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Spring 4-30-1995

## Maine NOW Times (Spring 1995)

National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter Staff

*National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter*

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# We Won't Go Back Rally

**Rally Against Violence - Sunday, April 9, 1995**

I am writing these words from two identities - that of a National NOW Board member and, more importantly, as a worker in the battered women's movement. As you read this, my sisters and I are under siege in the continuing wake of publicity surrounding the Simpson/Goldman murder case. In addition to the overwhelming numbers of women who are coming forward for help, we have been besieged by the press in search of a local angle to this case.

Now that the trial has begun, I fear most attempts by the defense to distort what is known about battering behavior. One of the ways this is likely to happen is to rely on the testimony of one of the earlier writers about battered women, Lenore Walker. Her testimony will no doubt lend credibility to attorneys who have already engaged in victim-blaming and who will try to minimize the risks that battered women face from their abusers.

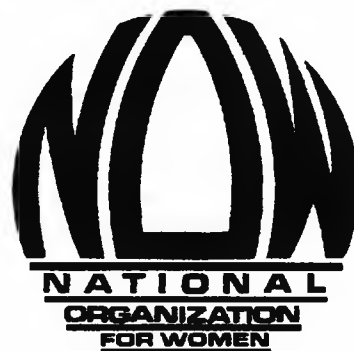
Although Ms. Walker made substantial contributions to the early theories about battering, one must remember that her experience is not with abusive men - or with the stalking behavior that so many exhibit. There is a reason that safety planning is a cornerstone of much of the work done by grassroots advocates for women and children.

As NOW members - there are ways that you can help at this time.

Remind people that it is critical, not only that women come forward for assistance, but that domestic violence programs have the capacity to meet the service demands. The raising of public consciousness must be accompanied by the raising of public and private dollars.

And, you can hop on the bus for what will no doubt be the ride of your life, to join your sisters and brothers in Washington, D.C. on April 9 to let Congress know that we will not go back into closets of fear - of either domestic violence, unwanted pregnancies or poverty.

*by Lois Galgay Reckitt*



**MAINE**

**NOW**

**TIMES**

**SPRING 1995**

Join the National Organization for Women for a massive action against violence

Send form & money postmarked no later than **MARCH 20**

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check off where you would prefer to leave from:

I need \_\_\_\_\_ partial \_\_\_\_\_ Bangor \_\_\_\_\_ Brunswick  
\_\_\_\_\_ full scholarship \_\_\_\_\_ Augusta \_\_\_\_\_ Portland

Make check payable to: **Maine NOW.** Send form and money to:

Kate Webb, April 9 Rally, 11 Frederick St., Portland, ME 04102

If you can't join us... Please consider contributing to our scholarship fund to help someone else attend. Thanks. Amt. enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**After we receive your form and money,  
we will send you additional info on the trip.**

## **BUSES to Washington, D.C.**

Buses will leave from several locations in Maine - \$ 70.00 round trip. Buses are smoke free but stops are made often. Buses will leave Saturday evening, April 8 & will be back in Maine on Monday morning, April 10.

If you need financial help, ask your friends and family to chip in - (cash in those bottles and cans). If you still need some assistance call us. Some scholarship money for bus fare may be available.

**For additional info call  
Kate 774-9827 or the Maine NOW  
answering machine 797-8508.**

## "Our Children's Hearts Are In Your Hands" - ACT to END POVERTY

The Coalition for Economic Justice, of which Maine NOW is an active member, is a coalition of organizations and individuals working for economic justice in Maine. Our aim is to bring about a better world where everyone is valued according to their talents rather than by their economic status. We are working to bring the unheard voices of those who are most affected into the "welfare reform" debate.

Despite what many would have us think, most American people **do** care about the plight of those who are materially poor. Ninety-two (92) percent of those surveyed by the Center for the Study of Policy Attitudes in October 1994, agreed that "trying to reduce poverty is a good economic investment."

All across the country, citizens are joining forces for "Our Children's Hearts Are In Your Hands", a campaign designed to show state legislators and members of Congress that there is strong, unified, grassroots opposition to the destruction of our nation's social safety net. The theme symbolizes the great human devastation which will ensue if proposals to eliminate and severely restrict AFDC, SSI, Food Stamps, housing assistance and child nutrition programs (to name a few) are adopted.

The Coalition for Economic Justice has decided to participate in this national action by asking you to **cut out & mail the flyer on the previous page to your elected officials**. We are asking that you mail off at least two of these flyers--one to your state Representative and one to your state senator. We ask you to participate if:

- \* you are currently experiencing poverty      \* you have experienced it in the past
- \* you are part of the working poor,      \* you are concerned about other families in your community
- \* you are concerned that a safety net will not exist for your family should you need it in the future.

To join us in this effort, all you have to do is:

**FIRST:** Fill in your child's name (grandchild/friend) and age on the "hand" on the back of the flyer- or better yet, have your child fill it in and decorate it. You then can add a personal note in the space provided.

**SECOND:** Complete the address in the space provided by adding the name and address of your State Senator on one flyer and State Representative on another. If you don't know who they are, call your town office or city hall. Someone there can help you.

**THIRD:** Mail your completed flyers as soon as possible.

**FOURTH:** Get others to do the same! **Copy this letter and flyer (on previous page, both sides).**

Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
Maine House of Representatives  
State House Station #2  
Augusta, ME 04333

Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Maine State Senate  
State House Station #3  
Augusta, ME 04333

There is also a space for a **personal handwritten message**. Keep it short. Positive (ie. what will/or has help me get off welfare; education & training for new kinds of jobs). Speak from common values (ie. dignity for poor people; the value of work; the importance of building a strong family). We suggest using any or a combination of the following messages.

"I believe current proposals of cuts in welfare will cause great harm to my family (or my neighbor's)."

"Families will grow and be strong if they are supported in their efforts to get off welfare."

"I want to work and need a job at a decent wage so I can support my families."

"I want my tax dollars used to maintain a just and compassionate safety net."

"Further cuts in AFDC will cause my child to suffer -- less food, poor housing and inadequate clothing."

"Increasing the minimum wage and increasing subsidies for child care will keep me off welfare."

"I have worked in the past but had to go on welfare because of illness (divorce, lack of child care...). I need health insurance (job training, subsidized child care...)so I can again work to support my family."

"Children will be the ones most hurt by cuts, family caps, or time limits on AFDC. We need education, training and jobs with wages high enough to support our families."

**IF YOU WANT MORE INFO ON SPECIFIC BILLS BEING PROPOSED OR  
YOU WANT TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN ELIMINATING POVERTY,  
CALL CHRIS RUSNOV, Maine NOW CEJ rep., 873-0878.**

CUT OUT, COPY (BOTH SIDES) AND MAIL TO YOUR LEGISLATORS!

**We the children, the future of our country,  
ask you to support welfare reform that assists families  
by providing them with the tools required to move out of poverty.**

*Please - No lifetime limits on assistance that will add to homelessness and prevent needed education and training.*

*Please - Exclude no child (no "family cap"). Don't punish us because we are born and our parents are poor.*

*Please - Don't cut the assistance my family needs for food and shelter.*

*Please - Be caring and compassionate.*

### **FACTS ABOUT WELFARE AND POVERTY IN MAINE**

**FACT:** AFDC helps shelter, clothe and feed 60,000 poor children in Maine in a year. At any point in time, AFDC is supporting 1 in 8 eight Maine children.

**FACT:** 63% of all female-headed households in Maine, with children under 6, live in poverty.

**FACT:** The majority of AFDC recipients stay on the program for LESS THAN 2 YEARS. Most leave to go to work. Many return because of inadequate support systems--child care, transportation, health care.

**FACT:** The average number of children in an AFDC household is 1.8.

**FACT:** AFDC programs represent only 1% of the federal Budget, and just over 2% of the State budget. Maine benefits have been cut 5 times in the last four years and are the lowest in New England- a mother and one child receives \$312 per month. Even when Food Stamps and heating assistance are added, AFDC families still fall well below the poverty line.

**FACT:** Nearly three-quarters of AFDC recipients have worked in the past five years. Half of these jobs paid \$5 per hour or less.

**FACT:** A family of 3 with one full-time minimum wage worker lives 30% below the poverty level.

### **ESSENTIAL TOOLS TO OVERCOME THE NEED FOR WELFARE**

Access to Credit

Affordable Housing

Jobs with health insurance

Affordable, quality child care

Education and training

Increased minimum wage

**Let's REFORM Welfare, so - "It's a hand out of poverty"**

**Here's a brief part of my (my child's) story.**

# Our Children's Hearts Are In Your Hands



FOLD IN HALF AND MAIL

AFFIX  
32¢  
STAMP



# They Organized!!!

## They didn't Agonize

Many thanks to **Sandra Holland** and **Vicki Foster** from Brunswick NOW and **Katie Fullam** from PPNNE for organizing the Jan. 21 Portland Pro-choice Rally...and to JoAnne Dauphinee and Joyce Blakney of Greater Bangor NOW for organizing the Jan. 22 Bangor march and rally...also to all of you who made calls, endured the weather, wrote letters, mentored, donated money and were there!!! **OUR VOICES WERE HEARD!**

.....

Since the October, Maine NOW Pro-choice Call to Action, several **action groups** were formed and have been at work. The following is an update.

**Walk for Access:** Organized recent rallies/march in Portland. Currently organizing walk in Portland for APRIL 29 to raise funds for S.A.F.E, Mabel Wadsworth and NOW. Sandra Holland 729-4663

**Increase Access:** Networking with providers, medical associations and medical training programs to increase access. George Hill 622-7524.

**Communication:** Created an activists phone tree for events, legislation & action alerts. Be on it! call Helen Scalia 828-0932.

**Clinic Support Training:** Two training have taken place, in Augusta and Bangor, to learn how to offer support to women and providers. (Greater Bangor NOW has pledged to help the MWWHC in whatever way necessary-JoAnne 989-3306.) If your area is interested in a training, call Anne Levesque 990-6168.

### Pledge-A-Picket

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, targeted by anti-choice group, is picketed twice weekly. The Pledge-a-Picket program gives MWWHC supporters the opportunity to financially express their outrage at these actions. It's a great way for them to raise dollars to beef up their security system. They are highly committed to continuing full reproductive services for the women of Maine.

Show your support!

To receive a pledge sheet or get info write: MWWHC, P.O. Box 20, Bangor, ME 04402.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

**Media Watch:** Monitors the media and responding with letters to the editor and press releases. They still need your help collecting articles and writing letters. Call to volunteer: Judy Lloyd 725-5854.

**Campus Organizing:** Networking among public and private colleges. If you're on a campus and want to get involved call Sharon Barker 581-1228 at UMO Women's Resource Center.

## Pro-Choice Legislation

The Women's Health Equity Campaign is a cooperative effort of the Maine Choice Coalition (Maine NOW is a member) and other allied organizations committed to initiating, advancing, and supporting public health policy that ensures, enhances and protects access to the full range of women's reproductive health services. The following bills are being **proposed or followed** by WHEC organizations. Many bills have not been printed at the time of this publication and therefore do not have L.D. numbers and/or titles.

**To get more info on a bill  
call legislative info at 287-1692**

**Maine Health Care Protection Act:** mandates a "quiet zone" outside medical facilities and raises the criminal penalties for threatening workers, disrupting operations, using noxious chemicals, etc. Sponsor: Sen. Peter Mills

**An Act to Protect Patient Privacy:** restricts the harassing and intimidating use of video cameras outside of clinics and medical facilities. Sponsor: Sen. Peter Mills.

**Family Planning Funding:** restore to FPA, \$160,000, cut two years ago. Sponsor: Rep. Eliza Townsend. ALSO - A bill to create a demonstration project to train ASPIRE participants as family planning outreach workers to AFDC population.

**An Act to Eliminate the Barriers to the Delivery of Primary Care** (formerly the advanced nursing bill) expands access to primary care. Sponsor: Sen. Dale McCormick.

**L.D. 168 An Act to Clarify Insurance Coverage Regarding Breast Reconstruction After Mastectomy Surgery.** There is also another bill concerning reconstruction surgery- sorry no title.

### Anti-Choice Bills

There are several of anti-choice bills. These include: a total ban on abortion; 24 hour and 48 hour waiting periods; parental notification; mandated biased counseling meant to discourage abortion (this is not neutral options counseling that FP clinics already do).

**L.D. 43 An Act To Limit AFDC Benefits** - no extra benefits for a child born to a woman already on AFDC. Other bills will put time limits on AFDC. 60,000 Maine children receive public assistance and still live well below the poverty level.

### TAKE ACTION!

**Write your State Legislators about these bills.  
Write a letter to your local paper to express your views.**

### Health Care Reform Commission - Update

All three health care proposals include full contraceptive and abortion service as benefits. Keep vigilant so that they remain in the proposals as money limitations are considered.

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS START IN THE SPRING.

Look in the Maine Sunday Telegram & Bangor Daily News weekend edition for time/place/date in your area.

**Attend these hearings to show support for coverage for all women's reproductive related health care needs.** If you have any questions-call Chris 873-0878 or Mary 729-5843.



## Celebrate in Kennebunk

Adult education of the Kennebunks is offering a series of programs devoted to the achievements and interests of women. To get more info call Mary Greely, Dir. - 985-1116.

### March 6 & 13

Women, Money and Investing

### March 7, 14, 21, 28

Recording Personal Family History

### March 7

History of the Native American

### March 8

The Elemental Nerve of Emily Dickinson

### March 9, 16, 23, 30

Women in Literature

### March 14 Singing Herstory

### March 16

The Roots of Feminism in America



We celebrate the courage of the women and men who fought hard to extend such a basic right to women.

\* Donate one to your school or local library.

\* Hang one in your office or home.

**Affordable, gorgeous and inspiring!!!**

\$5 for one, \$3 for additional posters covers postage and handling

**Make checks to: MWL, P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347**

**1995**

## Women's History Poster

presented by  
Maine Women's Lobby/  
Women's Development Institute  
in celebration of  
Women's History Month

**Theme:**

## Women's Suffrage in Maine

1995 is the 75th Anniversary  
of Women's Suffrage.

## April

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month - Portland Activities

**April 2 Chocolate Lovers' Fling** - Greater Portland Rape Crisis Center, Holiday Inn by the Bay. 799-9020

**April 29 Take Back the Night** - Greater Portland NOW and Greater Portland Rape Crisis Center. Cindy 854-1741 or Sue 799-9020

**April 30 Women's Self-defense class** taught by Lauretta Gregoire. Portland 9am - 1 pm. 799-9020

## FLUSH RUSH UPDATE

We've received several call from readers who wrote sponsors of the Rush Limbaugh show to demand that they stop their support of his messages of hate. Sponsors were very concerned and responded. Keep up the pressure.

**It pays to ACT!**

**THINK ABOUT IT...** Many of the plastic bags and bottles dropped off at local recycling centers in the US are shipped (200 million pounds in 1994) to Indonesia and other third world countries, where much of it is not recycled at all. It is often shipped to countries that ban waste imports. Mostly women work unprotected sorting through liquid soap bottles, food wrapper, disposable diaper packages and huge bags with familiar logos - Dow, DuPont, Monsanto, Solvay, BASF, Mobil. They develop skin rashes they never had when they processed only local-produced plastic waste. The owner of one Indonesian recycling company estimates that up to 40% of imported plastic waste is directly landfilled at a local dump polluting their environment. Plastic, even if recycled, eventually ends up in landfills. Think about it when you make your next purchase of a plastic product.

## Breast Cancer Research Dollars at Risk

The Department of Defense peer review breast cancer research program has been a huge success. \$210 million in 1993 and 1994 brought innovative, vitally important research that would not have made it through the usual funding structures. Many new researchers are focusing on breast cancer. Last year another \$150 M was dedicated to this program for 1995 to continue this work. The new Congress wants to rescind this money. Surprised? Write our Congressional delegation (see p. 11). Let them know that women's lives depend on continued support for this program. If you want more info call Laurel Bezanson, Maine Breast Cancer Coalition 874-0943.

# Elections NOT Auctions

## THE ISSUE

Expensive election campaigns funded largely by big contributions from wealthy individuals, corporations and PACs are undermining the basic democratic principle of "one person, one vote" that our system of government rests on. Big campaign contributors buy big influence over elected officials, and the average person feels she no longer has much of a voice. Politicians spend an increasing proportion of their time chasing major campaign donations instead of focusing on the issues that affect all their constituents.

## THE PROPOSAL

We must create a way for politicians to run clean campaigns, free from the influence of big contributors. The **Maine Democracy Option Act**, to be proposed as a citizen-initiated referendum, will create a system of public campaign funding for gubernatorial and state legislative candidates.

To qualify for public funding of their campaigns, candidates who choose to participate in the Maine Democracy Option must demonstrate that they have a large base of public support by collecting a relatively large number of \$5 "qualifying contributions" from among the voters they hope to represent. They must also forswear collecting or spending any private money for their campaigns, except for the \$5 qualifying contributions and an extremely small amount of "seed money" collected in amounts of \$100 or less to fund their effort to reach out to potential \$5 donors. (Participation in this Option is not mandatory. The US Supreme Court, in a controversial decision, has equated spending private money on political campaigns with free speech -- ignor-

ing the highly unequal distribution of "speech" that results.)

If a candidate who qualifies for public funding faces a candidate who has chosen to run a privately-financed campaign, and the privately-financed candidate spends more than the amount allotted to the publicly-funded

Big campaign contributors buy big influence over elected officials, and the average person feels she no longer has much of a voice.

one, the publicly-funded candidate will receive an additional amount of public funding to match the spending against him/her, up to a maximum of three times the original allotted amount. This will allow candidates to participate without undue fear of being massively out spent by privately-financed opponents.

The proposed new law would also significantly reduce the maximum amounts that privately-financed candidates may accept per election from an individual, corporation or PAC. Maine's current limits are higher than those in many other states.

The new public financing system would be financed by a \$4 per-taxpayer-per-year tax, and by registration fees from lobbyists and PACs.

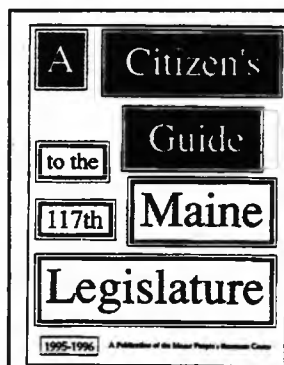
The hope is that most candidates will find it very attractive to participate in the new public funding system, even though the effort of collecting a large number of \$5 contributions will be formidable, because participating will free them from the odious task of constantly begging for big donations and from the taint of being beholden to big money special interests.

If it passes, the Maine Democracy Option Act will change our state's political culture. It will remove a major barrier to candidacy for people who don't have access to big money. It will go a long way toward giving ordinary people control of their own government. This referendum represents a spectacular opportunity for Maine to live up to our state motto, *Dirigo*, Latin for "I lead."

## THE STRATEGY

The plan is to collect signatures in the fall of 1995 to put the question on the November 1996 ballot. To succeed, we will need everyone's help.

To get involved or to get more  
information call -  
Maine Citizens Leadership Fund  
621-1844



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Manual to the  
State Legislature**  
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Portland, ME 04101 761-1881.

Available for  
\$16.00  
(includes tax,  
shipping  
and handling)



# Maine Won't Discriminate

**VOTE**

**NO**



**to Discrimination**

## The Referendum Question

"Do you favor the changes in Maine law limiting protected classifications, in future state and local laws to race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status and marital status, and repealing existing laws which expand these classifications as proposed by citizen petition?"

The Maine Civil Liberties Union and the Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) have filed a lawsuit that seeks to block Maine's anti-gay referendum by challenging the constitutionality of such sweeping efforts to isolate a segment of our society by keeping them from the political process.

Mary Banauto of GLAD said the referendum's backers want to "tie the hands of Maine voters as well as state and local government so that they will be required to discriminate forever."

Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD) is not challenging the Concerned Maine Families (CMF), anti-gay referendum signatures. Rather than spend time and money on a challenge, MWD decided it's wiser to energize volunteers and activists for the referendum campaign.

MWD spokesman, Jim Martin, said that as usual a bill would be presented in the Maine Legislature this session to ensure the civil rights of lesbians and gay men in Maine. While MWD is not actively involved in the bills passage, the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance is and shares many of the same activists.

Jim encourages everyone to write and call members of the Judiciary Committee to ensure that the bill reaches the floor of the House and Senate for a vote. Then write your our State Rep and Senator to express your support for the bill. (It was the successful passage of the bill last year followed by a veto by Gov. McKernan that prompted Carolyn Cosby, leader of CMF, to file her petition for the upcoming referendum.)

Jim asks that we flood the state and local newspapers with letters to the editor to keep the issue in the public eye. Meanwhile, MWD watches the upcoming court challenge to CMF's referendum and believes that their next target will be AIDS funding in Maine.

MWD is also looking for an organizer for this year's Bangor Pride Parade, since they're busy with the referendum. Anyone interested should call Jim 990-3420.

Waterville Chapter: Dayna Larson 453-4936  
Ellsworth Chapter: Ruth Blackburn 276-0503 or Peter Rees 667-2358  
Bangor Chapter: Jeanine Crockett 223-5630 or Jim Martin 990-3420

*by Joyce Blakney*

## WANTED...MORE THAN EVER -- Maine NOW has the following openings...

**Board Scribe** - attend monthly Maine NOW board meeting, take minutes, type and distribute to board-be part of the decision making.

**Lesbian Rights Task Force Coordinator** - spear head Maine NOW efforts on lesbian rights issues (eg. legislation/referendum).

**Legislative Coordinator** - work with Maine NOW coalition reps and other organizations to coordinate our legislative efforts.

**Maine NOW rep to Taxpayers for a Fair Budget** - coalition of groups working to ensure that budget decisions are based on human needs - meets in Augusta, daytime.

**Maine NOW rep to the Maine HIV Advisory Committee** - represent the needs of women on this Dept. of Human Services committee - meets in Augusta monthly, daytime.

Interested, call Cynthia Phinney 778-9506 or Merrie Allen 874-2899

## — Happenings —

The Bangor Chapter continues to be tenacious, if small. Many activities are up in the air. We welcome your input and involvement.

January brought a Roe v. Wade rally and march in support of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center. The center's director, Ruth Lockhart, addressed the gathering of 150 as did long-time activist JoAnne Dauphinee, Sharon Barker, State Rep. Jane Saxl and U.S. Rep. John Baldacci.

The march began at the Eastern Maine Peace and Justice Center in an effort to emphasize peace and concluded at an anti-choice pregnancy counseling center. When questioned about the choice of demonstrating in front of the anti center, NOW coordinator Joyce Blakney replied, "We need to let people know that such places exist. Our activity will not be held during business hours nor are we planning to assault any workers or destroy any property. Many pro-choice people don't even know this phony pregnancy center exists in Bangor and we think they should."

In February, Rachel Lowe, NOW activist, spoke at the University of Maine about the upcoming Young Feminist Summit to be held in Washington D.C. April 7-9. Rachel is organizing young women throughout the state to attend the summit with her. Bangor NOW helped her to connect with college age feminists.

Plans for spring and summer include: **March** - staffing a table during a Women's History Month celebration at the University of Maine at Orono and donating materials to the Bangor Public Library. **April** - staffing a table and presenting feminist entertainment at the H.O.P.E. fair. **June** - participating in the World's Largest Garage Sale. **July** - annual Bangor Pride Parade.

We invite everyone to join our actions  
and activities. Just give us a call  
**Joyce 825-3962.**

# H.O.P.E. Festival

**All of us who have worked for peace, justice and the environment recognize the importance of celebrating that work.**

To this end, the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine is sponsoring the H.O.P.E. (Help Organize Peace Earthwide) Festival in Bangor on Earth Day, April 22, 1995. We hope to have at least 50 organizations represented at information tables, workshops, presentations, demonstrations, food booths, children's programs, community projects and entertainment.

**The goals of the H.O.P.E. Festival are to:**

- \* Provide resources and information on peace, justice and environmental health to people in eastern Maine.
- \* Explore relationships and connections among groups working toward these ends.
- \* Encourage individuals to become active in the organizations represented.
- \* Demonstrate to ourselves and others that we can do good work and have fun in the process!

**We want to offer people HOPE for a more peaceful, just and environmentally healthy community, and to make it easy and inviting for anyone to become a part of the community of HOPE.**

**If your group would like to participate or if you have questions or want more information call - Ilze Petersons 942-9343 or Larry Dansinger 525-7776**

■ In 1995 we say "goodbye" to another respected progressive  
 ■ voice, the **Maine Progressive**. Maybe, it's just resting?  
 ■ We do hate to see it go. MP has been a great friend to Maine  
 ■ NOW and our work on behalf of Maine women. To all who  
 ■ made it work while it was here, many, many thanks.  
 ■ Hope to see it up and running again!

**If you're interested in helping to revive MP  
call Larry Dansinger 525-7776**

## What's Up...Brunswick Area NOW

Since reorganizing last spring, we've been busy planning and organizing. We sponsored a candidates' forum at the local library in November - a great success. We also took the lead in organizing the January 21 pro-choice rally in Portland to commemorate the 23rd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade and memorialize those who have died because of their support for reproductive choices. Speakers included: Mary Herman, the governor's wife; Ruth Lockhart, dir. Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center in Bangor; Andrew Ketterer, Maine's Attorney General; a friend of Shannon Lowney, one of the women killed in Boston; and other feminist activists. Voices Rising, a women's accapella group, inspired us with songs. The chapter will now focus on organizing a Walk for Choice (see page 12 )

Please join us for planning and especially in the walk. We must work to make abortion an accessible and safe option for all women.

**Contact Sandra Holland 729-4663.**

## !! IMAGINE !!

Do you, like me, have friends who are feminists but who, for whatever reason, are not NOW members? *Even though* the priorities NOW is working for are near and dear to their hearts?? We thought March would be a perfect time to do something about this situation. It's Women's History Month - a totally appropriate time (not that any other time *isn't* appropriate, just that this one is even more than usual appropriate) to strengthen our organization which has been a vital part of the last almost quarter century of Maine women's history.

## \* REMEMBER \*

Maine NOW members picketing Guy Gannett publishing to protest sex-segregated want ads? (Do you even remember sex-segregated want ads? Some things really do belong in the dustbins of history!)

Maine NOW members and chapters helping to form some of the now several Rape Crisis Centers and Battered Women's Shelters in Maine? (We hope someday *those* will be history - relegated to the dustbins due to lack of need)

Maine NOW members invading a male-only bar in Scarborough? Wheee!!!

Remember the numbers of Maine NOW members and supporters who have been elected to the State Legislature over the years, with the help of Maine NOW PAC and the support of many Maine NOW members? Remember some of what we've helped to accomplish in the legislature? Sexual Harassment legislation? Family Medical Leave?

Remember marching with Maine NOW for reproductive freedom (YES - that means the right to have an abortion if the woman decides it's her best option) in Washington DC in March, April, and November - and in front of the statehouse right here in Maine on a frigid frigid day in January? (We've kept it legal - now we've just got to keep it accessible)

## KEEP ON MOVIN' FORWARD.....

This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of women's right to vote in this country.

This summer, to celebrate that anniversary, we're planning to march in the Maine State Parade in Lewiston decked out in white gowns to honor our suffragist foremothers, and to say **WE WON'T GO BACK**.

This session we'll be working with our friends in the legislature to be sure for every one step forward we aren't expected to take two steps back.

This month we're inviting you to invite your friends to join us as we keep making women's history. If each of us got just one of our feminist friends to join we could double the size of our organization this month. Actually, I'd like to invite you to invite *two* friends - just in case someone else forgets to do it. Copy the form as often as needed!

Mail to: Maine NOW, PO Box 4012, Portland ME 04101. Make check payable to Maine NOW.

My friend has accepted my invitation to join Maine NOW - and here's the membership application to prove it!

MY NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MY ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MY FRIEND'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND(optional) \_\_\_\_\_ to help us analyze our organization's diversity

CHAPTER: Bangor \_\_\_\_\_ Brunswick \_\_\_\_\_ Farmington \_\_\_\_\_ Kennebec Valley \_\_\_\_\_ Portland \_\_\_\_\_ None \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ dues enclosed. \$35 is regular dues. A sliding scale of \$20-34 is available if you need it.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ additional contribution enclosed. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PAC contribution enclosed, payable to Maine NOW PAC

My friend would like to become a sustainer at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5 min) per month. Please call her/him to discuss terms & benefits.

We'll send each of you a poster of Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman?" speech  
designed by Maine NOW artists Valerie Howard & Chris Rusnov

## Don't Miss the Fun

Can you believe it was only 75 years ago that women in this country finally won the right to vote? We'll be celebrating the anniversary this year by marching in the Maine State Parade on May 6. The theme is "Step Back in Time". Perfect!

We're hoping to dress in the traditional white suffrage color so, if you have access to any white clothes from that period which we could use OR if you're an eager seamstress/ster, we need you!

Also in celebration, we'll be setting up tables at stores and shopping centers around the state in August (the 26th is the actual anniversary date) to distribute information about our radical foremothers and what it all means for us today.

Sound like fun? Want to set up a table in your neighborhood? We're putting together a whole packet which we'll send you. And/or you can join us in the parade. For more info, to get a packet or donate time/talents, call Cynthia Phinney at 778-9506.

# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN



Maine's Leading Feminist Grassroots Organization  
Phone Number: 797-8508



Maine State Coordinator - Merrie Allen 874-2899  
Assistant State Coordinator - Cynthia Phinney 778-9506  
Scribe - VACANCY  
Treasurer - Annie Lunt 883-1195

## Task Force/Coalition Contacts

Affirmative Action Task Force - Valerie Howard 877-7627  
Computer Wizards - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306  
Consumers For Affordable Health Care-Mary Donnelly 729-5843  
Dirigo Alliance - Beth Edmonds 865-3869  
Lesbian Rights Task Force - VACANCY  
Maine Choice Coalition - VACANCY  
Maine NOW Phone Coordinator - Annie Lunt 883-1195  
Maine NOW PAC Treasurer - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306  
Maine NOW Times - Chris Rusnov 873-0878  
Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition - Rachel Lowe 737-2329  
Coalition for Economic Justice - Chris Rusnov 873-0878  
Maine HIV Advisory Committee - Elizabeth Watson 582-2068

## NORTHEAST REGIONAL NOW BOARD MEMBERS

Lois Reckitt, 38 Mrytle Ave., South Portland, ME 04106 799-8744  
Gerry Miller, 7320 Aqueduct Ave. #13, Bronx, NY 10468 212-367-2435  
Erima Vaughan, 37 Manor Ct., Hempstead, NY 11550 516-489-7262  
Clarice Pollack, Reg. Dir., 1853 Central Park Ave., Yonkers, NY 10710 914-337-7159  
Diane Welch, 15 W. 18th St., 9th Floor, NY, NY 10011 212-807-0721  
Ellen Zucker, Boston NOW, 971 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215 617-782-1056

## GREATER BANGOR NOW

P.O. Box 2672, Bangor, ME 04401  
Coordinator - Joyce Blakney 825-3962  
Meets second Monday of each month

## GREATER FARMINGTON NOW

P.O. Box 375, Farmington, ME 04938  
Coordinator - Peggy Stubbs- 778-5609

## KENNEBEC VALLEY NOW

P.O. Box 503, Augusta, ME 04330  
Contact - Sandy Friedman 623-4784  
Call for meeting schedule.

## BRUNSWICK AREA NOW

P.O. Box 133, Brunswick, ME 04011  
Coordinator - Sandra Holland 729-4663  
Call for monthly meeting schedule.

## GREATER PORTLAND NOW

P.O. Box 4012, Portland, ME 04101  
Coordinator - Cindy McGinn 854-1741  
Call for meeting schedule.

## E-MAIL FEMINISTS:

Cynthia Phinney CPHIN@aol.com

## How to Contact Your Maine Elected Officials

Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
Maine House of Representatives  
State House Station #2  
Augusta, ME 04333  
1-800-423-2900

Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Maine State Senate  
State House Station #3  
Augusta, ME 04333  
1-800-423-6900

Governor Angus King  
State House Station #1  
Augusta, ME 04333

The 800 number at the State House is an answering machine. Leave a message for your legislator. Be specific about the bill (L.D. number if known, title and basic idea). Legislators know little or nothing about bills unless they sit on the committee reviewing it.

You have a wonderful opportunity to educate them. Ask them to call you back - personal conversations are best. They don't receive many calls and you can really make a difference. Tell them best time to call back and how late in the evening they can call.

If you need info about a bill  
call legislative information 287-1692.

## Maine Congressional Delegation

Rep. James Longley Jr.  
226 Cannon Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
tel-202-225-6116  
fax-202-225-3353

Rep. John Baldacci  
1740 Longworth Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
tel-202-225-6306  
fax-202-225-2943

Senator William Cohen  
322 Hart Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
tel-202-224-2523  
fax-202-224-2693

Senator Olympia Snowe  
176 Russell Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
tel-202-224-5344  
fax-202-224-1946



## Take a Chance....

on a day long sail boat ride aboard  
a 22' Tanzer Sailing Sloop.

Sail out of East Harpswell near Cundy's Harbor and enjoy a day of sailing in Upper Casco Bay. Enjoy the company of Kathy Coleman (former director of the Family Planning Association) and Bob Howe, an experienced sailor. They will also provide a delicious lunch. Good for summer of '95 - mid-June to mid-August. Times are flexible: all day between 10 am and 4 pm or a sunset sail - whatever is best for you. Bring 2 - 3 friends along with you to enjoy the day.

WINNER PICKED - APRIL 1, 1995  
\$5.00 DONATION SUGGESTED - benefit Maine NOW  
Copy ticket, if you need more or send donation  
& we'll fill extra ticket out for you.

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: C. Rusnov, NOW Sail, 11 Bolduc St.,  
Winslow, ME 04901

## YOUNG FEMINIST SUMMIT ON VIOLENCE

Washington, D.C.

**APRIL 7 - 8**

Maine NOW is organizing young feminists in Maine to attend this summit. We're doing fundraising and working out affordable transportation and housing. If you're a high school or college age feminist who is eager to get involved, (or if you want to make a financial contribution to our endeavor) **call Rachel Lowe 207-737-2329.**

This group will also stay for the "We Won't Go Back" -  
Rally Against Violence, Sunday, April 9.

## WALK FOR CHOICE

Portland

**APRIL 29, 1995**

Raise funds for S.A.F.E., Mabel Wadsworth  
Women's Health Center and NOW  
Organizers: Brunswick Area NOW  
**Contact: Sandra Holland 729-4799**



**MAINE NOW  
P.O. BOX 4012  
PORTLAND, ME 04101**

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