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Maine NOW Times (Spring 2007)

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National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter

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Maine NOW Times

Spring 2007

Annual Meeting/Portland NOW's 35th Anniversary Party

Our Annual Meeting was held on October 28, 2006 at Space Gallery in Portland. We had a packed agenda and it was a fabulous event!

JoAnne Dauphinee led us off with opening remarks. We presented a special award to past NOW president, and current President of the Maine Senate, Beth Edmonds. Beth was given a memorable quilt with quotes from many of us included on the blocks.

Our keynote speaker, sponsored by Maine NOW PAC, was Rachel Maddow, from Air America radio. Rachel gave a rousing talk and this portion of the event was unveiled to a packed house!

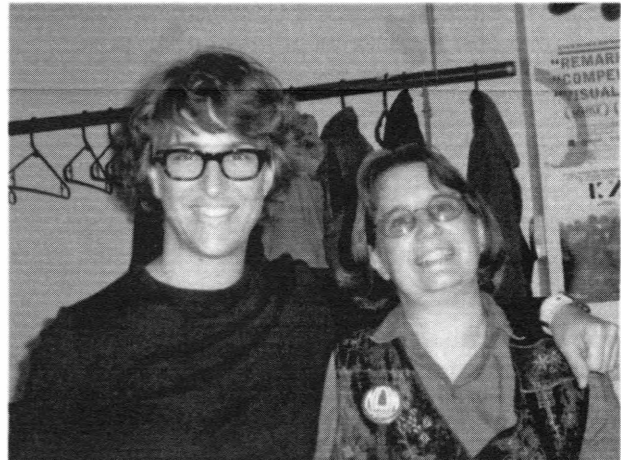
Following the keynote, several of us board members trooped onstage to present our dramatic reading of JoAnne's play, "The Feminist Zone." Our stage was decorated with pictures of the many amazing feminist leaders that JoAnne's play brings to a meeting of Bangor NOW. We had a grand time presenting the play, and the audience appeared to be enjoying it as well.

We had a short intermission between the acts, and there was plenty of great food available for everyone to partake.

The afternoon topped off with great pizza from Silly's and The Flatbread Company and our beautiful cake in celebration of Portland NOW's 35th anniversary, all enjoyed while listening to the drum group Harambe.

It was a wonderful event and we certainly want to thank all the members who attended. If you didn't make it to this event, maybe we will see you at the next one!

Below is a picture of Portland NOW President/Assistant State Coordinator Jennifer Halm-Perazone with Rachel Maddow. Jennifer was instrumental in bringing Rachel to Maine and is a huge fan of Rachel's program on Air America Radio.



For other pictures from the annual meeting, see pages 2 and 12.

Know someone who should be a member of Maine NOW? Share this newsletter with them and have them send in the application on page 11! Or, give them a gift membership!

Common Ground Fair

In September, we had our booth in the Social & Political Action area at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, ME. Those of us who have visited us at the fair or volunteered with us at the fair know that this is a major event for Maine NOW.

After having been absent from the fair in 2005 for the first time in as long as I've been involved with NOW, it was terrific to be back at the fair and set up in our fantastic NOW booth. As part of our presence this past year, we ran a poll as to what NOW issues people stopping by our booth felt was most important for them. People were given glass stones to cast their votes into mason jars. This was a fun activity and we wanted to share the information we got as a result.

Among all age groups for women, Abortion Rights/Reproductive Issues was the most chosen issue.

We had the largest amount of total votes in the 16-25 age group for women. It is exciting that so many young women are interested in these issues. The top issues chosen, after AR/RI, were VAW, Diversity/Racism and Lesbian Rights among this age group.

For women in the 26-39 age group, Economic Justice, VAW and D/R were the most chosen after AR/RI.

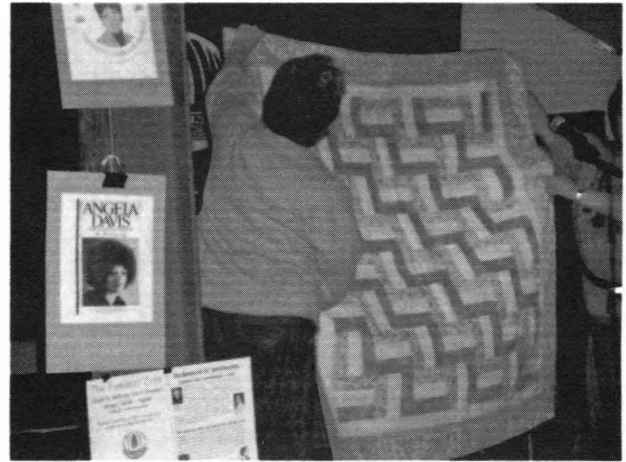
Our next group, age 40-55, strongly favored EJ, and VAW after AR/RI, but also has good representation on D/R and Constitutional Equality/ERA.

Women in the 56-65 age group chose VAW and CE/ERA as their preferences after AR/RI.

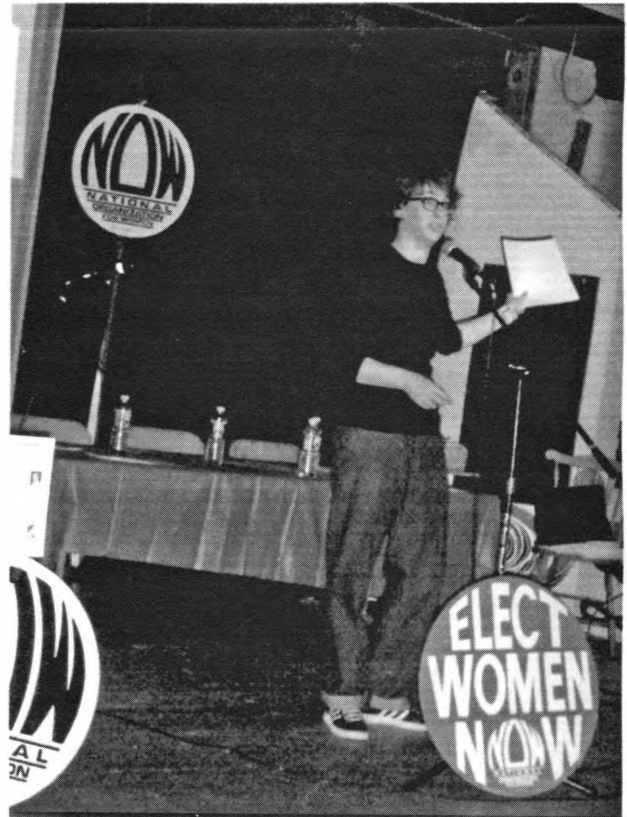
Finally, among women over 65 (our smallest voting group), VAW, EJ and CE/ERA were all strong contenders after AR/RI.

Men of all ages were a separate group and they cast 149 votes in all. For men, the issues chosen most often were D/R, AR/RI, VAW and EJ.

The fair is a fun time and now we are on the lookout for volunteers for this year's fair. If you are interested in helping us staff our booth, contact us at mainenow@maine.rr.com or you can contact any officer directly (see page 11).



The Quilt that was given to Beth Edmonds. Along the side can be seen stage decorations for the reading of "The Feminist Zone."



Rachel onstage during her keynote address.

TRACKING THE 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE 2007-8 NOW Feminist Goals/Philosophy

MAINE NOW has tracked the Maine Legislatures since 1971. Though all issues are feminist issues, NOW's priorities and philosophy have led us to focus frequently on a few entrenched problems. Generally, NOW urges our government to assertively protect the basic civil liberties of all Maine people, to promote equal treatment of citizens, and advance the public good of women & children as individuals (not just as part of families, or the workforce).

Feminism is the radical notion that women are people.

For over 35 years, Maine NOW has found itself engaged often in the following policy areas:

- Promoting public policy to address violence against women & children, with an emphasis on creating (and funding!) prevention programs & services to help women in transition.

- Raising awareness of how public policy often excludes, ignores, or even thwarts (often inadvertently) the best interests of women & children; and, how to make more inclusive laws. NOW prioritizes child care access & quality, equal access to jobs & education, equal treatment in schools and on jobs, and meeting women's health needs, including access to quality abortion care for all women – rich or poor, young or old, rural or urban.

- Promoting the equitable & fair treatment of all Maine people, regardless of sex, race, social class, weight or looks, age, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, ethnicity, and so on.

**NO ONE IS FREE
WHEN OTHERS ARE OPPRESSED.**

For a more inclusive look at NOW's
priorities and activities
www.mainenow.org

Maine Legislature BASICS

Visit Your Legislature at:

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis>

Maine has only one statewide elected officer. It is former Congressman, Governor John Baldacci (D), just starting his 2nd term.

Visit the Governor at:

<http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/index.shtml>

Find Your Senator at:

www.maine.gov/legis/senate/senators/directory/index.htm Of 35 Senators, 18 are Democrats, 17 are Republicans. NOW is very proud that the President of the Maine Senate is former NOW State Coordinator & National NOW Board member, Beth Edmonds! **Find Beth at:** www.maine.gov/legis/senate/senators/bios/bio10s.htm

Find Your Representative at:

<http://janus.state.me.us/house/townlist.htm> Of 151 House members, 88 are Democrats, 61 Republicans, no Greens, & 2 "Independents." Each House member represents a district of approximately 8,443 people. There are also 2 nonvoting members representing the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

All 186 lawmakers are up for election every 2 years. Term limits are no more than 4 consecutive terms in the same chamber. Maine has a system of public funding for candidates. It is widely used regardless of party affiliation.

IN SESSION: The 1st Regular Session convened 12/6/06 & runs through 6/20/07. The 1st Session is a free-for-all of many kinds of bills. The 2nd Regular Session runs 1/2/08-4/16/08. It is supposedly for "Part II" Budget issues and emergency legislation, but lots of issues are "carried over." "Special Sessions" are not rare. **Find the Legislative Hearing Schedule at:**

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/lto/phSched.asp>

Find Legislative Bill Search at:

<http://janus.state.me.us/LawMakerWeb/search.asp>

Maine has 17 Joint Committees to deal with various issue areas, a Committee on Joint

Rules, and a Government Oversight Committee. Each has a similar balance of party members reflecting the overall balance of the Legislature. There are Senate & House Co-Chairs for each Committee, chosen by Legislative Leaders. All 2000-plus bills get a hearing, a recommendation, and a vote. **Find the Committees at:**

<http://janus.state.me.us/house/jtcomlst.htm>

Find out more about your state government & check out eDemocracy at www.maine.gov

BOLD THEMES in the 123rd

In every Session, there are certain currents or overarching themes that impose on a wide range of issues. Also, the 123rd may deal (directly or otherwise) with some **HOT ISSUES** prioritized by **NOW**. **NOW** is creating several Study Papers & Position Papers – most 2 pages each – dealing with some of these bold themes and hot issues. We hope to post versions of these on our web www.mainenow.org

The web versions will list bills & details. This *MN Times* version, due mostly to space limitations, settles for leading you to some interesting websites and concentrating on **HOT NOW ISSUES**. Also, as of this writing not all bills are printed yet.

FOUR BOLD THEMES

Charting Maine's Future, the Brookings Report, commissioned by GrowSmart Maine www.growsmartmaine.org

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET & EDUCATION

Reforms, Property Taxes

http://janus.state.me.us/legis/schreg_feb05/homepage.htm

www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/policy/index.shtml

SEX OFFENDERS

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers site: www.atsa.com

WAR ON OBESITY

www.naafa.org www.largesse.net
www.pearlsonsong.com/haes.htm

These topics cry out for more in depth feminist analyses. While most government plans make no more than a splash, GrowSmart's Brookings Report was more like a tidal wave. The Governor's plan to drastically reduce the number of school districts created quite a stir as well. So, the 123rd is off to a rousing start!

The list **NOW** created of 40 or so LDs relating to Sex Offenders runs six pages without the analysis pages! Too bad most of these bills don't reflect a feminist approach. Check out our Web Report!

The War on Obesity is not as big a topic in this session as last, but it can & has played out in many areas of public policy where feminists should take note – a backlash against **FAT Liberation/Love Your Body's** attempts to "Feed the models" (& our kids) and focus on health, not size.

HOT NOW ISSUES

- ABORTION FUNDING & CHOICE
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ SEXUAL ASSAULT [See also, "Sex Offenders" at www.mainenow.org]
- CHILDREN/ CHILDCARE
- MARRIAGE RIGHTS/ DOMESTIC PARTNERS
- HEALTH & WELFARE: HPV/ DIRIGO/MAINECARE/ AFFORDABLE HOUSING/ MORE
- WORK, WAGES, PAID SICK DAYS, & WHERE'S WANDA?

Here we take a look at some **NOW** priority issues, & check out interests of our Coalitions & some Sister Organizations.

NOW is a member of the Women's Leadership Action Coalition, staffed by the Maine Women's Policy Center. www.MaineWomen.org. WLAC brings together over 20 organizations working toward improving the social, economic, and political status of women and their families. We've partnered on several things with Maine Women's Policy Center & the Maine Women's

Lobby (including for the Paid Sick Days effort in the 123rd).

Maine NOW is also a member of:

Maine Choice Coalition including
www.ppnne.org

www.mainefamilyplanning.org

and a member of:

Coalition for Affordable Health Care
www.maine cahc.org/coalition/

We also keep an eye on issues of importance to some Sister groups, including: Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods (MAIN) www.bairnet.org/organizations/main/ and Maine Equal Justice Project www.mejp.org Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault www.mecasa.org

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
www.mcedv.org

Maine Women's Labor Institute site is amazing!

www.maineaflcio.org/women%20index.htm

Equality Maine www.equalitymaine.org

Maine Children's Alliance www.Mekids.org

If we left out your favorite group, please forgive, and send us information!

MORE LDs OF INTEREST

LDs & Details on Web Only

ELECTIONS/ TERM LIMITS/MORE

There are a lot of bills about elections in the 123rd. What can we do to anticipate election glitches or fraud? Make recounts easier? NOW & Maine NOW PAC are always interested in the process of democracy. Are term limits helping or hurting women to reach higher numbers – and higher places – in the legislature? Is public funding opening the process to more low income Mainers? Other groups interested:

www.mainepeoplesalliance.org

www.mclu.org

RACE/TRIBAL

Tribal issues mostly revolve around gambling & budget & LNG issues.

<http://uspolitics.einnews.com/news/maine-naacp>

<http://www.nativelanguages.org/maliseet.htm>

<http://janus.state.me.us/house/hsebios/lordm.htm>

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental issues are numerous as always. Categories include: global warming, conservation, toxins, recycling, wind & sun & hydro-power, from Allagash to Smart communities. Check out Natural Resources Council of Maine www.nrcm.org

HOT NOW ISSUES

Under topics such as ABORTION FUNDING & CHOICE, there may be brief comments. Then, one or several bills listed by LD# [Legislative Document #]. After each LD# is the LD's Sponsor (may also list some co-sponsors), & a short summary of LD content. To search for more information about particular LDs go to www.Maine.gov & select "Legislature" in the upper right corner. For LDs without numbers yet click on "Bill Status" and "Search by Bill Text." A listing here is neither an indication of NOW support nor opposition.

ABORTION FUNDING & CHOICE

After years of legislative silence, feminists are asking again for a non-discriminatory public healthcare policy to include abortion. Will Democrats get cold feet? Will any Republicans cross the aisle?

LD1309 Senate President Beth Edmonds – Restore abortion funding for MaineCare recipients. Most insurances and DirigoHealth already cover abortions.

BILLS TO WATCH include: LD49 Rep. Duprey - Deny "family" status to a fetus. **LD54 Rep. Duprey** - Creates a state income tax credit equal to 20% of the federal income tax credit for qualified adoption expenses. **LD61 Rep. Duprey** - Makes providers of abortion services mandatory reporters of child sex abuse. This is already covered in existing law.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ SEXUAL ASSAULT

[See also *Sex Offenders* under *Bold Themes*]
Because of the volume of “Sex Offenders” bills, here we separate out some LDs on violence generated from a more feminist perspective, and from agencies dealing with women who’ve been battered, raped, and otherwise abused. Several are prioritized.

LD988 Rep. Deborah Simpson – This bill allows current and former dating partners, whether or not sexual partners, and stalking and sexual assault victims to seek relief under the protection from abuse laws.

LD1039 Rep. Deborah Simpson – Improves police training for responding to domestic abuse calls. Requires a law enforcement agency to adopt a written policy concerning domestic violence that contains a process to evaluate and determine who is the predominant physical aggressor in a domestic violence situation.

LD1224 Sen. Bill Diamond – *An Act to Prevent Violence Against Maine Families and to Provide Adequate Intervention in Cases of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.* This funding bill focuses on prevention & intervention, including school and community based education, professional training, & increasing public awareness. Makes a General Fund appropriation of \$4,600,000 in each of fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09 for the Department of Health and 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.

LD584 Rep. Deb Simpson – Adds animal control officers to the list of professionals mandated to report suspected cases of abuse of children and incapacitated or dependent adults.

CHILDREN/CHILDCARE

MAIN & MEJP will be among those advocating for additional state funding for childcare for TANF families & those leaving

TANF for work. The Maine Children’s Alliance has just published the annual *Maine KIDS COUNT* with data on Maine kids’ physical & mental health, social & economic status, childcare, & education.

A group called *Invest in Maine Now* is supporting 9 LDs they hope will decrease child abuse, increase quality childcare, & access to childcare. *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids/Maine* www.fightcrime.org/me/ promotes Head Start & early education, abuse & neglect prevention, after-school activities, & programs for troubled kids.

Here are just a few of the bills our legislators are proposing for kids!

LD63 Rep. Christopher Barstow – Provides funds for grants to establish after-school programs in communities that currently don’t have them.

LD65 Rep. Jeremy Fischer, Sen. Edmonds – This bill makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$100,000 per year to fund the Maine Mentoring Partnership Grant Program.

LD88 Sen. Philip Bartlett II – Requires the Dept. of Education to compile a list of safe alternatives to chemicals used in schools as cleaning agents and pesticides and to distribute the list.

LD187 Rep. Anne Rand – Makes \$7,000,000 per year General Fund appropriations for subsidized childcare, Head Start and early Head Start services.

LD283 Rep. Duprey – Makes payment for child care benefits for a person transitioning off the ASPIRE-TANF program payable directly to the childcare provider or facility.

LD487 Rep. Marilyn Canavan, Rep. Pendleton, Sens. Marrache, Rosen, Strimling, Mills... – Requires that when DHHS has determined that a child receiving child welfare services requires therapeutic care in a residential or foster care setting or requires other specialized mental health care treatment, DHHS must complete a clinical review. It also requires DHHS to assess a child leaving state custody, to

have periodic contact with and evaluation of a child who has left custody and to collect and make available to the public data on the assessments.

LD488 Rep. Peter Edgecomb – Amends the child support laws, revising the payment schedule from weekly to biweekly, & eliminates the requirement that child support be paid during the time the child is living with the obligor, as long as that time is at least 7 days.

LD560 Sen. Nancy Sullivan – Defines "public preschool program" in the laws governing education, to differentiate it from a one-or-two-year kindergarten program. It integrates approval of early childhood education plans for programs for children 4 years of age into the laws governing basic school approval.

LD596 Sen. Peggy Rotundo – Repeals the laws that give the DHHS authority to place children in long-term foster care, either by agreement with the foster parents or pursuant to a court order.

LD622 Rep. Philip Cressey, Reps. Haskell, Muse, Pendleton, Percy, Rosen, Sens. Savage, Schneider, Snowe-Mello, Sullivan – Requires a study of the need for a child care center in or near the State House Complex for state employees and their dependents. Out of committee *Ought Not To Pass*.

LD753 Rep. Faircloth, Pres. Edmonds, Rep. Pingree... – This resolve makes one-time General Fund appropriations of \$720,000 in fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09 for 6 family resource centers to operate throughout the State and provide an array of services to families.

LD755 Rep. Faircloth, Pres. Edmonds, Sen. Mitchell, Rep. Pingree... – This bill appropriates funds on a one-time and ongoing basis to increase the quality of child care services in Maine by identifying and implementing best practices and by addressing current limits on access to high-quality care based on a parent's ability to pay.

LD1149 Rep. Gary Connor – The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$2,000,000, will be used to establish a

combination of low-interest loans and grants to develop new child care options in all communities, to bring existing facilities and programs up to higher quality standards and to assist existing programs with higher quality standards in repaying existing loans and mortgage expenses during an expansion.

MARRIAGE RIGHTS/ DOMESTIC PARTNERS

LD375 Sen. Dennis Damon – Adds domestic partners to the list of family members that employees may use family medical leave to take care of. It also adds a definition for domestic partner.

LDs225, 256, 566, 623 – All are examples, just in the 123rd, of LDs extending special rights to spouses. There are also over 1000 federal laws giving special rights to spouses!

HEALTH & WELFARE HPV

LD137 Sen. Lisa Marrache – Requires DHHS to provide coverage for the vaccine under the MaineCare program, & provides funding for purchasing and distributing HPV to all girls 11 and 12 years of age. It requires the Maine Immunization Program to report to the Legislature on the status of program funding and vaccination, & improves public awareness about cervical cancer prevention.

DIRIGO HEALTH

LD431 Rep. Jill Conover – Allows Dirigo Health to be Self-Administered. It expands the Board and details its responsibilities and limits.

LD526 Rep. Jill Conover – Reduces the number of hours an employee of an eligible business must work per week from 20 to 10 in order to be eligible to enroll in the Dirigo Health Program. It allows an eligible business to include employees who work on a temporary, substitute or seasonal basis as eligible to enroll in the Dirigo Health Program so long as inclusion of such employees does not result in the reduction of hours or the

reduction or elimination of coverage for eligible employees working more than 10 hours per week.

BILLS TO WATCH include: **LD436 Sen. Turner** on the capital investment fund & **LD439 Sen. Courtney's** numerous proposed changes, including a high risk pool & required co-pays.

MAINECARE

LD282 Rep. Sean Faircloth, Sen. Beth Edmonds – Extends MaineCare dental and oral health services to a woman who is eligible for MaineCare because of pregnancy and for 60 days following the delivery of the child.

LD520 Rep. Paulette Beaudoin – Ensures access to MaineCare services by providing incentives for health care practitioners to serve MaineCare members.

LD551 Rep. Wright Pinkham – Establishes the Maine Health Card program to enable uninsured persons to pay the MaineCare price for medically necessary health services and prescribed covered drugs.

BILLS TO WATCH include: **LD12 & LD28**, both by **Rep. Browne**, to establish a 30-day residency requirement for applicants for the MaineCare program & for general assistance benefits; **LD476 Sen. Richard Rosen** - Establishes the Health Insurance Individual and Small Group Reinsurance Fund

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Several groups, including MAIN & MEJP, work on affordable housing issues. Also, check out the Affordable Housing “Educational Brief” at www.GrowSmartMaine.org Here is some more of what the 123rd is up to:

Gov. Baldacci included in his budget the Housing Opportunities for Maine fund (**Maine HOME Fund**). It increases Maine Housing's ability to finance affordable housing for first-time homebuyers, low-income renters, people with disabilities, or those who are homeless. This went to Appropriations Committee. www.mainehousing.org (check out “news” 1/5/07 press release)

LD330 Rep. Herb Adams – Makes failure to provide for an accounting, or to transfer renters security deposits, a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

LD441 Sen. Barry Hobbins – Changes the number of commissioners on the Maine State Housing Authority appointed by the Governor from 5 to 7, 2 of whom must be representatives of low-income people.

LD475 Sen. Lisa Marrache – Prohibits a landlord from charging additional rent or utilities from a tenant for a provider of in-home and community services.

LD527 Rep. Wesley Richardson – Creates the retired senior resident homestead property tax exemption for some retired persons of 50% of the just value of that person's homestead.

LD762 Rep. Hannah Pingree – Enhance a community's capacity to support Affordable Housing

HEATING – **LD502 Rep. Fletcher** – Appropriates \$17,000,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 to the Maine State Housing Authority for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

MORE HEALTH & WELFARE

LD1162 President Edmonds – The **Emergency Assistance** program currently provides up to \$250 to families with children. This LD increases funding, expands who (childless adults, including seniors & people with disabilities) and what (adds transportation-related emergencies) is covered, & increases help for housing-related emergencies from \$250 to \$600.

LD144 Sen. Nancy Sullivan – Excludes from the Maine sales and use tax any free clinic whose sole mission is to provide free medical care to the indigent or uninsured.

LD339 Sen. Lisa Marrache – Prevents the inappropriate transfer of a resident to a hospital as a way of accomplishing the discharge of the resident.

BILLS TO WATCH include: **LD233 Sen. Rosen** – Voice-activated telephone loan program; **LD364 Rep. Campbell** – False or

misleading drug ads; **LD429 Rep. Elizabeth Miller & LD568 Sen. Lisa Marrache** – Changes to HIV Testing requirements; **LD500 Sen. Diamond** – Financing hospice facilities; **LD519 Rep. Campbell** – Personal care & health maintenance services in Medicaid; **LD609 Sen. Brannigan** – Children's community behavioral health needs; **LD657 Rep. Canavan** – Funding KV Mental Health transitional employment training.

WORK, WAGES, PAID SICK DAYS, & WHERE'S WANDA?

If you don't see women wherever important decisions are being made – in corporate boardrooms, in the judiciary, on the floor of the Senate, in the White House – You must ask: Where's Wanda?

Women of America Now Demand Action

So many work issues! Unemployment insurance for part-time workers, pushing for a livable wage, education & training for workers in transition, and requiring paid sick days are all high on NOW's 123rd agenda.

Paid Sick Days: According to *The Maine Women's Advocate*, in Maine, 41% of workers lack even one paid sick day, and 3 out of 4 working poor families don't have any paid sick days!

LD1454 Rep. Jackie Norton – *An Act to Care for Working Families* requires an employer to pay each employee a minimum of one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked by the employee. An employer is not required to provide to an employee paid sick leave in excess of 72 hours or 9 days annually. Paid sick leave may be used by an employee during an absence from employment due to the illness of the employee or the illness of an immediate family member.

LD# not yet known – Unemployment insurance for part-time workers.

LD231 Sen. Nancy Sullivan – A garnishment judgment for a consumer credit debt must allow a worker to retain at least the equivalent of the

federal or state minimum wage, whichever is higher – *Passed to be Enacted*

LD422 Rep. Edward Mazurek – Increase State Income Tax exemption for retired State employees and tie in a cost-of-living adjustment.

LD595 Sen. Ethan Strimling, Reps. Chase, Clark, Conover, Pilon – Directs the Department of Labor to annually calculate the livable wage for various household sizes using the methodology used by the Maine Center for Economic Policy and report back to the Legislature. The bill also defines "livable wage."

LD611 Sponsor Rep. Leila Percy & over 3 dozen Democratic & Republican co-sponsors!

– Makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$375,000/year beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 to maintain capacity to provide entrepreneurial training, small business development and financial management assistance to help women and rural entrepreneurs create, sustain and expand micro-enterprises throughout Maine.

~~~~~ **Greater Bangor NOW's BIG FAT CLOTHING SWAP**



9 a.m.-1
p.m.

Saturday,
May 5, 2007

31 Fern St,
Bangor

Women's sizes 16 and up – bring/swap/buy

Bumper stickers, pins and fat-friendly facts,
too!

FMI or to donate clothes before the swap, call
JoAnne at 989-3306 or Deanna at 947-8840

Portland NOW Chapter Report

Portland NOW celebrated our 35 years with a fun and fabulous event on Oct. 28th, 2006 at Space Gallery. (See article on page 1.) It's hard to believe that the Chapter is 35 years old. We have a lot to celebrate and have made great progress, but we are still working hard for the right to control our own bodies. In January of 2007, we were able to take part in the Roe v. Wade events in Portland. We stood out in the cold on Franklin Arterial with other members of the Choice Coalition holding up our "Keep Abortion Legal" rounds and getting many "we agree with you" honks from passing cars. After that, we met over at USM to hear stories from women who have had trouble in the past getting contraceptive devices, and from very courageous women sharing their stories about having illegal abortions. It's important to remember why we can never go back.

This March we were delighted to once again sponsor the Maine Jewish Film Festival, Women Filmmakers Forum. This year's film was "Gorgeous!" (comme t' y es belle!), French filmmaker Lisa Azuelos's French 'Sex in the City' - style romantic comedy about a close - knit group of Sephardic Jewish female friends living in Paris. It was a packed audience at the showing and the film was very well received.

Portland NOW is always open to new faces and ideas. Let us know how and when you would like to get involved with the Chapter. Call Jennifer Halm-Perazone at 871-0618 or e-mail at portlandnow35@yahoo.com for meeting times and more information.

GBNOW Chapter Report

By JoAnne Dauphinee

GBNOW will have a table at the April 21, 2007 HOPE Festival in Orono. This is always a great daylong event. Speaking of favorite events, Deanna & I look forward to GBNOW's annual FAT Clothing Exchange on May 5th, Bangor.

If you'd like to help at either event, let us know. And do stop by to say hi!

Since last report, Assata represented NOW at an anti-hate support rally for Sarah Norris, the pregnant black woman who was assaulted in Hancock. Deanna represented NOW at an anti-"Big Box" stores event. And, I was among several NOW members at the anti-war (4th anniversary) "From Every Village Green" demonstration in Bangor. I also presented at a UM Women's Studies class on Women & Politics. Deanna, Assata, and I occasionally represent NOW at various local events, and at NOW State Board meetings, where Deanna is Scribe. Though GBNOW is on hiatus a lot these days, we still get our 2 cents worth in here & there!

Help Organize Peace Earthwide
13th Annual

H O P E
FESTIVAL
Earth Day 2007

Saturday, April 21st 10 am - 4 pm
Field House, University of Maine, Orono





NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN



Maine's Leading Feminist Grassroots Organization

Phone Number: 797-8508

Email: mainenow@maine.rr.com

Website: www.mainenow.org

State Coordinator--Annie Lunt, 623-0427

Assistant Coordinator--Jennifer Halm-Perazone, 871-0618

Scribe--Deanna Partridge

Greater Bangor NOW
87 Sunset Strip
Brewer, ME 04412
Coordinator:
JoAnne Dauphinee
989-3306
Call for meeting times

Greater Portland NOW
P.O. Box 7686
Portland, ME 04112
Coordinator:
Jennifer Halm-Perazone
871-0618
Call for meeting times

Email feminists: mainenow@maine.rr.com

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JOIN US! MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Our vision: to empower women to take feminist action to effect feminist social change.
Our top five priorities: ERA, economic justice, lesbian rights, reproductive freedom, eliminating racism.

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Sign me up for (a) Greater Bangor NOW ____ (b) Greater Portland NOW ____ (c) At-large ____
Dues rate includes membership at the national, state and, if chosen, local level.

\$ _____ dues enclosed. \$35.00 regular dues. A sliding scale of \$20.00 - \$34.00 is available, if needed. Send, along with your check made payable to Maine NOW, to Maine NOW, 665 Saco Street, Box 172, Westbrook, ME 04092.

**Membership application is for new members only. If you are renewing OR reinstating a recent lapse in membership, please send your renewal to NOW, P.O. Box 1848, Merrifield, VA 22116-9899 and include your member number (found on your label) with your renewal.

From the Web:
Dismantle The Mom Myth

April 3, 2007

Articles about the so-called "opt-out revolution" have recently become a staple of such news outlets as *The New York Times*, claiming that a surge of women are trading high-powered careers for stay-at-home motherhood.

NOW has long known this to be a myth, and applauds a recent article in the *Columbia Journalism Review* in which author E.J. Graff debunks "The Opt-Out Myth". Graff takes reporters and editors to task for focusing stories on anecdotes from a relatively small group of mothers who can afford to leave the waged workforce. "The stories imply that these women took the 'off ramp' for a few years, but really they were run off the road," said NOW President Kim Gandy.

Join NOW's "Dismantle the Mom Myth" campaign and demand that your local media outlets tell the truth about the challenges women face when trying to balance work and family.

Go to www.now.org to read more about this issue and take action.



At the NOW table - annual meeting.



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