

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

---

Maine Women's Publications - All

Publications

---

7-1-1981

## LWW Maine Voter (July 1981)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

*Maine League of Women Voters*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine\\_women\\_pubs\\_all](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all)



Part of the [Women's History Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

Staff, Maine League of Women Voters, "LWW Maine Voter (July 1981)" (1981). *Maine Women's Publications - All*. 416.

[https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine\\_women\\_pubs\\_all/416](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all/416)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Women's Publications - All by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

# LWV maine voter

Alice Johnson, President

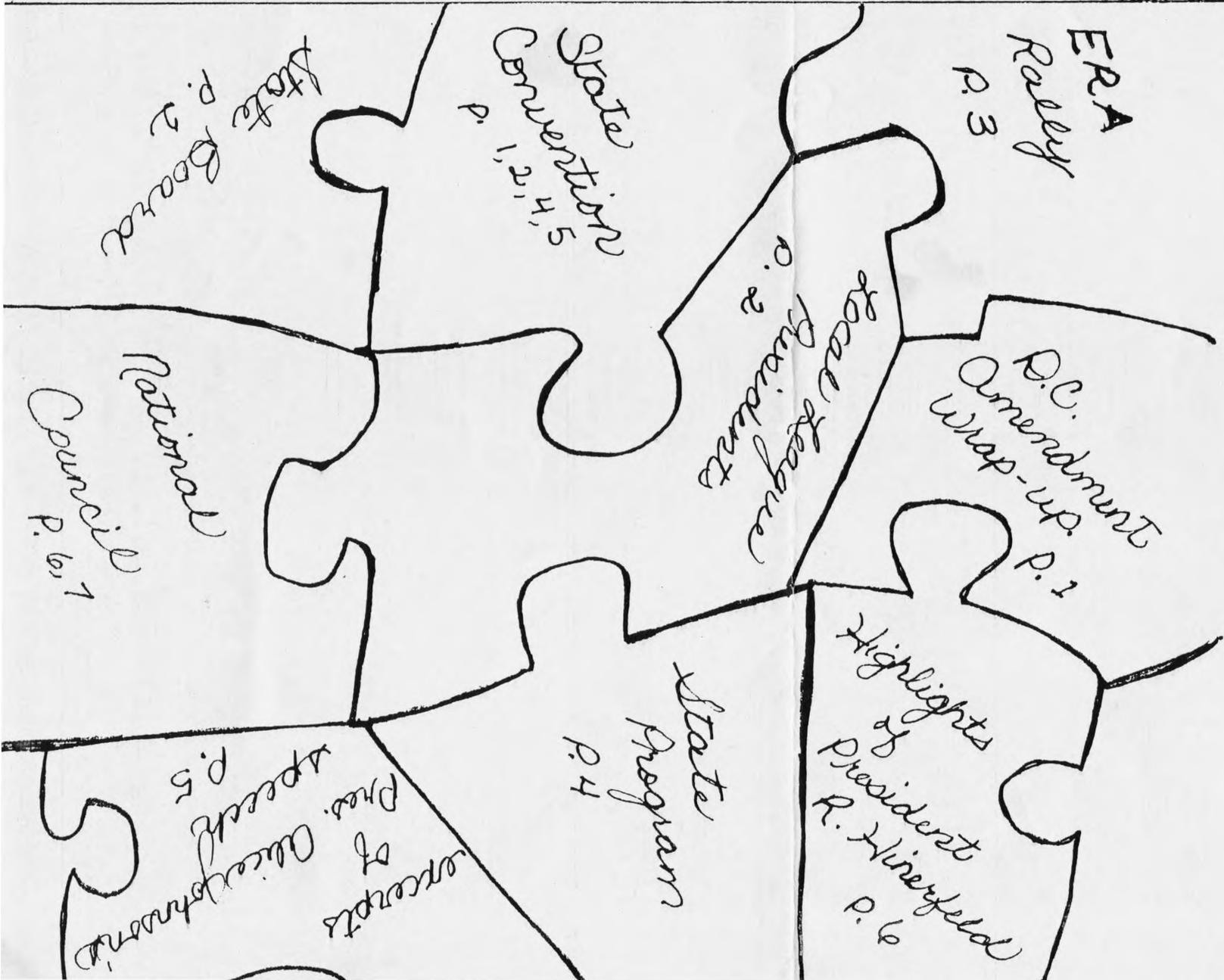
July 1981

Penny Harris, Editor

in

this

issue . .



# state convention 81

# D.C.



## WRAP - UP

All leagues represented by 33 - 35 delegates.

Program: The state program which was accepted is on page 4. It shows the new farmlands position - the result of the state study on farmland preservation.

Take note of new program items. As you will notice from the state leadership (p.2) not all program areas have leadership. If these programs are to be completed they must have people working on them. If anyone is interested in helping/learning a program area please contact Alice Johnson or your local president. WE are the League of Women Voters and if OUR program is to be accomplished by Convention 83 WE have to do it.

**\$** Budget: The state per member payment (PMP) was increased to \$6.00. There are currently 388 members @ \$6 which equals \$2328. **\$** and 43 members at large (MALs) @ \$15. which equals \$645. The total budget is \$14,240.50. The income from PMP is only about 21% of expenses. The State League needs to fund raise and we are hoping to work with local leagues to help each other raise funds for our needs.

As all of you know by now, the D.C. Amendment went down to defeat in the Senate by a vote of 17-16, after approval by the House.

It became a partisan issue, with the result that our best efforts, and those of the Self Determination for D.C. coalition, which backed us, were just not enough.

Many thanks are due all of you who helped by calling or writing your legislators, by sending telegrams, by talking to your newspaper people and writing letters to the editor, and by lining up non-leaguers to contact selected legislators. This assistance was most helpful and appreciated.

Special thanks to ALICE JOHNSON for her assistance in lobbying and her moral support.

Those of you whose Senator is Howard Trotzky should make a point of expressing your gratitude to him for his sponsorship of this bill. It was a politically difficult and sometimes unpleasant role for him, and his agreeing to support the D.C. Amendment gave us at least the chance to win, which would not otherwise have had.

We learned many useful lessons applicable to our next try. Bi-partisan sponsorship in both houses, introduction first into the Senate, giving us two chances to pass it there, proved a sound approach. We'll be back in two years, and I hope we can count on the support of all of you again.

Final vote in the Senate:  
All Democrats, "yes" except Minkowsky. All Republicans, "no" except Trotzky.

Kay White, PAL  
D.C. Lobbyist

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Thanks to Joan VanRheenen and \*  
\* other Orono-Old Town-Veazie \*  
\* Leaguers for arranging the \*  
\* accommodations at convention. \*  
\* UMC was a beautiful and \*  
\* comfortable place for our \*  
\* meetings. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

Bangor/Brewer:	Leiba Frankel 111 DeWitt Av., Bangor 04401	947-7430
Brunswick:	Sharon Fides 108 Main St., Topsham 04086	729-8182(h) 729-4124(b)
Kennebec Valley:	Neala Jennings Wayne 04284	685-3669
Lewiston/Auburn:	Susan Hayward 107 Nichols St., Lewiston 04240	782-5238
Mt. Desert Island:	Louise Gilbert P.O. Box 1072, Southwest Harbor 04679	244-5844
Orono/Old Town/Veazie:	Joan VanRheenen 6 Mayo St., Orono 04473	866-4383
Portland Area:	Claudette Thing 22 DeBlois St., Portland 04103	772-9543
Ellsworth MAL Unit:	Alvin Moss P.O. Box 305, Sorrento 04677	422-3627

## STATE LEADERSHIP

President:	Alice Johnson E. R. 136, Turner 04282 tel. 225-2881	Social Policy:	Annette Anderson 150 Green St. Augusta 04330 tel. 622-6451(h) 623-3521(B)
First VP:	Penny Harris 325 Garland St. Bangor, Me. 04401 tel. 947-4737	Energy:	Alvin Moss P.O. Box 305 Sorrento 04677 tel. 422-3627
Second VP:	Karen Stram Oxbow Rd., Dresden 04342 tel. 737-2717	Farmland Preserv.:	Sally Kakitis Rust Rd. W. Gorham 04038 tel. 839-3727
Secretary:	Ann Strout 54 Megunticook Rd. Camden 04843 tel. 236-2388	Taxes:	JoAnne Babcock 7 Oakland Rd. Falmouth 04105 tel. 772-2338
Treasurer:	Katherine Meeker 196 Winn Rd. Falmouth 04105 tel. 797-8191	MAL Coordin.:	Doris Birkett Nobleboro 04555 563-5114
I R:	Marianne Whitman 235 Oak Hill Road Auburn 04210 tel. 783-7865		
Publication:	Ethel Schwalbe Box 137B Steuben, 04680 tel. 546-7436		

National Convention is in  
May 1983 at Houston, Texas.

# 12 months + counting!

Close to 200 men and women including more than two dozen League members rallied at the State House on June 30 in support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

President Alice Johnson was one of several speakers including Gov. Joseph Brennan who urged ratification of the ERA which is our last chance for constitutional equality for women in this century.

The rally marked Day One of the Countdown Year before the ratification deadline in 1982. Maine and 34 other states have ratified the ERA but three more states are needed or it will die.

President Alice said the League has invested more than 51 years in its efforts to ensure equal rights for all women and men as well as having our roots in the final ratification fight for the 19th Amendment, allowing women the right to vote. She said that sex-based discrimination is an "undisputable fact of life for all who are female," adding that only a national commitment can eliminate the deeply entrenched prejudices that still exist.

The League was well represented by members from around the state. The Kennebec Valley League had the largest turnout but were nearly matched by Bangor-Brewer League members. Brunswick was also well represented and President Alice attended from the Lewiston-Auburn League.

The event received excellent media coverage and President Alice was interviewed on both Channels 5 and 8. Thank you to all the members who attended to show their support and a special thanks to the KV League for providing refreshments for the League picnic following the rally.

Annette Ross Anderson is our new social policy director on the state board. A UNO graduate, she has worked in the media, advertising and is now assistant director of public affairs for Central Maine Power Company. A member of the Kennebec Valley League, she is also a member of the Maine Commission for Women. She hopes to launch a strong League effort during 1981-82 to support ERA ratification and develop a comprehensive statement on women's issues.

## Coming Issues of VOTER

- September: Membership Report  
State Calendar  
Local League Calendars
- October: International Relations
- November: Natural Resources
- January: Action Report  
League Day At Legislatur  
(Feb. 3-snow date 4)
- February: Publications Report  
State Council  
(April 23-24)
- March: Human Resources
- April: Women's Issues

Many, many thanks to Kay White and Doreen Macleod for a great job on the D.C. Amendment. Because of their efforts the Legislaturis know and respect the LWVME. (report p. 1)

Frank Mankiewicz, President of National Public Radio, was luncheon speaker at Council. He suggested the nation might be getting closer to requiring free TV time for political candidates.

# \* STATE

# PROGRAM



## NATURAL RESOURCES:

Air/Water/Solid Waste

Action to promote wise **use** and prevent degradation of land, water and air resources in Maine. Continued study of solid waste disposal with emphasis on hazardous waste including nuclear waste.

Land

Continued support for comprehensive land use planning in Maine.

Energy

Action to promote conservation by reducing waste in transportation, residences, commerce, industry. Action to develop renewable resources for power production in Maine, i.e., clean, decentralized and native.

Farmland

\* Action to promote policies that preserve farmland and make farming environmentally feasible.

## SOCIAL POLICY:

ERA

Action to promote social justice by securing equal rights for all and combating discrimination and poverty.

Continued action to support ratification of the equal Rights Amendment and to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Women's Issues

Development of a comprehensive statement on women's issues.

## GOVERNMENT:

State

Action to achieve reform of Maine's Legislature with continued evaluation of the structures and functions of state government.

County

Action to achieve reform of County Government with continued evaluation.

\* Election Process

Study of election practices and election laws.

## TAXES:

Action to achieve an equitable tax system. \* Update on tax position.

\* new program item



We are happy to have Alice continue her leadership of State League for one more year. Her commitment, and dedication to LWV are much appreciated.

League of Women Voters of Maine and all local Leagues in Maine are in the process of becoming tax deductible organizations. This will hopefully aid us in fund-raising efforts.

# president's address

STATE CONVENTION 81

Alice A. Johnson

We all know that the League has three operational levels. These parallel governmental levels. As with government, members may wonder what the league is really doing for them...

Why do we need the different levels anyway?...The state level however serves as a focal for the local leagues. It synthesizes, organizes, prioritizes for local league efforts. So too the national organization provides a national face and prioritizes the thousands of interests into a united whole and acts as the senators, so to speak, for a very large constituency.

If all of us didn't have the ability to elect people to represent us at the state and national level we would have to handle it all ourselves-- a sure candidate for instant burn-out. ...we work on all three levels, we need all three levels, we are all three levels.

The league allows individual members to attain unimagined potential. It makes them better informed citizens equipped with political skills..... It provides an organized avenue for open expression of differing opinions and a way for people to effect change.

READ: new summer issue of National Voter for interesting update on League issues.

...What about the league in the 80's?

...evidence of the changes: more men, ..less career volunteers and more working people..., constant accretion of increasingly complex and interrelated issues to address, burgeoning of single-issue groups..., and sharp increases in numbers of self-help organizations (about one for every 435 people in the US), transcontinental organizations (approx. 4,000 by 1985).

We are living in a world at once becoming increasingly personal and global. Massive coalitions are being formed: transnational corp., inter-governmental agencies, international organizations which can over-ride the autonomy of the nation /state and even politics as we know it.

....In an era possibly poised for monumental political reorganization the League now might find itself in a position to re-evaluate that hard-won vote.

...Should we align ourselves with global organizations? Do we form an international League of Women Voters linked by sophisticated telecommunications? Do we sell our widely acknowledged skills as mediators...? Do we send our own messages through telecommunications thus attempting to take on the task of controlling viewers and thereby become involved in an audio-visual political revolution?...

The League of Women Voters has given...immeasurable benefits, tools and skills to be better equipped individuals. We ..see ourselves as stewards of the League and help it emerge with us into the 80's and beyond.

**national  
council**

**81**

HIGHLIGHTS  
*Ruth Hinerfeld speaks:*

\* Program: The delegates decided not to consider any program proposals. There was considerable interest in election reform. This includes early poll closings and Presidential Debates.

Workshops in program areas allowed free flow of ideas. HR update was received, Government centered on fair campaign practices, IR discussed how to tune in on techniques for localizing IR issues, health care group was given suggestions for preliminary studies while awaiting funding.

A day on the hill started with 8:30am breakfast with 57 members of Congress (MC). The league delegates received briefings and lobbied for renewal and strengthening of the Voting Rights Act and the Clean Air Act.

\* Budget: No major changes are made at Council as the budget is set for 2 years at Convention. However, to meet expenses there has been a staff cut and HR and Urban Policy (UP) will come under the "umbrella" now called Social Policy.

\* By-laws: No action but the following will probably be discussed at convention: Should the LWV form a political action comm.? What is the place of PMP in the League budget? Should non-recommended program approval require more than a majority vote? Should League principles be retained?

\* Everyone here and everyone who is deeply involved with and cares about the League knows that this is a time of challenge.

....1980 was a banner year for League existence. But the value of heightened visibility can be measured only by its effects. ...after the presidential debates, opinion polls revealed that the public accorded the League a high level of name recognition and approval. ...

Fame is fleeting.....

We're also moving ahead with plans to keep the League in the public eye...by seeking funding for a series of public service announcements.

League members who attend national councils and conventions...realize the the national office has no life of its own... But there are members, whose direct contact with the national level... is limited to 4 VOTERS...

How to bridge this organizational distance is a fitting challenge for an organization whose name is almost synonymous with the term "grassroots."

The national board...has attempted to provide how-to assistance in MTS publications, workshops and special projects ...It has tried to help Leagues come to grips with today's realities in volunteerism...It encouraged Leagues to garner members by taking advantage of League visibility during the presidential debates: and it believes that our program

Vice President George Bush addressed the National Council.

WOMEN IN THE WORLD ACCOUNT FOR:  
1/2 the population  
\* 1/3 of the labor force \*  
2/3 of the working hours \*  
1/10 of the income  
1/100 of the property owners  
From COMMENT, Jan. 1981

National Council Report

Continues -

positions and reputation for political effectiveness can and should be used to recruit the many people now seeking organizational channels for their frustrations and concerns with their government. The national board has also tried its best to be responsive to complaints about the PMP as a disincentive to increased membership by attempting to develop alternative sources of income. But, in face of continuing declines in membership, the national board feels that technical assistance to local leagues and holding down the PMP are not enough. It would like the League to do what other organizations do by recruiting and renewing members directly through centralized, nation-wide direct mail techniques. Many of us are haunted by the number of people we meet who, when asked why they are not members of the League, respond, "No one ever asked me."

....The workings of the democratic process at the local are worth preserving....but so is the League.

....The challenge of keeping up with inflation is one that has outmatched us. Today with almost the same office space and with 25 fewer budgeted staff members the combined US and EF budgets are well over a million dollars higher than they were 10 years ago.

.. Thus, it was the first national committee to ask itself how the shift in political winds might affect the League. Since then, the national board...have been asking themselves that question, with respect to League program.

One answer came in the realization that everyone of our principal action commitments--ERA, DC representation, the Voting Rights Act, the Clean Air Act and school desegregation, as

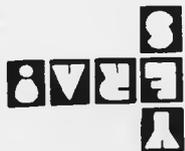
well as the lion's share of our other positions in social policy, natural resources and international relations is now straining against the headwinds of political sentiment.

In the absence of a significant alternatives to the Administration's program for healing the nation's economy...and in the presence of the Administration's success in equating that economic program with the national interest, it has come to seem rather unfair, unpatriotic or un-American to question these plans and their chance of success, their intent, and their effects. People seem to have forgotten that political scrutiny, reasoned debate and constructive criticism are and always have been, vital to American traditions of fairness, patriotism and the national interest. But the League has not! And scrutiny, debate and constructive criticism are what the League must provide.

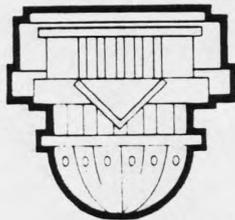
...And there will, of course, be those who question not only our patriotism, but our non-partisanship, for, as Marguerite Waller, the League's third president once said, "to be political without being partisan in a country where the two words are synonymous, was always a delicate undertaking."

Nevertheless, this is a time that challenges our political effectiveness and our most fundamental public policy objectives. If our national program means anything to us..if the democratic process means anything to us.. and if the integrity of the League means anything to us, we have no choice but to rise to the challenge.

Alice Johnson and Karen Stram were delegates from Maine to the National Council.
--



STATE  
report from



League of Women Voters

---

MAINE VOTER

---

Published by

The League of Women Voters of Maine

Third Class postage paid at  
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
<b>PAID</b>
Permit No. 43
Brunswick, ME 04011

Elizabeth Noble  
Brooklin, Me

04616