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Maine Women's Lobby News Letter (1996 - March) No. 14

Maine Women's Lobby Staff
Maine Women's Lobby

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Maine Women's Lobby

March 1996 Number 14

CATCH THE EAR OF YOUR LEGISLATOR AT THE ANNUAL LEGISLATORS RECEPTION

Tuesday, March 12, 1996
at The Senator Inn, Augusta
5:30 - 7:30 PM

CALL your legislators to invite them to take advantage of this opportunity to meet and discuss matters of importance with you in the relaxed setting of the Senator Inn. If you have never attended the Reception before, this is your year! Legislators are considering several bills addressing issues crucial to women in this session. Our senators and representatives need to hear from YOU!

Every Women's Lobby member and every Legislator has been invited. The greater the representation of the Lobby the louder our voice grows and the more Legislators will respond to our concerns. We need you to join us in making women's concerns heard and acted on. Send in your reservation now or call the office (622-0851). We now accept credit cards!

The Women's Development Institute is proud to announce that

This year's Take Our Daughters to Work Day is April 25, 1996!

On April 27, 1995, 10,000 Maine girls and 5,000 Maine businesses participated in the third annual Take Our Daughters to Work Day. The day was designed to help girls expand their horizons and explore career opportunities. The purpose of the day is to allow girls, between the ages of 9 & 15, to experience a day in a workplace in order to expose them to different possible occupations. Many studies, including one done by the American Association of University Women, have found that girls of the target ages often lose confidence in their abilities. This loss of self-esteem often prevents them from achieving their potential as adults. TODTW Day helps build self esteem by generating excitement and interest in a variety of careers.

As part of the event, the Ms. Foundation is holding a nation-wide sweepstakes. At a drawing this summer, three girls between the ages of 9 and 17 will receive $20,000 in US savings bonds. In addition, an award of $1,500 will be made to the school each winner attends to be used towards the girls' athletic program.

If you would be interested in having a girl shadow you or if you have a girl who would like to participate contact your local school district. If you want information about the Day contact Stephanie Soule at the Maine Women's Development Institute. She can be reached Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 5. Her number is 626-3471.

...from the Executive Director

Laura Fortman

You can help by calling members of the Banking & Insurance Committee!

The legislative session is in full swing! Since the legislature is trying to wrap up its activities by the end of March, bills are sometimes being scheduled for public hearing **before** they are printed. This does keep my job interesting!

One bill that is experiencing difficulty is LD 1732: An Act to Promote Health of Newborns and their Mothers. The purpose of this bill is to make sure that medical decisions are being made by women and their health care providers, not by accountants. This bill was heard by the Banking and Insurance (B&I) Committee on Tuesday, January 30th.

There was widespread support for the bill. In fact, the only group that spoke in opposition was the Maine Automobile Dealer Association. At the close of the hearing, the Senate Chair, Sen. Abromson, announced the Committee would not be able to schedule a work session until the Bureau of Insurance completed a study on the impact of the bill. ***This could mean that the legislation will die.***

Two strong supporters of the bill, Sen. Jill Goldthwaite and Rep. Debra Plowman, are working with the Lobby and other concerned organizations to assure that the issue is addressed in this session. You can help by calling the members of the Banking and Insurance Committee and letting them know this is an important issue for you. (Check your Legislative Alert for names of B&I members) State House phone numbers are: Representatives: 1-800-423-2900 and Senators: 1-800-423-6900.

In addition to working on legislation, we are actively involved in organizing the Take Our Daughters to Work Day (TODTWD) project. It is an opportunity for us to address some of the low aspirations we identified in our AFDC research project. As you may remember, 929 AFDC recipients responded to our survey. One of the questions was, "If you could do anything, what kind of work would you most like to do?" An alarming number of women responded, "Anything that pays $5.25 an hour." We know that it is impossible to support a family on $5.25 an hour. We feel a certain responsibility for educating young women about the realities of supporting a family. We also want to expose girls to some of the opportunities available to them. For these reasons, we agreed to coordinate the TODTWD project in Maine.

We have an energetic streering committee that meets every three weeks at 8:00 am in Augusta. Representatives from the Maine Women's Fund, Outward Bound, Me. Dept. of Transportation, Me. Chamber of Commerce, Me. Centers for Women Work and Community, several junior high school girls and others are participating in these meetings. We are off to a good start, but we can use more help. Please call our intern, Stephanie, if you would like to become involved in this project.

Thank you for your support of the Lobby. Without your financial contributions we would not be able to do any of the work we are doing. I also want you to know that I especially appreciate the notes you send along with your membership renewal forms. Thanks - I really do read them! Frequently, I read them late in the day after spending hours at the State House. It is your words of encouragement (or constructive criticism) that help me remember why I love this job! Speaking of membership renewals, we may try something different with them. The Lobby has a new, updated brochure. We are trying to circulate it and are thinking about enclosing the brochure in the mailing with your renewal Thank you note. This way, you can share information about the lobby with a friend. Let us know what you think of the idea!

WANTED:
Maine Women's Lobby Members
to serve on a variety of
interesting and fun committees!
If you are or know of such a person call the office, ASAP!

Be sure to mark your calendar with the date of the Lobby's annual meeting! The Board would really like to meet you and learn what issues are important to you!
JUNE 1996

Gender Issues Conference

For the third year in a row, the Gender Issues in Education Cooperative in Rockport has organized its annual conference for girls grades 7-12. "Your Issues, Your Life" is scheduled to take place March 15th. It will begin at the Camden Opera House at 8am and spill out into Camden businesses, homes and offices and last until 3pm.

This year's keynote speaker will be Catherine Steiner Adair, a Boston psychologist who specializes in treating girls with eating disorders. The day will open with remarks by long time Lobby supporter Betsy Sweet and a play be Cathy Plourde. The day will continue with morning and afternoon workshops. As girls register they are encouraged to invite an adult to the event; workshops will be available for the adults as well as the girls.

A sampling of the girls' options include: The Belly Project; Climbing Wall; Math and Science Magic; and MTV, Miracle Bras and Me. The adults may attend sessions including: Fathers and Daughters; Girls in the Classroom; and Women in Politics. This last session will be conducted by the Lobby's Executive Director Laura Fortman. The last two conferences have been highly successful. Last year's attracted almost 500 people including girls from the islands, from south of Portland, from Fryeburg, and even a few from Boston. The conference is one of a kind. It is organized and funded almost completely locally. At this late date space will be very limited, but if you would like to attend or are interested in organizing a similar event in your community, please contact Mary Orear at 236-4532.

Lobby Chooses a Poster Design

In commemoration of Margaret Chase Smith and celebration of Women's History Month in Maine, we have selected the work of Marnie Souza of Cape Elizabeth, Maine for our poster. Marnie is registered with the Maine Arts Commission and is the recipient of numerous awards throughout New England for her work. Marnie has a full time career exhibiting in Portland and other Maine communities. Although this is Marnie's first poster design, her admiration of Margaret Chase Smith motivated her work. Through background research of Smith's accomplishments, ideas formed and inspiration took over as Marnie created the winning portrait. The Maine Women's Lobby is promoting Marnie's design of Margaret Chase Smith to be considered for a 32 cent stamp to educate the public on the important roles women play in our history, and to create remembrance of the great Senator from Maine.

Please join us in congratulating Marnie Souza for her winning design. Your purchase of the poster will assist the Lobby and help promote Women's History Month while celebrating the accomplishments of great women like Margaret Chase Smith.

An order form for the poster can be found on the back of this page.

Get ready for the 1996 Maine Women's Lobby Raffle! Tickets for wonderful prizes will go on sale soon!

If you want to contact the Lobby our e-mail address is:
liseEB@aol.com
We would love to hear from you!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

March 1, 1996: Women's History Month Poster available! Color Poster celebrates the life of Margaret Chase Smith. Send your check with a completed order form!

March 8, 1996: International Women's Day

March 12, 1996: The Maine Women's Lobby Annual Legislative Reception. Remember to call your legislators to remind them to attend. Please plan to join us. There is power in numbers!

March 15, 1996: Gender Issues Conference in Camden If interested be sure to call right away, space is limited!

March 15, 1996: Filing Deadline for Candidate Papers. We need good people to run for elected offices. Consider the difference you could make!

April 25, 1996: Take Our Daughters to Work Day Much assistance is still needed in every Maine community. Contact your local school district and volunteer.

GET YOUR WOMEN'S HISTORY POSTER NOW!

The Maine Women's Lobby/Women's Development Institute's 1996 Women's History poster is now available for Women's History Month. This year we celebrate Margaret Chase Smith. Not only was Senator Smith the first Republican woman in the US Senate and the first woman in the nation to serve in both houses of Congress, she was the first woman to preside over hearings on a bill she introduced, the first civilian woman ever to go to sea during wartime and the first woman to sail aboard an aircraft carrier. Her "Declaration of Conscience" denouncing Joe McCarthy's witch hunts caused tremendous reaction and won her consideration as a vice presidential candidate several times throughout her career. In 1964, she became the first woman to run for the presidential nomination of either political party.

The posters are a great opportunity to widen students' career horizons and to generate discussion. Buy one for your classroom or school library, to hang in your office or in your home. They are affordable and gorgeous, as well as, great inspiration for young and old alike! The cost of the poster is $5 for the first and $3 for each additional poster and that includes handling and shipping.

Also available is a non-sexist reading list for ages birth through ten, or grade 5. The books have characters who are strong, diverse and worth reading about! There are over 90 titles compiled by topic and age. The cost of the reading list is $3

****

Please send me __poster(s) $5 for the first, $3 for each additional one
__reading list $3
Enclosed is a check for $____

_____ _____
Name **Daytime phone**

_____
Mailing address # Street Town Zip

Checks can be made to the MWL, P.O Box 15, Hallowell, Me. 04347

Second Annual
HOPE Festival
(Help Organize Peace Earthwide)
Earth Day
Saturday, April 20, 10 AM-5 PM
Brewer Auditorium

Free Admission
Sponsored by the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 942-9343

Full day of Earth Day Celebrations:
*Organizational Fair w/50+ Groups
*Live Music, Theater, Dance
*Diverse Children's Program
*Outdoor Activities
*Food, Prizes, Fun for All

Maine "Youth At Risk" Summit
A Statewide Conference of the Maine Adolescent Outreach Project
Sponsered by: The Family Planning Association of Maine
Thursday, April 11, 1996, 8:30 to 4:00pm
At the Good-Will Hinckley Home
The Keynote Speaaker is Dr. Michael Carrera
If you are interested in attending contact Fran Mullin at the Family Planning Association at (207) 622-7524.

These are some of the bills that the Lobby is tracking and supporting in the current session:

LD 1665 An Act to Amend the Maine Insurance Code with Respect to Domestic Violence

This Bill, as amended in Committee, prohibits insurers, non-profit hospitals and medical service organizations and health maintenance organizations from discriminating against victims of domestic violence in life, health and disability insurance coverage.
STATUS: This Bill has received unanimous support in the Banking & Insurance committee.

LD 1732 An Act to Promote the Health of Newborns and Their Mothers

This Bill requires health care insurers to provide coverage for a minimum of 48 hours of inpatient care following a vaginal delivery and a minimum of 96 hours of inpatient care after a caesarean section unless shorter stays are authorized by the attending medical personnel in conjunction with the mother and an initial postpartum visit is provided.
STATUS: In Banking & Insurance Committee

LD 1812 An Act to Extend Health Care Coverage to Parents Leaving AFDC

This is a Bill to help transition a family's move off of aid to families with dependent children.
STATUS: A Public Hearing has been scheduled for 1:00pm on March 11at the Human Resources Building.

LD 1766 An Act to Prohibit Stalking

This Bill creates and defines stalking as a crime with minimal imprisonment penalties. It also provides for the establishment of a statewide computer criminal record system to allow law enforcement officers to access criminal records.
STATUS: In Criminal Justice Committee

LD 1758 An Act to Amend the Protection from Abuse and Protection from Harassment Statutes

This Bill clarifies and expands existing definitions of "harassment", "household members" and other terms in existing statutes that govern protection from abuse and protection from harassment.
STATUS: In Judiciary Committee

Buchanan Alert!!!

Linda Bean is back and she is supporting Buchanan's campaign. She has released the names of Maine legislators who are openly supporting Buchanan. We thought you might want to know who they are: John Underwood of Oxford, Lisa Lumbra of Bangor, John Marshall of Eliot, Patricia Lane of Lincoln, Jim Layton of Cherryfield and Bill Pinkham of Lemoyne.

MWL BOARD

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Co-Chair: Janice Bork, Thorndike
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Women's Issues Leadership Council (WILC)

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Public Relations

Martha Sterling-Golden, Brunswick

Maine Women's Lobby

Maine Women's Lobby
P.O. Box 15
Hallowell, Maine 04347
(207) 622-0851
FAX: (207) 621-2551

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Maine Women's Lobby		Women's Issues Leadership Council	
$125	Supporter	$1000	Champion
$ 60	Household	$ 750	Benefactor
$ 35	Individual	$ 500	Sustainer
$ 10	Student	$ 250	Contributor
	Name of School: _____		
$	Other*		

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

☐ I prefer to pay with my:

MasterCard # _____

Visa # _____

_____
SIGNATURE OF CARDHOLDER

Expiration Date _____

☐ I would like to pay in installments. _____

My contribution is $ _____

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Address _____ Town _____ County _____ Zip _____

Senate District _____ House District _____

☐ 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.

Maine Women's Lobby

P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Maine 04347

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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PERMIT NO. 452

Dec 1, 1996

Ann Schonberger
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Bangor, ME 04401