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Inform - A Quarterly Newsletter for Maine Women (Summer 1991)

The Maine Commission for Women Staff

The Maine Commission for Women

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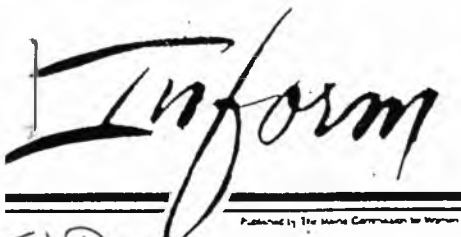
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SUMMER 1991

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1991 PROGRESS AWARDS

In our Spring issue of Inform we included a nomination form for the 1991 Progress Awards. We have received several nominations, but are again including the nomination form to solicit further recommendations. The award ceremony this year will be held in September. Therefore, nominations can be received in this office until August 30th. If you have an individual, an organization, or an employer whom you believe has done an outstanding job of improving the lives of women and girls, please send us your nomination.

One very important point is that in addition to the nomination form we need supporting documentation. We need to know why this nomination is deserving of a reward. We request that you send a concise statement, 250 words approximately, explaining your reasons for sending in the nomination. Further supporting documentation such as resumes, media articles, etc. are also very helpful. When you send in your nomination please include the name, address, and phone number of the nominator. If the nominator is an organization or group, please include the name of a contact person. Without this information the nominations may be declared invalid..

NOMINATION FORM
1991 PROGRESS AWARDS
MAINE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Please complete one:

Individual nominee:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

Group or Organization:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact person: _____

Telephone: (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

Employer:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact person: _____

Telephone: (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

Please mail to:

Maine Commission for Women
State House Station 93
Augusta, ME 04333

Please type or print nomination. Feel free to attach supporting documents, including letters of recommendation, resume, previous honors, etc. Be sure to include your own name and address as nominator.



In our Spring issue we indicated that the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues could provide periodic federal legislative updates. The Congressional Caucus has informed us that there are no longer funds for general mailing. The MCW regrets any inconvenience this may have caused our readers or the Congressional Caucus.

We appreciate that so many of our readers took the time and effort to complete the "State of the State" survey found in the last issue. Your responses were compiled into "Women Talk" and made available to every legislator. If you'd like the results or other details, call the staff at 289-3417.

GENDER IMPACT - A Proposed Model

In response to a held bill, L.D. 1630, An Act to Require Gender Impact Analysis as Part of All Audit and Program Reviews, the Commission has begun to develop a model in which to review all State agencies and programs in relationship to women. With a grant given by the Maine Humanities Council, several brainstorming, planning sessions have occurred with Humanities scholars from USM, Bowdoin, Colby, and UMO. We will continue our development phase throughout the summer and hope to enlist the expertise of the Margaret Chase Smith Center at UMO for the final touches.

This project has generated nationwide interest since there is no such comprehensive gender analysis protocol currently in existence. As progress continues we will update you and apprise you of the status of the bill next session.

REGIONAL COMMISSION REPORTS

Northern Regional Commission

Martha Grant reported that there have been no activities during the summer.

A planning meeting is scheduled tentatively for September 18.

Southern Regional Commission

The July meeting of the SRC has been rescheduled for early August. They are developing a program addressing female high school students to build an awareness of women's issues. One high school principal and one guidance counselor from the Lewiston school system have been invited to the meeting to discuss the details of this program.

Thanks to the Maine Humanities Council. We hope to continue our relationship and with your support expand the idea.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Although we focus on the needs of today's women and future generations it's important to acknowledge the gains of our foremothers. August 26th is Women's Equality Day. It recognizes the 72nd anniversary of the day women won the right to vote. Perhaps this is a chance to reflect on the proud heritage of women and to acknowledge the efforts of these women who broke so many barriers.

Women's Health Provisions Clear House

Several provisions designed to improve women's health passed in the House on July 25, 1991. This is part of the National Institutes for Health reauthorization bill. The initiatives passed by a vote on 274 - 144.

The SRC will also work on membership this fall . It is hoped that two guests invited to the next meeting will become full time members.

* * * * *

Eastern Regional Commission

The ERC will meet August 5 to discuss plans for a public forum in October as well as their Annual Meeting,.

Discussion at the August meeting will also include the Women and Poverty Committee 's report on a radio call-in show . The show will allow women to request information about which agencies are available to serve their specific needs.

The MCW annual Progress Awards ceremony will be held in Bangor in September. This issue will also be addressed by the ERC at the August meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Commission actively followed forty bills this session. We were called upon by several legislative sponsors to support their efforts and by other women's advocacy groups to defeat proposed detrimental legislation. The outcome follows:

L.D. Name and Number	Outcome
L.D. 54 Limit Judicial Immunity in Certain Domestic Relations Matters	Ought Not To Pass
L.D. 58 Amend Laws Governing Parental Rights & Responsibilities in Domestic Relations	Ought Not To Pass
L.D. 83 Amend Child Support Guidelines	Ought Not To Pass
L.D. 222 Ensure That State Supplemental Benefits is Not Diminished by Inflation	Ought Not To Pass
L.D. 228 Meet Increased Need for Crisis Intervention & Community Education Services Provided by Rape Crisis Centers in the State	Withdrawn
L.D. 285 Amend the Domestic Relations Law	Public Law # 164
L.D. 301 Promote Emotional Health of Children During Periods of Stress	Killed
L.D. 330 Increase Funding to Programs Dealing with Domestic Violence	Indef. Postponed
L.D. 352 Change of Name Upon Divorce or Annulment	Withdrawn
L.D. 354 Amend Definition of Sexual Contact	Withdrawn
L.D. 359 Provide Funds for Additional Adult Day Care	Withdrawn
L.D. 396 Establish a Victims' Bill of Rights	Withdrawn
L.D. 399 Sexual Harassment Education & Training	Public Law # 474
L.D. 430 An Act to Prevent Discrimination	Died Between Bodies
L.D. 471 Amend Maine Human Rights Act to Prohibit Educational Discrimination on Basis of Race	Public Law # 100
L.D. 544 Amend Laws Governing Sexual Assault	Public Law # 457
L.D. 558 Concerning Late Support Payments	Public Law # 329
L.D. 676 Allow Unemployment Compensation Benefits to Individuals Who Leave Employment to Protect Their Health and Safety	Public Law # 560
L.D. 680 Amend Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Pregnancy	Killed
L.D. 733 Definition of Gross Sexual Assault under Maine Criminal Code	Public Law # 579

L.D. 814	Amend Law Relating to Gross Sexual Assault	Withdrawn
L.D. 913	Clarify Funding of Child Care Services & Parenting Education	Indef. Postponed
L.d. 934	Regulate the Use of Video Display Terminals	Public Law # 305
L.D. 1016	Distribution of Retirement Benefits in Divorce	Carried Over
L.D. 1072	Survivor Benefits in the Events of Divorce and Remarriage	Public Law # 320
L.D. 1086	Statute of Limitations In Child Abuse & Incest	Public Law # 551
L.D. 1096	Improve Services to At-Risk, Pregnant & Parenting Teens	Private & Special Law # 24
L.D. 1100	Improve Standard of Living for Children from Low-income Families	Ought Not To Pass
L.D. 1114	Provide Clothing Allowance to Children Receiving AFDC Benefits	Ought Not To Pass
L.D. 1258	Equal Opportunity with Maine Turnpike Auth.	Public Law # 435
L.D. 1275	Provide Continued Assistant & Support for Incest Victims & Survivors	Ought Not To Pass
L.D. 1286	Protect Client Advocacy in the ASPIRE Prog.	Withdrawn
L.D. 1386	Authorize Involvement of DHS in Providing School-based Child Care	Public Law # 550
L.D. 1420	Establish Special Housing Allowance for AFDC	Carried Over
L.D. 1425	Provide Affordable Electric Service for Low-income Citizens	Ought Not To Pass
L.D. 1583	Create Preliminary Injunction for Certain Domestic Relations Cases	Public Law # 482
L.D. 1613	Reform Maine Motor Vehicle Insurance	Carried Over
L.D. 1630	Gender Impact Analysis All Audit & Program Reviews	Carried Over
L.D. 1809	Establish Commission to Study Secondary Vocational & Technical Education	Indef. Postponed

The triumph results in the knowledge that we were vocal and unapologetic about raising the issue of the needs of women. Budget cuts were made to programs affecting women and children under great protest.

As for the status of our agency, we remain in existence with the loss of one half the Executive Director position and a reduction in operating funds. Like many other women's agencies, we are small and smaller programs are most at risk. Operating on a tight, lean budget means all cuts are significant. Our fate is now being reviewed by the Governor's task force on government restructuring.



ATTENTION:

The Commission is pleased to announce the formation of a formalized Speaker's Bureau. We are looking for women who are interested in speaking on a variety of current topics and subjects related to the well being of women and girls in Maine.

These presentations provide an excellent forum for women to share ideas/knowledge on important issues to a broad based audience. Please complete the form below if you're interested in participating.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Areas/Topics of Interest: _____

Times/Days Available: _____

When is the best time to contact you? _____

NEEDED: WOMEN

Your town needs you!

Each town must develop a comprehensive plan which will guide the community to manage and protect its resources. You, as women, offer unique ideas and approaches. Too often women have been underutilized as a resource. We need your voice to count in planning the future of our communities. Special experience and expertise are not needed; only a willingness to offer your services.

Some towns are nearing completion of this project, but citizens are encouraged to participate at any point in the process or to review the draft plan before finalization. For more information on how to become involved call your town council or the Commission.



State House Station #93 • Augusta, Maine 04333