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## Maine NOW Times (Spring 2001)

National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter Staff

*National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter*

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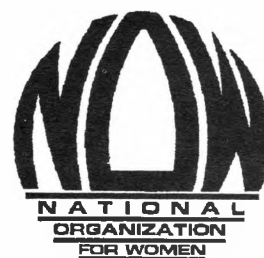
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# Maine NOW Times

## SPRING 2001

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### Pay Equity Day

by Cynthia Phinney

April 3 marks the day when women's earnings finally catch up to what men earned the previous year. Women still earn, on average, only 72 cents for every dollar earned by a man. And so April 3 has been declared "Pay Equity Day". This year Maine women may finally have had something to celebrate on Pay Equity Day. In 1965, Maine passed a pay equity law requiring that men and women performing jobs of comparable skill, effort, and responsibility within the same establishment receive similar pay. This concept is more far-reaching than the more widely understood concept of "equal pay for equal work." The pay equity concept seeks reveal and repair situations where jobs have been undervalued because they had been thought of as "women's work," or because they required skills which women were considered to have come by naturally and were therefore not compensable.

The 1965 law provided no guidelines on how employers were to implement the law, and it languished in relative obscurity.

However, in 1997, as a recommendation of the Commission to Study Poverty Among Working Parents, the Maine legislature recognized that implementing the pay equity law would eliminate one significant cause of poverty for women and their families. The Maine Department of Labor was directed to give employers guidance on how to implement the law.

But it wasn't until this past March - March of 2001 - that the DOL rules were finally proposed. A coalition of interested groups including the Maine Women's Lobby, Women Work and Community, the Maine AFL-CIO

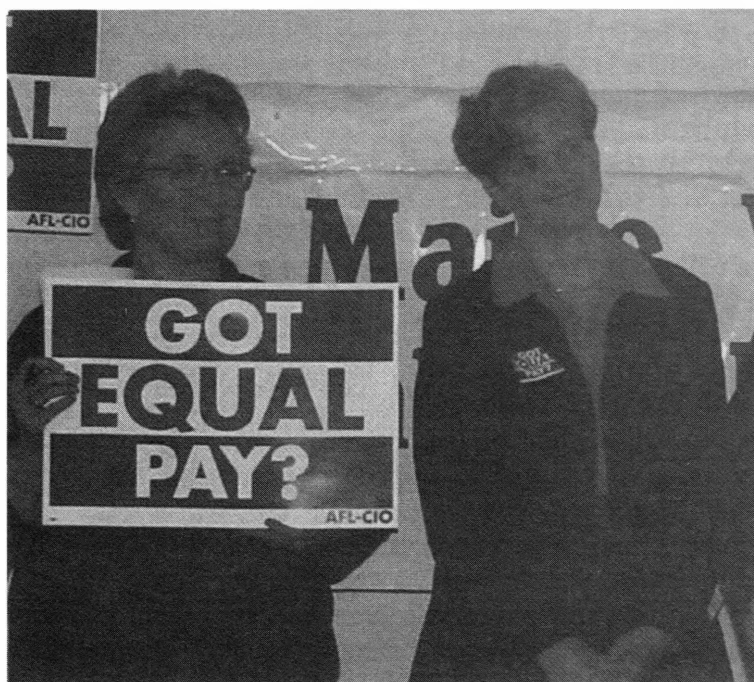
and others reviewed the rules and offered enthusiastic testimony along with suggestions for improvement at the rule-making hearing. There was no opposition at the hearing.

Speaking for the Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods, Christine Hastedt made it clear to those present at the hearing that none of the groups she was working with would find it acceptable if employers chose to come into compliance with the law by lowering men's pay. Instead, it is expected that employers will look at the skills and efforts required for each job and be sure that women's skills, efforts, and responsibilities are compensated with similar value to those of men.

So on April 3, with the comment period on the rules closed, the coalition held a press conference at the Statehouse to announce the new rules. UNITE (Union of Needle and Industrial Trades) International Vice President Clayola

Brown traveled from Washington to congratulate Maine on moving to a new stage of implementing pay equity. Senator Mike Michaud proposed legislation to declare April 3 Pay Equity Day in Maine and to direct the DOL to provide a pay equity report card on April 3 to future legislatures. Labor Committee Co-chair Beth Edmonds (see back page) spoke of the importance of breaking down this economic barrier. And Chellie Pingree of the Maine Economic Growth Council talked about how pay equity is about fairness for Maine workers.

With one challenge behind us, the next challenge will be to spread the word about the new rules, and to continue the work of helping people challenge assumptions that have been made about the worth of work performed by different genders. Yes - it is still true - a woman's work is never done!



*Beth Edmonds (left) and Chellie Pingree at Pay Equity Press Conference*

## Fall Silent Auction • Help Wanted!

A piece of artwork, a great feminist book, a crafty afghan, a week at your beachfront cottage -- Maine NOW PAC's Fall Silent Auction wants them all and more! Are you an artist or craftsperson? Are you someone who is great at finding bargains? Maybe you have a gift for talking local merchants out of a donation or two? We need your help!

Maine NOW PAC is planning a silent auction for Fall (tentatively early November), the final bidding to be done at our annual Maine NOW elections gathering. Maine NOW members will get a chance to bid on many items by mail prior to the Fall event. Watch your upcoming Maine NOW Times for details!

Meanwhile, if you are willing to donate one (or more) new item(s) or one in-good-condition craft or piece of art to the auction, valuing at least \$10, please send it to, or contact: JoAnne Dauphinee, 989-3306, 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer, ME 04412, <feminist@mint.net>

## Write Women Back Into History - Get the Word Out NOW!

by Deanna Partridge

If Gloria Steinem, Marcia Gillespie, Betty Friedan or Alice Walker changed your life, it's time to pass on the word. On International Women's Day, GBNOW launched a feminist book drive. As part of our Women's Equality Day celebration, August 26, GBNOW will distribute all the volumes collected to schools, libraries, shelters and women's centers in the area.

We are collecting new and used copies of works written by women and/or about real women, the women's movements, women's involvement in peace and justice issues, etc. We only want works that portray women and girls in strong, positive, feminist roles.

For example, instead of the typical fair maiden being rescued by a brave prince, we want stories like *The Paperbag Princess*, who does just fine looking after herself, befriends dragons instead of slaying them and saves a prince or two in the process.

Hey, it may sound a little Junior League-like,

but this ain't your momma's book drive - but it sure can be if she's a cool feminist wanting to spread the word...

About two years ago, GBNOW attempted to form a consciousness-raising group. JoAnne Dauphinee facilitated a handful of CR introduction sessions over several months.

Four women were prepared to commit 12-weeks - some having been in CR groups a decade (or more) ago and some who wanted to experience a feminist-like rite of passage.

A few women in their early 20s shared that they decided not to attend because they felt CR groups were an out-dated mode of the old feminist methodology and that women are much more self-aware nowadays.

A self-described Third Wave feminist said she felt CR groups did more harm than good and were anti-feminist because CR groups are women-only spaces by design.

One belief was shared universal: *Entire generations of women have been disserved by an education system that recounts history from a predominantly conflict-driven European White Male perspective.*

Lacking from our history and social studies textbooks, class discussion and library shelves were any hint of the role of women in the events that shaped history. Absent were the stories of the women's movements (yes, plural). Lost were the racial, ethnic, and cultural interpretations of the facts and dates that were drummed into our heads.

Throughout the years, not only has it not gotten much better, the mainstream entertainment-focused media has only added to the distortion of feminism.

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In particular, we are seeking children's books, lesbian fiction and non-fiction, works written by women of color, works that reflect diverse cultural perspectives.

*If you can't let go of your own copies, consider raiding the bookstores, the thrift shops and summer yard sales.*

Books can be brought to any GBNOW function, or dropped off at 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer, or 31 Fern St., Bangor. To arrange for books to be picked up, call JoAnne at 989-3306 or Deanna at 947-5337.

## **Women in Maine History Project**

Social Justice and Truth in History (SJTH) is a non-profit community organization founded in central Maine in 1999. Their goal is to see that children are taught history as it really happened, by promoting the positive contributions of racial and ethnic minorities, women and working class people.

During the 2001-2002 school year, they plan to produce a curriculum guide on "Women in Maine History," featuring women of Native American, African American, Jewish, Franco-American and other European descent, primarily from the working class. To accomplish this, they will organize a group of women and girls who will guide them in the initial work, with teachers and students in five elementary, middle or high schools that have students representative of the above backgrounds, of identifying potential women from Maine history and to research their stories. The resulting guide will then be made available to other schools in Maine.

For more information contact:

Social Justice and Truth in History  
PO Box 633 • Monroe, ME 04951  
207/525-4538 <sjth@mint.net>

## **The Meaning of Mothers' Day May 13**

Before the greeting card industry took over Mothers' Day, it was a day dedicated to peace - that is, the women of the world uniting in one voice to demand peace. In more recent herstory, feminists have used Mothers' Day as a marker to question gender-specific roles and stereotypes, rally for reproductive rights, and call for equal division of and wages for domestic labor and care giving, just to name a few.

This Mothers' Day, honor the women who worked before us for a more peaceful and just world - whether they be mothers in a biological, symbolic or spiritual form - and support the women who are continuing the struggle still today. Make a donation to your favorite local "women's" organizations, such as your local NOW chapter, ME NOW PAC, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Rape Response Services, Family Crisis Services, Spruce Run, or the Women's Center at your nearby university.

## **2001 National NOW Conference Delegates Wanted!!**

Leadership will be the focus of this NOW gathering in Philadelphia, June 29-July 1, 2001. Additionally, NOW members will elect new leaders at this conference for National President, Vice President Executive, Vice President Action, and Vice President Membership.

The conference festivities will take place at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel in historic downtown. Leadership building skills for organizing will be offered. In addition, the second national NOW PAC Political Institute will offer electoral skills-building for new and seasoned organizers, with an emphasis on recruiting women to run for office.

Linda Chavez-Thompson, VP of the AFL-CIO, and Dr. Jane Smith, immediate-past president of the National Council of Negro Women, will speak on leadership and coalition building.

If you are interested in attending this NOW Conference as a delegate, both Bangor and Portland have delegate slots, as does Maine NOW. Because you must be duly elected at a meeting declared for that purpose, please contact a Chapter Leader or State Board member TODAY!!

## **Support Maine's Only Free-standing Feminist Health Center, May 16**

Silent Auction to benefit the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 16, Spectacular Events, 395 Griffin Road, Bangor. With items ranging in value from \$10 to \$500, including fine jewelry, artwork, an original first edition Hummel figurine, collectibles, gift certificates and handcrafts such as hook rugs, painted floor cloth, afghans, mirrors, flower arrangements, and home goods, there is something for every taste & budget! Admission \$5, open to the public.

MWWHC's Annual Volunteer Recognition and Awards Dinner follows at 6:45 p.m. This year, the Mabel Sine Wadsworth Women's Health Achievement Award will be given to Parker Harris, MD, and Bonnie Bragg, RNC. Dinner is RSVP only. Tickets cost \$45. Sister Supporter Scholarships are available to cover ticket costs. For more info or an invitation, call MWWHC at 947-5337.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION NEEDED!!

Dear NOW Activists! The Maine Legislature is in session until some time in June. Many issues that have hearings early on are not actually decided until late in the session. To make sure a bill is still active, call

### Legislative Information 287-1692

Then leave a message for your legislator and Senator [Not sure who they are? Call your town office or the Clerk's Office in Augusta 487-1400.]

**Maine Senators 1-800-423-6900**

**Representatives 1-800-423-2900**

- **Lobby against ANTI-Choice bills!** Judiciary Hearing happened 3/29, so now's the time to lobby! Every two years, dozens of new legislators, who've never dealt up close with the "abortion wars," are faced with a confusing array of bills. Do you know where your lawmakers are?

- **LD135 Ban Partial-Birth Abortion** - Same as the '99 referendum. Does not specify late term, so could ban 2nd or even 1st trimester abortions. Would definitely threaten choice of procedure in late-term procedures, or procedures involving severe fetal anomaly.

- **LD119 Ban Partial Birth Abortion in 3rd Trimester Except to Save the Life of the Mother** - [Why "mother" instead of "woman"?] Removes the "health" exception for women with severe or life-threatening conditions. Maine already has a law that prohibits all abortion procedures after viability except to save the life or health of the mother. What's the real agenda of this bill?

- **LD1204 Preserve the Life and Health of Women** - Nice title, but the bill does not reflect the goal implied. This LD contains abortion reporting requirements, and prohibits abortion after 20 weeks.

- **LD1391 Ensure Safety Health Standards in Outpatient Medical or Surgical Facilities** - Would impose excessive and unnecessary regulations on facilities that provide abortions.

- **LD1406 Creating Offenses Against Unborn Children** Makes abortion equal murder. &

- **LD1602 Prevent Violence Against Pregnant Mothers** Both bills define "unborn child" as an "individual of the human species from fertilization until birth." There are no exceptions for the health or life of the pregnant woman, or for abortion providers.

- **LD1494 Requires Parental Notification**

- **LD1689 Makes very specific the abortion reporting requirements**

## M.A.I.N.'s 2001 Legislative Agenda!

### Lingo

**TANF** (formerly AFDC) Temporary Assistance to Dependent Families. 69% of the benefits go to 19,000 Maine children. Of 8,770 adults on TANF, 96% are women.

**ASPIRE** - Generally, to receive TANF, people must work or train 30 hours per week in the ASPIRE program.

**PaS** (Parents as Scholars)- Most people in PaS are expected to be in school full time.

**Poverty Level**- Somewhat artificial federal numbers, below which a typical person or family would starve or freeze to death [Oops, that was Jo's definition] Currently a family of 3 in Maine *with no other income* would get a TANF grant of \$461 a month, 39% of the poverty level.

### This is the BIG ONE!

**LD1303 Increase Access to Health Care** - Speaker Mike Saxl and NOW member-Senator Susan Longley's bill to provide coverage to all uninsured Maine citizens with incomes under 200% of the poverty level, & to children with incomes 300% under. The bill would also change the asset level allowed for eligible families, expand access to prescription drugs, and give more help to working people with disabilities. It would be paid for with a 50 cent increase in the tobacco tax. (The Hearing was 3/13. Because it involves funding, as with many bills NOW cares about, it should be lobbied up to the end of the session.)

- **LD1209** - NOW member, Senator Ann Rand is sponsoring a bill to increase TANF benefits by 10% in 2001, and continue increases until we reach the New England average in 2004. Currently Maine has the lowest benefit in New England. This bill looks good to pass.

- **LD1033 Make Child Care More Accessible for Parents in Transition from Welfare to Work** - Rep Deborah Simpson proposes DHS pay the up front cost of child care to the provider for TANF recipients transitioning from home to work. Currently, the new worker gets delayed reimbursement, often while waiting for a delayed paycheck [or, sometimes the double delay necessitates turning down the job]. This bill looks good to pass.

- **LD479 Concerning Eligibility for ASPIRE-TANF Participants in Households Where an Individual has a Physical or Mental Health Disability** - Sponsored by Rep. Tom Kane, this bill would help keep certain families from being inappropriately sanctioned. This bill looks good to pass.

- Rep. Tom Kane has also introduced a bill to extend benefits to single individuals and couples without children living at home, with income up to 150% of the poverty level (\$17,424 for a family of 2).

•Rep. Judy Peavey has introduced a bill to establish a Commission, including low income people, to propose to the following legislature in 2003, solutions for **making dental care more accessible.**

•Two bills to improve the **Earned Income Tax Credit, EITC. NOW member, Rep. Povich's** bill would increase it from 5% to 10%. Rep. Snowe-Mellow's bill would increase it to 15% and make it refundable. This means extending it to families whose working income is so low they pay no taxes.

M.A.I.N. PO Box 2711, Bangor ME 04402

Judy Guay 947-4371 <kjguay@bangornews.infi.net>

**Maine Equal Justice Project**, 126 Sewall St, Augusta ME 04330, 626-7058 <www.mejp.org>

**The MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY** is following a number of bills, in addition to taking a lead on the Abortion and other Choice bills. They include, but are not limited to:

•**LD1466 Resolve, to Study the Benefits and Costs for Increasing Access to Family and Medical Leave for Maine Families** - The Maine Women's Lobby is taking the lead on a bill to create a Commission to explore how to fund *paid Family Leave*. Sponsor is Rep. Bill Norbert. This bill's hearing was early April. If your family, or one you know, was unable to take advantage of Family Leave because you could not afford time off, the Maine Women's Lobby would like to know your story.

•**A bill to Coordinate and Improve Access to Health Care for Women** - would allow Maine to accept federal money for a staff person to coordinate and improve access for women.

•**Increase Access to Health Care** - Among other things, it would increase eligibility for Medicaid to parents, & provide eligibility to childless adults. (See M.A.I.N.)

•**LD524 Violence Intervention and Prevention Act** Public hearing April 2, Appropriations Committee. This bill provides crucial funding for domestic violence and sexual assault prevention programs! **It provides a General Fund appropriation of \$4,800,000 in each of fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03 for the Department of Human Services to contract with community-based agencies to provide school-based and community-based sexual assault and domestic violence prevention education and to sustain the efforts already in place to protect Maine citizens from domestic violence and sexual assault and to provide services to victims of those crimes.** For more information: Elizabeth Ward, **Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault** Fax: 626-5503 Ph: 626-0034 mecasa@aol.com OR Tracy Cooley, **Coalition to End Domestic Violence** Fax: 941-2327 Phone: 941-1194 mcedv@agate.net

## **NOW More Bills on Girls & Women's Rights...**

•**LD1119** would give judges the discretion to ban weapons possession and would remove weapons in cases of **temporary protection orders in domestic abuse cases.** Sponsor is Rep. Charles Mitchell. See also LDs 797,885,908,1620.

•**LD1750** would allow the court discretion to order the surrender of a **concealed weapons permit** from one subject to a **protection order.**

•**A bill to Fund Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program** - Creates a position in the Attorney General's office to coordinate SANE.

•**LD1530 Establish a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Advisory Board** - Creates a position in the Attorney General's Dept.

•**LD1611 Resolve, Establish a Task Force to Study Parent Alienation Syndrome & Related Issues** re: custodial parents, DHS, and domestic violence.

•**LD1741** Requires school administrative units to allow **female student athletes** in secondary schools to try out for and participate on any **baseball, basketball, football, hockey, soccer, or wrestling** team affiliated with the school.

•**LD1734** Allows a student to sue the school administrative unit if the student is harassed or assaulted for reasons of **race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation,** on school grounds during a school supervised activity.

•**LD1703** Requires health carriers to offer policies with coverage for **domestic partners** of health plan members, the same as spouses are covered.

•**LD1396 Amends the Maine Human Rights Act to declare that a mother has a right to breast-feed her baby in any location,** public or private, as long as she is otherwise authorized to be in that location. (Based on a NY law)

•**LD 1405** Seeks to elevate "shared custody" to just below "best interest of the child." (oppose)

•**LD37** Authorizes money to DHS, Office of child Care, and Head Start, for a one-time competitive grant to a private entity to **gather data on Maine child care services .**

•**LD22** Is a resolve for legislative review of rules and regs governing **Timeout Rooms, Therapeutic Restraints and Aversives in Public Schools, & approved private schools.**

•**LD 1627, to Ensure Equality in Mental Health Coverage**, by Rep. Dudley & NOW member Sen. Neria Douglass, was heard 3/28 by the Banking & Insurance Committee. Supported by social workers' NASW-Maine, and mental health activists NAMI-Maine, among others, LD1627 would expand the mental health diagnoses required to be covered by insurance. Ten years ago, the Legislature passed a parity bill, but it was limited to 7 specific diagnoses. Many children's, and several adult diagnoses are currently not covered.

**MAINE STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION** submitted four bills this session. One would **eliminate mandatory overtime in health care**. Though not likely to pass, it will help the legislative discussion. Another would improve staff per patient ratios. A third would encourage students to pursue nursing. A fourth would ban latex gloves in Maine hospitals.

### 2001 Living Wage Rally MAY 4th! A Minimum Wage Raise is a Good Start!

The Maine Rural Workers Coalition, along with several other organizations, will be holding the 2001 Living Wage Rally which will take place on the steps of the State House in Augusta, on MAY 4th from 12-2 p.m. If you get word in time, we invite you to attend the rally and to bring as many other people with you as possible. There is strength in numbers!

### Background Info on Living Wage:

We are advocating for a living wage to make it possible for workers to be paid enough to provide food, shelter, transportation, health care, and other necessities for their families. **Many workers in the state are only making \$5.15 [minimum wage] an hour and qualify for food stamps and Medicaid because they do not make enough to feed their families or to provide them with health care.**

A bill passed in the current legislature which will increase the minimum wage slightly. However, this is still not enough for people to live on. **In most of Maine, a living wage is around \$11 an hour. However, half of the working class people in Maine are paid less than this.** For these reasons, the MRWC is rallying support and spreading awareness about the importance of a living wage.

**LD1593 Promotes Funding to Increase Affordable Housing in Maine.**

•**LD1420 Requires Employee Benefits to Spouses be also Extended to Named Cohabitants**

—> Another BIG NOW Supported Bill!  
**The CLEAN CLOTHES CAMPAIGN, of which Maine NOW is a member, has one key bill in this session:**

•**LD1748 The Maine Ethical Purchasing Act** will require businesses that bid for large portions of our tax dollars through state purchases, to sign a newly created fair labor Code of Conduct. This bill is the unanimous recommendation of a state Commission which included members of manufacturing, industry, retail business, labor unions, human rights groups, and other citizens. The bill would make Maine the **first state in the nation** to request that the products and services it buys contractually are made in accordance with the most basic standards of ethics with regard to child labor, forced labor, wages & working hours, women's rights, health & safety, and freedom of association. The hearing was 4/9.

**Ned McCann, Secretary-Treasurer, MAINE AFL-CIO lets us know what labor is up to:**

<<http://www.maineafl-cio.com/maineafl-cio/03-27mccann.htm>> Combined with info from other reports, Jo's research, and Edited by Jo Dauphinee of NOW's *Feminist Voices & JAM*:

•**Victory on the Maine minimum wage** issue LD1591 was the highlight of March! After five years of struggle (and four vetoes by Governor King) the Maine AFL-CIO, with the cooperation of a coalition of other organizations, was successful in getting the Governor to agree to sign **an increase of \$1.10 an hour [to \$6.25 an hour] in two increments, effective at the start of 2002 and again at the start of 2003.** Agreement was reached on the bill sponsored by Senate President Mike Michaud, after labor not only lined up the legislative votes but also threatened to take the issue to referendum if it was vetoed again.

•March 26 - 30 saw bills dealing with such issues as **mandatory overtime, use of training funds under the Workforce Investment Act, the Line Worker Safety Act, electrician's licensing, worker's compensation legislation and changes in the election laws.**

•In April, the Labor Committee heard LD1583 ["Jo's Retirement" bill I jokingly call it. I've been a mental health worker for 26 years!] It would add Mental Health direct care workers to the group that gets to retire after 25 years (regardless of age), or after 10 years if at least 55.

•During early April, a strong focus was on **Equal Pay Day — Tuesday April 3.** And possibly new Labor Department rules enforcing **pay equity in Maine** [Jo thinks this is LD489]. Other key actions included dealing with the Peer Support Program, improvements in the **Family Leave Act LD1466**, mediation of grievances in the public



**FAT Liberation Myths & Truths**  
by JoAnne Dauphinee

*We have, in effect, an Eleventh Commandment. We have come to believe thinner is healthier, happier, and more beautiful as though it were handed down on Mount Sinai. But these are not divine truths. They are prejudices with a complex history. They have led to a false religion that does not deliver what it promises.* — Robert Pollack Seid, *Never Too Thin: Why Women Are at War with Their Bodies*.

The Fat Liberation Movement has been active since the late 1960s, and NAAFA — the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance — is the equivalent of NOW (National Organization for Women) or the NAACP for people opposed to discrimination against fat people.

Fat girls and women face a disproportionate amount of the discrimination, since the \$50 billion Diet Industry aims directly at females (of all sizes). The weight control angle of the tobacco industry is also highly lucrative, with 39% of women and 25% of men smoking to avoid weight gain. Teenage girls are the fastest growing “market.”

Fear of fat, and hateful behavior toward fat people was rampant in the 1990s. The sooner we can expose the myths about fat people, thin people, dieting, and health, the sooner we can lose our prejudices and more thoughtfully teach the next generation.

**MYTH** - People are fat because they eat too much.

**TRUTH** - *The common belief that obesity results simply from overeating or from a sedentary lifestyle has influenced thinking for a long time. However, it is increasingly apparent that the body has a highly complex and sophisticated system of regulating fat stores and energy balance.* — Peter Arner, M.D., *New England Journal of Medicine*, 8-10-95

**Fat people do not eat any more or any differently than thin people, though many studies have tried to disprove this fact.** Most fat women are lead to believe that they eat more than thin friends but careful studies do NOT bear this out. Fat people are not more likely than thin people to be compulsive eaters, or suffer other eating disorders. Fat people are not lazier than thin people. Fat people are not physically or morally inferior to thin people.

Obesity is a polygenetic trait in humans. That is, no one gene, but rather several genetic factors are implicated in determination of body size and shape, and at least 75 different genes have been identified so far. Research essentially acknowledges “Setpoint Theory” which Dr. William Bennett described in the 1982 publication, *The Dieter's Dilemma*. According to Bennett, the setpoint mechanism is located in the brain and “is thought to have a powerful influence

*on two types of behavior perceived as largely voluntary: eating and physical activity...In the moment, snacking may appear to be altogether subject to conscious control; in the aggregate however, such behavior assumes a certain biological inevitability.”*

Environmental factors can have an effect on genetic predisposition, but not usually in the way most people think. Only **some** people get fat from overeating, and only **some** people get fat from eating fatty foods. In one study, prison inmates were asked to overeat. The thin prisoners had great difficulty gaining weight, despite intakes of over 7000 calories a day. **Some people, especially supersized people and frequent dieters, can gain weight on as little as 500 calories a day** (too few calories to stay alive).

*“Your body type and the weight that is biologically appropriate for you are determined primarily by the genes you inherited from your parents, and any adjustments made up or down are more or less limited by your biological heritage. The sooner you come to terms with this fact and learn to accept the person you are, the happier you are likely to be.”* Jane E. Brody, *NY Times* Nutrition Writer

**MYTH**- Obesity is a disease. Obesity causes disease. “Fat ain’t healthy.”

**TRUTH** - *“The establishment clings to the belief that weight causes disease and death just as people once insisted that the world was flat. There are no studies proving that weight causes disease...”* Dr. Susan Wooley, director of eating disorders at the University of Cincinnati.

In fact, just as with other natural body shapes and sizes, there are **health benefits to natural obesity**, a long list of them according to *The Journal of Obesity and Weight Regulation*. Benefits include lower incidence of: cancer and cancer mortality, COPD and chronic bronchitis, infectious diseases, TB, urinary tract infections, bone diseases including osteoporosis, certain cardiovascular diseases, gynecological & obstetric problems, and so on.

*“As of 1995 there has not been a single study that has truly evaluated the effects of weight alone on health. Which means that ‘thinner is healthier’ is not a fact but an unsubstantiated hypothesis. Moreover it is a hypothesis for which there is a wealth of evidence that suggests the reverse. In fact it appears that thinness, rather than obesity, may be a risk factor in many diseases. [M]any studies indicate that voluntary weight loss may compromise health, and increase risk for premature death.”* Glenn Gaesser, Ph.D., associate professor of exercise physiology, associate director of the adult fitness program of the University of Virginia, author of *Big Fat Lies*, 1996.



**MYTH** - Fat Liberation encourages people to eat lots of fat, eat a lot, eat junk.

**TRUTH** - Fat Liberation encourages all people to eat a healthy diet high in fruits, vegetables, and grains, lower on meat and fat, but not no fat. (The government recommends at least 30% fat - more for growing children). **We do also encourage developing a passion for the leisurely, sensuous enjoyment of good food!**

Fat Liberation encourages all people - fat or thin - to **STOP DIETING! It is bad for your health.** SCALES ARE FOR FISH, NOT FOR WOMEN. Most of the health problems **incorrectly** associated for so long with obesity, are actually caused by dieting. As more and more people, even thin people and young children diet, the prognosis is disaster.

Dieting is implicated in blood pressure & cardiovascular disorders, high cholesterol, hair loss, gallstones, anxiety, depression, decreased attention span, obsessive thoughts about food, anemia, ulcers, reduced sex drive, menstrual irregularities, gout, infertility, kidney stones, cold intolerance, changes in liver function, loss of lean tissue, weakness, numbness in legs, reduced resistance to infection, electrolyte imbalance, bone loss, osteoporosis, skin rashes, dizziness, edema, potassium deficiencies, biliary tract disorders, and pancreatic complications.

**MYTH** - Most people are dieting for their health.

**TRUTH** - Most people diet to get thin, **regardless** of what it does to their health. But, diets do not result in permanent weight loss (unless you develop an eating disorder). **There is no known way to lose weight and safely keep it off.** Researchers and "diet doctors" have known this truth for decades. Like most anti-diet advocates, Dr. Susan Wooley believes that the refusal to accept evidence that **diets do not work** is a result of cultural bias against heavy women. Despite an "*epidemic of anorexia and bulimia*," she said, "*I don't see the medical profession wringing its hands over women being too thin.*" [NY Times 4-12-92]

Fat Liberation laments that by 4th grade, 80% of U.S. girls are dieting. In 1989, the number of women subjecting themselves to cosmetic surgeries was up 61% over the previous decade. Authoritative evidence is mounting that dieting triggers or even causes eating disorders and **increased** weight (and FAT) GAIN. Anorexia, compulsive eating, and bulimia strike over 1 million U.S. girls and women each year, with 11 million or more currently suffering in the U.S. alone. Hundreds of thousands, with and without eating disorders, mostly young women have needlessly died in pursuit of thinness.



**MYTH** - Fat Liberation encourages people to stop exercising.

**TRUTH** - **The shape you are, says NOTHING about the shape you are in.** Fat Liberation encourages all people - including, but not especially fat people - to make moderate exercise part of every day, as many days of your life as you can. Virtually all respected studies on health and longevity show that fat people and thin people have an equal shot at health. Your thinness will not protect you from ill-health if you fail to exercise. **No matter how fat you are, exercise - even a short walk each day, will make you healthier than thin people who do not exercise.**

Aerobic exercise is good (especially for cardiorespiratory fitness) but, according to the Center for Disease Control and the American College of Sports Medicine, **for health and longevity the most important thing is metabolic fitness, just moving more at any intensity.**

*Healthy bodies come in all shapes. We need to stop hounding people about their weight and encourage them to eat a healthful diet and exercise.* Steven Blair, The Cooper Institute of Aerobics Research, Senior Scientific Editor, Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health, *The Walking Magazine*, 1995.

**MYTH** - Fat Liberation encourages thin people to get fat, and fat people to give up.

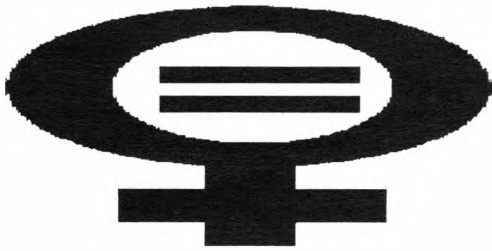
**TRUTH** - **Fat Liberation encourages fat people to rise up, speak up, and never give up on trying to change the world.** Fat Liberation encourages all people to treat all people respectfully regardless of size, shape, "beauty," color, race, "class", sexual orientation, age, physical challenges, gender, and so on. **Politically correct and proud of it**, you might say.

Physical beauty comes in all shapes and sizes. Open your eyes **WIDE**, and you may glimpse this truth. In the face of a widespread **Thin Supremacy Movement** - as stupid and malicious as any male- or white-supremacy movement, we urge fat people to cast off any shame or stereotype with which people try to burden you. Nurture your fat beautiful self. Stop starving and torturing yourself. Carry yourself with pride.

**Fat people of the world unite! We have nothing to lose!**



sector, the right of public employees to review their personnel records [Jo thinks this is LD1224], charter schools, and health care.



### **EQUAL PAY DAY! - TUESDAY APRIL 3rd RALLY SHOWED SUPPORT FOR FAIR PAY FOR WOMEN!!**

**The current wage gap is 73 cents on the dollar for a typical woman in Maine. April 3 marks the point into the New Year that women must work to earn the amount of money men earned in 2000.**

Members of the National Organization for Women, The Maine Women's Lobby, the Maine Equal Justice Project, the Center for Women, Work and Community, the Maine AFL-CIO, the Maine Labor Institute and others celebrated Equal Pay Day, with a noontime Statehouse rally. **Speakers included** UNITE Vice President Loyola Brown, Center for Policy Alternatives Senior Flemming Fellow and co-chair of the Maine Economic Growth Council (&NOW member) **Chellie Pingree**, Senate President **Michael Michaud**, Senate Co-chair of the Labor Committee (&NOW member) **Beth Edmonds**, who gathered with other supporters of equal pay for women.

**According to U.S. Census Bureau data, women's earnings are still only 72% of men's earnings.** The Maine Women's Lobby is joining the Center for Policy Alternatives, the National Committee on Pay Equity, and hundreds of groups across the nation to speak out on the wage gap and demand a fair and equitable wage and urge the Maine Department of Labor to continue their efforts to implement Maine's 1965 equal pay law. For more information, contact the **Maine Women's Lobby** at (207) 622-0851 or **MwomenL@aol.com** But Jo digresses...

**The AFL CIO report continued:** Also, we hope to be celebrating the final promulgation of **new rules to enforce pay equity by gender in the State of Maine.** Again our state will be a **national leader on this issue.** We have been working on this issue for several years now. It has taken the Maine Department of Labor well over four years to finally approve these rules. The Labor Committee will also deal with legislation sponsored by Senator Michaud to deal with the **equal pay enforcement issue.**

• **In late March, the Labor Committee took up two pieces of legislation dealing with mandatory overtime.** Maine has the only mandatory overtime limits of any state in the nation but they are quite generous to employers. [Jo thinks its no more than 40 hours OT in 2 weeks] We are trying to reduce the number of hours that a worker can be compelled to work. This legislation is sponsored by NOW member, Senator **Neria Douglass.**

• On a parallel track, the nurses association has in legislation to **completely eliminate mandatory overtime in health care settings** – not only to protect nurses, but also to assure good standards of patient care. The nurses' bill is sponsored by NOW member, Senator **Peggy Pendleton.**

• A bill introduced by Senator **Zack Matthews**, another union brother and chair of the Labor Committee, would **prioritize access to training funds under the Workforce Investment Act.** This is something we have pushed for some time to make sure that training funds are spent on training programs that actually lead to jobs – and jobs that pay decent wages and include benefits such as health insurance and pensions. Also, NOW member, Senator **Beth Edmonds** continues her work to help improve the enforcement of the prevailing wage laws.

• **LD1520** In April, the Appropriations Committee will be dealing with additional language and additional legislation on the **Peer Support Program** introduced by NOW member, Senator **Sharon Treat**, Assistant Democratic Leader in the House. She has had experience with the program from the beginning and has been a great ally on this issue.

• In April, the Judiciary Committee will deal with bills on the **Maine Human Rights Commission and affirmative action.** These are attempts to roll back some of the anti-discrimination laws. **LD 698** would repeal references to protected classes in portions of the **Maine Human Rights Act** and replace them with a general prohibition against discrimination in the areas specified in current law subject to certain exceptions.

• **LD98** brings the **Maine State Retirement System** more in line with today's monetary levels, allowing \$15,000 as a limit on compensation that may be earned by the beneficiary of disability benefits.

### **MLGPA - Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance asked legislators to introduce the following two bills:**

• **LD1560 An Act to Allow Patients to Identify Visitors,** sponsored by Rep. **Lawrence Bliss.** This bill would guarantee same sex couples and others the **same hospital visitation rights married people already have.**

• **An Act to Ensure Access to Health Insurance**, sponsored by Rep. Ben Dudley, would guarantee that any employer can purchase policies with coverage for domestic partners from their health insurer or provider. This bill defines domestic partners to include same-sex and opposite-sex couples, and other people who are committed to each other's welfare and live together.

### **Several anti-referendum bills**

have been heard. The most dangerous is probably LD1337, since it is a Governor's bill, so has the best chance of passing. **LD1337 would prohibit signature collection (for an initiative referendum) within 250 feet of the polls.**

Other bills: LD 59 proposes increasing the number of signatures needed on direct initiative petitions from 10% of registered voters to 15% - an increase of 50%.

LD 123 would require that at least 5% of all signatures be collected in each of Maine's 16 counties - an especially tough challenge for citizen volunteers in sparsely populated counties like Piscataquis and Somerset.

LD199 would prohibit reintroducing any initiative that voters rejected in the preceding 6 years - a most curious double standard since no such restriction exists on the right of state legislators to reintroduce failed bills.

LD 580 would prohibit collecting referendum signatures from voters as they exit polls on election day. Since this is one time of year when registered voters come together to consider political issues - what better time for volunteers to share information with interested citizens and gather signatures?

• **LD1711** was among several proposals to alter the Clean Elections Act

• There was a public hearing on all **single payer, universal health care bills** on 4/9 in the Banking and Insurance Committee. Bills heard were: LD 485, LD543, LD1041, LD1490 and LD1277 (Rep. Volenik's bill).

### **The MEA, Maine Education Association, is focusing on three issues (tho following others!):**

**LD889 Establish a Mandatory Minimum Salary**, sponsored by NOW member Tina Baker, sets a minimum starting salary of \$25,000 for teachers, affecting mostly rural teachers. Currently, Maine has the lowest average teacher salary in New England. We are 36th in the U.S.

LD211 would increase the State's contribution for retired teachers' health insurance. Sponsored by NOW member Sen. Mary Cathcart, the State's percentage would go from 30% to 50% by January, 2003.

**3rd, Full Funding for Public Schools** - In coalition with Maine School Management Association & Maine Principals Association. A coalition bill in this session, sponsored

by NOW member Sen. Marge KilKelly pushes the State's share of general purpose aid to K-12 up from 44% to 55% by 2006.

Two bills on teacher retirement issues, LD1063 & LD1255, got unanimous committee reports, and look good for passage.

### **NOW also noticed these LDs in:**

• **LD1481 Would Allow Mostly Public Funds to Pay for Displays of the Ten Commandments in Public Schools** (Oppose)

• **LD1492 Provides Training in Mental Health and Sexual Assault to Prison Workers** [Hey, let's close some more wards at BMHI!]

• **LD1448 Creates a Diversity Day on May 17th**

• **LD1443 Makes Adultery a Crime** (Oppose)

• **LD 1437 Funds Legal Assistance for Survivors of Domestic Violence**

• **LD1032 calls for the Dept. of Education to develop a pilot universal school lunch program**, so every child in K-12 would be eligible for a free lunch, and the LD asks for an incentive for a breakfast program. Members of the Maine Millennium Commission on Hunger & Food Security testified that this would "get rid of the stigma" of taking free lunch. Cost is about \$2.25 million, but hunger experts agree that nutrition in the early years can set a child up for success.

• **State Endowment to Ease College Costs** - House Speaker Mike Saxl has proposed the creation of a fund to provide significant college scholarships to Maine students going to college in Maine.

• **LD 1261 [Boo! Hiss!] Is to Promote Abstinence [ONLY] in Sex Education** and through Public Education

• **LD1603 Promotes Comprehensive Sex Ed!**

• **LD93 & LD94 Deal with School bomb threats**

### **Anti-Obscenity Bills**

• **LD852** To create the crimes of promotion of obscenity and wholesale promotion of obscenity. This bill is opposed by GBNOW leadership, tho our State Coordinator is supportive. It got a unanimous "Ought Not To Pass" from the Legislative Committee, and is probably doomed.

• **LD1556** To keep porn off school computers.

### **Environment**

• **LD1733 GE - Genetically Engineered Free Food Labels**

• **LD1665 To Reduce the release of Mercury into the Environment**

• **LD1543 To Decrease the Disposal of Dioxin forming Products**

And, in addition to the Elephant bill LD628 (honest), my new favorite is

• **LD1523 The Right to Hang Laundry!?**

## ***What's Going on NOW? Bangor Chapter News***

by Deanna Partridge

Since the Presidential "election," a few voices, some from within our own organization and some from without, have been asking if GBNOW is still active.

**YES! We are still here! We are still working hard! We may not be as visible in this increasingly "a group for every cause" era, but we are still as determined, active and relevant as ever.**

The GBNOW membership holds steady at just shy of 100 members, which is where we have been in the five years I have been associated with GBNOW. New members have been recruited at much the same pace as other members have left.

The White House is not a woman-friendly space right now, to put it mildly. Every move "W" makes hurts women - reinstating gag rules, cutting assistance programs, repealing contraceptive coverage, harmful tax law changes, and so on and so on.

Women are disproportionately affected by every move he makes, so we are linking arms wherever, whenever and with whatever allies we can to meet each new (and old) threat as it happens.

Maybe that means not carrying our banner, but helping to hold up the larger umbrella sometimes. Maybe it means a few less faces at our chapter meetings in order to be there as one in the crowd of many at public hearings and street demonstrations.

Coalition and collaboration are not new to us. It's how GBNOW has always worked. Our chapter actively represents NOW in more than a dozen campaigns and coalitions. GBNOW members, whether they publicly take credit or not, are involved monthly on issues ranging from reproductive rights to economic rights, globalization to the environment, sizism to racism, responsible development to domestic abuse, and more.

Our chapter and our allies continue to be there when called upon.

Locally, April's activities included tax cuts and the HOPE Festival, March highlighted reproductive rights

and May will focus on fat liberation and size discrimination.

Nationally, NOW has convened a March on Washington as part of our "Save Women's Lives" emergency campaign.

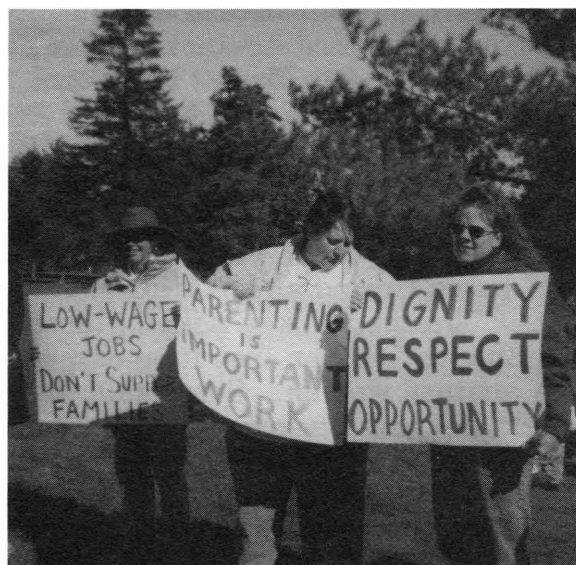
GBNOW Chapter meetings have moved to the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 362 Harlow Street, Bangor. We still meet monthly, every third Monday, 6-8 p.m.

JoAnne can be reached nights at 989-3306 and Deanna can be reached during the day at 947-5337. Please reserve calling Deanna for things that just can't wait, as this number reaches her at her day job - yes, a great feminist organization, but not paid for by NOW.

Chapter elections are slated for the May 21st meeting.

**All positions are up for election - new hands always welcome!**

For more info, call Jo or just come to the meeting!



*In October, 2000, GBNOW represented Maine NOW at the Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods' Rally for Respect in Augusta. In the foreground is Deanna Partridge. The slightly distracted woman is JoAnne Dauphinee. To JoAnne's right is GBNOW member Jean Hay.*

## Portland Chapter News

by Renee Berry-Huffman

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH?

After the two Chef Al's Fowl cartoons ran in the Casco Bay Weekly, angered women and men took to the streets and rallied, demanding an apology and restoration of faith in their readership, on March 13th.

A Portland NOW meeting followed and attendance was good. Lael Morgan from Casco Bay Weekly and Noah Bruce from the Portland Phoenix also attended. Noah covered the story, while Lael did little to convince us that CBW wasn't reckless in their decision to run the cartoons. We suggested an advisory board for the paper so there could be checks and balances towards producing responsible journalism. We also suggested cartoonist Martin Shields and the entire staff take sensitivity training, a suggestion which Lael balked at.

Continued discussions which were agreed upon at the meeting have not yet been followed up on by CBW.

\*\*\*\*\*

Portland NOW co-sponsored the event Media Alert Forum - Violence Against Women, with Family Crisis Services. It was held April 17th at the USM Luther Bonney Hall. Dr. Robert McAfee was the Keynote Speaker. Pat Peard was the moderator of the News Panel: Representatives from Casco Bay Weekly, Portland Phoenix, USM Free Press, WGME, Portland Press Herald and WMPG radio were panelists. The panel was asked whether it thought Shields' cartoon (see item above) was violence against women. Some said yes and some said no. I became so frustrated. I told the panel I don't care what they thought. When they run something that affects free speech, yes, I am concerned. However, when it impacts on the safety, protection, and respect of women and girls, they will hear from US!!

Dr. McAfee said each reporter should have some inner core of a code of ethics/integrity. One panelist said she didn't. Her confession surprised many in the audience.

Working with the District of Maine (Forest Avenue location), United States Postal Service was a two-sided educational experience. I notified them of being last year's NOW Merchant of Shame. The cases that had been filed and resolved happened before this Postal Service Administration. Currently, there is a zero tolerance on sexual harassment and discrimination of any kind. New employees receive education and instruction during their employee orientation. Current employees receive in-service trainings on a yearly basis.

The Women-Friendly Workplace Pledge was signed by employees, Elizabeth Johnson, District Manager of USPS, and myself. It was packaged and sent to the National NOW Action Center.

\*\*\*\*\*

Portland NOW members joined NH NOW to bus down to the Campaign to Save Women's Lives-Zap Action....Pro-choice rally in Washington, DC on Sunday, April 22, 2001. Allies, friends, and supporters of NOW donated funds for our bus seats. The Maine Delegation drove to Portsmouth, NH by minivan, and boarded the NH NOW commuter bus. It was a long, exhausting, but exciting trip. The speakers, the musicians, the environment, it was just incredible!! All our experiences are so different but all memorable.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Join us in Monument Square on May 11th, in celebration of Peace Day. Portland NOW will be passing out white ribbons with message cards. On this day, only, we will be offering memberships for \$15. Join us in spreading the word of Peace!!*

\*\*\*\*\*

The Radical Right is now saying women who take birth control pills are committing daily abortions. We can't sit still for this. Join us as we gather at Congress Square, Saturday, June 9th, 10 a.m., to say, "We Won't Go Back" "We Won't Go Back!!" We want to keep you informed and have our voices lifted loud and strong!!

# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN



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



Maine State Coordinator -- Renee Berry-Huffman, 772-3368  
Assistant State Coordinator -- JoAnne Dauphinee, 989-3306  
Scribe -- Vacant

## Task Force/Coalition Contacts

Affirmation Action Task Force -- Van Berry 772-7434  
Clean Clothes Campaign -- JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306  
Consumers for Affordable Health Care -- VACANCY  
CUREs Project -- JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306  
Dirigo Alliance -- Rachel Lowe 737-2329  
Fair Trade Coalition -- JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306  
Lesbian Rights Task Force -- VACANCY  
Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods -- Chris Rusnov 873-0878  
Maine Choice Coalition -- Deanna Partridge  
Maine Equal Justice Project -- Chris Rusnov 873-0878  
Maine NOW Phone Coordinator -- Lucinda McGinn 854-1741  
Maine NOW PAC Treasurer -- JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306  
Maine NOW Times -- Lucinda McGinn 854-1741  
Office of Minority Health -- Renee Berry-Huffman 772-3368

## NORTHEAST REGIONAL NOW BOARD MEMBERS

Renee Berry-Huffman, Portland, ME 772-3368 (Regional Director)  
Andrea Lee, Cambridge, MA  
Kris Moody, Nottingham, NH  
Galen Sherwin, New York City, NY

## Greater Bangor NOW

87 Sunset Strip  
Brewer, ME 04412  
Coordinator:  
Deanna Partridge  
947-5337

and  
Contact:

JoAnne Dauphinee  
989-3306

Meets 3rd Monday of each  
month

## Greater Portland NOW

PO Box 4012  
Portland, ME 04101  
Coordinator:

Van Berry  
772-7434

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each  
month

e-mail feminists:  
NOWOFME@aol.com

## JOIN US!

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION\*

**Our vision:** to empower women to take feminist action to make feminist social change.

**Our top five priorities:** ERA, economic justice, eliminating racism, lesbian rights, reproductive freedom.

**MAINE NOW, PO BOX 4012, Portland, ME 04101. Make check payable to Maine NOW.**

NAME: (Please PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

CHAPTER (see above): \_\_\_\_\_ If there is no chapter near you, leave space blank. We'll enroll you as an at-large member.

Dues rate includes membership at the national, state and local level.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ dues enclosed. \$35.00 Regular Dues. A sliding scale of \$20.00-\$34.00 is available, if needed.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ additional contribution enclosed. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PAC (Political Action Committee) contribution, payable to Maine NOW PAC.

I would like to be a sustainer, donating \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month. (\$5.00 minimum per month)

/ ☐ / PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT MAINE NOW TO SHARE YOUR NAME WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

/ ☐ / Please check here if you do not want National NOW to share your name with other groups.

\*Membership application is for new members only. If you are renewing OR reinstating a recent lapse in membership, please send your renewal to NOW, 733 15th Street, NW, 2nd floor, Washington, DC 20005.

## NOW Members in Senate & House

These current or recent NOW members serve in the 120th

### Maine Senate

Dist.	Candidate, Area	Phone
7	Mary Cathcart, Orono	866-3054
11	Susan W. Longley, Liberty	589-4353
15	Bev Daggett, Augusta	622-9053
16	Marge Kilkelly, Wiscasset	563-1891
18	Sharon Treat, Gardiner	582-6702
22	Neria Douglass, Auburn	782-1518
23	Betheda Edmonds, Freeport	865-3869
28	Anne Rand, Portland	772-7704
31	Peggy Pendleton, Scarborough	883-5414

### Maine House

82	Elizabeth Watson, Farmingdale	582-2068
98	Paul Hatch, Skowhegan*	474-3435
117	Christina Baker, Bangor	947-8564
127	Edward Povich, Ellsworth*	667-7116

\*Household memberships

## Senator Beth Edmonds, NOW Activist, is Co-Chair of the Labor Committee

Senator Beth Edmonds of Freeport is a long-time Now activist and former NOW State Coordinator! Beth was a former Brunswick NOW Coordinator, former Maine NOW coordinator, a long-time Maine NOW liaison to Dirigo Alliance PAC (when she wasn't running for the Senate!), and a former National NOW Board member. Another former NOW state coordinator, Rachel Lowe, managed the campaign, as well as the campaign in '98 that set up the 2000 victory!

She's the 2nd NOW State Coordinator to serve in the Maine Legislature. Marge Clark was the first NOW State Coordinator elected to House Seat 70 (part of Brunswick) back in 1986. Marge went on to serve two additional terms. She now lives with her husband in Arizona.

Beth is the Senate Chair of the Labor Committee. If you lobby in Augusta for anything, look her up! She reports loving it there! We wish her all the Senate terms she desires! In fact, we wish all our NOW members and friends a great session! And many more!



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Portland, ME 04101

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