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## LWW Maine Voter (Jan1982)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

*Maine League of Women Voters*

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# LWV maine voter

Penny Harris, Editor  
325 Garland St., Bangor 04401

January 1982

Alice Johnson, President  
Box 56, Bryant Pond, 04219

## ACTION

### LWVME ACTIVATES-- LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

The State Board uses a legislative committee to screen legislation. This committee will make recommendations for support to the State Board, prepare and present testimony, and produce a legislative newsletter to keep members updated on the progress of the legislation. The committee is Karen Stram, Vice President; Annette Anderson, Social Policy; Alvin Moss, Energy; Susan McGinty, Environmental Quality; Sally Kakitis, Farmland Preservation; Marianne Whitman, International Relations. For more information contact Karen.



### Raffle

The Raffle has netted State League over \$1250. Thank you for your help in making this possible. Many of the happy winners were league members.

### NEW PUBLICATION

"1980 Election Retrospective"  
Pub. No. 171, 40¢ Order from  
LWVUS, 1730 M St., NW, Washington,  
D.C. 20036. Apathy or Arithmetic?  
Do the dismal election figures  
accurately portray American voter  
participation? Would we get a  
truer picture of voter participat-  
ion by using different numbers to  
compute voter turnout?

Read this latest pub to get  
perspective on this issue. Regis-  
tration and turnout figures for all  
states are included. For example,  
Maine: \*VAP-790,000; Number Register-  
ed - 759,000; %VAP 96; Number Voted-  
523,011; % registered voting 68.8;  
%VAP Voting-66.2. (\* Voting Age Pop.)  
Highest VAP % Voting - 67.6%, So.  
Dakota and Highest % registered Vot-  
ing -85.4%, Colorado. Alaska has  
the highest %VAP registered at 100%.

### Study for EEOC backs 'comparable worth' A National Academy of Sci-

ences study commissioned  
in 1977 by the Equal Em-  
ployment Opportunity  
Commission (EEOC) sup-  
ports a "comparable-worth  
approach" as a way to end  
wage discrimination. Job  
segregation by sex is "an im-  
portant source of wage dif-  
ferentials," and women are  
"systematically underpaid,"  
it concludes. Although it  
supports job-evaluation  
plans as a means of establish-  
ing comparable worth, the  
just-released report points  
out that some methods used  
in such plans may actually  
perpetuate wage discrimina-  
tion. Nevertheless, "the  
plans have a potential that  
deserves further experimen-  
tation and development,"  
the report concludes.

"CITIZENS DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE"  
 -----

feb 3<sup>rd</sup>



This year the State League is sponsoring "Citizens Day at the Legislature." The program is open to groups/individuals who are interested in learning the legislative process.

The day will be filled with tours and workshops with opportunities to observe the Senate and House in session and legislative hearings. Lunch will be served at the King Street Unitarian Church, where the 60th LWV birthday party was held 2 years ago. Registration, including lunch, is \$5 without lunch it is \$2.50. The fee includes registration materials, workshops and coffee. Registration begins a 9am in the rotunda of the State House on Wed. Feb. 3. The most convenient place to park is the State House parking garage.

**\*\* TOURS \*\***

The tour will show "How a Bill Becomes a Law" and will last about 45 minutes. Tours will begin at 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10:00 and again at 2:00. Sign up at the registration desk for the time most convenient for you.

**\* WORKSHOPS \***

There will be concurrent workshops offered at 10am and 11am, and a single workshop at 2:00.

10am "Making a Difference" - How a citizen can affect legislation and government. Workshop will discuss the LWV as an example of a grassroots political organization providing citizens with the skills to make a difference. The ramifications of "single issues politics" will also be discussed.

10am "How to Effectively Sell Your Ideas" - This workshop will begin with general concepts of lobbying the legislature and will continue at 11am with the lobbying of especially political issues. This second half of the workshop will use the D.C. amendment as a case study.

11am "How an Idea Becomes a bill"...From political philosophy to party platforms, to drafted legislation. This workshop will discuss the metamorphosis of an idea into proposed legislation.

2pm "Running for Office...the Ultimate ACTION"  
 A panel of experts, including Judy Kany and Sherry Huber, will discuss the realities of running for office.

**\* LUNCH \***

A buffet lunch will be provided at the King Street Unitarian Church for participants. President of the Senate Joseph Sewall and Speaker of the House John Martin will join us for lunch, discussion and questions.

lobbying

★ "CITIZENS DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE" ★  
February 3, 1982 (snow date Feb. 4) ★

Schedule of Events

- \* 9:00 - 10:00 Registration - coffee, donuts, information, tours  
Rotunda State House
- \* 10:00 - 11:00 WORKSHOPS  
"Making a Difference" - Alice Johnson, President LWVME  
Penny Harris, Vice President LWVME
- \* 10:00 - 12:00 "How to Effectively Sell Your Ideas" - Kay White, Lobbyist  
for D.C. Amendment and Rep. Nancy Masterton
- \* 11:00 - 12:00 "How an Idea Becomes a Bill" - Senator Brabara Trafton
- \* 12:00 - 1:45 LUNCH at King Street Unitarian Church  
Invited guests: Senator Joseph Sewall, Rep. John Martin  
and other legislative leaders.
- \* 2:00 - 3:00 "Running for Office...the Ultimate ACTION"  
Panel to include Rep. Sherry Huber and Rep. Judy Kany

Tours at 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10:00, 2:00

†Senate and House Sessions usually start around 10am

†Legislative Hearings start around 1:30

Local League members contact your president for more information and MAL members can contact Karen Stram.

This is a great way to learn about our legislature, how it works, how to make your voice heard and meet legislators and League members from around the state. Invite a friend, potential league members, your high school student and come to Augusta for a day of education, politics, experience, information and fun. See YOU there on the 3rd of Feb.!

This event has been made possible by \* \* \* Louise Beard, Margaret Vaughan, Irma Bell of the Kennebec Valley League and Karen Stram, Ethel Schwalbe and Alice Johnson of the State Board.

ACTION IS.....

Carrie Chapman, women's suffrage leader and founder of the LWV said..."..action is agitating, organizing, educating ..."

Political action is an old and honorable tradition in the League. The League itself was founded out of one of the largest and longest action campaigns this country has ever witnessed - the fight for women's suffrage.

WORKSHOP \*

"Winning With Women"  
Want to learn about the realities of running for public office? This is for you.

FEB. 6 Portland & Presque Isle  
FEB. 27 Bangor (9am-5pm)

For more information call:  
Jackie Potter, Maine Comm.  
for Women in Augusta at  
289-3417.

# REAPPORTIONMENT

by Karen Stram

"Nothing excites politicians more...nor voters less than political redistricting, as parties and legislators are often driven to artistic excesses in their zeal to create the maximum possible number of 'safe' districts for one party or another, (Maine Sunday Telegram, Nov. 14, 1971).

Because political subdivisions are required to reflect the latest census figures, Maine's legislative districts must be redrawn every 10 years. This task will be undertaken by the 111th Legislature in January of 1983. The process has become somewhat more orderly since 1974, when a special commission was established to bring the State's formerly non-conforming districts into compliance with the 1964 Reynolds vs Sims Supreme Court ruling establishing the "one man...one vote" principle of representation.

Nancy Masterton, former LWV State president and current Legislator from Cape Elizabeth, being its only neutral member chaired that precedent setting 1974 redistricting commission.

With amendments passed in 1975 and 1980 the Constitution now provides for redistricting both the House and the Senate by a 15 member commission, made up of 3 members selected by the majority party of the House, and 3 by the Minority; 2 members selected by the Majority party of the Senate, and 3 by the Minority; the chair of the two principal parties in the State (or their designee); and 3 public members, one chosen by each of the two major parties, and a third chosen by the other two.

## MEMBERSHIP

Please notify me of all new members. The contest is still on until March 1st. Citizen Day at the Legislature is an excellent time to interest new members.

Using a number determined by the 1980 Federal census count (or a State count ordered by the Legislature), divided by the number of representatives, a base number is obtained giving the number of people represented by each legislator. The commission will use this number to systematically adjust the current districts into new districts.

The Constitution also directs that "each representative district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory, and shall cross political subdivision lines the least number of times necessary to establish as nearly as practicable equally populated districts." Within this rather broad framework the commission will establish its guidelines, and proceed to "compromise".

Redistricting of course is happening at all levels. Many cities have already redrawn their ward lines, and Congressional districts will be determined at the same time that the legislature is reapportioned as of a bill passed in the last session.

\*\*\*

## LEGISLATURE RECONVENES

### 2ND SESSION OF 110TH

The 2nd session of the 110th Legislature reconvened Jan. 6 to consider legislation limited in nature by the constitution to "budgetary matters; legislation in the Governor's call; legislation referred to committee for study and report by the Legislature in the 1st regular session; and legislation presented to the Legislature by written petition of the electors..." The session is limited to 50 days.

CONFUSED ABOUT THE NON-PARTISAN POLICY OF THE LWV???????

The League is a political organization. We take political stands on issues including ballot issues, and proposed legislation. You can say we are "partisan on issues". We take our stand on issues based on positions developed over several years of study and consensus of members. If we have not previously developed a position on a particular issue, the League Board can choose to provide Voter's Service...i.e "to educate the public and membership through balanced and objective information and discussion on an issue."

According to our bylaws, the League shall never support or oppose any political candidate for office. However, because of our political nature we encourage individual members to get involved in their parties and frequently members run for office. More than 40% of this country's women officeholders have had League experience and 20% of our Maine membership were/are elected officials. The League of Women Voters produces forums and information on candidates and encourages people to vote as informed citizens.



D.C AMENDMENT UPDATE



Ten states have ratified the D.C. Voting Rights Amendment, leaving 28 more before the 1985 deadline. Our own battle which was a comfortable victory in the house, lost by ONLY ONE VOTE in the Senate. It is still considered a moral victory, since the bill had been withdrawn on the previous attempt because of strong partisan opposition.

To help members lobby more effectively, there will be a workshop during "Citizens' Day" (Feb. 3) which deals with lobbying in general and the D.C. Amendment will be used as a case study for role playing difficult lobbying situations. It will be a good opportunity to learn more about the issue as well as lobbying!!

Because of the limitation on legislation for this January session the amendment cannot be reconsidered until the 111th Legislature, which is elected this November and convenes January 1983. Those Legislators, some of whom will be new, may not be familiar with the issue. Members are encouraged to reeducate themselves and their representatives about the issue during this next year.

LWVME VOTES TO POSTPONE  
HIRING LOBBYIST

Because of the nature of this legislative session, the State Board voted at the December meeting not to fill the lobbyist position, vacated when the former lobbyist, Linda McKee accepted full time employment. It was felt the lobbying effort could be handled by the Board and members for this session. Applications for the lobbyist position for the next session can be obtained from Secretary Darrilyn Peters, 149 Main Street, Thomaston, 04861.

# 6 league of women voters *Around the State*

BANGOR-BREWER: At the Nov. meeting Leaguers heard guest speaker, Sara Redfield, Assoc. Commissioner of Dept. of Agriculture. She explained the Dept.'s 1980 reorganization. She said the need for a department which operated efficiently, could be responsive to the needs of agriculture and increase citizen awareness of agriculture's importance to the state of Maine was great.



In Dec. Louise Shindler organized a Candidate's Press Conference which was held at the public library. Because of the holidays and a short time to election of 2 school committee people on Jan. 6 this type of forum was used to have the public hear from the candidates. It was well covered by all media people.

Marilyn Gass is now organizing the league's "Great Decisions-82" discussion group.

PORTLAND AREA: Jan. 19 is a big day for PALWV as it is their National Program Planning meeting. They are taking a very unique approach to generating discussion on League program areas. Claudette has involved the chairman of the Political Science dept. of UMP and several students from his dept. Look for more follow up information on this meeting.

On Feb. 27 PAL will sponsor a luncheon with Mayor Pamela Plumb as guest speaker. Mayor Plumb is a league member and recently returned from a tour of Yugoslavian cities which was sponsored by the US Information Service and the US Conference of Majors. She will present slides and commentary on her experience. This quiche luncheon will be held at Woodford's Church at noon. Tickets are \$6 and proceeds will support PAL programs. If you are going to be in Portland you might enjoy this event.



BRUNSWICK: "League Night at the Apple Tree" on Nov. 12 was hosted by Marilyn McIntyre. She offered members an opportunity to socialize over wine and hors d'oeuvres and offered a 10% discount to members on their purchases in her store.

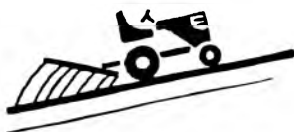
Margaret Hutchins of the Brunswick Recycling Committee presented an interesting slide show and lead a lively discussion on Brunswick's Recycling Program. Franklin Williams, who was instrumental in starting Harpswell's recycling center, also attended and answered questions. Marianne Haughwout was hostess for this meeting.

KENNEBEC VALLEY: On Nov. 14 members attended a workshop on Hazardous Waste in Rockland. Jan. 20 KV will be sponsoring a panel discussion on Hazardous Waste-the Kennebec Valley Picture.

ORONO-OLD TOWN-VEAZIE: A very successful meeting was organized to kick off the Health Care study. About 40 people attended a panel discussion and heard information from providers and consumers. The study will continue with smaller unit meetings.

MOUNT DESERT ISLAND: In Dec. members saw a film on School for Emotionally and Physically Handicapped Children and heard speakers from Bar Harbor Office of Community Health and Counseling Services.

LEWISTON-AUBURN: Jan.'s meeting is on Hazardous Waste. L-A league is also involved in "Great Decisions" and will have a round table discussion on "Protecting the World's Resources". Members are also readying information for Know Your Town publication. It will soon be at the printers.



LWVUS LOBBYS WASHINGTON!!!

Did you know the League has a volunteer lobby corps in Washington as well as a paid staff?? These volunteer are local League members who may have lived in the state, such as Maine, or have some interest or connection with the state. They give the personal touch to our lobbying effort in D.C. However, it is our "letters from home" that still make the big difference. Have you written lately...Do your Congressional delegates know how you feel about the issues??? Write:

Senator Cohen (term exp. '85)  
1251 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Mitchell (term exp.'83)  
145 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Emery (term exp.'83)  
2437 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congresswoman Snow (term exp.'83)  
130 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

UPDATE ON NATIONAL ISSUES???



Subscribe to LWVUS Legislative Action Service - \$10.50/year  
LWVUS; 1730 M Street, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20036.

For a recorded update 1pm Friday to 5pm Monday call 1-202-296-0218.

CONGRADULATIONS to Susan and Tom Hayward on the birth of their new daughter, Abigail. Susan is president of L-A LWV.

LEAGUERS ELECTED to local School Boards: Elinor Redmond will be serving her first term in Cape Elizabeth and Pat Kachmar was re-elected to the Scarborough School Board. Congradulations and much success.

WORKSHOP



"Perspectives on Mining in Maine" February 6, 1982 at University of Maine in Orono. There will be top national speakers and it promises to be an excellent way to gain information on this subject. This is being sponsored by the Natural Resources Council and more information can be obtained by contacting their office at 271 State St., Augusta or telephone 622-3101. Registration is limited.

Job Opport'ies 16 Job Opport'ies 16

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY - G.M. Po favorite to grow. of Jewell

HANCOCK COUNTY CLOTHING STORE - Wants experienced salesperson, familiar with mens, womens, and childrens clothing and footwear. Please submit resumes to Advertiser

WANTED:

VOTER EDITOR: Anyone interested in publishing experience? Like to write, layout, design, with ideas for keeping league members interested and informed? If you're interested in working mostly at home and have 3-4 days for 8 months to give to the LWVME you will like the challenge of VOTER Editor. Job to begin with summer issue. Training available. Apply to Penny Harris, 325 Garland St., Bangor 04401 by March 1st.

CUSTODIAN wanted - work night shift at Central High School, full time, year round employment. Starting immediately. Must possess general maintenance skills. Contact office of Superintendent of Schools, MSAD 64, P.O. Box 179, Corinth,

PHONE AT HOME - Telephone solicitors needed in Bangor, Newport, Pittsfield and areas. Call Helen, 884-7658.

RN - OB-GYN Bangor Office, full time, send resume to Advertiser Box X-17, Bangor Daily News.

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JAN 23 1982

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325 Garland St., Bangor 04401

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LEAGUE DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE - Feb. 3

