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CWV maine voter

Penny Harris, Editor
325 Garland St., Bangor 04401

April 1982

Alice Johnson, President
Box 56, Bryant Pond, 04219

Membership Contest

"Congratulations"

To BANGOR-BREWER AREA for winning the Membership Contest with 18 new members!!!! Many thanks to President Leiba Frankel and other B-BA members for all your efforts! Perhaps you have membership secrets to share?!

The following Leagues show a 10% growth of new members in current membership:

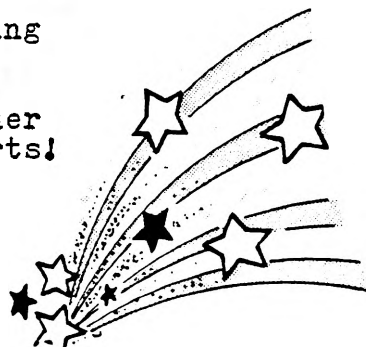
KENNEBEC VALLEY

MT. DESERT

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Congratulations and Thank You for your work in sharing League membership.

(Membership Report on page 2)



state council
april 23-24

AGENDA

Friday, April 23

- 9:30 - Registration at Bently House
- 10:00 - FIRST PLENTARY SESSION
- 11:00 - State Board Reports
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 12:45 - Guest Speaker, Jane Amero
School Finance in Maine
- 1:45 - State Convention '81 Update
Women's Issues
Solid Waste
Election Laws & Practices
Tax Position Update
- 3:00 - Workshops: Fundraising
Breaking Into Print
- 4:00 - Free Time
- 5:30 - Dinner
Speaker: International Relations
- 8:00 - "League Night at the Movies"

Saturday, April 24

- 8:00 - Membership Awards Breakfast
- 9:00 - SECOND PLENTARY SESSION
- 10:00 - President's Speech, Alice Johnson
- 10:20 - President-Elect, Penny Harris
- 10:45 - Direction to the Board
- 11:30 - Direction to National Convention delegates
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 1:00 - Announcements, Closing Remarks, Adjournment

PLEASE RETURN your registration forms for State Council to Katherine Meeker, 196 Winn St., Falmouth 04105 as soon as possible!!!!

MEMBERSHIP REPORTBANGOR-BREWER AREA: 54

Drop-12 New-18

BRUNSWICK: 23

Drop-18 New-1

KENNEBEC VALLEY: 45

Drop-11 New-7

MT. DESERT: 24

Drop-18 New-3

LEWISTON-AUBURN: 34

Drop-3 New-3

ORONO-OLD TOWN-VEAZIE: 36

Drop-14 New-2

PORTLAND AREA: 153

Drop-35 New-10

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: 54

Drop-0 New-8

Total Drop: 111

Total New: 52

Net Loss: (59)

Total Membership of LWVME 423

Date: March 31, 1982

Penny Harris, Membership Chair

**National Polls show the League of Women Voters have the highest name recognition (86%) of any other organization of its type.



A HUGE THANK YOU to our outgoing President of League of Women Voters of Maine - Alice Johnson!!!!!! Thank you for all the time and talent you have given to us for the last three years.

Best of Luck to you in the future and same some time for us.

Interested In Any of The Following PROJECTS ?? Contact one of the people listed below---



★ Study of Election Laws & Practices:
Darrilyn Peters, 149 Main St.
Thomaston 04861

★ Slide Presentation on "Status of Women in Main"
Annette Anderson, 150 Green St.
Augusta 04330

★ Solid Waste Publication:
Susan McGinty, 14 Sparhawk Lane
Cumberland Center 04021

★ School Finance in Maine:
Jane Amero, 444 Oeacn House Rd.
Cape Elizabeth 04107

Action:
★ Alvin Moss, P.O. Box 305
Sorrento 04677

International Relations:
★ Marianne Whitman, 235 Oak Hill RD.
Auburn 04210

Taxes Update:
★ Jo Anne Babcock, 7 Oakland Rd.
Falmouth 04105



Other Local League Dues/
State PMP

The average state PMP is \$8.57. The lowest state is \$4 (LWV of Delaware); the highest state PMP is \$15 (LWV of Kansas). The average MAL dues for state Leagues reporting to National Office is \$18.59.

The average Local League dues of reporting Leagues is \$19.01. Seventy-two Leagues reported dues of \$25 or more. The highest dues amount reported is \$30. The four Leagues with dues over \$25 are: LWV of Cheyenne, Wyoming; LWV of Seattle, Washington; LWV of Wood County, West Virginia; LWV of San Joaquin Co., California. The lowest amount paid for dues is \$4.50 (Boone, Campbell and Kenton Counties, Kentucky). A total of 47 Leagues reported dues below \$15. (Out of 897 Local League reporting)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

3

WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE - 1981-82

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- * Energy - Alvin Moss
LWV of Maine recommends changes in DEP
- * Solid Waste - Sue McGinty
New to State Board and is organizing the portfolio and following legislation as it relates to LWV positions.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Marianne Whitman

- * Great Discussions
Efforts made to raise awareness of and importance of disarmament
Supper with speakers in L-ALWV
Speakers planned at State Council (April 23,24)
Contacts made with other State Leagues

WOMEN'S ISSUES: Annette Anderson

- * Participation in ERA Rally in Augusta
New Publication - Women Suffrage in Maine

VOTER SERVICE: Alice Johnson, Karen Stram

- * Practical Politics Course (available late spring)
Panel Discussion on PUC Refrendum question held in Augusta
New Pub - PUC - Informative flyer
Citizen's Day at the Legislature (Co-sponsored with KVLWV)

PUBLICATIONS: Ethel Schwalbe

- * New Catalog for State Publications
Two Pubs were distributed to all members, "How to Make Your Voice Heard" and PUC flyer
\$1400 worth of State Publications sold

STATE VOTER: Penny Harris

- * Eight Issues Printed

MEMBERSHIP: Penny Harris

- * Members at Large (MAL) increased by 8 now at 54
Local League membership is down by 74 now at 361
Total LWVME is 415

ACTION: Karen Stram

- * Testimony given at hearing on LD 1783
Legislative Newsletter
Research on Legislation important to League postions

FUND RAISING: Alice Johnson, Kathy Meeker, Darilyn Peters

- * Raffle - Ticket Sales \$1544. # books sold - 308
Expenses - \$308. Net Gain - \$1235.65
Corporate and Foundation Gifts: \$2777.

STATE BOARD AND PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL: Alice Johnson

- * State Board met 12 times in Augusta
President's Council met 4 times
National Board Member Nancy Neuman with local and state leaders
State Council will meet April 23,24
LWVUS Management & Training Services Regional Workshop
Two State Board members will go to Houston (Alice and Penny)
Ajenda and Minutes of meetings were sent to each Local League



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE
Proposed Budget 1982-83

Proposed Expenses

A. OPERATING EXPENSES	-----	\$4280
1. Supplies	-----	\$ 250
2. Postage	-----	80
3. Telephone Communication	-----	1100
4. Staff (Written Communication)	-----	500
5. Travel (To Local Leagues)	-----	300
6. Travel Expenses to State Board Meetings	-----	2000
B. BOARD ADMINISTRATION	-----	\$1475
1. President	-----	\$ 00
2. 1st Vice President (Membership)	-----	250
3. 2nd Vice President (See Action)	-----	00
4. Secretary	-----	25
5. Treasurer	-----	50
6. Fund Raising	-----	300
7. Publications	-----	200
8. Public Relations	-----	200
9. Nominating Comm.	-----	100
10. Budget Comm.	-----	50
11. MALS (letters, postage)	-----	175
12. Policy, Bylaws Comm.	-----	50
13. State Convention Planning	-----	75
C. DELEGATE TRAVEL & EDUCATION	-----	\$3040
1. State Council	-----	\$ 440
2. National Convention	-----	2250
3. NRC/WLC	-----	00
4. Attend Workshops	-----	350
D. NATIONAL PMP (54 @ \$12)	-----	\$648
E. STATE VOTER (5 Issues)	-----	855
F. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM	-----	7326
1. State Program:		
Natural Resources		
Solid Waste	-----	\$1000
Energy	-----	00
Farmlands	-----	100
Taxes	-----	1000
Social Policy	-----	
Women's Issues	-----	1000
Education	-----	200
Government (Election Study)	-----	1000
2. National Program		
International Relations	-----	250
3. Voter Service		
Citizen's Day at Legislature	-----	150
Practical Politics Course	-----	100
Publications for distribution	-----	200
Candidate Forums	-----	250
4. Publication Production	-----	1976
5. Workshop for Management And Training	-----	100
G. POSITION SUPPORT	-----	\$850
1. Lobbyist (Under 2nd V.P.)	-----	\$400
2. Legislative Reception	-----	100
3. Position Papers	-----	150
4. Action Alerts	-----	200
5. Action Committee	-----	100

TOTAL EXPENSES ---\$18,474

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE
BUDGET 1982-83

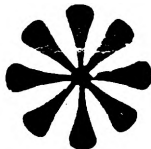
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Proposed Income


1. Local League Support (360 @ \$6) -----	\$2160
2. MAL Dues (53 @ \$15) -----	795
3. MAL Contributions -----	170
4. Publication Sales -----	1741 (+235)
5. Interest -----	40
6. Finder Fees -----	50
7. Education Fund (Voter Service) -----	335
8. Fund Raising Project -----	2933
Operating --4043	
Delegate Travel --3040	
Action ---850	
9. Corporate Support -----	5015
Election Study -----	\$1000
Taxes -----	\$1000
Solid Waste ---	\$1000
School Finance ---	\$200
International Relations --	\$250
Farmlands -----	\$100
Voters Service --	\$365
Women's Issues --	\$1000

TOTAL INCOME --- \$18,474

GOALS for STATE BOARD 1982-83

- 
- To provide information, resources, and support that enhances the position of all Local Leagues in their communities and the State of Maine.
 - To work with other organizations and media to further League of Women Voters
 - To organize action at the State Legislature
 - To help members keep informed of state and national issues

PROCESS to REACH GOALS:

- 
- Publish VOTER 5 times
 - Telephone and written communication regularly with Local Leaders
 - Organize statewide membership
 - Try to enlarge our MAL membership
 - Prioritize Action and send action alerts to members
 - Write, Research and Publish the following publications by 1983
Solid Waste Information, Facts & Issues on Taxes,
 - Research for information and interest with recommendation at
State Convention '83 (from School Finance in Maine, IR)
 - Citizen's Day at the Legislature
 - Legislative Reception
 - Candidate Forums
 - Research, write and publish a slide presentation on "Status
of Women in Maine."
 - Study the Election Laws and Practices of Maine - recommendations
at Convention '83.

6 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE BUDGET INFORMATION 1982-83

Services to Local Leagues:

Proposed Expenditures

Telephone Communication-----	\$800
Written Communication-----	150
Postage -----	20
Travel to Local Leagues -----	300
Membership Services -----	250
Public Relations -----	150
Planning State Convention -----	35

Total \$1705 or 9.23%

Services to Members:

State VOTER -----	\$855
Action Activities(Lobbyist, Action Alerts)-----	850

Total \$1705 or 9.23%

Services to Local Leagues, Members, Communities:

Voters Services-----	\$ 700
Publication Production-----	1976
Educational Activities -----	4650

Total \$7326 or 39.66%

Delegate Travel & Education: ----- \$3040 or 16.46%

State Council, National Convention-2½

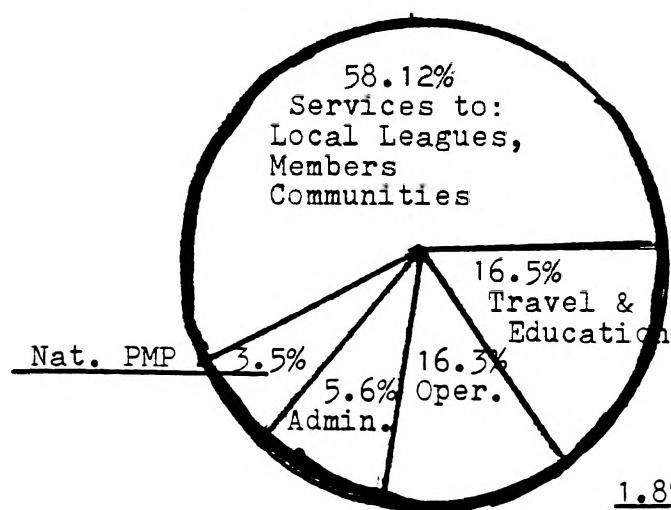
State Board Operating ----- \$3010 or 16.3%

State Board Administration ----- \$1040 or 5.63%

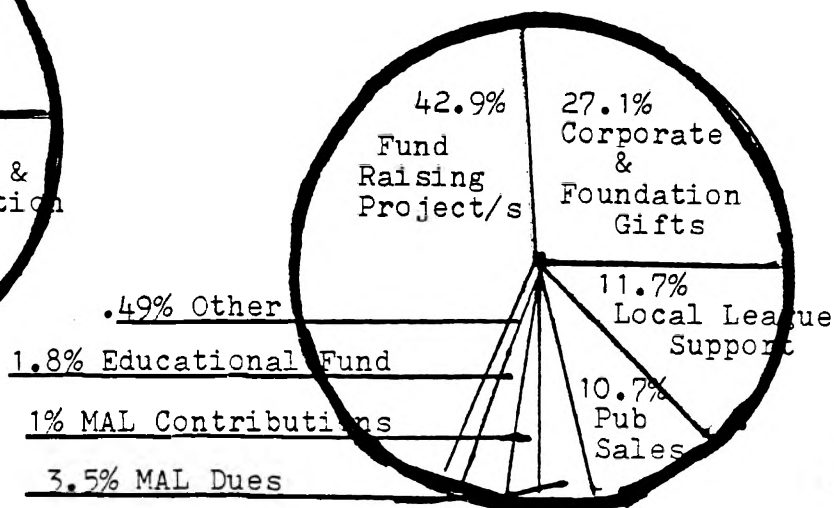
National Per Member Payment (PMP for MALS) ----- \$ 648 or 3.5%

Total \$18,474

Expenses



Income



MEMBER SURVEY

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization which can teach members how to feel comfortable and confident in our government's process -- Are you better informed or more skilled since joining the League of Women Voters?? WHY?? WHY NOT???

Would you take a few minutes to answer these questions to help League leaders know you better? Please return to:
Penny Harris, 325 Garland St., Bangor, ME 04401.

- A. Please number 1 through 9 in order of your priority which program area is most important to you.
- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------|---------------------|
| _____Solid Waste | _____Energy | _____Farmland | _____ERA | _____Women's Issues |
| _____Taxes | _____International Relations | _____Study of Election Practices & Laws | | |
| _____School Finance in Maine | | | | |
- B. I think the LWV must pay the following expenses for League volunteers when working for the LWV.
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Travel/mileage expenses to meeting | YES | NO |
| Babysitting expenses | YES | NO |
| Send delegates to National Convention | YES | NO |
| If yes--which expenses | | |
| Travel | Yes | No |
| Hotel | Yes | No |
| Food | Yes | No |
- C. I would be willing to pay more for State Per Member Payment (Currently \$6) YES NO
- D. I will try to get at least one new member for the League of Women Voters
YES NO
- E. I joined League because _____
- F. I believe the purpose of LWV is:
- | |
|--|
| _____To provide opportunities to learn to be active, informed participants in the government process |
| _____To provide information on issues |
| _____To provide group activities so I can study an issue |
| _____To lobby the Legislature |
| _____To do candidate meetings and other Voters Services |
- G. I would like to be an active member YES NO
- H. I would like to be on a local/state board YES NO
- I. I want to see the LWV to continue in Maine.
YES NO
- J. I have the following suggestions: _____
- K. I read the State VCTER _____Some of it _____All _____Never get to it
_____Would like to see fewer issues
- Thank you for sharing your time and ideas. Signing your name is optional.
The results will be reported in a later VCTER.
- NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

Please Return by May 1, 1982

SCHOOL FINANCE in the 1980s

In the spring of 1981 the LWV Education Finance Project sponsored a Washington Conference entitled "School Finance in the 1980s." The purposes of the project were three fold: 1) to provide information about education funding and tax issues, 2) to provide information about strategies for educating citizens about these issues, and 3) to promote long term information sharing among League members and other organizational leaders leaders involved in school finance.

The goals of the conference were certainly achieved, however, a state by state update of the progressing school finance reform made participants quickly aware that the LWV's goal of achieving fair methods of financing school has had limited success, at best. With taxpayers rebellious, declining enrollments, and federal cutbacks, the outlook for providing equity in school financing (which usually means more state monies to aid property poor districts) is not promising.

In Maine, a new and more equitable formula for funding education was established in 1974. Since that time the state has financed 50% of the costs of education (as determined by the State Dept. of Education). However, the 50% state participation is in jeopardy with the promise of fewer federal dollars going into the general fund and the "no tax increase" climate of the times. Also the state's "basic education allocation" does not include the considerable funds spent by local districts above the "leeway level." As a result, the total figure used by the state for funding education does not reflect actual costs, and the disparity becomes greater each year. The funding mechanism thus becomes more equitable as school districts rely more on local funds and the property wealth of their community.


Jane Amero

The State League of Women Voters' position on education finance reads in part: "In the pursuit of equal educational opportunity, adequate and relatively equal funds must be available on a per pupil basis in every school district." As we delve into the 1980s an update on school financing in Maine would be profitable for our membership.


* Jane served several years on the Cape Elizabeth School Comm. She has been chairperson and attended the School Finance Conference in Washington. She is guest speaker at the State Council.

New Publications

Social Policy:

 Report on the HR Update Summarizes local League responses to the HR Update--featured in the 1980-81 national program. Highlights League activities stemming from this update. 1982, US, 4pp., #445, 40¢.

Natural Resources:

 The Future of America's Farmlands (working title). Discusses farmland loss and what community, state and federal responses have been, 1982, EF, 8pp., #261, 75¢
Order after May 1, 1982
LWVUS, 1730 M Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20036

~~~~~  
The STATE VOTER is a publication of the League of Women Voters of Maine and is published eight times a year. It is available through membership or through direct subscription (\$5 per year).

President: Alice Johnson  
Editor: Penny Harris

Contributors to this issue:  
Jane Amero, Alice Johnson

~~~~~

The 1982 action plan

1981 reprise

The 1981 congressional session was even more dismal than we had thought it would be: Who would have predicted the Administration's easy rollover victories on the budget, slashing billions of dollars from vital social and environmental programs? We have, nevertheless, succeeded to an amazing degree on several of our priorities. We had a smashing House victory on Voting Rights, coming out with a stronger bill than we thought possible last January. We have introduced that House-passed bill in the Senate and now have 64 cosponsors! This is an unbelievable victory in the Senate.

We are in a very strong position on the *Clean Air Act*. We have yet to concede anything major in either house and have had some important victories in the Senate committee. We beat back amendments to weaken environmental protection standards. We have so far beaten back amendments to weaken auto emissions standards. And we have kept other auto and truck standards high. We enter this year as a leader in a strong coalition ready to do serious battle on the act.

On the *civil rights/desegregation* front, we were successful in mounting an effective educational campaign against tuition tax credit moves on the Hill. That effort is paying off this year in reactions to the Administration's IRS action (see *Litigation*). On the anti-busing front, while riders and bills have surfaced, we have been successful in mounting filibusters, if only as temporary reprieves, in the Senate, both in committee and on the floor. We have served notice that the civil rights community won't roll over and play dead.

Finally, among the 1981 highlights is our victory in getting a foreign aid appropriations bill passed without crippling the international agencies. Of course, some would say it was all due to the Administration's finding itself between a rock and a hard place on the military side of the bill, but we'll take the credit anyway.

ERA and DC Full Voting Rights—our two constitutional amendment issues, on which action is primarily "out there" rather than in Washington, DC—will continue to be accorded special status.

The issues that will receive MAJOR EMPHASIS on the Hill and in the executive agencies are: *extension of the Voting Rights Act* and *reauthorization of the Clean Air Act*—both continuances from 1981—and *opposition to cuts affecting the poor*, via the budget process or "new federalism" block-granting, in housing and CDBG/UDAG (Community Development Block Grant/Urban Development Action Grant), Title I of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act), income assistance and mass transit.

What does "major emphasis" entail? It means coverage in REPORT FROM THE HILL (R/H) and in the mini-edition in the VOTER, testimony, letters, use of the Lobby Corps, and League-wide ACTION ALERTs, plus the readiness to exert national leadership—within an existing coalition or by forming a coalition.

The issues slated for MODERATE EMPHASIS in the 1982 action plan, listed alphabetically by program area, are:

Government

- Regulatory reform

- Protect Freedom of Information Act, with emphasis on citizen participation

International Relations

- Fund multilateral cooperation efforts, with emphasis on use of the UN system
- Liberalized trade policy, with emphasis on:
 - Section 124 (Trade Act negotiating authority)
 - Countering protectionist amendments

Natural Resources

- Reauthorize and strengthen the Clean Water Act
- Protect against cuts, in the budget process:
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Coastal Zone Management
 - Energy Conservation/renewables
- Cut funding for water projects & synfuels
- Nuclear waste disposal
- Reauthorize RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act)
- National beverage container deposit legislation

Social Policy

- Protect civil rights of minorities/women
 - by opposing tuition tax credits, changes in IRS ruling on school desegregation, and detrimental federal civil rights reorganization; and
 - by defending Title IX, affirmative action, and reauthorization of the Civil Rights Commission

■ CETA

■ Surface Transportation Act

This category would also include reporting in R/H and mini-R/H; testimony, letters, use of Lobby Corps and selected ACTION ALERTs are all possible and probable. No leadership capability is envisioned.

N.B. Clearly, this list is too long for each item to receive moderate emphasis. It will be pruned to conform with political realities and League resources. In 1981, the federal budget process did our pruning and grouping for us.

The issues identified for WATCHDOG attention are:

Government: FEC reauthorization; FEC regulations re: registration & get-out-the-vote.

Natural Resources: Natural gas decontrol with windfall profits tax; Barrier islands; Safe drinking water reauthorization.

Social Policy: Other budget "safety net" issues (day care, etc.); Urban enterprise zones; Vocational education; Fair housing.

As the January-February REPORT FROM THE HILL noted, "the League is throwing its grassroots strength behind issues sure to be heatedly debated throughout 1982. [The President's budget] message, in fact, focused largely on his 'new federalism' proposal—our Social Policy priority—and alluded to the Administration's concern about reauthorizing the Voting Rights and Clean Air Acts" (though that concern does not extend—yet—to full support of the LWVUS-backed versions).

Houston, here we come! CONVENTION82

March 15	Proposed budget sent to Leagues
March 22–24	National board meeting
April 2	Proposed program and proposed bylaw changes sent to Leagues
May 15–19	National convention

Where have all the members gone?

League leaders all around the country have spent countless hours talking about why membership is declining and what can be done to strengthen our constituency. There is a widespread sense of frustration and bewilderment at the fact that we are losing members at this time in our nation's history when the need is so great for the League and its unique work as a nonpartisan organization that promotes citizen participation at all levels of government.

In these discussions, several themes emerge:

- structural barriers (such as a complex dues system);
- attitudinal obstacles (some local Leagues believe members cost them money because dues may barely cover state and national PMP obligations); and
- external realities, such as fewer women with time to volunteer and aggressive competition for members from other organizations.

At the same time, League members are aware of the many benefits derived from being part of an organization that really does make a difference in public affairs, and we also know that there is widespread recognition and respect for the League in the general public. For example, in November 1980 a Roper poll of a representative nationwide cross-section of over 2,000 women and men showed that a startling 84 percent of the respondents had heard about or read about the League. Half of the sampled individuals were also asked which two organizations (from a list of six) they were most likely to join or support with a financial contribution. A very high 28 percent of the respondents named the League.

Yet in spite of this enviable high level of public name recognition as well as a solid reputation for political effectiveness, the League is losing members at an alarming rate. The results for 1982 aren't in yet, but preliminary analyses give no indication that the downward trend of the past 10 years has been reversed. In 1972 the League claimed 155,000 members; in 1977 the membership dropped to 137,000; by 1981 the count had fallen to 114,000.

Why is increased membership so important for all levels of the League?

✓ More members mean more clout. An obvious outcome of membership growth is a broader base of support for League positions (in local communities, in states and at the national level). In addition, a higher level of visibility and public recognition often accompanies membership growth. Thus, the effectiveness of lobbying and other kinds of action can be enhanced by showing a larger membership.

✓ By expanding the number of members, the League is enlarging the pool of talent that state and local Leagues can tap. Although not all members could or should be expected to become active volunteers in local and state Leagues, it is likely that some of them will want to do so.

✓ More members give all levels of League a broader base of support and a more stable source of income. They will make us less dependent on other sources of income and less subject to the vagaries of grant funding.

Recognizing the urgency of prompt and large-scale action to prevent our membership from dropping below a critical mark of 100,000, the national board at its January meeting authorized the development of a **membership recruit-**

ment campaign. This campaign focuses specifically on "asking the membership question" more often: on increasing all across the country the number of situations in which an individual person is asked to join the League—whether through a poster, a flyer, a radio spot, a face-to-face request or a direct mail appeal.

The major elements of the campaign include:

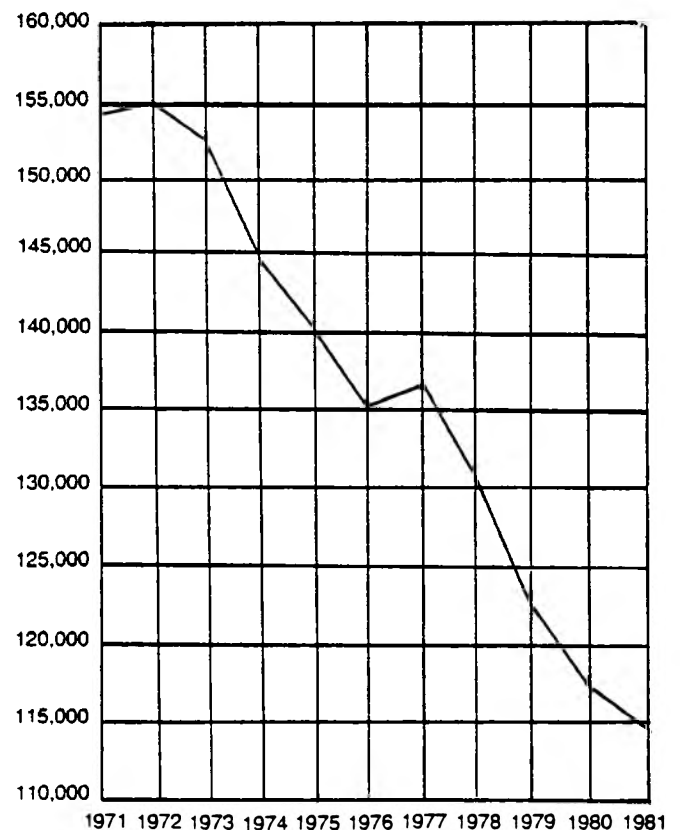
- an attractive package of recruitment materials for local and state Leagues to use during a targeted campaign period (and assistance, if requested, in planning an effective campaign);
- recommendations for bylaws changes that would make it easier for individuals to join the League;
- a two-year test of direct mail techniques for national recruitment of members;
- incentives for local League membership growth.

These initiatives are all designed to strengthen local and state Leagues and, ultimately, to enhance our impact on issues in the 1980s.

Such a nationwide targeted membership promotion campaign would preserve the diversity among local and state Leagues by leaving the decision about which materials to use and how to mount the campaign at the local and state level, yet allow room for sharpening and refining the League image through repeated and multiple use, all over the country, of a consistent theme and appropriate graphics.

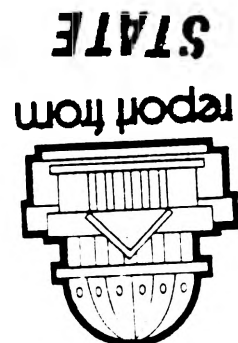
While the main emphasis would be on local and state recruiting efforts, national recruitment of members would

Membership Profile 1971–1981



*These figures are actual counts of members who have paid dues (or are within a grace period) as of January 1st of the given year.

Elizabeth Doble
 Frank Doble
 Brooklin, ME 04616



325 Garland St., Bangor 04401

Non-Profit Organization
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