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LWV maine voter

Penny Harris, President
325 Garland Street, Bangor 04401

JULY 1982

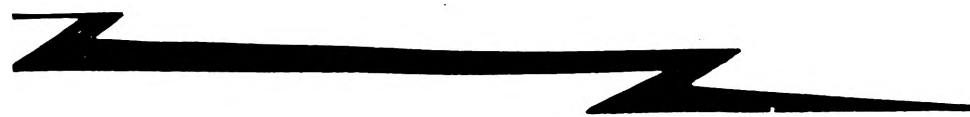
Sally Paterson, Editor
198 Capisic Street, Ptd.

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JULY 7 1982



DATSUN SENTRA RAFFLE

Support League of Women Voters of Maine

\$50. Donation

1 chance in 450 to win

ACT NOW

CONTACT Penny Harris

league of women voters

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

President: Penny Harris
Editor: Sally Paterson

2 President's Column

Thank you for entrusting me with the president's position. I welcome the challenge and responsibilities it represents. The League of Women Voters is a special organization with a unique service. Our effectiveness depends on our teamwork.

The League is managed by a team of exceptional people who are dedicated to the principles of the LWV. Local presidents and other League leaders give many hours because each believes our organization provides an important service to Maine citizens.

Now we are called on to meet bigger expectations with fewer people, less time, and fewer dollars. Can we meet these challenges? I believe if we become more efficient in managing our volunteer's time and our program priorities, we become more productive, interest more members, and receive greater financial support.

Our projects and calendar have been set for this year. We need everyone to share in a piece of League program. Contact your local president to join a project or attend a meeting. Every project chairperson needs some help. If you have only one hour to give, we need you. Experience is NOT necessary, just high motivation and strong interest, the desire to learn and to work with interesting and committed people.

The program promises to be exciting and interesting. We will be into solid waste, military spending, election laws, debates, fundraising, school finance, Citizen's Day at the Legislature, and the Legislators reception. Does anything sound interesting to you? Call or write us today.

STATE CONVENTION 1983
April 29- May 1st
SAMOSET HOTEL

Congratulations to:

MARY ELLEN MAYBURY, Brewer
past State League President

and

KAREN STRAM, Dresden
past State League 2nd V.P.

who are running for:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

State and Local Relations

A comprehensive issues paper highlighting historical perspectives and covering several program areas was included for participants of the Blaine House Conference. This is available to any interested League. Please see the report in this issue for more details.

Penny Davis

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Portland Area	CLAUDETTE THING 22 Deblois Street, Portland 04103	772-9543

Resources for National Security Study

Barnet, Richard J., Real Security: Restoring American Power in a Dangerous Decade. New York, Touchstone/Simon & Shuster, 1981.

Fallows, James M., National Defense. New York, Random House.

Kojn and the Editors of Foreign Policy Association, The ABC's of Defense: America's Military in the 1980's. Foreign Policy Association, 1981. Available from FPA, 205 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10016. \$3.00 plus 70¢ handling charge. (25% discount available on order of 10 or more.)

Sivard, Ruth Leger, World Military and Social Expenditures, 1981. World Priorities, Box 1003, Leesburg, Virginia 22075. \$4.00.

U.S. Department of State. "Arms Control and the Future of East-West Relations," and "Address to the Special Session on Disarmament II of the United Nations", May 9 and June 17 speeches by President Reagan, and "Peace and Deterrence," April 6 speech by Secretary of State Haig. Available free from the Bureau of Public Affairs, U.S. State Department, Washington, DC 20520.

Don't forget LWVEF publications: A Nuclear Power Primer: Issues for Citizens, 1982. #575, \$2.50, and Security Through Arms Control?, 1978. #242, 40¢.

NEW NATIONAL PROGRAM

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Public Policy on Reproductive Choices

Convention '82 voted to ask local Leagues to concur with the following statement: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices." This statement reflects positions reached by the LWV of New Jersey and the LWV of Massachusetts concerning public policy on reproductive matters.

This concurrence was placed under the Government section of our national program, and will be chaired by the Government/Voters Service chair, Virginia Schwartz. Read your summer National VOTER for "outlook for work" interviews, and a brief discussion of concurrence in the president's message. Watch for a substantive article in the fall issue of the National VOTER. September through December will be the time period for local Leagues to hold meetings or use other means to reach member agreement.

The deadline for local reporting on concurrence is January 3, 1983. Be sure to participate in this process as a new national position will result. Contact your local president for more information. MALS will have the opportunity to be counted.

National Security

A second new program was adopted at Convention '82: An evaluation of U.S. national securities policies including arms control, military spending, and other related issues. Member agreement will be reached through the study and consensus process. A partial schedule has been developed by the national board. Materials for use by resource committees will begin to arrive this summer. An article will appear in the fall VOTER laying out the overall issue. Note the summer reading list of recommended resources in this issue. More detailed guidance from national will have the study underway by late fall or early winter.

The complete current national program appears in brief in the summer National VOTER. Please take advantage of these many opportunities to contribute your knowledge and opinions.

DEBATES '82

" THE MAINE EVENT "

October 20-21, Maine PBN



League of Women Voters of Maine

RESULTS OF MEMBER SURVEY

May 1982

There were 36 respondents, an 8.5% return. Do these results indicate that a fair sampling was made?

Of the program items listed, those chosen in order of priority were: Farmland, School Finance, Taxes, and Study of Election Laws and Practices. Participants thought travel expenses should be paid to League volunteers, but not babysitting expenses. Most were willing to pay more than the current \$6 State Per Member Payment.

There were a dozen reasons for joining LWV, but the chief one mentioned was to become informed. Not close behind, but mentioned by several participants were meeting new people, believing in League goals, and getting involved. Others were League's clout, that League is non-partisan, and that it provides educational opportunities and leadership skills.

Closely correlated to the reasons was how respondents perceived the purpose of LWV. To provide information on issues, and to provide opportunities to learn to be active, informed participants in the government process received the most responses, and to do candidate meetings, and other Voters Services was close behind.

Most said they would like to be active, but just one in three said they would like to be on a local/state board. All respondents wanted LWV to continue in Maine, and most agreed to try to get a new member. 90% said they read the State VOTER, and 60% said they read all of it!

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Darrilyn Peters has a list from the Office of the Governor of boards and commissions with members whose terms expire in 1982. The Governor is responsible for filling these positions with qualified individuals who are interested in contributing their time and talents to the State of Maine. Some of the appointments require confirmation by the legislature, such as the State Board of Education. Others do not, and include such boards as those in the Executive Department, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Educational and Cultural Services. Others are advisory positions in Independent Agencies such as the Mental Health Advisory Council. The list is extensive and covers a broad range of services.

If you would like to be considered, forward a letter of interest and a copy of your resume to Governor Brennan to receive full attention when applicants are reviewed for available positions. For further information on the organization, membership, and program for each board or commission you may consult a copy of the Maine State Government Annual Report at your local library.

IN MEMORY OF

Wilmer C. Berg
September 26, 1981

"Bill" was a long-time active member who served on the Board of Directors of the Brunswick League of Women Voters. His use of the Socratic method for making decisions was a valuable contribution to the League.

Report From The Blaine House Conference on State and Local Relations May '82

Jargy Miller and Sally Paterson of the Portland Area LWV participated in this conference which looked at past, present, and future ways of financing and administering state and local programs. The group was largely composed of managers, and elected officials who were strongly committed to representing their viewpoints, and to improving the system. They were concerned with looking beyond the property tax, thinking of creative new revenue sources to pay for more efficient governmental services, and ways to meet the challenges of possible decreased federal funds. Some of the ideas from this conference were:

1. Neal Pierce, syndicated columnist from the Washington Post, stressed that local governments need cash or freedom to go beyond the property tax. He believed that the New Federalism gives local citizens power, and that we should take this initiative toward self-sufficiency seriously.

2. John Menario recommended that Maine increase the sales tax by 1% and give half to general revenue sharing and half to local governments. In 1960, 82% of local Maine government expenses were paid by property taxes. With federal and state funds, this figure decreased to 57% in 1982.

3. Lloyd Irland, a state economist, ended a panel discussion by stating that we have pandered to citizen's tax resistance too long. For short political gain we have borrowed too much at the long run cost of the state's economy.

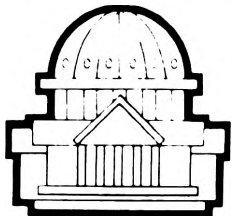
4. A workshop on education recommended that Maine shift the burden of funding from the property tax, simplify the state funding formula, increase the state's share of educational costs, and fund the needs of special populations through state, not local resources.

5. Legislator Judith Kany presented her proposal for a State Department of Community and Economic Development. This department would assist communities in solving their most serious problems, help them adapt to changes, and strengthen the state-local connection. It would coordinate and combine programs which provide technical assistance, advocacy, and administration of loan programs and community development block grants. It would be separate from the State Planning Office.

6. Dr. David Walker described the nationalization of policy which has taken place since 1960, and gave some reasons including the collapse of parties, attitudinal shifts, and the Federal government being perceived as the most efficient way of doing business. In 1960 8% of \$1 billion, and in 1980, 25% of \$96 billion bypassed state government, and went to local government. This fact highlights the confusion of roles. The New Federalism is now causing us to go through a de-evolution, a de-regulation, and a de-institutionalism. He noted the relatively good position Maine was in in having established the important state and local connection in many areas, such as land use, environment, and education.

7. A workshop on Restructuring Substate Government, using intensive priority setting methods, concluded that broadening funding sources, eliminating duplication of services, and allowing county home rule were the most feasible options for effecting change. Helping and hindering forces effecting each priority option were identified. Positive forces were the public, the legislature, special interest groups, the Maine Municipal Association, national trends, and an improved economy. The hindering force was considered to be tradition.

 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of MAINE
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report from
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