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Maine Women's Lobby News Letter (1996 - May) No. 15

Maine Women's Lobby Staff

Maine Women's Lobby

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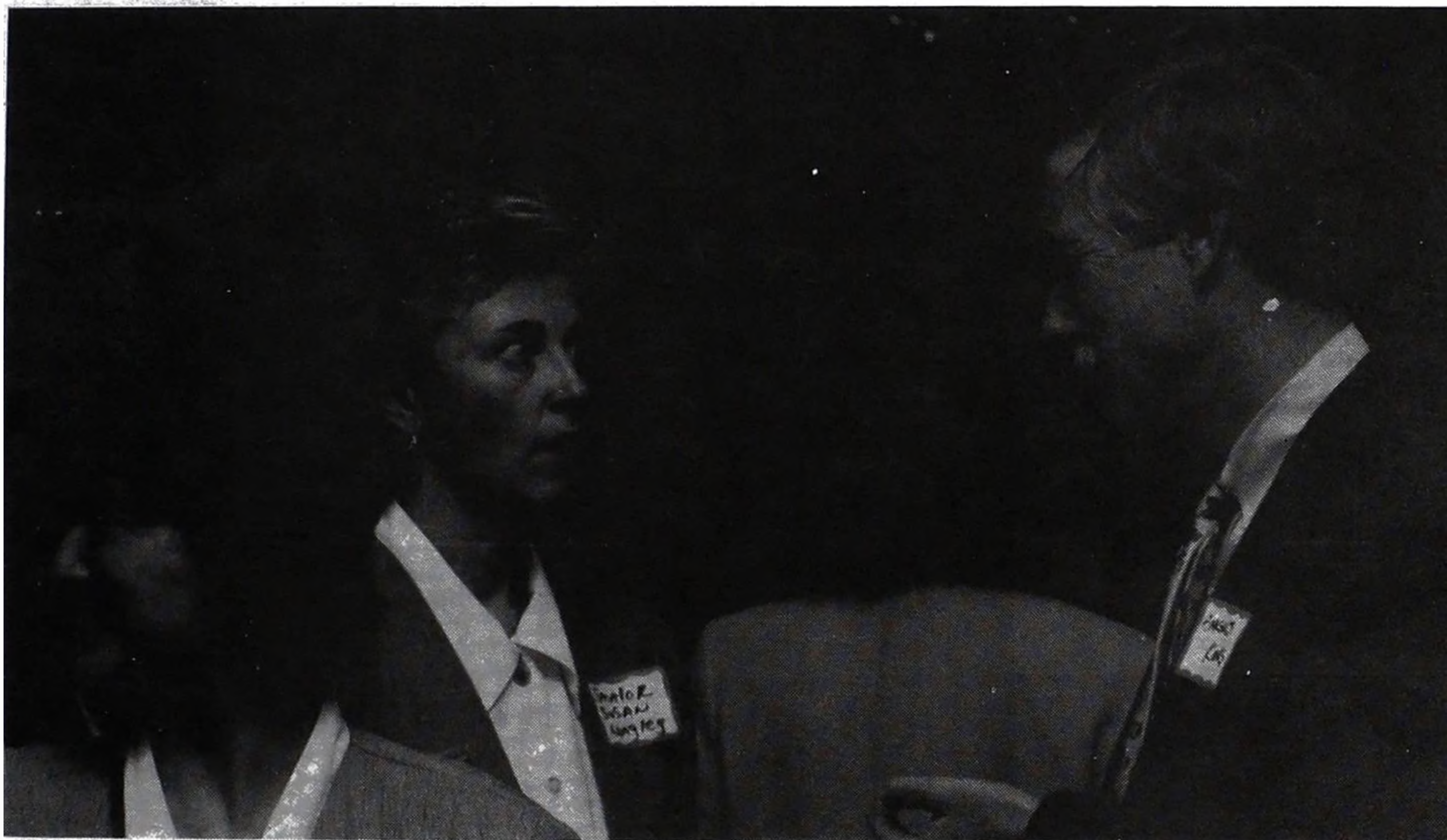
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MAINE
WOMEN'S
LOBBY

May 1996

Number 15



Our very own Laura Fortman greeted Governor Angus King during the Lobby's Annual Legislators Reception at the Senator.

Legislators Reception was a Big Hit!

The State Room at the Senator in Augusta was the scene for our annual Legislators Reception. This event was attended by a lively group of legislators, legislative "hopefuls", MWL members and friends. Perhaps most noted among those attending were an old friend of the Lobby, Governor Angus King and a new friend, Mary Ann Turowski's newly adopted infant son, Jesse Michael. Both drew their full share of well-deserved attention. As in previous years, this was an occasion for casual conversation among MWL members, friends and colleagues, all of whom share an involvement and interest in Maine's legislative process. The Reception has become a pleasant oasis in the midst of the long hours and hard work invested during the session by legislators and advocates for women's concerns alike. It appeared that everyone present enjoyed this interlude in their hectic schedules. The event also served as the kick-off for our annual raffle. The wonderful women's history month poster was also honored throughout the evening.

Tuesday June 11, 1996 is the PRIMARY!!

While many of us think that the decisions are made in November at the Polls, in reality many important decisions are made in June. Yes, June! So mark your calendars and get out and vote.

Democrats have primary races for US Senate, 1st Congressional district and several local races. Republicans have primary races for US Senate and several local legislative races.

Remember important decisions are made in June so mark the 11th as an important political date!

...from the Executive Director

MWL had a successful Legislative Session!

The second session of the 117th Maine Legislature came to a close just before dawn on Thursday, April 4, 1996. The "second regular" session is frequently referred to as the "short" session. It is called that because fewer bills are allowed to be presented. New legislation must receive the support of a majority of the Legislative Council before it can be introduced. "Carry over" bills from the "first regular" session are also acted on.

We had two issues that were designated as "top priorities" by the Lobby's legislative committee. One was passage of an insurance bill that would protect mothers and newborns. The other was to enact an anti-stalking bill. We were successful on both counts!



Laura Fortman

FYI: P.L. stands for Public Law. Most bills that were passed become effective 90 days after adjournment (July 1996). Emergency bills take effect immediately.

Health Care

P.L. 1996, Chapt. 615: An Act to Promote the Health of Newborns and Their Mothers

Presented by: Senator Jill Goldthwait of Hancock County

Requires insurers, nonprofit hospital and medical service organizations and HMO's to provide coverage for services related to maternity and newborn care including coverage for hospital stay, in accordance with the attending physician's or nurse midwife's determination in conjunction with the mother that the mother and newborn meet the criteria outlined in the "Guidelines for Perinatal Care," published by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Emergency Bill

P.L. 1996, Chapt. 692: An Act to Extend Health Care Coverage for Parents Leaving the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program

Presented by: Senator Peter Mills of Somerset County

Extends transitional Medicaid benefits for families leaving AFDC to go to work from one to three years. Key requirements are: families must remain employed, must continue to have a child under 18 and must have income under 185% of poverty level. Families whose income is over 100% of the poverty level must pay a premium equal to 3% of their monthly income.

P.L. 1996, Chapt. 617: An Act to Ensure That Basic Health Care Needs of Women are Covered in Insurance Policies

Presented by: Representative Jim Donnelly of Presque Isle

Requires insurers to permit Ob-Gyn's to serve as primary care physician if the physician qualifies under the insurer's credentialing policy, must provide coverage for Pap tests, and allows for one self-referral per year for an annual gynecological exam without requiring the prior approval of a primary care physician. Effective date: January 1, 1997.

P.L. 1996, Chapt. 553: An Act to Amend the Maine Insurance Code with Respect to Domestic Violence

Presented by: Representative Bonnie Green of Monmouth

Prohibits insurers, nonprofit hospitals and medical service organizations or HMO's from discriminating against victims of domestic abuse in the areas of life, health and disability insurance.

Personal Safety

P.L. 1996, Chapt. 668: An Act to Prohibit Stalking

Presented by: Representative Michael Saxl of Portland

Key components of the legislation are: it makes stalking a crime in and of itself, requires mandatory minimum sentences for offenders, establishes reciprocity agreement with other states, includes protection against electronic stalking, establishes a state-wide computer system that will be partially paid for by a surcharge on fines and extends protections to family members of stalking victims. One significant change is that someone may now be charged with the crime of stalking even if there is no protection from abuse order in place.

P.L. 1996, Chapt. 650: An Act to Amend the Protection from Abuse and Protection from Harassment Statutes

Presented by: Representative Sharon Treat of Gardiner

Clarifies and expands existing definitions of "harassment," "household members" and other terms in existing statutes that govern protection from abuse and protection from harassment orders. It makes those statutes consistent with one another.

A continuation of the important bills MWL was successful in helping to pass is on page three.

more bills...

Budget

AFDC Housing Special Need Payment
The \$50 Housing Special Need payment that goes to AFDC families whose housing cost exceeds 75% of their monthly income will not be cut. This program has been scheduled to be eliminated in December 1996. However, the legislature appropriated additional funds to cover the continuation of this program until June 1997.

If you are interested in helping us develop our legislative agenda for the next session, please call the office at 622-0851. We would love to have you join the Legislative Committee!

Lobby Looking for a Home!

MWL/WDI must move by the end of June. We are currently looking for space. If you know of any low cost, friendly space, please call the office.

The Maine Women's Lobby would like to welcome Cindy Mehnert to the Board. Cindy is an attorney in private practice with her husband, Eric. Their practice, Hawkes & Mehnert, is located in Augusta. Cindy is a graduate of The Pomfret School, Colby College and Suffolk Law School. Cindy is also the proud mother of a two year old son and a four year old daughter.



WHEREAS, an American Association of University Women study and Harvard research shows that adolescence takes a greater toll on girls' self-esteem than boys'; and

WHEREAS, adolescent girls too often imagine only the most traditional employment opportunities for themselves, and

WHEREAS, it is valuable to girls' self-esteem to see the diversity of positions available to women in the work place; and

WHEREAS, people in Maine are concerned about and eager to do something to support their daughters' self-esteem, and

WHEREAS, less than 8% of all programs provide services to girls between the ages of 9 and 15, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 2 out of 3 jobs will be filled by women, and

WHEREAS, a curriculum will be available for boys in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Take our Daughters to Work Day provides parents, caring adults, teachers and employers with a way to support girls affirmatively and begin to take action to redress the inequalities in girls' lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANGUS S. KING, JR., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim April 25, 1996 as

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY

throughout the State of Maine



Bill Diamond
G. William Diamond
Secretary of State

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this third day of April in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Six

Angus S. King, Jr.
Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor

Remember to buy your Raffle tickets!

If you would like to purchase more tickets or have some sent to a friend, let the office know. We would be glad to assist you in any way possible!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

May 19, 1996: 5K Road race/walk to Benefit Mercy Hospital Breast Health Resource Center. This event will take place in Falmouth. For more information call 781-3134.

June 2, 1996: National Cancer Survivors Day. This event will take place from 11:30 to 1:45 at Wing Park, 412 State Street in Bangor.

June 11, 1996: The Maine Primary. Remember to get out and VOTE!

June 12, 1996: Maine Women's Lobby Annual Meeting. The raffle drawing will take place during this meeting. The Board would love the chance to meet as many members as possible.

June 18 to July 2, 1996: The Face of Breast Cancer, A photographic essay at the Bangor Mall. Exhibit consists of 15 double sided panels displaying the faces of 63 women who have died of breast cancer. There is at least one woman from every state.

Take Our Daughters to Work Day Has State-wide Support

Optimizing the lives of Maine girls and women through public policy development and legislative action.

With this as our mission, the Maine Women's Lobby and Women's Development Institute invited Legislators to participate in the Take Our Daughters to Work Day Project. Numerous Legislators came forward in support of this important event. The Lobby would like to thank these Legislators for formally recognizing the importance of Take Our Daughters to Work Day. Maine girls have yet to have a woman governor or President to look up to as a role model.

The Women's Development Institute and the Maine Women's Lobby feel it is critical for women and girls to be actively involved in public policy. We are delighted that the following legislators are willing to serve as role models and mentors for this important day.

The following Senators have pledged their support: Joel Abromson, District 27; John J. Cleveland, District 22; Sean Faircloth, District 9; Phil Harriman, District 23, Susan W. Longley, District 11; Dale McCormick, District 18; Judy Paradis, District 1.

The following Representatives have endorsed the day: Speaker Dan Gwadosky, District 101; Herb Adams, District 23; Michael Brennan, District 37; Gail Chase, District 106; James Donnelly, District 145; Richard Gould, District 11; Ruth Joseph, District 99; Jeffery Joyner, District 13; Libby Mitchell, District 94; Steven Rowe, District 35; Michael Saxl, District 31; Elizabeth Townsend, District 36; Sharon Treat, District 91; Verdi Tripp, District 52; Mark Vigue, District 102; Elizabeth Watson, District 82; Debra Plowman, District 114.

The Take Our Daughters to Work Day Project has been fortunate to have a wonderful Honorary Committee. The members of this committee are: Lyn Mikel Brown from the Dept. of Education; Dana F. Connors from the Maine Chamber & Business Alliance; Allan C. Cameron, CEO of Bath Iron Works; Mary J. Herman the first Lady of Maine; Joanne Palombo-McCallie the head coach of U Maine's Women's basketball team; Charles O'Leary, President of the Maine AFL/CIO; Richard Patenaude, President of USM; and Olympia Snowe, US Senator.

Numerous organizations throughout Maine have also endorsed this important even. They include: Abenaki Girl Scout Council; Augusta Rape Crisis Center; Coastal Enterprises, Inc.; Collins For Senator; Department of Transportation; Faircloth for US Senate; Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center; Maine AIDs Alliance; Maine Center for Economic Policy; Maine Centers for Women Work and Community; Maine Chamber & Business Alliance; Maine Coalition for Food Security; Maine Equal Justice Project; Maine Initiatives: A Fund for Change; Maine Green Party; Maine NOW; Maine Tradeswomen Network; Maine Women's Fund; Mary Taylor Middle School; McCormick for Congress; 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women; Office of Child Care and Head Start; Outward Bound; SAD #53; Tom Allen for Congress; University of Maine at Farmington, Women's Studies; University of Maine at Orono, Women's Resource Center; University of Maine at Orono, The Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program; University of Southern Maine, Women's Center; Women's Development Institute/ Maine Women's Lobby; Women Unlimited; Women's Worth Career Counseling; Youth Alternatives; Youthbuild Portland.

Everyone involved in this important project deserves our recognition and support. Thanks for making a difference in the lives of Maine's girls!

WANTED:

Maine Women's Lobby Members
to serve on the Board!

If you are interested please send your
resume to the office!

Rebecca E. Pease

Decorative Artist

- Trompe L'Oeil
- Faux Finishes
- Stencil Design
- Painted Furniture

Petition To:

The President of the United States and the Members of the United States Congress to appropriate \$2.6 billion for Breast Cancer Research

There are 2.6 million women living with breast cancer in this country today.

This year 182,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 46,000 - one every 12 minutes - will die this year as a result of the disease.

We do not know how to prevent breast cancer or how to cure it.

Medical treatment for breast cancer costs this nation \$6 billion annually.

This does not include the cost associated with lost lives, lost productivity, and the devastation to families.

Through this petition we join with the National Breast Cancer Coalition and call on the President of the United States and the Members of Congress to recommit to eradicating breast cancer by investing \$2.6 billion in breast cancer research between now and the year 2000 and mandating that breast cancer activists are among those who decide how that money is spent.

Women's lives depend on it!

**Copy and distribute the petition below
Sign on by calling the 800 petition line 1-800-622 2838
Publish the 1-800 number and spread the word**



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SIGNATURE _____

Why You Care

- Survivor
- Spouse or Partner
- Daughter, Son Parent,
- Grandparent
- Friend, Co-worker
- A person concerned about this epidemic

Return to: NBCC, 1707 L St., NW,
Suite 1060, Washington, DC 20036

ADD YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGE HERE:



IT TOOK WOMEN SEVENTY-TWO YEARS TO GET THE VOTE: LET'S MAKE SURE WE USE IT!

After a hard-fought struggle of over 70 years, women throughout the United States won the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified on August 26, 1920.

On November 8, 1994, less than half of American women voted, with the lowest rate of registration and voting among women in their reproductive years. Over 35 million women between the ages of 18 and 44 sat the election out, an election that proved to be devastating to their reproductive rights.

**MWL BOARD
Executive Committee**

Chair: Pierrette Lambert Kelly, Rome
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Eileen Fingerman, Oakland
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Sandy Butler, Bangor
Jan Conley, Portland
Wendy Betts, Portland

**Women's Issues Leadership Council
(WILC)**

Karen Hobson, Lewiston

Public Relations

Martha Sterling-Golden, Brunswick



**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

- \$125 Supporter
- \$ 60 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

Expiration Date _____

I would like to pay in installments. _____

My contribution is \$ _____

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Address _____ Town _____ County _____ Zip _____

enate 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
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Dec 1, 1996
Ann Schonberger
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Bangor, ME 04401