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Winter 1-1-1991

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

The Maine Commission for Women Staff

The Maine Commission for Women

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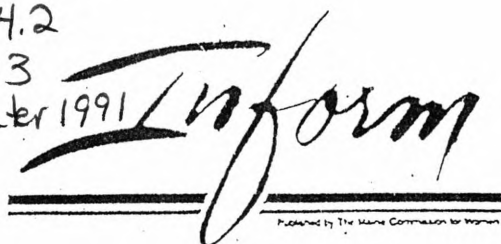
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END OF AN ERA

It is with great sadness that the Commission for Women closes its doors on Friday, January 17th. After a history of 27 years, there will no longer be a government-sanctioned voice for women. In addition to the elimination of the Commission staff the statute that gave life to the Commission and a definition of its purpose was eliminated. This statute allowed the Commission to be named in other legislation as a "watchdog". Within that context the Commission demanded that the Apprenticeship and Training Council develop a new gender bias free brochure, demanded that the Education Committee fulfill its obligations to hold hearings regarding sex equity in administrative positions, and developed a model of evaluating all state agencies according to gender impact for a bill being heard this session. The elimination of the Commission and its enabling legislation puts an end to this voice of advocacy for women within state government.

To all of you who have been so vocal and active with the Commission we will miss you and thank you for your past efforts and support.

information you'll need to make yourself heard:

STATE LEGISLATORS

To contact a state senator:
Call 1-800-423-6900
Write: Senator _____
Senate of Maine
State House Station #3
Augusta, ME 04333

To contact a state representative:
Call 1-800-423-2900
Write: Representative _____
State House Station #2
Augusta, ME 04333

Your town office can tell you who your state legislators are.

NATIONAL LEGISLATORS

To contact the U.S. Senate: 202-224-3121
To call the citizens comment line for the White House: 202-456-1111

Maine Congressional Delegation

Representative Thomas H. Andrews
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1901
202-225-6116

Senator William S. Cohen
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1901
202-224-2523

Senator George J. Mitchell
Senate Majority Leader
176 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1902
202-224-5344

Representative Olympia J. Snowe
2464 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1902
202-225-6306

The national legislators also have offices in Maine.
Check your telephone director for the office nearest you.

NEED TO CONTINUE

The truth is that women continue to run into obstacles in employment, discrimination in hiring and promotion, sexual harassment, less pay for work of comparable worth, unequal access to benefits and pensions, lack of affordable, quality child care, and lack of education and job training. Economic self sufficiency and security are keys to women's survival and advancement. Employers and our society as a whole are missing out on the valuable contributions women could be making if they were given equal access to education and training and equal opportunities in the workplace.

The Commission can no longer serve as your voice on critical legislation on the federal or state levels that address these issues. Your voice is needed but you must now raise it for yourself. Following is the

FINALE

The MCW wishes to thank all individuals, corporations, and organizations who have contributed to our many projects over the years. The surplus funds from these endeavors have been maintained in a special account. As private contributions these surplus funds will not be put into the state general fund, but will be used to help finance our final project. The MCW in conjunction with the Governor's Commission on Domestic Abuse will print an educational doorhanger on domestic abuse to be distributed statewide by volunteers to approximately 10,000 households. This doorhanger project has been extremely successful in northern Virginia. We hope to alert the population about this extremely important issue and provide valuable life saving information. We wish to thank all for their help in making this final project possible. We're only sorry that our participation in the beginning of such a valuable service is at an end.