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Maine NOW Times (Summer 1996)

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National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter

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CAMPAIGN SEASON

The Time To Act Is NOW!

The number of local right-winged candidates is growing nation wide. NOW is the time to work with Maine NOW PAC to defeat known anti-choice, anti-gay, welfare attackers that are currently in the Maine House and Senate and/or who are candidates for these seats.

There are already rumors of punitive and backlash legislation for the 118th legislature: imposing a family cap for AFDC recipient benefits; attacking access to abortion with parental notification, waiting periods, D & X restrictions (Clinton vetoed); and imposing time limits on AFDC recipients without regard to individual circumstances and without providing necessary support systems to achieve independence as well as other ugly attacks on women and their families.

In addition, we need to elect candidates who will support and actively work for a lesbian, gay, bi-sexuals civil rights bill. Last session, a horrendously hateful anti-gay bill was proposed but defeated in committee and petitions are currently being circulated to put a referendum on the ballot for next year to ban same-sex marriages (see p. 12). The politics of hate continues.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

PLEASE, PLEASE **call the candidates in your local area** to find out how they stand on the issues. If they responded to our survey, their answers are listed in this issue of the Maine NOW Times.

Share this information with other people in your district.

Encourage friends, family, co-workers to vote in the primary on June 11. Those unenrolled in a party can do so on election day at the polls (if their town only has one voting site) or at their town or city hall (if their town/city has multiple voting sites).

Offer your help, financial or hands-on, large or small, to feminist and progressive candidates.

Call Rachel Lowe, (737-2329) leader of the PAC to **get involved in a feminist candidate's campaign.** Rachel would also like volunteers to help make local get-out-the-vote phone calls to members and to encourage their participation in key districts. Something you can do? Let her know.

Information on candidates continues to filter into us all the time. Please take the time to get involved for one hour a week or one hour a day--whatever you can. Take the steps suggested above to get the ball rolling.

NOW is the time!



MAINE
NOW
TIMES

SUMMER 1996

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
FEMINIST CANDIDATE.**

**GET INVOLVED IN ANY
WAY YOU CAN.**

- ☒ VOTE
- ☒ GET OTHERS TO VOTE
- ☒ VOLUNTEER IN THESE
LAST FEW WEEKS.

DECISIONS MADE IN
AUGUSTA & WASHINGTON
DO AFFECT
OUR DAILY LIVES.

**CALL
RACHEL
737-2329**

The Bridge Between Reading and Voting

by Roberta Record

Trust happens in a moment of surprise. I met Nina when she asked me, what does "grace" mean?

I was lucky to have a dictionary nearby. We studied the written meaning to put it in a tangible example. As we talked, Nina revealed she was learning to read. I was elated and filled with curiosity about her successful reading journey. As I listened to her story, I learned that the first step in learning to read was to let out the secret, "I am a non-reader."

As I got to know Nina, she had a dream of wanting to vote. I offered to walk her through the journey as others had walked me through my journey of life dreams. As I explained the questions that would be on the ballot, Nina had a deep sense of the issues. Media and friends had worked well to fill the void of reading information. Nina was able to fill out the voter registration card with the gracious support of our city hall employees. I went to sleep Monday night filled with a renewed awareness of what it means to vote—something I no longer could take for granted.

November 7 was a great day of excitement due to the issues at hand. What a turn of events for me because I have my own doubts about voting. As I walked with Nina up the steps of the armory, she turned to tell me she was excited and nervous. I was deeply touched by the moment and had a hard time talking.

I questioned, "What are you afraid of? There is nothing blocking you." I saw a spark of courage in her eyes as we walked in the lobby to the main room. After I guided Nina and explained the process, she handed her registration card in, gathered the ballots and entered the voting booth.

Grace guided us in the little intimate space. I began reading the complex ballot, stumbling over the figure amounts. I found a word even I didn't know the meaning of. I felt a void in attempting to comprehend the question. Where was the dictionary that originally brought us together?

I taught her how to mark the ballot, and as I waited for her to ponder her beliefs and values, I saw her fill in the arrow. We finished to see Nina's ballot recorded. I felt the energy of her happiness as we went over to the petition tables electing what she wanted to sign. As we shared the experience outdoors, we reflected on the writing of the ballot. We both agreed the language needs to be simplified to make the voting process more inclusive.

Nina revealed that she knew of other non-readers and a woman who cannot sign her name. I pondered, would it be helpful to have a public forum for these folks to learn and

role play the process of voting a week before Election Day? Would announcing the absentee ballot process as an opportunity for these folks encourage them to vote? I felt sad that they were unintentionally left out of the process.

And I felt that November 7 needs to be a holiday for taking someone to vote, reading the ballot or just pondering the responsibility of what it means to vote. I went to sleep thinking differently about what it means to vote: in my elation, voting will never be the same. Trust came to me on a wing in a unique way and grace made the day.

Roberta Record of Augusta is an activist on many issues in her community including assisting with the city's comprehensive plan.

NOW Action Update: Shoplifting Charges Dropped

I want to congratulate **Rachel Talbot-Ross** on having the shoplifting charges against her dropped, due to the racial bias and lack of integrity of the **LL Bean** security guard. It did my heart good to see the story in the **Portland Press Herald**.

I also want to congratulate and thank all of you who responded to the article in the last **MNT** for your letters to the Editor, letters of support and donations to the Defense Fund. Rachel was just so overwhelmed and moved by your generosity. She truly feels blessed. Her entire family is grateful for the efforts of Maine NOW members.

Rachel did send me a note and although I won't share it's entire content, I would like to share one sentence. "I truly appreciated your support throughout my nightmare with LL Bean and I could not have gotten the result I did without you."

Pat yourselves on the back, for a job well done!! It was noticed by many organizations and individuals!! Special thanks to Neil Pratt, Rachel's lawyer, for his insightful participation and assistance. I'm keeping his name in my Rolodex!

Keep the Faith!

Renee Berry-Huffman, Affirmative Action Coordinator

In a letter to Maine NOW, an LL Bean representative explained: After completing an internal investigation and considering the information provided by Rachel's attorney, LL Bean requested that charges be dropped, took "corrective measures regarding the employee involved" (?) and is instituting a diversity training program and reviewing codes of professional conduct and accountabilities relating to the security department operations.

It Was Never Our Intention!!

Some weeks ago I received several complaints about the restaurant service at the Old Country Buffet, Maine Mall, South Portland.

The complaint centered around obesity discrimination. When an appropriate height/weight person asked the meat cutter for a serving, they were given a large slice of ham or roast beef. The server even went as far as to ask if the serving was adequate.

However, when an obese person appeared for a serving, the meat server cut off a small corner and place it on the plate. He would immediately direct his attention to another patron. I watched this for some time before I went up.

The server gave me a small corner of ham, and proceeded to ignore me. Others were told 'you can always come back for more'. Of course you know, this would not do.

So I wrote to the Manager, Michael Ilgen, about the matter. In my letter I said, "whether or not it is intentioned or not...when you target a specific group of people and provide different service, that's discrimination. I am bringing this to your attention with the hopes that this activity stops immediately. I look forward to hearing from you. Should I not hear from you, I will forward this letter to the Human Rights Commission."

I receive a certified letter from an out of state Regional Manager. He apologized for my experience and asked me to give the restaurant another try, on them. I gave the free passes to 'obese friends'. I will be back to do a follow up, later this year.



I love the power of the pen!

Keep the Faith!!
Renee Berry-Huffman

You Can't Do That To Me!!

What to do when you are faced
with discrimination in the workplace.

There are times when bosses and co-workers make inappropriate comments, and jokes. It's up to you, as to how you handle it. Everyone is different. What one person finds intolerable, another person may be willing to look the other way.

This is a private and individual decision. However, the plan of action is to deal with it directly.

Keep a journal. Include incidents, dates, where, and when. Be sure to identify who was present, as well as their job title and position. Date every entry. (You never know when it could be used in a court proceeding.) Don't forget to express your feelings, as well as how you were affected. (Sometimes I experience stomach trouble when I am upset.) Also record any doctor visits, and medications prescribed, as a direct result of the oppression. This includes any weight losses or gains. Always keep the journal at home; never in your desk. Also get a recent copy of your recent personnel record, during smoother times.

There will come a time when you must decide what you are going to do about this. I usually recommend notifying the **Human Rights Commission** at 1-207-624-6050. It's a free and excellent service.

Judgements against employers usually include monetary awards, and the HRC will monitor and enforce appropriate conformity. It is also on their permanent record.

Most employers are willing to work with you, and you should always try to exhaust all your options, and document the proceedings. This is very helpful to the HRC when you contact them. Sometimes the employer will retaliate by firing you, for seeking outside help. **THIS IS NOT LEGAL.** Contact the Human Rights Commission. HRC will take your report and send you forms to complete. Complete them and send them back. They will contact your employer. This process does take time, so please be patient.

When you do approach the matter, be direct in your words and try to remain calm. Speak slowly. Most employers will not understand when you try to explain why you were offended by a racial or sexual discrimination/harassment incident. **IT'S NOT YOUR PLACE TO MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND.** You can simply say I found this, this, and this inappropriate and offensive. It's the employer's place to provide some type of action. You can feel comfortable knowing you have done the very best to protect yourself.

I have been before the HRC, five times and five times, I won and received awards. Now I help others prepare their cases. I have over 12 years experience in working with the HRC on employment and housing discrimination.

'Keep the Faith'. I'm on your side.
Renee Berry-Huffman, 772-7434
Affirmative Action Coordinator, Maine NOW

PRIMARY ELECTIONS JUNE 11, '96 MAINE NOW PAC PICKS!!!

On Tuesday, June 11, Maine Democrats and Republicans will choose among their own for the best candidates to run this Fall. Maine NOW PAC sent our 1996 Questionnaire out to ALL declared candidates in early April. [Independents need not declare as early as party candidates.] We have received dozens of replies and are eager to share the results with our members! Below is info on the primaries. In a few months look for the *Election Edition* of this *MNT*!

First, a bit about this year's races. The Maine Senate has 35 seats. **The 117th has 11 women (31%); for the 118th**, 19 women are running (so far), including Independent, Jill Goldthwait. Because there are two woman v. woman races, a maximum of 17 women could win; and, **it looks very promising that as many as 13 or so will win!**

In the 117 House, there are currently 39 women (26%) of 151 voting seats. The 2 tribal seats are currently filled by men. 77 or 78 women are running for the 118th. With 11 woman v. woman races, as many as 66 women could win. It looks good for at least half, but it's hard to tell if we can hold at 39 or gain ground. The House has 76 D seats to the R's 75. The Rs control the Senate 18 - 16 - 1. It's a most important year for feminists to **Get Out The Vote**- especially the women's vote!

Twenty-four **Senate incumbents** seek reelection. Also, several **House members** are **seeking Senate seats** in the 118th. They are Democrats **Beverly Daggett** of Augusta, **Marjorie Kilkelly** of Wiscasset, **Sharon Treat** of Gardiner, Lloyd LaFountain of Biddeford, Bill O'Gara of Westbrook, Richard Gould of Greenville, and Republicans Eleanor Murphy of Berwick, and James Libby of Gorham. Some former House & Senate members are running too. Most notably, **feminist former House member Mary Cathcart of Orono who is in a Primary against anti-choice former Senator Mike Pearson.** Other former House members running are Robert Murray Jr of Bangor, and John Nutting of Leeds.

Note: References to "**lesbian rights**" means support for adding "sexual orientaion" to the Maine Human Rights Act.

Democratic Senate Primaries

District 4 (Calais) Tom Brennan v. Donald Cole, Jr. No info at deadline.

District 7 (Old Town, Lincoln, Orono, Glenburn..) **Mary Cathcart** v. Mike Pearson. **MNP endorses Cathcart** for many reasons, especially her work for battered women, for children and for choice. Pearson is anti-choice, and had minimal contact with feminists when in office.

District 20 (Lisbon Falls, Leeds...) John Nutting v. Edward Madden. John Nutting returned his questionnaire which was mostly affirmative except for a few qualified responses & two troubling answers on Choice: he would not oppose parental notification for a minor living at home; and, he would in-clude "her immediate family" in her right to choose. No word from Madden.

District 33 (Sanford, Springvale...) Jayson Allain v. Patrick Demers v. Gordon Paul. Gordon Paul returned the questionnaire, but we find we can not support him. We got no response from Allain or Demers, but Demers is known to be anti-choice. Paul is mixed on choice.

Republican Senate Primaries

District 7 (Old Town, Lincoln...) Roderick Carr v. Ernest Gallant. Gallant is a well known anti-choice activist. Carr is not known to NOW, except he's a retired state police sargeant & gun shop owner. He's against excessive government regulation, and for the rights of sportsmen; and he's *seen firsthand child abuse, domestic violence, and lack of family values.*

District 33 (Sanford, Springvale...) Joseph Herlihy v. Bruce MacKinnon. No info.

District 34 (Gorham, N. Waterboro...) James Libby v. Willis Lord. Lord is the incumbent. Libby currently is a House member. Lord won his seat in '94 by only 5 votes, but served 5 House terms before moving over to the Senate. Both oppose lesbian rights, and Lord opposes ERA. In '94, NARAL gave Libby a rating of 66%; Lord, 7%. In

'95, Libby opposed 24 hr waiting period before abortion, Lord supported; they both voted wrong on parental notification. On banning welfare benefits to children born while the mother is on welfare, Libby would ban, Lord would not. Lord supports single-payer, publicly managed health care; Libby does not. Lord voted to fully fund the Human Rights Commission; Libby voted against. Lord's ratings by the AFL-CIO never exceeded 28%; that is better than Libby's recent rating (1995, 15%) but not as good as Libby's '94 rating of 44%. Libby got lower '94 ratings than Lord from Maine Peoples Alliance, MEA, and higher ratings on environment (MLCV) & the NRA.

THE MAINE HOUSE

There are 44 open seats in the House (no incumbent, so they are easier to win) and women are running in 19, several with primaries to win first. The House has a total of 37 Primary races. On some we have no information, so only those where we know something relevant will be elaborated.

Republican Primaries

District 14 (Hollis, Buxton..) John Vedral III did not return his q-aire, but his primary opponent, Moteville Sloan did. Sloan was "not sure" how he would vote on several issues including lesbian rights, and an increase in direct AFDC payments. He opposes abortion funding and is unsure about coverage in insurance, but describes himself as "pro-choice". He is pro-ERA. This open seat was formerly held by James Libby, Republican.

District 25 (Cape Elizabeth) Incumbent Jean Ginn Marvin faces William Linnell II. Neither responded to the q-aire. Marvin voted against a 24 hr wait for abortion and parental notification in the 117th. She describes herself as pro-choice and pro-lesbian rights. She supported a moment of silence in schools. She voted against full funding for Maine Human Rights Commission. She voted the anti-labor positions and thinks government should be run more like business.

District 43 (Standish) This open seat was held by Ernest Greenlaw, Republican. There is a Republican and Democratic primary for this seat. The only

one to send in his q-aire was Republican Adam Mack, who is anti-ERA, anti-choice, anti-lesbian rights. In fact, he answered all but one issue wrong. And from his flier, *I want to scare the criminals back to Massachusetts, where they belong.*

District 64 (Oxford, Mechanic Falls, Otisfield, part of Hebron) John Underwood, incumbent, got an "A" from the NRA in '94. In the 117th he voted for a 24 hour waiting period before abortion, and in favor of parental notification. He voted against full funding for the Maine Human Rights Commission, against an increase in minimum wage, against the Maine Health Program, and against the stalking bill. According to his '94 q-aire, Richard Varney claims to be essentially pro-choice, and looks supportive on AFDC, child care, pay equity, and rape education. He has "an open mind" on ERA. On lesbian rights he said, "current law needs proper enforcement".

District 92 (Hallowell, Pittston) We did not hear from the Republicans in this race, but William Guerrette is the incumbent. He is anti-choice. He opposes public funding of elections. He voted against a minimum wage increase, against the Maine Health Program, and against full funding of the MHR Commission.

Democratic Primaries

District 19 (Biddeford) Joanne Twomey sent in an excellent q-aire, and was very impressive in her Dirigo interview. Her opponent is Lucien Dutremble, former legislator, who is anti-choice and anti-lesbian rights. **MNP endorses Joanne Twomey.**

District 23 (Gorham) Joseph Shortill and Charles LaRou both sent in q-aire. Shortill is pro-original ERA but opposes an expanded version. He is essentially pro-choice (reservations on some issues), but is unsure how he'd vote on lesbian rights. LaRou is anti-original ERA (anti-"Constitutional tampering"), but supports the expanded version? He is not pro-choice, with concerns about young women and opposition to funding. He is strong for lesbian rights, and most of our other issues, but seems to need info on affirmative action.

District 33 (Portland) Michael Quint and David Allegue both sent in very thoughtful q-aires. Both were most enthusiastic on several of our issues and opposed to none. Allegue and Quint had Dirigo interviews and the main difference seemed to be campaign organization. Quint ran for office back in 1980, and has a well organized campaign this time. Tho they are both caring on the issues, **MNP endorses Michael Quint.**

District 34 (Portland) Annette Hogland, former legislator, sent in a very good q-aire, and her voting record was outstanding. Opponent Francis Sleeper's q-aire is also good, but he is uncertain about AFDC and other child care support. The seat is currently held by F. Thomas Gieringer, Republican. **MNP endorses Annette Hoglund.**

District 48 (Freeport) Gloria Fogg DeGrandpre did not respond to our q-aire. We hear she is on the town council. Thomas Bull's q-aire was pretty good. He is pro-ERA, pro-lesbian rights, essentially pro-choice, pro-environment & labor.

District 85 (Brunswick, Durham) Anna Boll was our only q-aire respondent in this 3-way primary to fill Democrat Mike Fitzpatrick's seat. Her answers were nearly 100%, and attached information was most impressive. **MNP endorses Anna J. Boll.**

District 89 (Lewiston) There will be no Republican challenger to the winner of this primary. Douglas Lane is challenging incumbent Al Gamache. We received no q-aires, but from his votes, we know Gamache is pro-choice. He was absent when the 116th voted on lesbian rights. He voted for affirmative action. His weakest area seems to be environment.

District 90 (Lewiston) No q-aires, but Gerald Bouffard is the incumbent. His votes are anti-choice, pro-labor. He voted to fully fund the Maine Human Rights Commission, and for the Maine Health Program. His opponent is Robert Poulin.

District 96 (Augusta) Clyde LeClair's q-aire was quite good, but he is unsure/seeks education on several issues including abortion funding in Med-

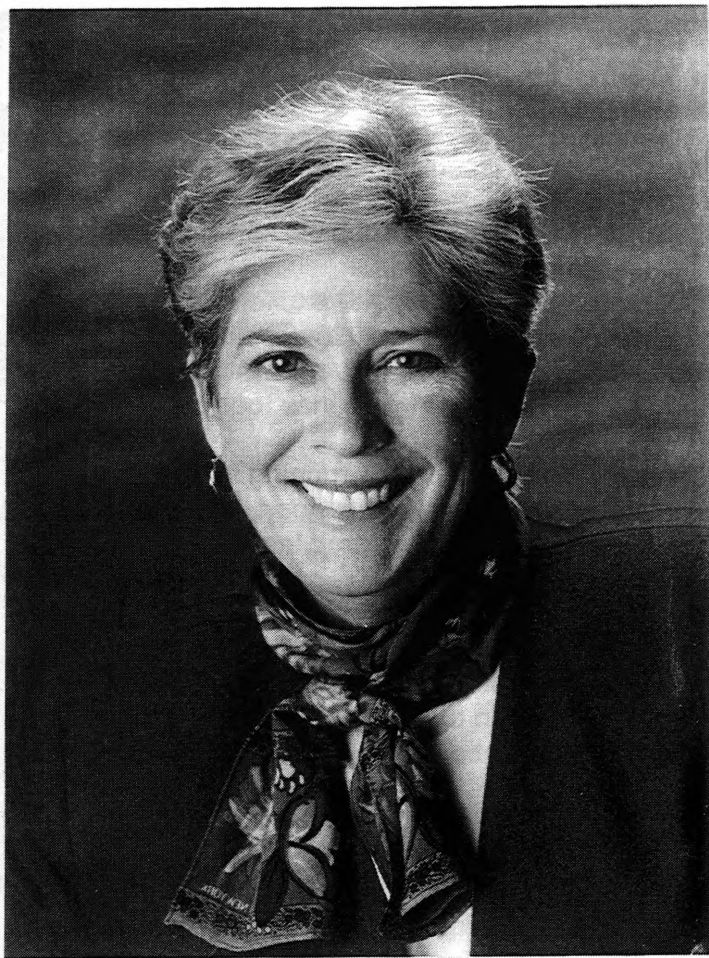
icaid and other health programs, and required education on Rape, HIV and AIDS in our schools. Thomas F. Doore's q-aire was outstanding, and he's had the experience of running once before in '92. **MNP endorses Thomas F. Doore.**

District 100 (Waterville) We did not hear from Scott Cayouette. Kenneth Gagnon sent in a very good q-aire, showing support for all NOW's issues and enthusiasm for several. He is the founder and current director of WRING, a purchasing cooperative of Waterville nonprofit organizations and gov't agencies. **MNP endorses Kenneth Gagnon.**

District 108 (St.Albans, Cornville, Hartland) We did not hear from Michael Lavoie. Timothy Breen is supportive of ERA, AFDC, and is leaning pro-choice, tho he's unsure about funding. He would vote against lesbian rights, but "would like to vote for it when majority is educated to support it." He qualifies several of his answers with phrases such as, "if money available" or "if need can be shown."

District 118 (part of Bangor) Richard Gwinn is making his second try for the legislature. Formerly of Orono, he now finds himself in radical right winger Lisa Lumbra's district. Before facing off with her, he must defeat Democrat Joseph Perry. Perry is widely rumored to be anti-choice and anti-lesbian rights. Richard Gwinn is doing his graduate work in public administration at UM. He believes government has a responsibility to its citizens in need, whether children, elderly, or mentally ill. His q-aire is exceptional, and his Dirigo interview showed a candidate willing to work hard, with a good plan. **MNP endorses Richard Gwinn.**

District 140 (Millinocket) There is a 3-way Democic primary here for Herb Clark's seat. His son, Joseph Clark, and Sarene Mosca have not responded to our q-aire. Gilda Stratton is a member of the School Board & the Chamber of Commerce, as well as numerous committees. She is retired from Great Northern Paper and is a student at UM. Her q-aire was largely positive, but she opposes abortion funding, & worries about a minor's decision. She opposes AFDC increases, and she would not oppose an arbitrary AFDC cut off.



VOTE
MARY CATHCART
FOR
STATE SENATE
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1996
DEMOCRATIC
PRIMARY ELECTION

SENATE DISTRICT 7: Alton, Burlington, Edinburg, Enfield, Glenburn, Greenbush, Howland, Indian Island, Lagrange, Lincoln, Lowell, Old Town, Orono, Passadumkeag, and the unorganized territories of Argyle, East Central Penobscot, and Twombly.

PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY CATHCART FOR SENATE,
120 MAIN ST, ORONO ME 04473, PHONE 866-3054

**Jean
Hay**
Democrat for U.S. Senate

A candidate who'll speak for you

"Congress tells people to get a job, but refuses to loan them money for education or job training, or provide them with day care for their children."

— *Speech to Portland Democratic Caucus, Feb. 25, 1996*

"The minimum wage should be a living wage. People who work full-time, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks a year, should be able to provide for the basics of their family's survival."

— *Speech to the Maine Chamber and Business Alliance, Portland, April 18, 1996*

"The government does not have to settle for us the question of whether life begins before viability. That's our responsibility. Each of us has the freedom, and the obligation, to do that for ourselves."

— *Speech to NOW rally in support of Roe v. Wade, Bangor, Jan. 22, 1995*

"In the Democratic field I am the only woman. To the Republican push to declare the wombs of American women to be government property I bring a pro-choice fierceness that my male counterparts can only dream about."

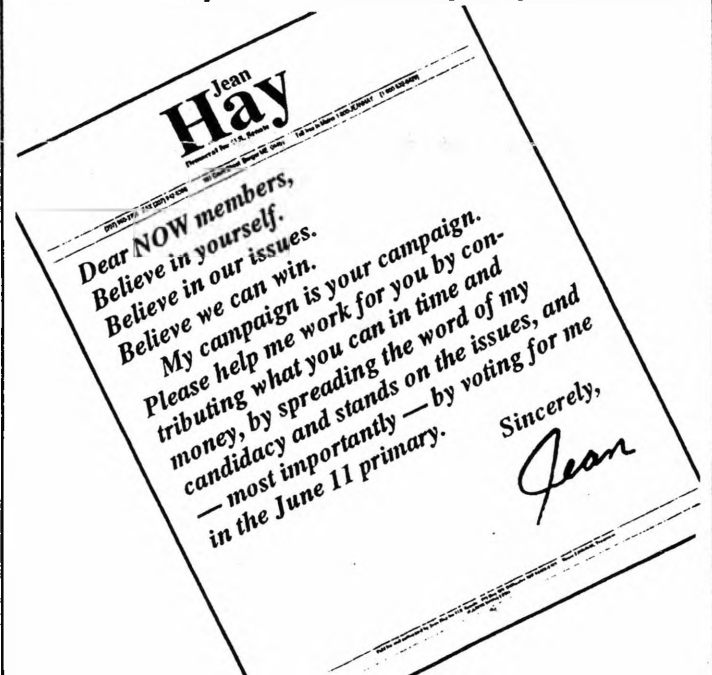
— *Official Announcement Speech, Portland, Lewiston, Bangor, February 12, 1996*

"When did 'women and children first' go from meaning first into the life-boats to first to be thrown to the sharks?"

— *Speech to Sweetser Children's Services, Saco, April 3, 1996*

"I firmly believe that women's place is in the House — and the Senate."

— *Speech to Penobscot Job Corps, Bangor, March 29, 1996*



**Want to learn more about why Jean Hay
has been endorsed by NOW, and by the
National Women's Political Caucus?**

Write Jean at 151 Court St, Bangor ME 04401
Call Jean at 990-2701 or 1-800-JEANHAY (1-800-532-6429)
Send e-mail to Jean at jeanhay@jeanhay.com
Visit her World Wide Web site at <http://www.jeanhay.com>
**Join the Jean Hay campaign.
Contact us NOW for details.**

Authorized and paid for by Jean Hay for U.S. Senate
PO Box 319, Stillwater ME 04489-0319, Bruce Littlefield, treasurer.

Dale McCormick

Candidate for Maine's
First Congressional
District

—◆—
***NOW member
*National NOW PAC
endorsed**
—◆—

- *1st woman to complete
carpenters' apprenticeship in
the United States
- *Helped hundreds of women
on AFDC get good paying jobs
- *Protected Maine women's
reproductive rights
- *Fought for universal
healthcare for Maine people

—◆—
*54 million women didn't vote
in 1994 and the result was a
Congress with Newt Gingrich
and Jim Longley*

***Women's votes count! Get
your mothers, daughters,
sisters and friends to the
polls on June 11th!***

—◆—
Paid for by A Whole Lot of People for Dale
McCormick, Ed Pert, Treasurer

WOMEN FOR FAIRCLOTH

Friends:

We have an opportunity to make a difference in the United States Senate race in 1996. It's not often that ordinary citizens can directly influence the outcome of an important race. We have that chance today.

State Senator Sean Faircloth is running for the U.S. Senate and he has earned our support. We have watched Sean as he co-sponsored legislation codifying a woman's right to choose an abortion, increased penalties for perpetrators of child sexual abuse, fought for passage of ground-breaking legislation to increase child support payments and consistently voted to improve the lives of women and children in our state. The Maine chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) said, "In his first term in the Maine Legislature, Sean Faircloth had an important positive influence on national public policy."

Sean is unequivocally pro-choice. The Deadbeat Parent Law, shepherded through the legislative process by Sean, became a model for President Clinton's federal child support reform legislation. Sean fought successfully for Healthy Start, an innovative and cost-effective child abuse prevention program, the only new social initiative in Governor King's budget. Sean has been on our side in other issues of interest to women such as civil rights for gays and lesbians, and protecting the rights of people with HIV and AIDS.

Like the other candidates for the Democratic nomination, Sean Faircloth ran for office in 1994. Unlike the others, Sean won, with 57 percent of the vote in the most Republican year since 1946. On June 11, we urge you to cast your vote for State Senator Sean Faircloth for the U.S. Senate.

Signed,

Sue Jones	Amy Locke	Rep. Bonnie Green
Sharon Barker	Tracy Cooley	Laura Fortman
Debbie Noone	Rep. Gail Chase	Karen Hobson
Peaches Bass	Rep. Jane Saxl	

(Paid for and Authorized by Faircloth for U.S. Senate, B. Angst, treas.)

US SENATE SURVEY

Although National Now PAC has made endorsements in the Congressional and Senatorial races, we asked all the candidates to respond to a short survey, so we could share their views with you. Please note we are responding to the US Senate race only. In Congressional District 1, National NOW PAC Endorsed Dale McCormick, her opponent, Tom Allen did not return his survey so we could not do a comparison.

Maine NOW encourages you to call the candidates directly and find out the candidate's positions on the issues most important to you.

All of the candidates wrote long thoughtful answers to our questions. Much to our dismay, we had to abbreviate. "" indicates those we had to cut considerably.

U.S. SENATE

Sean Faircloth (D) 947-8422 or fairclth@mint.net
Jean Hay (D) 990-2701 or jeanhay@jeanhay.com
Jerald Leonard (D) 878-7879
Dick Spencer (D) 1-800-791-2965

Whose MISSING?

All republican candidates & Joe Brennan (D)

In this era of changing health care systems, what would be your priorities for women and children in health care related legislation?

Faircloth: Comprehensive Health Care. *

Hay: Advocate a single payer national health plan. *

Leonard: Require employers to make access to health insurance available or all employees.

Spencer: Access to affordable health care coverage, and adequately funding Medicaid. *

Do you believe that the decision whether to have an abortion or carry a pregnancy to term is a personal decision left to the individual? no matter how old she is? All are pro-choice.

Do you support Medicaid funding for abortions? All support Medicaid funding for abortions.

Do you oppose the "family cap" which would deny benefits to additional children of families already on AFDC?

Leonard is the only candidate to support a family cap, all others oppose.

What type of legislation would you support relating to clinic access?

Faircloth: I support legislation similar to the legislation sponsored by Rep. Treat.

Hay: Any found necessary for safe physical or financial access.

Leonard: Non-interference

Spencer: Support legislation making stalking of providers, staff, families, and clients illegal. Supports the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrance Act.

What would you do at the federal level to ensure civil rights and safety for your lesbian and gay constituents?

Faircloth: I will sponsor a federal anti-discrimination law, just as I did in the Maine Legislature.

Hay: Supports sexual orientation in any human rights legislation, remove sexual orientation as an issue in the military, promote diversity programs in schools, signed a non-discrimination pledge in hiring and promotion of staff. *

Leonard: Support current laws and regulations that prevent discrimination.

Spencer: Sponsor and support legislation to provide gays and lesbians with protections covered by federal civil rights statutes.

Would you be inclined to support an expanded version of the ERA? Why or why not?

Faircloth: Yes, although an appropriate interpretation of the current constitution law, already supports these principles.

Hay: A qualified "yes." A more effective approach would be to present a broad concept of equality designed to heighten awareness*

Leonard: No, I believe current laws are adequate.

Spencer: I do support the ERA and would give much consideration to the adoption of an expanded version of the ERA.

Do you support block granting programs that are currently entitlements (e.g. food stamps, AFDC)?
All answered no.

Do you favor time limits. If yes, what time period and what exemptions would you support?

Faircloth: No (Maine Democratic Legislators and Governor King created modified time limits after which recipients either work or enter job training. This is appropriate with the applicable exceptions.)

Hay: Circumstances, rather than time should be deciding factors. Families who are making a good-faith effort to become self-sufficient should be shown flexibility

Leonard: Yes, I support time limit goals and the United Way welfare goals and recommendations.

Spencer: No, I oppose time limits. I do, however, support the revocation of benefits of those who do not make a good faith effort to better their lot with the help of government assistance.

Would you support an increase in the Federal Minimum Wage: If yes, by what amount?

Faircloth: Yes, by a minimum \$.90 over a two year period.

Hay: Advocated a minimum wage about \$6.50 per hour automatically adjusted for inflation. *

Leonard: Yes, in an amount that will provide an incentive and livable wage. Should be considerably higher than the \$.90/hour being discussed.

Spencer: Sponsor and support an immediate increase to \$5.75.

In the current attack on Affirmative Action, what do you see as the necessary actions to include women, people of color, and ethnic minorities as full participants in the mainstream of society?

Faircloth: Altering the economic structure in the country, so working and low-income citizens are rewarded for their effort.*

Hay: The federal government has three major roles: to provide for the common defense, to take care of those people who cannot take care of themselves, and to provide the rest of us with the opportunities to reach our full potential.*

Leonard: I support affirmative action but believe we need to review the goals and procedures in view of changing demographics.

Spencer: I believe that affirmative action programs have yielded great results for groups in the past and can continue to do so in the future. Educate the public to their importance.*

What do you consider to be your top three priority issues or concerns?

Faircloth: Economic Reform, Children, Health Care.*

Hay: Economy and labor issues, world peace and justice, education, the environment, and family issues.*

Leonard: 1) budget deficit reduction and elimination 2) creation of a new national employment policy to address minimum wage, health insurance and ethics in our international trade agreements 3) campaign finance reform*

Spencer: Wages, Job Security, Health Care.*

Are you a NOW member?

Faircloth: No **Hay:** Yes **Leonard:** no answer **Spencer:** no answer

Do you consider yourself a feminist?

Faircloth: Yes. Feminist: one who believes citizens should be judged on the content of their character, not their gender.

Hay: Yes **Leonard:** no answer **Spencer:** no answer



June 1, 1996
Lincoln Memorial
Washington, DC

Maine rates:

28th in the US for the percentage of children who live in poverty.

2nd in the most dramatic increase in child poverty in 1992.

69,940 Maine school children were eligible for subsidized lunches in 1994/95.

2400 referrals to the Child Abuse Hotline were not investigated in 1994 due to lack of staff.

One bus will go from every county in Maine. Local coordinators, by county, are:

Aroostook: Laura Charnichael 764-0080

Androscoggin: Carolyn Davis 786-0925

Cumberland: Lucky Hollander 874-1120

Franklin: Laurel Hedges 897-3890
Kimberly Brown 779-0763

Hancock: Allen Myers 667-2467

Kennebec & Somerset:

Patty Wooley 873-2122

Knox & Waldo: Jane Adams/Jean Ivy
342-5535

Lincoln: Sharon Abair 633-4816

Oxford: Sue Ellen Richardson 743-7716

Penobscot: Ilze Peterson 942-9343

Piscataquis: Alec Craig 876-2687
Sandra Harmon 564-8165

Sagadahoc: Lee Parker 725-6506

Washington: Don Hutchinson 546-7544

York: Karen McGehee 324-0735

**America's children are in trouble.
On June 1, you can help change that.**

STAND FOR CHILDREN is...

- ☐ A national day of **commitment to children.**
- ☐ A **non-partisan call to action** at a critical moment in our nation's history: the last national election year of the 20th century; the eve of a new millennium when our nation's legacy is at stake; a time when the decisions we now make will shape the future for our children and our nation in the coming century.
- ☐ A day for Americans to gather and **affirm our responsibility as families, individuals, communities, and as a national community** for improving the quality of life of children.
- ☐ A day for **Americans of every race, age, region, income, and faith to unite** in Washington DC as a national community in support of children.
- ☐ A day to affirm what unites us rather than what divides us: a **desire to raise healthy, educated, and moral children.**
- ☐ A day for us to **celebrate** children and those who struggle every day to raise them well.
- ☐ A day to **send a message to political, business and cultural leaders** that they must do no harm to children and that they should make it easier rather than harder for families to raise children.
- ☐ A day where **parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, big brothers and big sisters, students and educators, advocates and nurturers will commit to doing better for children** and commit to holding our cultural, business and political leaders responsible for doing more for children.
- ☐ A day to speak in one voice: **'Leave No Child Behind!'**

Come Stand with us if...

you are struggling to raise a child, but know you could do better, come stand with us.

If you are a young or middle-income family working hard to make ends meet despite declining wages and economic security, come stand with us.

If you are troubled by the pollution of our airwaves, air, food, water, earth, and our children's values, come stand with us.

If you are worrying about whether your children's schools are preparing them for the 21st Century and whether there will be a job in their future, come stand with us.

If you are anxious that your children will get sick and not get decent medical care because you lack health insurance, come stand with us.

If you are lying awake nights concerned about your children's safety in a country where 211 million guns are in circulation and random violence is pervasive, come stand with us.

If you've had enough of political leaders from all parties using children as political props and pawns and talking about family values, while not supporting what families need to raise healthy, safe, moral and educated children, come stand with us.

Maine represented in San Francisco

A NOW estimated crowd of 50,000, gathered in San Francisco on April 14 for the **"Fight the Right" march** organized by National NOW with more than 600 organizations participating. National NOW vice president Rosemary Dempsey said it was the most diverse group by race, age, and gender that she's ever seen at a NOW event.

The march was organized to protest racism, homophobia, violence against women, and the war on women in poverty. "An extremist ultra-right wing has taken control of one of the two major centrist political parties. They are racist, they are sexist, they are homophobic," author Gloria Steinem told the crowd.

Maine NOW members Aimee DesRoches and Sandra Holland along with a handful of University of Maine at Farmington students were in that crowd. Sandra and her family carried the banner signed by almost two hundred

Maine supporters. Maine NOW chapters donated funds to help Sandra and Aimee with their expenses.

Sandra described her experience saying, "The march was an incredible experience for me, partly because it was my first march. Being around so many people who believe in justice and equality for all was so empowering and exciting. One thing that I didn't expect was the overwhelming enthusiasm from people excited to see people from Maine. They just couldn't believe that we had come so far and it was a real morale booster for them. The positive energy was intoxicating and I will carry it with me for a long time."

We want to thank Sandra, Aimee and all those who went from Maine for scraping together the money and arranging your family & work lives to attend the event to represent Maine and all of our efforts as we fight the radical religious/political right.

Maine NOW Board Meeting Schedule

NEXT STATE BOARD MEETING
Saturday, JUNE 8 9:30 - 4
Winslow

From **9:30-10:30**, we will discuss an **October get-out-the-vote action** in conjunction with our annual meeting. Rally, parade, phonebank ???

**PLEASE JOIN US
TO PLAN A GREAT ACTION!!!**

All members are welcome to attend state board meetings. For info and directions call **Rachel 737-2329**.

Thanks a million

to everyone who wrote for this newsletter: Cynthia, Renee, Chris, Roberta, and **special thanks** to JoAnne Dauphinee & Rachel Lowe for the election analysis/info. If you want to contribute writing, drawing, etc. contact: Chris Rusnov, 11 Bolduc St., Winslow, ME 04901 873-0878. **NEXT DEADLINE: August 1.**

Fight the Right: Take Action

Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families is at it again--the politics of hate. CMF is organizing a petition drive to put a referendum on a statewide ballot banning same-sex marriages. They are motivated by a law going through the Hawaiian courts that will honor same-sex marriages. If successful, the radical religious/political right fears other states will be forced to honor same-sex marriages performed in Hawaii. Many states and Congress are trying to jump the gun by passing bans on same-sex marriages now. It's not known if the bans will stand up in court.

CMF undoubtedly will be collecting signatures at the polls this June and November. Many people sign petitions automatically without fully un-

derstanding them or because they believe in the referendum process. They often don't take into consideration: 1) the power they are giving to the sponsoring group, in this case CMF, 2) how expensive fighting such a hateful referendum will be or 3) how harmful it would be to all the people in our communities especially people who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual, those perceived to be or their supporters.

action: Write a letter to the editor of your local newspapers to encourage people **NOT TO SIGN THE PETITION.**

Points to make:

CMF will have your name and address.

CMF is very extreme. They used lies, double-talk and hateful rhetoric during the Question 1 referendum fight. Even the Maine Christian Civic League distanced themselves from CMF, considering them too extreme.

Other issues they oppose--

- * acknowledging diversity of any kind in schools;
- * AIDS/HIV education; &
- * comprehensive sexuality education.

Signing the petition gives CMF credibility and power.

Fighting hateful referendums are expensive, divide communities, stir up some people to violence, and distract us and our resources from more productive, positive work.

Petition To:

**The President of the United States and the members of the United States Congress
to appropriate \$2.6 billion for Breast Cancer Research**

There are 2.6 million women living with breast cancer in this country today.

*This year 182,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and
46,000 - one every 12 minutes - will die this year as a result of the disease.*

We do not know how to prevent breast cancer or how to cure it.

Medical treatment for breast cancer costs this nation \$6 billion annually.

*This does not include the cost associated with lost lives, lost productivity, and the
devastation to families.*

*Through this petition we join with the National Breast Cancer Coalition and call on the
President of the United States and the Members of Congress to recommit to eradicating
breast cancer by investing \$2.6 billion in breast cancer research*

*between now and the year 2000 and mandating that breast cancer activists are among
those who decide how that money is spent.*

Women's lives depend on it!.

Copy and distribute the petition below

Sign on by calling the 800 petition line 1-800-622 2838

Publish the 1-800 number and spread the word

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

SIGNATURE _____

ADD YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGE HERE:

Why You Care

- ☐ Survivor
- ☐ Spouse or Partner
- ☐ Daughter, Son Parent,
- ☐ Grandparent
- ☐ Friend, Co-worker
- ☐ A person concerned about
this epidemic

Return to: NBCC, 1707 L St., NW,
Suite 1060, Washington, DC 20036

Maine Breast Cancer Coalition Happenings

Check it out!!!



June 2 National Cancer
Survivors Day: A Celebration
of Life. 11:30 am to 1:45 pm Wing
Park, 412 State St., Bangor. If
raining-Bangor Armory gym.

June 18 - July 2 The Face
of Breast Cancer. A Photo-
graphic Essay at Bangor Mall.

August 1 - 13 Live and
Let Live: a women's cancer
fundraiser through kayaking.
Pledge &/or paddle some of the 300
miles in Maine of this 2000 mile
East Coast fundraiser. Cindy
Winslow (510) 528-3406 ext.2 or
write 1114 Cowper St., Berkeley,
CA 94702 or Leigh Moorhouse at
PadMeBlue@AOL.com.

**Maine Breast Cancer Coa-
lition**, Laurel Bezanson, 51
Sandy Hill Rd., South Port-
land, ME 04106 207-874-
0943

Kennebec Valley NOW

Our chapter is moving right along with actions and ideas. We collected over 100 signatures for the "Fight the Right" march Maine banner thanks to Ruth Gabey, Rep. Elizabeth Watson, Rep. David Shiah, and Don Craig. We also donated money to help the Maine NOW members going to San Francisco.

Jean Hay, one of the Democratic candidates for U S Senate, spoke at our May 1 meeting. Discussions on the economy, education, and diversity were lively. Several individuals in attendance offered their help to Jean's campaign. As a chapter we are planning to do some voter registration and help organize an October action to get-out-the-vote.

We will also work with the **Brunswick NOW** chapter to sponsor a public supper to raise funds for UNITED VOICES. UV is a group of women who go to school, work part-time, raise children and receive AFDC. They support each other in many ways including raising funds to help with transportation needs (new tires, tune ups, used car purchase...) so they can continue to work toward economic independence. This group is represented on the Maine Coalition for Economic Justice, of which Maine NOW is a member, working to educate the public on causes of poverty and ways to change public policy to end it. **The public supper will take place in Bath/Brunswick area on June 28.** Help organize the event and attend the supper with your families and friends.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, MAY 29**, at the Muskie Center on Gold Street in Waterville. Come join us! For chapter info or to volunteer to help on the public supper call **Don Craig 582-1686** or e-mail: **DCRA161@BIDDEFORD.com**

Farmington NOW

By the time this goes to press, Farmington NOW will have wound up its Mothers' Day event (Cookies, Lemonade and Radical Thinking!) and be readying for the annual pot-luck and planning meeting. We'll munch yummys, lay out ideas for actions/events/strategies for next year, and elect officers. Although we meet for pieces of business at other times during the year, this is the meeting that really gives it all its shape, so if you're interested in checking out this chapter this is a good way to get a taste (in more ways than one)! We coordinate several of our events with another local women's group, FEMNET, so some of their members will be there as well.

The meeting will be **Sunday, June 2** from 4-6 at the CMP building on the Back Falls Road in Farmington. For more info call Chapter Coordinator **Peggy Stubbs 778-5609**.

Notes from your faithful keeper of the Maine NOW mailing list... Cynthia Phinney

I've had this list on my personal computer for about eight or nine years now. National NOW sends me a paper update every month which I diligently try to enter before the next one comes. I do this in snatched moments of free time here and there (you know about those, right?). I confess I'm not always successful, but National NOW just hired a new data company to manage their list and so I've just completely overhauled/updated ours!

Nevertheless, I know I make mistakes, so perhaps you could **help me out by checking your label for:**

- ☐ Correct spelling and address.
- ☐ If you are a member, your chapter code:
(A=at-large, B=Brunswick, F=Farmington, G=Greater Bangor, KV=Kennebec Valley, and P=Portland), and
- ☐ Membership expiration date (for example, 9607 = July 1996).
- ☐ An "X" in front of your chapter code means your membership has expired. Please renew!

If there are mistakes, please send corrections to: Cynthia Phinney RFD 1 Box 1467, New Sharon ME 04955 or CPHIN@aol.com.

A few trivia facts: Ever feel like you're the only feminist in the county? You never know, there could be a NOW member right next door. If you live on Salem Street in **Portland**, there are three of you right on that street, and on West Street there are five. In fact, Portland is full of NOW members. And we're just one of several feminist organizations people can belong to, besides the fact that where chapters are active lots of people who are not members turn out for actions and events. If you live in **Bangor** there are lots of you too - four on Essex Street alone. Ah...but how about those smaller towns? Let's see - in **Freeport** we have thirteen members, in **York** nine, **York Beach** two, **New Gloucester** seven, **Peaks Island** four, **Hampden** seven. Traveling even further from population centers, we have in **Brooksville** four, in **Thorndike** seven, in **E Holden** seven, in **West Paris** three, in **Limerick** three, in **Blue Hill** eight, in **Hancock** six, in **Belfast** fifteen, and in **Presque Isle** six, to name just a few.. And none of those numbers include surrounding areas. Did you know that over one hundred men belong to our organization in Maine? That's about three quarters of one percent of our membership.

So, hats off to all of you - and, just a reminder - even though I enjoy keeping the list I very much appreciate those of you who are able to renew on time, which keeps my time on the computer at a minimum and leaves me free for more moving and shaking!

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN



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



Maine State Coordinator - Rachel Lowe 737-2329
Assistant State Coordinator - Cynthia Phinney 778-9506
Scribe - Joyce Blakney 825-3962
Treasurer - Annie Lunt 883-1195

Task Force/Coalition Contacts

Affirmative Action Task Force - Renee Berry Hauffman 722-7434
Computer Wizards - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306
Consumers For Affordable Health Care-VACANCY
Dirigo Alliance - Beth Edmonds 865-3869
Lesbian Rights Task Force - VACANCY
Maine Choice Coalition - Sandra Holland 729-4663
Maine NOW Phone Coordinator - Chris Rusnov 873-0878
Maine NOW PAC Treasurer - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306
Maine NOW Times - Chris Rusnov 873-0878
Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition - VACANCY
Coalition for Economic Justice - Chris Rusnov 873-0878
Maine HIV Advisory Committee - Rachel Lowe 737-2329

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
87 Sunset Strip, Brewer, ME 04412
Coordinator - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306
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-Don Craig 582-1686
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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Our vision is to empower women to take feminist action to make feminist social change. **Our top five priorities are:** ERA, economic justice, eliminating racism, lesbian rights, and reproductive freedom. **JOIN US!**

MAINE NOW, P.O. BOX 4012, Portland, ME 04101. Make check payable to MAINE NOW.

NAME (Please PRINT) _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

CHAPTER (see above) _____ If there isn't a chapter near you, leave this space blank and we will enroll you as an at-large member.

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

\$ _____ dues enclosed. \$35 Regular Dues. A sliding scale of \$20 - 34 is available, if you need it.

\$ _____ additional contribution enclosed. \$ _____ Political Action Committee contribution. Payable to Maine NOW PAC.

☐ PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT MAINE NOW TO SHARE YOUR NAME WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. (see Maine NOW policy below)

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

NAME SHARING POLICY: Maine NOW shares our member list for coalition work, in which we are active (see list above). We also occasionally, on a case-by-case basis, will share the list with progressive groups who are advertising events or sharing information.

WOMEN VOTE...for a CHANGE

If the 2,000 readers of this newsletter convinced
5 more women to vote that would be
10,000 new voters. That's grassroots organizing!

Change the outcome of the elections.

VOTE! and get others to the polls

Women make up 53% of all registered voters.

In 1994, 54 million women didn't vote.



Women can turn things around.

On June 11, we must select candidates who can go on to the general election and win! If you are unenrolled in a party, you can do so on election day or before at your town/city hall or at the polls if you only have one voting place. Don't forget absentee ballots. Use it if you are going to be away, are homebound, or are a college student leaving town.

Ask yourself, who: is strong on feminist issues; is experienced with campaigning, organizing, and life; will be a pro-active representative of the issues that are important to you and will make our communities better for all women and their families.

Choices made in the 1994 election hurt women: weakened job security; attacks on reproductive choices, affirmative action, civil rights for people of color, and lesbians, gay & bisexual rights; war waged on poor women and their children; diminished support for efforts to end violence against women; weakened support for clean air, water and safe food, & workplace safety... **LET'S TURN IT AROUND!**

Make your list of 5 people to contact now. Give them a call.

Share this newsletter with them. Then make sure they get to the polls on June 11.

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



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