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LWV maine voter

Penny Harris, President

September 1983

Martha Wolfe, Editor

State Calendar

SEPT. 27.....Discussion Leader Training Workshop 9AM-2:30PM,
Marlee Coughlan 655-7624

OCT. 19.....State Committee Meetings
9:15-11:30AM, Penny Harris
947-4737. (Open to all
League members.)
State Board Meeting,
12:30-3PM

NOV. 8.....Election Day

NOV. 16.....State Committee Meetings
9:15-11:30AM, Penny Harris
947-4737. (Open to all
League members.)
State Board Meeting,
12:30-3PM

JAN. 11....."League Day on the Hill"
9Am-Noon, Legislator's
Reception--Blaine House,
Penny Harris 947-4737.
State Board Meeting 1-3PM

special
section →

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Important Notices
for YOU.....every page

**action packed
POLITICS**

Did you notice?
LWVME was mentioned in the National
Voter (Spring 1983) on our efforts
to ratify the DC voting rights amen-
dment.



Message from the President

Savvy... Does the League have it?

One hundred and thirty-six years ago (July 19-20, 1848) the first national women's convention was held in Seneca Falls, NY. Elizabeth Stanton and Lucretia Mott, young married mothers, organized this meeting because they had a dream; a dream for women to develop confidence in their own powers, strengthen their self-respect and become more independent.

Seventy-two years later the 19th Amendment was ratified, a high point in the now 136 year struggle for women's equality. The 19th Amendment brought women from suffragettes to the League of Women Voters. Given the right to vote they had to go further, developing contacts, information networks and political Savvy to achieve their dream.

Now we are working for a constitutional commitment from the people of this country, a statement formally supporting the belief in women's equality. For the past 63 years the LWV has worked for this commitment, helping women establish those contacts, information networks and political savvy.

The ERA is only one part of our program. Our success record is long, built on a strong decentralized organization. Local Leagues are our most valuable asset. Every LWV member can participate in program selection, giving them the opportunity to establish contacts, information networks and political savvy. Over 20 per cent of all elected women are or have been League members. Other members are appointed political positions, start their own businesses, get graduate degrees, become consultants or take advantage of many other types of opportunities.

successful campaign to get the DC Amendment ratified in Maine. We worked to get the ERA through the Maine Legislature, organize the only live statewide televised public debates and closely monitored the redistricting process. Our year also included "A Day on the Hill in Augusta" with a legislators' reception at the Blaine House, "Citizens Day at the Legislature," publication of the State VOTER and our 48th State Convention at the Samoset Resort featuring United States Senator George Mitchell and LWVUS Vice President Marilyn Reeves as guest speakers.

1983-84 is ahead of us. For guidance we have the commitments and goals we set last Spring at our State Convention. This program offers many opportunities for League members. State committees on Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal, Campaign Finance in Maine, National Security and Women's Issues have been organized. These committees meet in Augusta preceeding each State Board meeting from 9:15 to 11:30 AM. Anyone who becomes involved with these committees can be a resource to the local League; a way to establish contacts, information networks and perhaps a little savvy.

John Nesbitt in his book Megatrends says our society is changing from industrial to informational; from centralized working with economies of scale to decentralized; from a representative to a participatory democracy. If this true, the League is a good example; our product is information, we are decentralized and we support a participatory democracy. We are in the right place and it's the right time!

I challenge every member of the LWVME for the year 1983-84 to "Go For Action With the LWV." Join a committee, bring in a new member, attend a meeting, read the Voter, vote in your election. Anything you do to act is important. Being involved doesn't mean you can control the outcome, but you CAN affect it.

Penny has placed Megatrends, by John Nesbitt on the State Board's reading list for 1983; a source of thought provoking inspiration, a glimpse of our very likely future as a Nation.

Penny Davis

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Emphasis On Arms Control:

The League of Women Voters of Maine is presenting a major conference on war and peace issues Tuesday, Nov. 1, 1983 at the Sheraton Inn in S. Portland. (Exit 7, Maine Turnpike) Co-sponsoring "National Security and You" are the LWV's of Mass., New Hampshire and Vermont. Invitations and flyers are going to people from all walks of life to encourage a stimulating interchange of ideas.

The goal of the day is to strengthen the belief of League members and the general public in their ability to influence military policy and budget choices, based on information from different perspectives on national security issues.

To accomplish this goal we need concise information from a variety of viewpoints. The conference format begins with two films: Sea Trials by Bath Iron Works and How Much Is Enough? by Andrew Stern of Documerica Films at the University of California, Berkeley. Following the films, a panel of four nationally known speakers will give views on economic, political, military and humanistic aspects of the United States' national security policies after which they will answer questions from the audience.

Panel speakers who have accepted our invitation include: Senator William S. Cohen, Maine; Gordon Adams, Economist, Director of Defense Budget Project, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, DC. Speakers from the military and humanistic fields are expected to accept soon.

In keeping with one of League's special strengths, the cross-fertilization of ideas in well-facilitated discussion groups, conference attendees will then divide into small groups lead by trained discussion group leaders to formulate their ideas.

Anne Dahn, Executive Director of the Committee for National Security (a private group in Washington, DC which

works for effective citizen choices) will hear a summary report from the discussion groups and offer suggestions to the full conference for citizen action.

This conference launches Part II (Military Policy and Budget Decisions) of the League's nationwide study on Arms Control. If you learn about the issues, ask questions and discuss your ideas, you will be exercising your power to influence national decisions. An informed citizenry does make a difference.

The conference cost, including information materials and luncheon, is \$10.00 (\$20.00 for people who are not LWVME members.) Send your check to Kathy Meeker, Treasurer, 196 Winn Road, Falmouth, 04105. (limited to 200)

Marlee Coughlan
Conference Director

Marlee is organizing a discussion leader training workshop (applicable to this conference and other employment or volunteer situations) on Sept. 27th in Portland. For information call Marlee at 655-7624.

B&B

The Portland Area League is offering bed and breakfast lodging as a fund-raising project during the "National Security and You" conference. A fee of \$20.00, payable to Jean Gulliver, 23 Thornhurst Rd., Falmouth 04105 (207-846-3244), will reserve your space.

Y NATIONAL SECURITY



BIBLIOGRAPHY on NATIONAL SECURITY:
National Voter, Winter 1983,
"NATO in the 1980s: Challenges and Prospects."

Providing for the Common Defense:
A Military Policy Reader, LWVUS Ed.
Fund pub. no. 531.

The Quest for Arms Control: Why and How, LWVUS Ed. Fund pub. no 530.

Quiz!

TEST YOUR SOVIET KNOWLEDGE

1. The Soviet's major export is:
 - a) petroleum
 - b) iron ore
 - c) touring hockey teams
 - d) grain
2. ____ of Soviet citizens are members of the Communist party.
 - a) 6%
 - b) 14%
 - c) 47%
 - d) 80%
3. The Soviet Union is the world's largest producer of _____.
 - a) steel
 - b) borsht
 - c) oil
 - d) all of the above
4. NATO was formed in 1949; the Warsaw Pact was formed in _____.
 - a) 1947
 - b) 1950
 - c) 1955
 - d) 1958
5. The USSR has greatly increased its production of automobiles; approximately ____ of all Soviets own cars.
 - a) 5%
 - b) 15%
 - c) 30%
 - d) 40%
6. The Jackson-Vanik Amendment ties "Most Favored Nation" trade nation status for the Soviet Union to _____.
 - a) significantly eased restrictions on emigration.
 - b) permission for NATO observers to attend Warsaw Pact maneuvers
 - c) permission for a Wayne Newton concert tour to the USSR
 - d) a cut-off in USSR military assistance to Vietnam.
7. About ____ of Soviet citizens are ethnic Russians.
 - a) 10%
 - b) 25%
 - c) 50%
 - d) 80%
8. The USSR has more women ____ than the rest of the world combined
 - a) in political office
 - b) engineers
 - c) surgeons
 - d) computer programmers
9. The six Eastern European members of the Warsaw Pact owe Western banks and governments approximately _____.
 - a) \$15 billion
 - b) \$40 billion
 - c) \$60 billion
 - d) \$100 billion
10. Yuri Andropov is the new _____.
 - a) President of the Supreme Soviet
 - b) General Sec. of the Comm. Party
 - c) Conductor of the Bolshoi ballet
 - d) Premier of the USSR
11. The USSR lost ____ as many people in WWI as the U.S. ____
 - a) 4 times
 - b) 10 times
 - c) 20 times
 - d) 40 times
12. The Soviet GNP is about ____ as that of the U.S.
 - a) half as large
 - b) twice as large
 - c) the same size
 - d) four times as large
13. The USSR's nuclear arsenal contains more total explosive power than the U.S. nuclear arsenal.
 - a) true
 - b) false
14. The USSR lies at a latitude comparable to ____
 - a) the US
 - b) Canada
 - c) Tijuana, Mexico
 - d) Greenland
15. For the last 10 years, the primary U.S. export to the USSR has been:
 - a) heavy machinery
 - b) blue jeans
 - c) oil-drilling equipment
 - d) agricultural products.
16. "INF" stands for ____
 - a) independent nuclear forces
 - b) immediate nuclear freeze
 - c) intermediate-range nuclear forces
 - d) international nudist festival
17. The U.S. extended diplomatic recognition to the USSR in ____
 - a) 1918
 - b) 1927
 - c) 1933
 - d) 1946
18. The U.S. has not yet ratified the last three major arms control agreements negotiated with the USSR.
 - a) true
 - b) false

ANSWERS: 1.a, 2.b, 3.d, 4.c, 5.a, 6.a, 7.c, 8.b, 9.c, 10.b, 11.d, 12.a, 13.a, 14.b, 15.d, 16.c, 17.c, 18.a,

arms control calendar:PART I

SEPT. 22.....Portland Area League
with USM Poli. Sci.
Dept. panel discussion
on National Security
featuring David Emery.

SEPT. 27.....Brunswick Area League
with James Bowdoin Ins.
panel discussion on Na-
tional Security.

SEPT. 29.....Orono membership
consensus meeting on
Arms Control

OCT. 23.....Lewiston-Auburn votes on
National Security con-
sensus.

OCT. 26.....Brunswick consensus
meeting.

PART II

NOV. 1.....Regional "National Sec-
urity and You" Conference,
Sheraton Inn, South
Portland. 8AM-4PM.

MORE TO READ ON ARMS CONTROL

The Atlantic, June, 1983, "Living
with Nuclear Weapons".

The New York Times Magazine, June
5, 1983, "A Practical Way to Arms
Control".

Time, March 7, 1983, "U.S. Defense
Spending: Are Billions Being Wasted?"

y national security

of interest:

On October 4th and 5th at 9PM (EST)
PBS presents a two-episode special
premiere to their new 13-part series
VIETNAM: A TELEVISION HISTORY. On
Tuesday Oct. 11 and the following 10
consecutive Tuesdays (9PM) the remain-
der of this important television
chronicle will air. Check local list-
ings, tune in to this series which
"provides a detailed visual and oral
account of the war which changed a
generation and continues to color
American thinking on many military
foreign policy issues."*
*PBS press release quote.

The Maine LWV extends sincere thanks
for assistance in presenting "Na-
tional Security and You", from Bath
Iron Works, Shop and Save Super-
markets and the Committee for Na-
tional Security.

GLOSSARY OF ARMS CONTROL ACRONYMS

ICBMs-intercontinental ballistic
missiles

SLBMs-submarine launched ballistic
missiles

MIRV-multiple independently-target-
able reentry vehicles

(ICBMs and SLBMs can be MIRVed)

CTB- Comprehensive Test Ban

SALT-Strategic Arms Limitation Talks

START-Strategic Arms Reduction Talks

LTBT-Limited Test Ban Treaty

IAEA-International Atomic Energy Agency

C³I-Command, Control, Communication
and Intelligence

EMP-electromagnetic pulse

NATO-North Atlantic Treaty Organization

AWACS-Airborne Warning and Control
System

TNF-Theater Nuclear Forces



Nuclear wastes

LOW LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE

At the LWV of Maine Convention last May, the delegates agreed that the most immediate concern under our State Natural Resources Program should be the issue of Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal (LLW). The statewide Energy Committee, with Julie Howison of Portland as Chair, has been hard at work throughout the summer gathering information on this issue.

BACKGROUND

WHY ARE WE NOW CONCERNED ABOUT LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT IN MAINE?

At the present time, LLW produced in the U.S. is disposed of in one of three states: South Carolina, Washington & Nevada. However, Congress, in 1980 passed the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act which adopts a new national policy & places primary responsibility for disposal of LLW on the states, & encourages regional waste management as the safest, most effective approach to LLW disposal. States can satisfy their responsibility by developing in-state disposal capability or by entering regional compacts. By 1986, Maine must find a place for its LLW.

WHAT IS LOW LEVEL WASTE?

LLW is waste that contains radioactive materials. LLW includes contaminated paper towels, plastic gloves & clothes, machinery parts, animal carcasses, organic & aqueous liquids, sludges & (at the end of its useful life) the reactor at a nuclear power plant. It is not high level waste, transuranic waste, or uranium mine or mill tailings. LLW typically contains shorter lived (up to 500 years) nuclides than high level waste and has less activity per unit volume.

WHO GENERATES LOW LEVEL WASTE?

In our state, Maine Yankee generates over 92% of the LLW, with hospitals, research labs the remainder.

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES FOR LLW DISPOSAL?

The LLW Policy Act encourages states to form regional compacts as a means for addressing their disposal responsibilities collectively. Maine may choose to become part of the proposed 11-state "Northeast Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Compact". Maine may also choose to form a smaller compact with neighboring states or to provide its own disposal site for Maine use only.

WHAT IS THE 11-STATE NORTHEAST COMPACT?

The Compact is a legally binding contract among states. The states & their production volumes are listed below (LLW volume for '79 is in cu. meters):

Maine	416	New York	9572
New Hampshire	77	Pennsylvania	6825
Vermont	370	Delaware	120
Massachusetts	4860	Maryland	978
Rhode Island	463	New Jersey	3008
Connecticut	3970		

The 11-state Northeast Compact represents 40% of the nation's LLW. The first site to open will be receiving, in addition to regular LLW, the wastes from Three Mile Island plant in Pa. and from West Valley, N.Y. which is due for decommissioning.

HOW DOES A STATE GET TO HOST A DISPOSAL SITE?

If no state volunteers, the Compact may designate a host state according to certain siting criteria, by a two-thirds vote.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF MAINE BEING DESIGNATED A HOST?

Every member of the proposed compact must prove whether it is capable of hosting a site. Every member is at equal risk. According to the proposed compact, a state which has already hosted a site has the right to refuse to be a host for the second site. Some states may be found unsuitable. Delaware, for example, has a very high water table & cannot accommodate a shallow-land burial site. Some states may not join the Compact & the number of site eligible states may dwindle.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF MAINE DOING ABOUT DISPOSAL QUESTIONS?

In 1981, the State established a Low Level Radioactive Waste Siting Commission, chaired by Rep. Judy Kany. The Siting Commission is currently collecting preliminary data on engineering, environmental, legal and economic implications of forming a smaller region with states that produce similar quantities of LLW (such as with Vermont & N.H.) and the feasibility of "going it alone". Preliminary information is expected by Dec. 1 in sufficient amount to allow the Commission to make a recommendation to the Legislature & Governor on whether to join the Northeast Compact, a smaller region or "go it alone". The Legislature must consider whether or not to join the Northeast Compact during the 50-day session beginning in Jan. '84, and make an initial decision by June 30, 1984.

WHAT IS OUR LEAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE PLANNING?

We will be monitoring all of the Commission meetings and analyzing the economic, environmental & engineering data as it becomes available. Public meetings are being planned for early December across the state to inform our members & the public about the options available for Maine. Plans are also being made for the Energy Committee to agree on whether to join the Northeast Compact, a smaller region, or "go it alone" and then ask for CONCURRENCE from the statewide membership. This would have to take place in early January in order for us to have an impact on the decision in our legislature.

Look for information in your local bulletin & if money becomes available, a pro & con flyer will be prepared for public distribution. The statewide Energy Committee has a contact person in each local league if you would like to become active on this issue.

Carol Fritz, Natural Resources
Julie Howison, Energy

An excellent publication, prepared by the LWVEF, is available covering the issues of both high and low level nuclear waste:

"A Nuclear Waste Primer"
Pub. #391, \$1.25
League of Women Voters of the U.S.
1730 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world."
Ludwig Wittgenstein

The League of Women Voters is a bunch of hypocritical old women. What would you say if you overheard someone saying this? I would reflect that, to a point, they were truthful. The average age of League members is 52 and, in one very important issue the organization is nothing less than hypocritical. The issue: our name--a sexist security blanket from which members will have to detach themselves if they wish to see the League survive.

We have committed ourselves to equal rights and equality under the United States Constitution. Yet, we are limiting our own membership to middle-aged, upper-middle-class women--how ever fine they are--by limiting the language of our title.

Every minority group fighting suppression and discrimination targets much of its battle toward language barriers. Nigger, coon, whop, spic...girl, chick, broad, dame; the womens' movement also targets the enemies in our language. But, in this case we are clinging to the word we have fought for and in the long run it will damage, not strengthen, our reputation.

Many members who are against a name-change point to the political clout our proud title holds. To change the name, they say, is to lose our national recognition. That's a cop-out (to use an outdated slang) a lazy excuse reflecting a hidden case of severe insecurity. And, worse is the insecurity of those who say, "I don't want men in my organization, they will only take over."

It is time to open a few selfish eyes to the realities of the 80s and the promises of the 90s. Young women today, whom we should be actively recruiting, are not anxious to be affiliated with a women-only organization. They have competed against and shared bathrooms in dorms with men. Why should they limit their politics

to their own gender? The sexual and womens' revolutions of the 60s and 70s opened doors for these young women and they are not looking back. They do not know what we have fought against, only what they can see ahead--an unobstructed horizon of equal rights.

The middle of this decade will involve a hard fight for a Constitutional Amendment guaranteeing a clear path to that horizon. But, if we do not begin welcoming these young women, as well as men of all ages, they will leave us in the dust clinging bitterly to our forgotten battles.

It is time to shed our security blankets, our shortsightedness, our hypocritical self-induced gender gap and most of all our limitations. We should stand to the challenge a name-change presents, defying even our own deep fears, and step into the future with our daughters, and sons.

The coming ERA and presidential battles (remember the debates and our banner) are an excellent opportunity to use a name-change campaign to our advertising advantage. We will be practicing the equality we preach, attacking the language barriers we despise, reflecting a new organization, more powerful than before, facing the future.

In light of our membership records, changing the League's name in the 1980s is not merely a symbolic formality, it is an obligation. This is no longer a matter for academic debate. The League's future depends on it.

(This column reflects the opinion of the VOTER editor. Responses are welcome, and might be printed in the next VOTER. The State Board is anxious to hear your views on this subject. Do you have any ideas for a new League name?)

Martha

Catherine L.S. Buchan of Hallo-well died unexpectedly August 14, 1983.

Catherine was a dedicated and enthusiastic member of the Kennebec Valley League of Women Voters. She served as President and also as Treasurer and was appreciated for her keen intelligence and wide knowledge.

VOTER

At their September 14th meeting the State Board set action priorities for 1983 as: Low Level Radioactive Waste, State ERA passage and National Security. We recognize as LWVME continued responsibilities: Acid Rain and Freedom of Reproductive Choice.



Did you see? Summer '83 National Voter mentioned the Portland Area League for their efforts in pro-



MALS

A bylaw change allows 2 members-at-large to attend State Council as voting delegates. State Council will adopt the State Budget for 1984-85 and get updates on program. The process is to submit a 130 word statement of your qualifications and reasons for wanting to be a delegate and send it to 325 Garland Street, Bangor 04401 by January 1, 1984. If you are chosen

you must attend the February 15 State Board meeting. Date for the State Council is May 4-5, 1984 and it is at Loon Mountain, New Hampshire. This will be the first Tri-State Council. It promises to be an interesting, educational and fun weekend. We hope two MALS will want to be delegates. If you have questions contact Penny Harris, 947-4737.

Voter LWVME

Martha Wolfe, Editor
60 Hillside Street
Yarmouth, Maine 04096

Subscriptions to the LWVME State VOTER can be obtained from Penny Harris, LWVME president, for \$5.00 per year.

Voter **LWVME**

Martha Wolfe, Editor
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