along with Laura and me, will be doing the first of these solicitations.

—Major educational events are planned as part of the continuing work of the Women's Economic Security Project. The project will now focus on lobbying via legislator meetings, training, editorial board visits, speaking engagements and continued publication of the written materials.

—Our annual Legislative Reception is planned for April 25. We certainly hope many of you can attend this event in Augusta.

—Board member Lynn Cole has orchestrated a sizable membership recruitment effort.

—Longtime Lobby friend and women's advocate Karen Heck has again taken the lead to publish our Women's History month poster. Look for it in March at schools and libraries.

—Board member Helen Payne has prepared and submitted a terrific funding request proposal to the Maine Women's Fund to augment WDI's education and outreach efforts in the welfare reform area.

—We have begun publishing Legislative Alerts to supplement our communications with you. If you're not receiving these, please call the office.

We are busy, enthused and energized! We welcome your comments and feedback on how you think we are doing and what else we might focus on.

—Pierrette Kelly

## . . . from the Executive Director

The legislative session is underway and it feels like we are under siege. Two anti-choice bills have been printed so far and we anticipate several more to appear in the next few weeks. It has been suggested that with the current threats to Choice perhaps we should focus on that issue exclusively. However, the Lobby board has made a firm commitment to continue to have the concerns of women expressed on all legislation that touches women's lives. Because of that commitment, we are facing a tough fight over welfare reform.



Why tackle such an unpopular issue in such a tough political year? The obvious answer is that AFDC is an economic issue that disproportionately affects women. 96% of the adults who receive AFDC are single women trying desperately to support themselves and their children. Fighting for welfare reform is the right thing to do. I'd further argue that it is also the feminist thing to do.

Now, I know "feminist" is a dirty word these days, and for that reason is avoided. The term frightens many people, including many women, and we have let the term divide us. But now may be the time to revive it to describe the positive, assertive activism made necessary by a political climate that is unfriendly to women.

We may each have a different definition of "feminism." For me, the best definition was provided by a teacher, Liz Whaley, the recipient of an award for her outstanding work with young women. When asked to define feminism, she responded, "It means looking over my shoulder and making it easier for the women coming after me."

As more women and children find themselves living in poverty, stretching ourselves to improve the economic status of low income women is certainly a way of making it easier for all women coming after us.

Please join us in this effort by:

- filling out your legislative alert and returning it to the office
- calling your legislator to express support for REAL welfare reform
- writing letters to the editor
- calling the office (622-0851) to volunteer to speak at public hearings.

We must pull together and fight together to preserve the legislative gains we've made. No bigger threat to women's freedom and equality has surfaced in the past 20 years. Join the Maine Women's Lobby in the challenge to make feminism work again.

—Laura Fortman



## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

As a result of the WESP project, legislation has been introduced (not yet printed) that addresses economic issues affecting both AFDC families and those in the low wage workforce, recognizing that these are often the same families at different times in their lives. For instance, it proposes to both increase the minimum wage and prevent sudden cuts in AFDC benefits when a parent goes to work. It offers help such as child care and transportation for working people both on and off AFDC and attempts some expansion of health coverage to low income working parents.

Two other bills aim to increase the minimum wage: LD 143 will increase minimum wage to \$5.00 per hour; the other, LD 265 would index the minimum wage to the cost of living. Both bills have had public hearing and are being worked on by the Labor Committee.

WESP found little factual information to support four welfare reform proposals that have been introduced this session of the Maine Legislature:

1. LD 228 and LD 43 both exclude babies born to women on AFDC from the AFDC grant. These bills are based on the mistaken belief that AFDC recipients have large families they can't afford. In fact, AFDC families average 1.8 children, the same as other Maine families. Less than 1% of the 60,000 Maine children who receive AFDC in the course of the year are born to families already receiving AFDC.

2. LD 228 would limit AFDC receipt to no more than 24 months. After a family had been off AFDC for 5 years, they could reapply for another 24 months. Support for time limits is based on the belief that AFDC recipients don't want to work, and when AFDC is taken away, they will find a job that will permanently support their families. Time limits respond to the notion that AFDC has spawned a "culture of dependency."

WESP research refutes these assumptions. It shows that most AFDC recipients have worked but can't find jobs that offer wages, benefits, hours or job security sufficient to support their families. Rarely was there evidence that a low-paying job led to a higher-paying one.

Further, according to the AFDC survey, AFDC does not create a "culture of dependency." Nearly three-quarters of the respondents did not grow up in a family that received AFDC (63.7%) or did not know whether they did (10.4%). Only 11.4% said their families received welfare most of the time.

3. We expect to see bills proposing to subsidize employers who hire an AFDC parent by giving the AFDC grant to the employer. AFDC families, therefore, will not be able to get jobs unless employers are paid to hire them. Other programs which have subsidized employers have not led to new jobs. Rather, employers have hired people who would have been hired without the subsidy.

When employers in the focus groups were asked to identify programs or policies that would make it more likely for employers to hire AFDC recipients, no one mentioned employer subsidies. They did mention job skills training, life skills training, and the collaboration of government, the employer, and the employee in sharing responsibility for costs of health insurance and child care.

4. Two bills, LD 228 and LD 268, propose a "Learnfare" program. This proposal would suspend AFDC benefits for every fam-

ily with a person between the ages of 5 and 24 who has not completed high school or who fails to "attend school regularly." These bills presume that children of AFDC families have poor attendance in school and that the threat of sanction will solve the attendance problem. Learnfare, however, has failed in other states where research has shown it has no effect on school attendance.

Further, proponents of learnfare programs presume that dropping out of high school is a major cause of AFDC receipt. However, WESP research showed that in Maine the rate of high school graduation or of GED receipt among AFDC recipients is the same as for all Maine women. (AFDC recipients were underrepresented, however, in those with college degrees; whereas 12.2% of Maine women over 25 have college degrees, only 4.8% of AFDC recipients have that advantage.)

In addition to these numerous welfare proposals, we are also engaged in a heated struggle to prevent our right to abortion services from being eroded, restricted or eliminated. To date, two anti-choice bills have been printed:

LD 633: An Act to Require Parental Notification for Minors Seeking Abortions, sponsored by Rep. Ahearn, Madawaska (with 73 co-sponsors) and LD 630: An Act to Require a 24 Hour Waiting Period Before an Abortion May be Performed, also sponsored by Rep. Ahearn (with 45 co-sponsors).

Many of the co-sponsors of LD 633 are NEW legislators and may not be familiar with Maine's Adult Involvement Law, which took effect in 1989. Under this law, a young woman age 17 or under who is seeking an abortion must receive:

- parental consent OR
- consent from another family member (aunt, grandmother) OR
- consent from a judge who must decide if she is mature enough to make the decision independently OR
- counseling from an approved counselor (defined in the law as a "physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, ordained clergy member, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, guidance counselor, registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.")

We know that no law can safely or sensibly mandate good family communication during times of crisis. We also know the decision to have an abortion is a serious matter, like the decision to raise a child alone or place it for adoption, and requires careful and thoughtful consideration. Maine's Adult Involvement Law encourages family involvement while providing every young woman with the guidance and support necessary to evaluate her options.

The Lobby will oppose LD 630 for the following key reasons:

1. It requires a woman seeking an abortion to receive information IN PERSON 24 hours before the abortion can be performed. Since there are very few abortions providers in the State and none provide abortions daily, waiting periods already exist.

2. The underlying assumption behind this bill is that women must be forced to weigh this decision because they will not think about it carefully on their own.

3. Waiting periods increase financial burden by causing women to take 2 trips to the provider, especially difficult for rural women.

Working women must take two days off from work. Mothers may experience added difficulties finding childcare for two days.

4. In other states, anti-choice protestors have used this waiting period to track patients, often via motor vehicle registration, and harass them by phone or in person. Given the recent increase in violence, this is a very serious concern.

5. It requires the State to produce certain printed materials (such as the characteristics of the fetus, list of agencies that provide alternatives to abortion, and medical assistance benefits that may be available to a woman if she does not terminate the pregnancy), which the physician **MUST** provide to the woman at least 24 hours before an abortion. Current law requires a woman receive information about the risks of abortion and pregnancy and, when requested, information about alternatives to abortion.

These bills will be heard by the Judiciary Committee. No public hearing date has been set. It is likely all bills dealing with reproductive choice will be heard on the same day. The Maine Choice Coalition will be introducing two bills that provide greater protection for patients and clinic workers.

Other bills of concerns:

**LD 101:** An Act to Provide Funding to Domestic Violence Shelter in Ellsworth. Sponsor: Rep. Povich, Ellsworth. Referred to Human Resources Committee, Public Hearing: 2/24/95. Summary: LD 101 appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services for the Next Step, a domestic violence shelter that will serve Hancock County.

**LD 64:** An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Decency. Sponsor: Sen. Lawrence, York. Summary: This bill changes the crime of public indecency to indecent conduct. It specifically prohibits exposure of the genitals by an adult to a child and exposure by a child to an adult when such exposure is caused by the adult for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire or for the purpose of causing affront or alarm.

**LD 12:** An Act to Change the Meaning of Household Members Regarding Protective Orders Between Family Members. Sponsor: Rep. Desmond, Mapleton. Committee on Judiciary. Public hearing: 3/1/95. Summary: This bill changes the definition of "family or household members" to include non-adult household members related by consanguinity or affinity for purposes of protective orders in crimes between family members.

**LD 401:** An Act to Continue Protection Under a Protection from Abuse Order. Sponsor: Rep. Desmond, Mapleton, Committee on Judiciary. Public Hearing: 3/1/95. Summary: This bill changes the duration of a protection from abuse order or approved consent agreement from a one-year limit to an indefinite period of time. It allows the order to be terminated upon motion by one of the parties, if both parties agree.

**LD 168:** An Act to Clarify Insurance Coverage Regarding Breast Reconstruction after Mastectomy Surgery. Sponsor: Sen. Rand, Cumberland. Committee on Banking and Insurance. Public Hearing: 2/22/95. Now being worked on in Committee. Summary: Requires health care insurance and contracts providing coverage for mastectomy surgery to provide reconstructive surgery for both

the breast on which surgery was performed and the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance if the patient elects reconstruction and in the manner chosen by patient and physician.

These are just a few of the many bills we will be working on this session. Please look for your Legislative Alert in the mail for your quick action on upcoming bills.

## PROPOSED AFDC CUTS AND THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

The Governor has proposed in the biennial budget to eliminate the "housing special need" payment and the "gap" for those with child support and unearned income. The "housing special need payment" is an additional \$50 per month of AFDC for families whose shelter costs (not including utilities) exceed 75% of their income. In any one month, over 5,600 families—27% of those on AFDC—would be affected by this cut.

The "gap" is the amount of child support or income that AFDC families are allowed to keep without it causing a reduction in AFDC. For a family of 2, it is \$100; for a family of 3, it is \$135. The Governor proposes to eliminate the gap for everyone except those families with earned income. This means that a mother and child, the father of whom pays \$150 or more per month in child support to the state, would have their income reduced from \$462 per month (\$312 AFDC + \$100 gap + \$50 child support "pass through") to \$362 per month (\$312 + \$50)—a loss of a quarter of their income.

Similarly, a family that also has other forms of unearned income such as Social Security or Veteran's benefits, would see their AFDC checks drop by \$100 or more. Some would become ineligible altogether and lose their Medicaid coverage. The elimination of the gap in this manner would have drastic consequences for almost 6,000 families.

At this point, we expect hearings on the gap and housing special needs cuts to be held in the Appropriations Committee on March 7, 1995. The other AFDC bills are likely to be heard by the Human Resources Committee in late March or early April. While every legislator's vote will ultimately be important in this process, legislators on those committees will have particular influence. Check your Legislative Alert for the names of these individuals.

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

If you do not know who your Representative or Senator is, try calling your town office or city hall. To leave a message at the State House for a Senator, call 1-800-423-6900. To leave a message for a Representative, call 1-800-423-2900. You can briefly mention what you want the person to support or oppose. Leave your name, phone number and the town you are from.



# UNDERSTANDING MAINE'S ADULT INVOLVEMENT LAW <sup>1</sup>

*Parental involvement and guidance is the ideal for young women facing crisis pregnancies.* There is complete agreement about that fact. However, when this is not possible, Maine's teens should have the option of turning to another adult for support and counsel.

Maine's "Adult Involvement with Minors Seeking Abortions" law took effect in 1989. Its passage resulted from the consensus that young women under 18 making decisions about their pregnancies need support and guidance; they should not--and need not--make these choices alone. This law has not only proven to be successful in Maine, it has become a national legislative model.

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## How Maine's Adult Involvement Law Works

A young woman age 17 or under who is seeking an abortion must receive:

- parental consent,  
or
- consent from another adult family member (aunt, grandmother, etc),  
or
- consent from a judge who must decide if she is mature enough  
to make the decision independently  
or
- counseling from an approved counselor

### How is "counselor" defined?

▼  
The law defines "counselor" as anyone who is a" physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, ordained clergy member, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, guidance counselor, registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

### What must the counseling include?

▼  
As defined in Section 4 (A), the counselor must explain all options, including adoption, parenting and abortion. S/he must explain that the information being given is not intended to persuade the young woman to choose one option over another. In addition, the counselor must give information about obtaining prenatal care and birth control information, and must discuss the possibility of involving the teen's parents or other adult family members in the decision.

Finally, the counselor must give the young woman the opportunity to ask questions, referring her elsewhere if s/he cannot answer the questions asked.



## **What are the physician's responsibilities?**

Prior to performing an abortion, a physician must ensure that a minor:

- gives her written, informed consent (standard medical practice, required under earlier law),  
and
- receives the counseling and information specified in the law and signs a form so stating.

*Even if the minor obtains parental consent, she must receive counseling from a person who meets the legal definition of a counselor.*

**How does the doctor performing the abortion know that the teen has received counseling?**

After the counseling has taken place, the young woman must sign a form stating she has received the information specified in the law (Section 4 (B).) Then, either the minor gives the signed form to the physician performing the abortion, or the counselor sends it directly to the physician. The person providing the counseling must also sign the form and keep a copy for her/his files.

**How is the physician informed of parental or family consent?**

The parent or relative must put their consent in writing and give it to the young woman to give to her doctor.

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## **Adult guidance is key for young women facing difficult reproductive choices.**

Maine's Adult Involvement Law supports young women in making responsible, informed decisions and has been widely recognized as a national model. We know that no law can safely or sensibly mandate good family communication during times of crisis. And we also know that **THE DECISION TO HAVE AN ABORTION IS A SERIOUS MATTER THAT--LIKE THE DECISION TO RAISE A CHILD ALONE OR PLACE IT FOR ADOPTION--REQUIRES CAREFUL AND THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION.** Maine's Adult Involvement Law encourages family involvement while providing every young woman with the guidance and support necessary to consider and evaluate all of the options available to her.



## "TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK" DAY

April 27, 1995 marks the third annual "Take Our Daughters to Work" day, sponsored by the Ms. Foundation for Women. In 1994, 25 million adult Americans (1 in 6), and many Maine businesses, participated in this event. With your support, 1995 will be an even bigger success. Open to girls ages 9-15 years, "Take Our Daughters to Work" day focuses national attention on the needs of girls and introduces them to potential career opportunities.

The 1993 "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" was created in response to alarming research about adolescent girls, which identified feelings of low self-worth manifested by significant loss of confidence, shyness, eating disorders, negative body image, teen pregnancy, discrimination, and substance and sexual abuse. By taking our daughters to work, we can celebrate their value and educate them about the range of life's options.

To complement this activity, the Ms. Foundation has also developed "Working it Out—Especially for Boys," a classroom lesson plan that helps boys understand some of the influences on their lives, as well as identify models for new and integrative behaviors. The focus of both efforts is to help children develop a deeper understanding of themselves and how they fit.

Maine has been chosen as one of five states to work with the Ms. Foundation to build a national network. The Maine Committee, led by Rockland-based Hurricane Island Outward Bound School President Joan Welsh, is seeking both men and women business owners to host girls on "Take Our Daughters to Work" Day. The group is also interested in finding men and women to work with boys in the classroom on April 27. For more information, call Ellee Simons at 1-800-341-1744.

Here's how you can make April 27, 1995 a huge success:

- take your daughters to work
- promote the activity in your community—local community groups, churches, school groups, professional organizations
- supply your local school district with educational materials for both girls and boys (call 1-800-341-1744)
- publicize the activities through the local media

### REMINDER

Check your mailing label; it includes the date your membership expires. Help us save office costs—use the form on the back page of the newsletter, and send your membership renewal in today! Thanks.

*Continued from page 1*

some may argue that this budget seems high, the cost estimates are in general conservative. It really should come as no surprise that single parents require around \$20,000 a year to meet their families' basic needs. Indeed, many two-earner couples are having a hard time making ends meet, even with combined incomes of \$35,000 to \$40,000."

These findings suggest a need to focus attention on issues such as growth of low-wage jobs, involuntary part-time unemployment, unemployment, and regional disparities in jobs and earnings. Also at issue is access to affordable transportation, child care, and health care.

Seguino hopes to expand her study by looking in greater detail at factors that influence wages, including wage and employment fluctuations between regions. The findings of this study are being used, with other WESP research findings, in helping to formulate sound welfare reform for the State of Maine.

## GET YOUR WOMEN'S HISTORY POSTER NOW!

The Maine Women's Lobby/Women's Development Institute's 1995 Women's History Poster is available for Women's History Month. This year we celebrate Woman Suffrage in Maine. 1995 is the 75th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage and we want to publicize the courage of the women and men who fought hard to extend such a basic right to women. We are alerting teachers across the state of the availability of the poster which proudly proclaims Maine's place in suffrage history.

We hope you, too, will buy one to donate to your local school, hang in your office or in your home. They are affordable and gorgeous, as well as great inspiration for young and old alike. What more could you ask for? Order yours today before they're gone. The nominal fee of \$5 for one, \$3 for each additional poster, covers postage and handling. Checks can be made out to MWL and sent to PO Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347.

## CITIZEN RESOURCES— Listening Project Training

The Listening Project is a communications and interviewing tool used to build understanding of and, in some cases, interest in a community issue. It has been used to resolve conflicts and to involve those surveyed in addressing problems. Results of surveys can be used to develop new strategies for addressing issues.

Listening projects have been conducted on issues as varied as economic conversion from military to non-military production, gay/lesbian/bisexual civil rights, racial discrimination, protests at military facilities, drug problems, breastfeeding, sustainable agriculture, and neighborhood development.

On March 24-26, 1995, you can attend a training session on how to conduct a Listening Project in your area. The training will focus on using the tool to address controversial issues, and will be held in the Augusta-Portland area. For a brochure and more information, contact: Larry Dansinger, INVERT, P.O. Box 776, Monroe, ME 04951. Or call Larry (525-7776); or Sheila Garrett (833-6314).

Come join the Maine Women's Lobby on Tuesday evening, April 25th at the Senator in Augusta for our annual legislative reception. Meet your legislator and make your voice heard on issues that concern you. Meet Lobby Board members and lobbyist Laura Fortman to share your ideas about supporting women's rights and choices in Maine. Reservations can be made at the Lobby office by calling 622-0851, or in person at the door. The cost is \$20; please come and support the work of the Maine Women's Lobby.



**MWL COMMITTEES****Executive Committee**

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Susan Aaronson, Portland\*

\*MWL Board Member



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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*I want to help improve the lives of Maine Women and their families.*

**Maine Women's Lobby**

\$125 Sustaining  
\$ 60 Supporting/Household  
\$ 35 Individual  
\$ 10 Student  
\$ Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ Other\*

**Women's Issues Leadership Council**

\$1000 Champion  
\$ 750 Benefactor  
\$ 500 Sustainer  
\$ 250 Contributor

☐ My check, payable to the Maine Women's Lobby, is enclosed.

☐ I prefer to pay with my:

MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_

Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF CARDHOLDER

☐ I would like to pay in \_\_\_\_\_ installments.

My contribution is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I do not want my name given to other groups.

\* The Maine Women's Lobby is committed to representing women of all economic means. Any contribution you are able to make will entitle you to membership.



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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Women's History Month Poster  
available this month*

**Listening Project Training**  
March 24-26, 1995

**Annual Legislative Reception**  
April 25, 1995, Senator Inn, Augusta

**Ms. Foundation's Annual  
Take Our Daughters to Work Day**  
April 27, 1995

**Maine Women's Fund Conference  
on Women and Money**  
May 6, 1995, Westbrook College

**Look for:**

—MWL Legislative Alerts  
—News about the annual MWL Raffle

Ann Schonberger  
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Dec 1, 1996