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Equality News (Winter 2004-2005)

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Equality Maine

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Equality News

Advocacy for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Communities since 1984

PO Box 1951, Portland, ME 04104 • 207-761-3732 • fax 207-828-8620 • mlgpa@mlgpa.org • www.equalitymaine.org

Equality Maine

WINTER
2004-2005

Upset by election
results?

Then Get
Involved!

See inside pages
for plenty of
information on
how to make a
difference.

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Elections Reveal Level of LGBT Support

Marriage equality took a beating on November 2nd, but we remain optimistic about the future of LGBT issues here in Maine. That's because of the quantity and quality of pro-LGBT candidates who were elected to the Maine legislature.

In the Senate where the Democrats were predicted to lose the majority, they held on by just one vote—the same margin they held during the last session. Having the Democrats in the majority means having a party platform that explicitly supports equality for LGBT people. In addition, the Democrats elected Beth Edmonds (D-Freeport) as Senate president for the next two years. Not only is Beth an Equality Maine endorsed candidate and one of our strongest allies in Augusta, but she is also former chair of the progressive coalition Dirigo Alliance.

It takes 18 votes to pass a bill in the Senate. Sixteen Equality Maine endorsed candidates were elected and three additional senators voted for the domestic partner inheritance rights bill earlier this year. This is no reason to assume that the Senate would pass a pro-LGBT bill, but it does give us hope that there are fair-minded individuals in the Senate who will support our issues.

Here's how Equality Maine endorsed candidates fared in the Senate:

Bold = Incumbent		D = Democrat	R = Republican	G = Green Party
	District #			
WON	4	D		NANCY SULLIVAN, BIDDEFORD
WON	6	D		PHILIP BARTLETT II, GORHAM
WON	7	D		LYNN BROMLEY, SOUTH PORTLAND
WON	8	D		ETHAN STRIMLING, PORTLAND
WON	9	D		MICHAEL BRENNAN, PORTLAND
WON	10	D		BETHEDA EDMONDS, FREEPORT
WON	11	R		KARL TURNER, CUMBERLAND
WON	12	D		G. WILLIAM DIAMOND, WINDHAM
LOST	15	D		NERIA DOUGLASS, AUBURN
WON	16	D		MARGARET ROTUNDO, LEWISTON
WON	17	D		JOHN NUTTING, LEEDS
WON	19	R		ARTHUR MAYO III, BATH
LOST	20	D		CHRISTOPHER HALL, BRISTOL
WON	21	D		SCOTT COWGER, HALLOWELL
WON	24	D		ELIZABETH MITCHELL, VASSALBORO
WON	25	D		KENNETH GAGNON, WATERVILLE
LOST	26	D		PAMELA HATCH, SKOWHEGAN
WON	30	D		ELIZABETH SCHNEIDER, ORONO
LOST	31	D		EARL SHERWOOD, BREWER
WON	32	D		JOSEPH CHARLES PERRY, BANGOR
LOST	33	D		JANE CRONK, HAMPDEN
LOST	34	D		EDWARD POWELL BUCKLEY, PRESQUE ISLE

Senator Dennis Damon (who won reelection), Rep. Peter Mills (who defeated Senator Pamela Hatch in District 26), and Rep. Richard Rosen (who defeated Earl

Continued on page 13

Equality Maine

Acting in support of people of diverse orientation and gender identity through education, legislation and collaboration in Maine.

Board of Directors

Rodney Mondor
President

Barb Wood
Vice-President

Matthew Dubois
Secretary

Shannon Banks

Dan Crewe

John Hennessy

Joanne Mattiace

Susan Pate

Victoria Zavasnik

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Darlene Huntress
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New Board Members Bring Experience and Expertise

Newly elected board members bring outstanding qualities to the Board of Directors of Equality Maine. Five board members are in the middle of their 2-year term while four more members were elected this fall.

We are very excited about this year's board members, who bring extensive experience in fundraising, strategic planning, political campaigns, legal issues, and general board knowledge. Newly elected board members, serving a 2-year term, include:

- Shannon Banks**, Brunswick Vice-president, Medical Affairs at CMMC, Adjunct Professor in management and strategy courses.
- Dan Crewe**, Cumberland Business entrepreneur, founder of the Jesse B-C Fund, a foundation that raises funds for cancer research.
- Matthew Dubois**, Scarborough Attorney-at-law and partner at Vogel and Dubois, specializing in elder law and LGBT long-term planning.
- Victoria Zavasnik**, Portland Private practice counselor and founder of the Rainbow Business and Professional Association.

Board members in the middle of their 2-year term include:

- John Hennessy**, Portland Works for progressive lobbying firm Moose Ridge Associates. Recently was field director for the Kerry/Edwards campaign in Maine.
- Joanne Mattiace**, Westbrook Lawyer and realtor for Reali Realty in Portland, and lobbyist for several Washington DC-based firms.
- Rodney Mondor**, Portland Board member for four years. Coordinator, Professional Life Development at USM, & Corporate Partners.
- Susan Pate**, Windham Research analyst at Muskie Institute of Public Policy. Serves as field supervisor to Equality Maine's 20-hour-per-week social work intern.
- Barb Wood**, Portland Founding member of Equality Maine, first openly lesbian elected official in Maine, manager at LL Beans.

Congratulations to newly elected officers, who bring years of experience and leadership to their positions:

Rodney Mondor, President
Barb Wood, Vice-President
Matthew Dubois, Secretary

Equality Maine is still looking for a treasurer with at least a year's experience in non-profit accounting. Please pass this on to anyone you know who may be interested. For more information, please contact us at: info@equalitymaine.org or 761-3732. •

Social Work Intern Joins Equality Maine

We are delighted that Kim Berry has joined Equality Maine for a year-long internship as part of her Masters of social work program at USM. She works 20 hours a week with a primary focus on voter identification, but with an increased focus on legislative work during her 2nd semester. We enjoy the academic perspective that Kim brings to our work.

Kim's decision to enter a Master of social work program in her late 40's came from several life experiences. In high school in the 1970's, her brother was "outed" by his best friend. At the time she didn't understand the gravity of what was occurring, only that it was treated like a tragedy when it should have been a celebration.

As a freshman in college in Boston, she once saw a man eating out of a trash can. It had

Continued on page 11

Voter Identification More Crucial than Ever

With the results of the election's discriminatory ballot measures on marriage, it is clear that ramping up our voter identification efforts over the winter is even more critical than we realized. Across the country, 11 states overwhelmingly passed ballot measures to amend their state constitutions to permanently ban marriage for LGBT people.

Not a single state was able to defeat these measures—not even Oregon, who owns the record for defeating the most number of statewide anti-gay referenda. Certainly the religious right feels that the momentum gained from these defeats will be enough to stop further advances for LGBT equality. Michael Heath of the Christian Civic League went so far to say that he felt “emboldened” by the election results and that he would fight, without hesitation, any attempt at LGBT legislation. (Not a surprise).

We know that our journey for equality for Maine's LGBT community will continue to be difficult, but we remain undaunted in our efforts. The Equality Knocks voter identification project will forge ahead in identifying supportive voters and in training volunteers across the state to organize their communities to do this necessary work.

While election day results were alarming, there was good news for our community here in Maine. On election day, more than 50 Equality Knocks volunteers spent 4-hour shifts at polling places in South Portland, Scarborough, Kennebunk, Brunswick, Bangor and Augusta, asking voters how they would vote on civil rights and marriage. The results were encouraging—a majority of the voters we spoke with overwhelmingly support a statewide civil rights bill and even marriage equality was met with solid support.

Our original goal for election day was to talk with 5,000 voters. What we didn't anticipate was how the new “early voting” law would affect the number of people vot-



Sue Deliberto (right) speaks with a supportive voter on election day. In total, Equality Maine volunteers spoke with 2,000 voters on November 2nd.

ing on election day. In South Portland alone, 44 percent of all voters voted before election day. Based on our experience, it appears that an additional 30 percent voted in the morning, leaving just 26 percent of all voters coming to the polls scattered throughout the day. Given that we expected a majority of voters to vote between 5:00 and 8:00 pm, we did not reach our goal.

However, we did speak to nearly 2,000 voters. Of those voters, 83 percent support a civil rights bill and just over 50 percent support civil marriage for LGBT people. It should be noted that we were at polling places in generally progressive cities and towns and that to account for the rest of the state, we would need upwards of 90 percent support from voters here. Nevertheless, the support was encouraging.

To date, we have spoken to 5,467 voters in Maine.

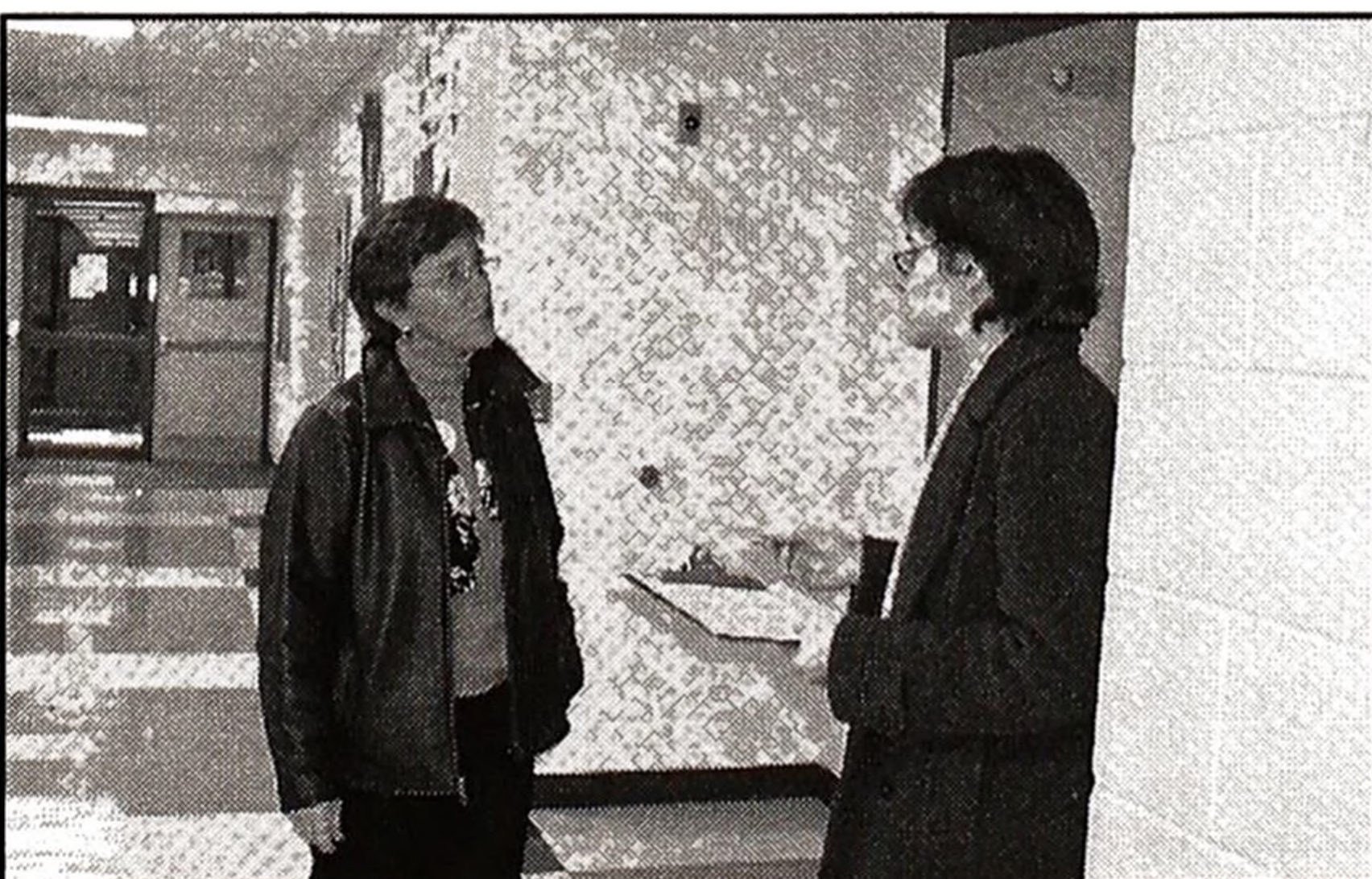
On **civil rights**, we've identified 4,949 supportive voters:

845	1's (actively support)
4,104	2's (will vote in our favor)
165	3's (undecided)
335	4's (will vote against us)
18	5's (actively oppose)

On **marriage**, we've identified 4,297 supportive voters:

808	1's (actively support)
3,489	2's (will vote in our favor)
453	3's (undecided)
647	4's (will vote against us)
41	5's (actively oppose)

With election day behind us and cold weather ahead of us, the Equality Knocks Project will focus on building and expanding community teams, and talking with voters through phone banking and indoor events throughout the winter. To volunteer, contact Darlene Huntress at 761-0110, or email her at dhuntress@equalitymaine.org. •



Volunteer Chelsea Cook (right) talks with a voter on election day at the Community Center in South Portland. Chelsea, who grew up outside of Maine with her two Moms, is a student at USM.

Legislature to Cast Important Votes on LGBT Equality

Given election day results to legalize discrimination in marriage laws in 11 states, Equality Maine is more determined than ever to defeat the upcoming attempt to amend our own constitution. No thanks to Rep. Brian Duprey, a conservative anti-gay representative from Hampden, the Maine legislature will be forced to debate whether Maine should also amend its constitution to forever deny the right to marry to LGBT people.

In many ways we are much more fortunate than the 11 states who were dealt such a blow in November. For one thing, in a majority of the states, a constitutional amendment does not need prior legislative approval before being put directly on the ballot. In Maine, not only must a proposed constitutional amendment go to the legislature for debate and a vote, but it must pass both chambers by a 2/3 majority.

Second, if it does pass the legislature and go to voters in November 2005, Equality Maine will have conducted voter identification for nearly 18 months by then. What we've learned about LGBT campaigns across the country is that voter identification is a crucial element to a successful campaign. None of the 11 states had more than six months—some had only four—to run a statewide campaign, never mind run effective face-to-face voter identification.

Where we lag behind is in running *aggressive* voter identification. Many more volunteers are needed to identify supportive voters across the state, or otherwise our efforts won't be enough to win the next campaign. See page 3 for more information on our voter ID project.

In another legislative effort, we will use legislation on repealing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), introduced by Senator Ethan Strimling (D-Portland), to begin educating legislators about the need for marriage equality. Admittedly, the progress toward marriage equality may have been slowed on November 2nd, but that's no reason to not educate our elected officials about why equality is vitally important for Maine families. The chance of actually repealing DOMA is small, but the legislation provides our first-ever opportunity to talk proactively with Maine legislators about marriage equality.

Our final legislative effort will be to pass anti-discrimination legislation introduced by Governor Baldacci. We are thrilled that the 28-year-old anti-discrimination bill for LGBT people, first introduced in 1977, will be a priority for the governor. Governor Baldacci has a long history of supporting LGBT issues—from being an early sponsor of the bill as a state senator to signing the domestic partner inheritance rights bill as governor last session—and he is especially concerned that Maine still allows discrimination against LGBT people in employment and housing. Maine is the only state in New England where discrimination against LGBT people is still legal and we believe Governor Baldacci wants a major hand in changing that, once and for all.

As with the marriage amendment, if the anti-discrimination bill passes and Michael Heath and the Christian Civic League force it to a People's Veto, Equality Maine will be prepared with an 18-month effort of identifying voters.

We are proud to be working with a group of LGBT leaders who have committed to raising several thousand dollars to hire additional lobbyists for this aggressive legislative agenda. These leaders, made up of individuals from GLAD, MCLU, Equality Maine, and the former Maine Won't Discriminate, have been working together since the spring to ensure that we are fully prepared to defeat a constitutional amendment on marriage and to pass an anti-discrimination bill—and perhaps most important, that we are ready to swing into campaign mode should either of these issues head to the polls.

Equality Maine will host several citizen lobby days at the State House and we encourage all of you to take some time to help us pass/defeat these bills. Lobbying can also take the form of writing letters and emails and making phone calls, so even if you cannot participate at the State House on designated lobby days, your other lobbying efforts will pay off greatly.

Please volunteer. We need you!

To volunteer, please contact us at: info@equality-maine.org or 761-3732. •

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LGBT Ballot Measure Results Not All Bad

There's hardly an LGBT person across the country who didn't feel sick about the discriminatory ballot measures that passed in 11 states on election day. Well, here's a perspective that should offer some level of comfort.

Marriage equality rose to the national scene just 12 short months ago when the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court made its historic ruling. Although prior to that, Vermont stopped short of extending marriage rights by offering civil unions in 2000 and Hawaii toyed with marriage equality in the mid-1990's before voters amended the state's constitution, the general public became aware of marriage equality because of the Massachusetts ruling. So on average, the voting public in the 11 states that voted on constitutional amendments on election day became aware of the issue of marriage equality for LGBT people about 12 months ago.

After the Massachusetts ruling in November 2003, it took up to six months before LGBT activists—and thus the voting public—knew that a constitutional amendment on marriage was being put out to vote in their state. That left only six months or fewer to wage a campaign on an issue that came onto the voting public's radar screen just months before.

As we know from experience here in Maine, campaigns are not good opportunities to educate the public about an issue. Campaigns are reduced to sound bytes, simple messages, TV ads, lawn signs, and as big a Get-Out-The-Vote effort as possible.

LGBT campaigns had only 4-6 months to influence voters on why they should not amend their state's constitution to forever deny marriage equality to LGBT people. That's a tall order when the issue had only recently come onto the radar screen. At the same time, voters were being hammered with sound bytes claiming that LGBT people would ruin the institution of marriage, destroy the fabric

of society and would next push for laws that allow people to marry animals.

Compared to the long and informative presidential campaign, virtually no real education on marriage took place prior to November. So the fact that nearly half (43%) of voters in Oregon said "No thank you" speaks volumes about how fair-minded voters can be on this issue. Michigan came nearly as close, with 41 percent of voters saying no to amending the constitution.

In the red states of Utah and Montana, where Kerry received an average of 33 percent of the vote, 35 percent of voters said no to amending the constitution. In the (barely) red state of Ohio, where Kerry and Bush hammered away for months on their various issues but where hardly any real education on marriage equality took place, 38 percent of voters said no to amending the constitution. And in the red states of Arkansas, Kentucky, Georgia, Oklahoma and North Dakota, where Kerry received an average of 39 percent of the votes, a quarter of all voters on election day said no to amending the constitution.

The only state with fewer than a quarter of the votes was Mississippi, where 14 percent of voters said no.

With virtually no education, we received between a quarter and almost half of all votes on election day. Imagine how we might fare in several years when we've had time to educate voters about marriage equality.

On an even brighter note Cincinnati, Ohio repealed from its city charter—by a vote of 78% to 22%—one of the most discriminatory measures in the country. The measure prevented LGBT people from ever being protected from discrimination and was the only one of its kind in the nation. •



Equality Maine volunteer Mike Miles (left), known for his role in upholding Westbrook's human rights ordinance in 2002, talks with a voter on election day about civil rights and marriage.

ga·la

n. 1 A festive occasion, especially a lavish social event.
[from Old French *gale*, rejoicing, from *galer*, to make merry]

2. Gays and Lesbians Adopting, a support group and resource exchange for LGBT foster and adoptive families in Maine.

Interested in connecting with other LGBT families?

Need support navigating the foster and adoptive system in Maine?

Willing to open your home and your heart to an L,G,B,T or questioning young person?

GALA hosts monthly family-friendly events in Southern and Central Maine. In 2005, we hope to add adult support groups and to grow in advocacy for LGBT foster youth and outreach to prospective foster and adoptive parents.

For more information and to be informed of upcoming events, email mainegala@hotmail.com or call 207.773.3023.

Equality Maine & Equality Maine Foundation Annual Report

Legislative Advocacy

This year was exciting and successful, although it wasn't without its ups and downs. Equality Maine drafted legislation to provide inheritance and disposition-of-remains rights for surviving domestic partners. Rep. Ben Dudley (D-Portland) was the primary sponsor and an outstanding advocate for this legislation.

The bill contained four major provisions: inheritance rights and the right to make funeral and burial arrangements for surviving domestic partners, domestic abuse victim compensation, and guardian/conservator rights when a domestic partner is incapacitated.

Before the bill went to the floor for debate, the Judiciary Committee stripped it of one of its most important features—a statewide domestic partner registry. The registry was critical because it showed intent to be in a partnership while both partners were still alive. Concerns on the committee were that the registry was too much like marriage and that the bill wouldn't pass with it in.

Ironically, not having a registry caused as many problems as having it. Without a registry, legislators worried about “unintended consequences”—people stepping forward after one's death, claiming they were the partner and should inherit the deceased's belongings.

The bill fared well in the House but the rising concerns about unintended consequences became a deal breaker in the Senate. We took the risk of putting the registry back in, knowing that it was the only definitive answer to the argument of unintended consequences.

Fortunately our decision paid off, as both the House and Senate passed the bill by comfortable margins. The governor signed the bill into law on April 28 and Maine opened its doors to the first legal domestic partners on July 30, 2004.

Maine is only the 6th state in the country to recognize, and extend benefits to, LGBT couples on a statewide level. The other five are Massachusetts (marriage), Vermont (civil unions), California (a civil unions-type law), and Hawaii and Maryland (domestic partnerships). Maine is the only state to pass relationship recognition without first having individual protections through a statewide anti-discrimination law.

Equality Knocks

In March 2004, Equality Maine kicked off a two-year project to build political power in Maine's LGBT and allied communities. By identifying 50,000 pro-LGBT voters through one-on-one, face-to-face conversations with voters across the state, we aim to develop a permanent base of support for LGBT equality in Maine.

Maine is the only state in New England without a state law banning discrimination against LGBT people and we lost two of three statewide referenda on equal rights. With support from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Maine Initiatives and other coalition partners, Equality Maine is training volunteers to carry out an aggressive statewide voter identification program that will help guarantee our ability to secure equal rights for LGBT people.

In 2004, LGBT communities across the country saw unprecedented attacks on equality. Eleven states passed constitutional amendments on marriage on election day. As the state that is second only to Oregon in facing anti-LGBT ballot measures, Maine has been identified as one of the states most in danger of facing an anti-gay marriage referenda in 2005.

Our task at the Equality Knocks Project is to build political power so that we can routinely win legislative and referenda cam-

paigns. If we can win the next referendum campaign decisively, it will make using referenda a much less desirable tool for our opponents. Our best chance to win decisively is to begin identifying supportive voters early, long before we're in a campaign.

As of December 2004, we have spoken with 5,467 voters and have identified 4,949 supportive voters for civil rights and 4,297 supportive voters for marriage.

Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarship Fund

Each year Equality Maine Foundation awards two scholarships to college-bound Maine high school seniors as part of its education and leadership development efforts. The recipients are chosen based on their written essays addressing the question:

How can schools be made safer for all students regardless of their sexual orientation or gender expression?

We receive dozens of student essays each year, many of which bear witness to the existence of harassment and discrimination in our schools. The good news is that there are students who speak out when confronted with such conduct. The Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarship program provides a forum for those students to share their personal stories of crisis and courage and recognizes these young champions of civil rights in a very tangible way.

Equality Maine Foundation's scholarship program also lends visibility to our community. We make it a point to attend our scholarship recipients' awards ceremonies at their high schools, and we often are able to present our awards in person right alongside more traditional high school service organizations such as the Sports Boosters, Lions Club and D.A.R.

The award is named after the late State Senator Joel Abromson, a Republican from Portland who lost his battle with cancer in early 2002. Joel was a champion for civil rights legislation, twice sponsoring bills that would outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Our 2004 Joel Abromson Scholarship award recipients were Linda Fecteau from Poland Regional High School and Jessica Gagne from Erskine Academy. Their essays can be found on our website at: www.equalitymaine.org, under Scholarships.

Volunteers

As an organization with limited resources but high expectations and ambitious goals, Equality Maine relies immensely on its volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and we could not accomplish what we do without their time, talent, commitment, and belief in equality for the LGBT community. Our deepest gratitude goes to the volunteers listed below, who gave so generously of their time over the past year.

Catherine Abbondanza	Connie Bergen	Frank Brooks
Maggie Allen	Kim Berry	Patti Buck
Shlomit Avoiello	Beth Bidlack	Mary Beth Burch
Theo Balcomb	James Bishop	Cecelia Burnett
Sharon Balzer	Mary Bonauto	Amanda Burns
Shannon Banks & LK Gagnon	Harold Booth	Jen Calder
Dave Barnard	Sarah Bostick	Peter Callnan
Steven Barns	Kathleen Boulanger	Bree Candland
Steph Barrett	Jeanie Bourke	Kelly Cannon
Kate Batchelder	Heather Bradstreet	Bill Carlin
Gretchen Bates	Lauren Breault	Jean Carmody
Lucie Bauer	Maury Breton	Jim Carroll
Melissa Bergen	Timothy Brilliant	Maria Chambers
	Michelle Brodsky	Prilla Coffin

Equality Maine & Equality Maine Foundation Annual Report

Volunteers (con't)

Amy Coha	Jenni Hebert	Jackie Parker
Clara Cohan	John Hennessy	Betsy Parsons
Michelle Colbert	Heather Hewitt	Susan Pate
Peter Collins	Mark Holt	Janet Paul
Kimm Collins	Elmer Howard	Pat Peard
Susan Comyns	Darlene Huntress	Donna Pepin
Linda Conti	Michelle Hustus	Elaine Peresluha
Chelsea Cook	Dee Hutchins	Jessamyn Perkins
Dan Crewe	Heather Hwalek	Cody Perkins
Megan Cundy	Joanne Jacobus	Heather Perkinson
Jennifer Curran	David Jefferson	Antoinette Pezet
Shawna Curtis	Chris Kast	Elaine Piccini
Ralph Cusack	Brian Kaufman	Melinda Plastas
Matt Daigle	David Keith	Sharon Poole
Julia Davidson	Annie Kiermeir	Geoff Pritchard
Penny Davis-Dublin	Rob King	Doris Purington
Michael DeAngelis	Elizabeth Kinney	Kate Quin-Easter
Jennifer DeChant	Bryon Knicely	Amanda Ramirez
Sue Deliberto	Robin Lambert	Eva-Laura Ramirez
Sarah Demarest	Sarah Laube	David Rappoport
Victoria Dickinson	Dan Lavasseur	Robin Rasala
Mark Dils	Beth Lawrence	Lauralee Raymond
Paul Drinan	Gary LeBrun	Laura Rendell
Matt DuBois	Mary At Lessard	Retro Rover
Michelle Dumont	Diana Lewis	Sammie Robertson
Rebecca Economos	Rob Lincoln	Dora Rosen
John Eder	Jane Lincoln	Rachael Rossignol
Sara Jane Elliot	Tom Little	Rena Rossignol
Marcia Ellis	Sandy Lovell	Catherine Ruby
Genevieve Ellison	Alan Lovell	Steve Ryan
Jim Estes	Kelly Lowell	James Sabatino
Carrie Evans	Katie Majcher	Allison Sanchez
Susan Farnsworth	Mary Malia	Holly Sawyer
Stephen Farrand	Stacy Malonson	Diane Sherman
Willow Femmechild	Joanne Mattiace	Chris Shuping
Butch Fenton	Pam McCann	Matthew Small
Ella Field	Wade McClay	Eric Smith
Nancy Field	Jan McClintock	Bob Smutny
Steve Fisk	Julia McDonald	Howard Solomon
Mark Fitzgerald	Lucinda McGinn	Sarah St. Pierre
Trish Friant	Sandra McHale	Joe Stackpole
Bill Funk	Chris McKillop	Alex Steed
Karen Geraghty	Dottie Melanson	Jenson Steel
Francisco Geurra	Mindy Metcalf	Cindy Stewart
Jamie Gibson	Deena Metzler	Jean Stickney
Marilyn Gigluicci	Marci Michaud	Marsha Stultz
Jane Gilbert	Michelle Michaud	Betsy Sweet
Kevin Gilgan	Mike Miles	Martin Swinger
Joe Giordano	Dr. Dora Mills	Victoria Symonds
Larry Godfrey	Rodney Mondor	Jim Theberge
Kate Goldfield	Deborah Morin	Carolyn Thomas
Laura Gottfried	Jesse Morin	Michael Thorne
Lori Gramlich	Lisa Morris	Tamara Torres
John Greene	Teague Morris	Traci Towe
Lisa Guerette	Terry Morrison	Christopher Warner
Chris Gunderman	Julie Motherwell	Heather Wellman
Jess Gurganus	Kelley Niles	Maryline White
Marty Hagglund	Niki Norman	Mary Beth Williams
Gina Hamilton	Robert O'Brien	Lynne Williams
Carol Hammond & Ed Lutjens	Colleen O'Connell	Allen Winchenbach
Denise Harlow	Marcie Oechsle	Dan Wolfe
Laura Harper	Jackie Olveri	Rose Wood
Dick Harrison	Kaylyn Palella	Barb Wood
Corey Hascall	Tyler Palmer	Victoria Zavasnik
Arthur Hayward, Jr.	Martha Palmer	
	Lynne Panico	

Annual Financial Report Fiscal Year October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004

Equality Maine Foundation

<u>Income</u>	Amount	Percent
Donations	\$ 15,821	13.2%
Event Revenue	\$ 21,543	18.0%
Grants	\$ 75,853	63.2%
Other Revenue	\$ 6,772	5.6%
Total income	\$119,989	100%
 <u>Expenses</u>		
Program	\$ 69,589	58.0%
Operating	\$ 21,382	17.8%
Development	\$ 18,955	15.8%
Debt repayment	\$ 10,063	8.4%
Total expenses	\$119,989	100%
 Net Income	 \$ 0	

Equality Maine

<u>Income</u>	Amount	Percent
Donations	\$21,061	54.4%
Event Revenue	\$12,825	33.1%
Grants	\$ 3,500	9.0%
Other Revenue	\$ 1,362	3.5%
Total income	\$38,749	100%
 <u>Expenses</u>		
Program	\$27,948	77.1%
Operating	\$ 4,234	11.7%
Development	\$ 4,055	11.2%
Total expenses	\$36,239	100%
 Net Income	 \$ 2,510	

Equality Maine & Equality Maine Foundation extend our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, businesses and foundations whose donations during the last fiscal year (ended Sept. 30, 2004) and beyond have made our work possible.

Thanks for *your* investment in equality!

Linda Abromson
 Brenda Adler & Melody Main
 Deb Alford & Ruby Parker
 Lucille and Maurice Allaire
 Susan Allen & Richard Flanagan
 Douglas Allen
 Maggie Allen
 Peter Allen
 American Cancer Society
 Amore
 Glen Anderson
 Christopher Anthoine & Sven Davisson
 Kelly Arata
 Holly Arends
 Denise Arsenaault & Sherry Dunkin
 Peggy & Arthur Astarita
 Lucille Atwell
 Joan Atwood
 George Aud
 Catherine Azar & Jana Leal
 Ann Babbitt
 Rebecca Babbitt
 David Babin & Edward Goettel
 Rachael Bairstow
 Mark Baker & Darren Morgan
 Sharon Baker
 John and Georgia Bancroft
 Louisa Barnhart & Michael Klein
 Stephanie Barrett
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In addition to those who have contributed financial support, we thank our many volunteers who contribute time and talent to making equality a reality in Maine.

We couldn't do it without YOU!

Celebrate Maine's Leadership for Changing Times

Saturday, March 5, 2005

By Cecelia Burnett, Event Committee Chair

There's a saying that comes from a different era, from different troubled times—silence is complicity. Since I come from a culture based largely on guilt, this saying has stuck with me from the time I first heard it. I hid from this for a long time. Never admitted the possibility to myself. Never told people about my first girlfriend. Never came out in politics. That is, until I met my partner Ann, until I moved away from Iowa, and until we moved together to Maine. Until I needed to say, "Here I am. This is who I am, and who we are."

I believe we need to be visible to bring about positive change in our little corners of the world. So I made small steps—putting the rainbow sticker on my car, introducing Ann as my partner, and not hiding or pretending, not even from my ex-husband. I believe people need to see us and know that we live next door and work beside them. We are here, and this is what we look like.

Just before the election, I invited myself to get involved in Equality Maine. I now chair the planning committee for the annual awards banquet—and I invite you to join me on Saturday, March 5, 2005.

After last year's grand 20th anniversary, we are look-

ing forward to the 21st Annual Awards Banquet to continue to build momentum and chart the course for even greater accomplishments. In our initial brainstorming session this fall, the event planning committee asked ourselves: How do we speak to today's huge changes—gains and backlash—in a positive way? How do we identify and celebrate Maine's leaders who are promoting progress and visibility for our community? How do we look back at our past and look ahead to our future with hope and inspiration? How do we position Equality Maine as a leader for change?

We chose to call this year's banquet Leadership for Changing Times. We invite you to attend and enjoy the company of your friends and peers. Reunite with old friends. Take stock of what we've accomplished and what's ahead. Become inspired and motivated about the future. Gain a sense of unity with friends, old and new. Become a part of the statewide presence of Equality Maine. Be a part of the solution...and the hope.

To paraphrase Gandhi, you must become the change you want to see in the world. That's why I'm here, why I'm out, and why I'm working for Equality Maine. It's why I am inviting you to attend this year's banquet, and why I want you to get involved.

See you March 5. •

EQUALITY MAINE FOUNDATION

invites you to celebrate Maine's Leadership for Changing Times

21st ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, March 5, 2005

Holiday Inn By the Bay, Portland

 interpreter services available

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(formerly Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance)
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Remembrances

Equality Maine seeks your remembrances of those in our community who have passed away—people who have made an impact in our lives at any level. Who would you like to remember? What did they do that made a difference to you and/or our community? When were they born and when did they die?

Send your remembrances, along with your own contact information (name, address, email and phone number) to info@equalitymaine.org or mail to Equality Maine Remembers, PO Box 1951, Portland, ME 04104 by **January 25** for inclusion in the 21st Annual Awards Banquet program.

Equality Maine President Receives Prestigious Award

Newly elected Equality Maine president Rodney Mondor was recently awarded the Mary Rines Thompson Award for his lifetime work of service for the community. The Mary Rines Thompson Award is presented annually to an individual who epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism. Previous recipients include: Joseph Kreisler, Elaine Rosen, Maddy Corson, Louise Montgomery, Rosalynne Bernstein, Dan Reardon and Greg Bove.

Rodney has been the leader in a wide variety of projects around Portland, but some of his greatest contributions include his involvement with the Portland Community Thanksgiving Dinner, United Way Day of Caring, HIV/AIDS awareness and his work with Equality Maine.

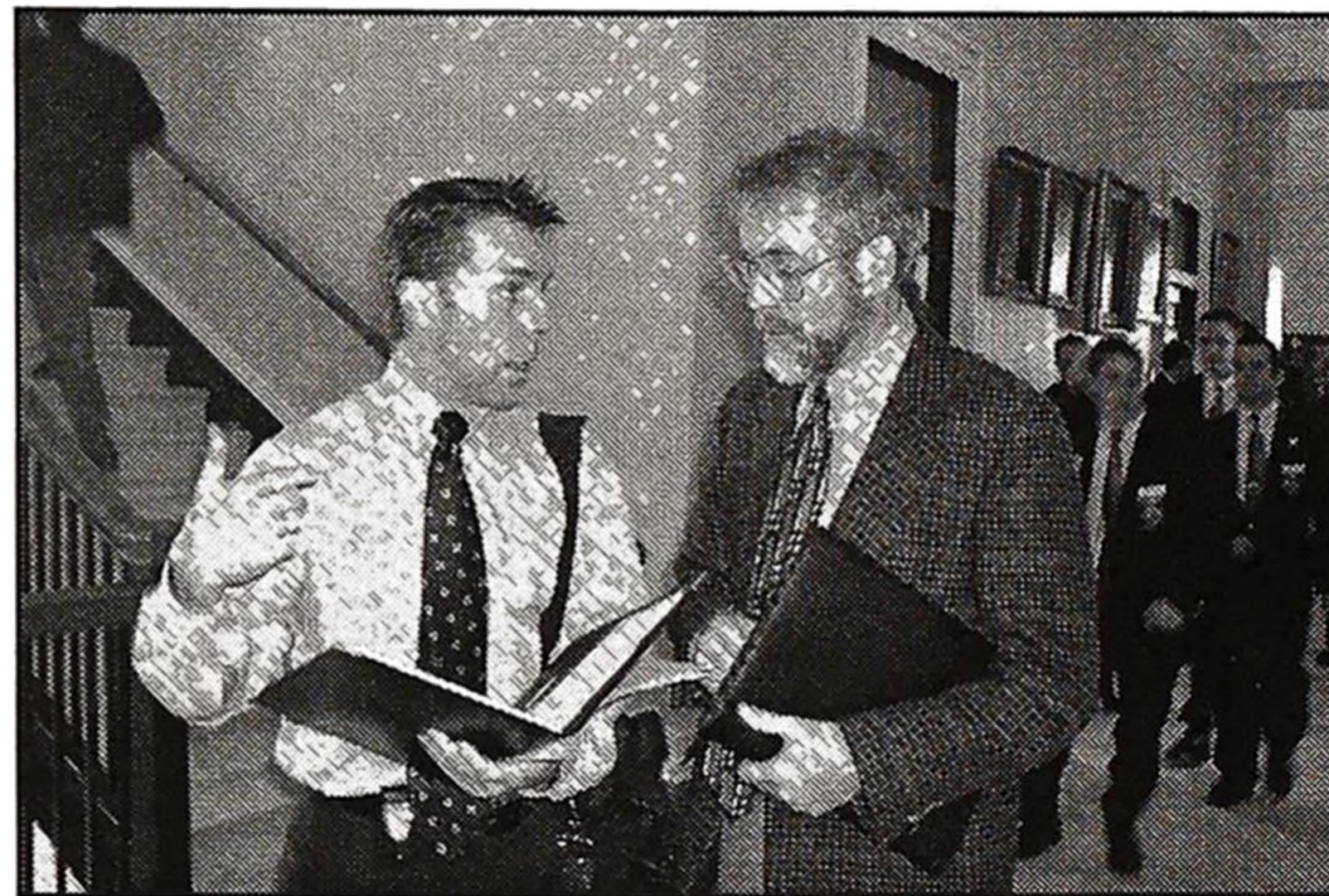
Rodney has been the energy and a key volunteer behind the Community Thanksgiving Dinner for ten years. For months before Thanksgiving, and especially on that festive day, Rodney is everywhere—training volunteers, stirring the vegetables and slicing the turkey. Rodney has also played a critical role in the Greater Portland United Way Day of Caring as the Steering Committee & Events Chair.

Rodney is deeply committed to HIV/AIDS awareness and activism. He has participated as a cyclist in the AIDS Ride and AIDS Vaccine Ride raising thousands of dollars for research. He has also been an active board member with Equality Maine for four years, working countless hours, coordinating the annual awards dinner and Great Pumpkin Ball, staffing tables at events, and lobbying in

Augusta for important legislation.

People who know Rodney speak of him as an inspiration, and that whatever he does, he does it well and has fun doing it. Those who work with him on a project cannot help but be upbeat as he keeps everyone working through the rain or the heat of a kitchen. However, he never loses sight on who is being helped by his service.

We are very pleased that Rodney has been elected Equality Maine president. •



Equality Maine president Rodney Mondor doing one of his many volunteer activities—lobbying Maine legislators. Rodney was one of several key players in the passage of the domestic partner bill last session.

Social Work Intern

Continued from page 2

a profound effect on her life. Working with a group that built an alliance with Native Americans, she experienced first hand how two cultures can learn from each other and respect differences. She learned how blind she was to her white privilege and how importance it is to be an ally.

Although Kim has never considered herself political, she sees the impact society has on an individual and is learning to understand it from a political perspective. To successfully effect social change, she feels we need to approach issues from both a political and grassroots angle.

Kim raised a son as a single gay parent. For 11 years she was very involved with her son's school, The School Around Us, where their values were supported. It was a parent cooperative holistic school that supported the child from every aspect of his being. The children formed a community where they worked and learned cooperatively and were given the opportunity to develop their own interests—no books, grades or other traditional school pinings. As a parent in this school, she learned how a committed group can work together to achieve common goals.

If you see Kim around this school year, please welcome her. •



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When you make or update your will, consider including Equality Maine Foundation in your planning.

We'll carry on your commitment to equality for years to come.

For more information on making a bequest or other planned gift to Equality Maine Foundation, contact Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 or quineast@equalitymaine.org.

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For more information or to reserve a space in the next newsletter, contact Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 or quineast@equalitymaine.org.

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Elections Reveal Level of LGBT Support in Legislature

Continued from page 1

Sherwood in District 31) all voted for the domestic partner inheritance rights bill earlier this year.

Although the Democrats held on to their majority in the House, they lost several seats, presumably resulting in diminished support for LGBT equality. The best news to come out of this chamber is that Majority Leader John Richardson, one of our strongest allies in the House of Representatives, was elected to Speaker of the House and Glenn Cummings, also a staunch supporter of LGBT rights, was elected Majority Leader. Equality Maine has endorsed John Richardson in every campaign and as Majority Leader last session, he was an outspoken advocate for the domestic partner bill.

It takes 76 votes to pass a bill in the House. Fifty-one Equality Maine endorsed candidates were elected. Although they did not seek our endorsement, seven additional representatives who voted for the domestic partner inheritance rights bill asked to be listed as supporters and five additional representatives were strong supporters of the DP bill, leaving us with 63 representatives with good LGBT records. Although encouraging, this is not enough to pass a bill—we have a lot of work ahead of us!

Here's how Equality Maine endorsed candidates fared in the House:

Bold = Incumbent

D = Democrat R = Republican G = Green Party

District #			
WON	2	D	ROSS PARADIS JR., FRENCHVILLE
WON	3	D	WILLIAM SMITH, VAN BUREN
WON	5	D	JEREMY FISCHER, PRESQUE ISLE
LOST	12	D	BRADLEY SAUCIER, ENFIELD
WON	15	D	JACQUELINE NORTON, BANGOR
WON	16	D	PATRICIA BLANCHETTE, BANGOR
WON	17	D	SEAN FAIRCLOTH, BANGOR
WON	19	D	EMILY CAIN, ORONO
WON	21	D	CHARLES FISHER, BREWER
LOST	27	D	SHARON LIBBY JONES, GREENVILLE
LOST	28	D	JOSEPH SCOZZAFAVA, CORNVILLE

WON	35	D	THEODORE KOFFMAN, BAR HARBOR
WON	36	D	HANNAH PINGREE, NORTH HAVEN
WON	37	D	JAMES SCHATZ, BLUE HILL
LOST	38	D	DAN SHAW, ELLSWORTH
LOST	39	D	MARY POULIN, HAMPDEN
LOST	41	D	KENT PRICE, ORLAND
LOST	42	D	JOSEPH BROOKS, WINTERPORT
WON	44	D	BARBARA MERRILL, APPLETON
WON	45	D	JOHN PIOTTI, UNITY
LOST	47	G	LYNNE WILLIAMS, ROCKLAND
WON	48	D	MARY JUNE SMITH, ST. GEORGE
WON	52	D	ELIZABETH MILLER, SOMERVILLE
WON	53	D	PETER RINES, WISCASSET
WON	57	D	ARTHUR LERMAN, AUGUSTA
WON	62	D	THOMAS WATSON, BATH
WON	63	D	JOHN RICHARDSON, BRUNSWICK
WON	65	D	CAROL GROSE, WOOLWICH
WON	66	D	STANLEY GERZOFKY, BRUNSWICK
WON	67	D	DEBORAH HUTTON, BOWDOINHAM
WON	69	D	DEBORAH SIMPSON, AUBURN
WON	72	D	WILLIAM WALCOTT, LEWISTON
WON	73	D	LILLIAN LAFONTAINE O'BRIEN, LEWISTON
WON	74	D	MARGARET CRAVEN, LEWISTON
WON	76	D	MARILYN CANAVAN, WATERVILLE
WON	77	D	LISA MARRACHE, WATERVILLE
LOST	79	D	DAVID BUSTIN, HALLOWELL
WON	80	D	NANCY SMITH, MONMOUTH
WON	89	D	JANET MILLS, FARMINGTON
WON	92	D	JOHN PATRICK, RUMFORD
LOST	94	D	TERESE HAYES, BUCKFIELD
LOST	95	D	ROY GEDAT, NORWAY
LOST	97	D	MARLEE TURNER, BROWNFIELD
LOST	98	D	MARGARET REIMER, BRIDGTON
LOST	99	D	GORDON FULLER SR., DENMARK
LOST	105	D	GEOFFREY LEIGHTON, DURHAM
WON	106	D	DAVID WEBSTER, FREEPORT
LOST	108	D	JANE MORIARTY, CUMBERLAND
LOST	109	D	STEVEN BUNKER, GRAY
WON	110	D	MARK BRYANT, WINDHAM
LOST	111	D	JEREMY PERRON, WINDHAM

Continued on page 14

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Elections Reveal Level of LGBT Support in Legislature

Continued from page 13

LOST 112 G NATHAN BRIMMER, FALMOUTH
 WON 113 D JOHN BRAUTIGAM, FALMOUTH
 WON 114 D **BOYD MARLEY, PORTLAND**
 WON 115 D **GLENN CUMMINGS, PORTLAND**
 WON 116 D CHARLES HARLOW, PORTLAND
 WON 117 D **JOSEPH BRANNIGAN, PORTLAND**

DUAL ENDORSEMENT 118

WON G **JOHN M. EDER, PORTLAND**
 LOST D **EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC, PORTLAND**

WON 119 D **HERBERT ADAMS, PORTLAND**
 WON 120 D **BENJAMIN DUDLEY, PORTLAND**
 WON 122 D **LAWRENCE BLISS, SOUTH PORTLAND**
 WON 123 D JANE EBERLE, SOUTH PORTLAND
 LOST 124 D JASON CURRY, SOUTH PORTLAND
 WON 125 D **ROBERT DUPLESSIE, WESTBROOK**
 LOST 127 D DIANA VINES, SCARBOROUGH
 LOST 128 D HEIDI M. S. LEINONEN, SCARBOROUGH
 WON 129 D **CHRISTOPHER BARSTOW, GORHAM**
 WON 130 D DAVID FARRINGTON, GORHAM
 WON 135 D **JOANNE TWOMEY, BIDDEFORD**
 WON 137 D RICHARD RHAMES, BIDDEFORD
 LOST 138 D LACEY SLOAN, LIMERICK
 WON 139 D MICHAEL MCALEVEY, WATERBORO

DUAL ENDORSEMENT 141

WON D CHRIS W. BABBIDGE, KENNEBUNK
 LOST R JEFFERY E. MCCULLOH, KENNEBUNK

LOST 144 D SALLIE CHANDLER, LEBANON
 WON 146 R **RICHARD BROWN, SOUTH BERWICK**
 LOST 147 D SUSAN CALDER, WELLS
 LOST 149 D GLEN MACWILLIAMS, YORK

Representatives who did not seek our endorsement but who were strong supporters of the DP bill:

WON 46 R REP. STEPHEN BOWEN
 WON 64 D REP. LEILA PERCY
 WON 71 D REP. ELAINE MAKAS
 WON 79 R REP. EARLE MCCORMICK
 WON 151 D REP. WALTER WHEELER

Representatives who did not seek our endorsement but who voted for the DP bill and asked to be listed as supporters:

WON 1 D REP. TROY JACKSON, FORT KENT
 WON 25 R REP. JOSH TARDY, NEWPORT
 WON 31 D REP. ANNE PERRY, CALAIS
 LOST 51 D REP. WILLIAM EARLE, DAMARISCOTTA
 WON 55 D REP. JUDD THOMPSON, CHINA
 WON 70 D REP. RAY PINEAU, JAY
 WON 87 D REP. SONYA SAMPSON, AUBURN
 WON 107 U REP. DICK WOODBURY, YARMOUTH

We will need a consistent, effective lobbying effort from volunteers across the state this upcoming legislative session in order to pass the civil rights bill and defeat a constitutional amendment on marriage (see page 4 for more information on the upcoming legislative agenda).

Lobbying does not have to take place only in the State House—it can be done in letters, emails, and phone calls. So please volunteer your time in 2005 to help us make progress for LGBT people in Maine. For more information or to volunteer, please contact us at: info@equality-maine.org or 761-3732. •



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Trying to find the perfect gift for your partner, friend or colleague who has everything? In the spirit of the season, make a donation to Equality Maine Foundation in honor of that special someone.

In recognition of your gift to Equality Maine Foundation, we'll send an acknowledgment to you (great for end-of-year tax deductions) and a personalized letter to the recipient noting that a gift has been made in his or her honor.

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____ YES! A donation to Equality Maine Foundation is MUCH more exciting than wrapping another pair of socks or throwing out another fruitcake in February. Enclosed is my contribution of:

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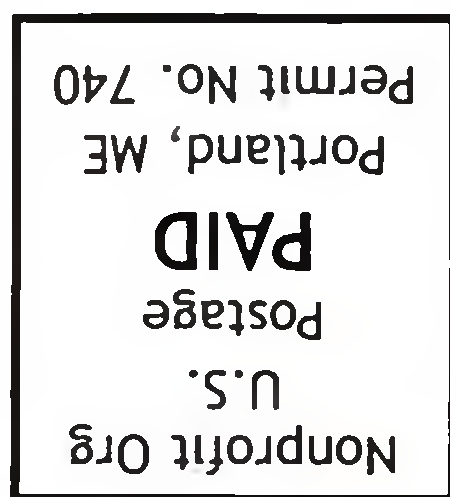
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Ann Schonberger
40 Garland St
Bangor, ME 04401-5224

Tel: 207-761-3732
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Equality Maine Foundation
1 Pleasant Street, 4th floor
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Sunday, January 30, 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.

(snow date Sunday, February 6)

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RSVP to Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 or email quineast@equalitymaine.org.
For directions or more details, contact Bob or Larry at Clewley Farm at (207) 843-7446.