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Summer 6-30-1997

## Maine NOW Times (Summer 1997)

National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter Staff

*National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter*

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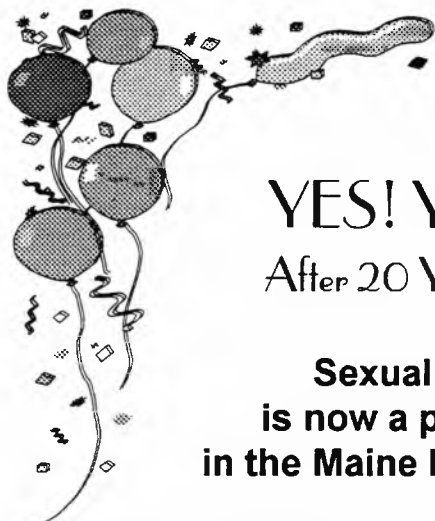
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**YES! YES! YES!**

After 20 Years of Struggle

**Sexual Orientation  
is now a protected class  
in the Maine Human Rights Act**

On May 8, the Legislature passed LD 1116 "An Act to Prevent Discrimination" followed by the May 16 signing of the bill by Governor King. The bill makes it illegal to discriminate against an individual in the areas of employment, housing, credit and accommodation if you are, or someone thinks you are gay, lesbian or bisexual. These are the same protections that already exist on the basis of age, sex, race, marital status, disability, religion and national origin under the Maine Human Rights Act.

.....

The notion of the first bill surfaced at a Maine NOW meeting and after conferring with Peter Prizer, the Maine Coalition for Human Rights was formed. The bill was introduced in 1977. That year the Maine Democratic Party included support of the bill in its party platform. The Maine Civil Liberties Union also signed on as a supporters. Rep. Gerry Talbot the first African American representative in the Maine Legislature was the prime sponsor. That first year we lost in both houses. We continued to introduce the bill every session. Finally in 1983 we had our first big win when the Senate passed the bill. In 1985, the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance was formed with the help of NOW members at which point ML/GPA became the lead organizers for the legislation. We all were ecstatic in 1993 when both the House and the Senate passed the bill but very disappointed with Governor McKernan's veto. 1995 the bill was not introduced because of the anti-gay referendum on which we all worked to defeat in Maine Won't Discriminate. This, obviously, is not a complete history (ML/GPA had a great historical display at the celebration party) but it shows how persistence and lots of good, hard working, caring folks (who did not always agree on strategy) stuck together to educate legislators and the public to do the right thing! Congratulations to all who have worked -- some more recently and others from the beginning. It would never have happened without us all!

A special thanks this year to Karen Geraghty, ML/GPA; Laura Fortman, Maine Women's Lobby; Ned McCann, AFL-CIO; Sally Sutton, MCLU; Betsy Sweet; legislative supporters, Gov. King and all of YOU who made phone calls, wrote letters, and came to Augusta to lobby, testify, and show your support.

**YAHOO!**



**MAINE  
NOW  
TIMES**

**SUMMER 1997**

**The work may not be over...**

The Maine Christian Civic League is mounting a "people's veto" referendum to repeal the new law. **IF** they succeed in collecting enough signatures (51,000+), we will be faced with another state-wide anti-gay referendum. We will update you in the September MNT. If you are interested in having input on the strategy or in working on a referendum campaign contact ML/GPA at 1-800-556-5472.

# Mark Your Calendars!

## Maine NOW Annual State Conference

Saturday

# OCTOBER 18, 1997



at the University of Maine, Portland

### Keynote Luncheon Speaker: **NANCY GRAPE**

Nancy is a journalist recently semi-retired from the Portland Papers. She has written profoundly on issues important to feminists - a risk taker, pioneer, ahead of her time.

### Plenary: **Karen Geraghty**

Karen is the ML/GPA lobbyist and a newly elected Portland City Councilor. As a lesbian and feminist, she had a resounding win over a progressive man. Karen will talk about the recent success of the Civil Rights bill and discuss strategy for defeating the anti-gay referendum.

We will have **one workshop session** in the afternoon with **several choices** to possibly include: affirmative action, diversity training, running for elective office, violence against women & the legal system, welfare is a women's issue, pesticides and women's reproductive health. We also hope to end with an **evening of feminist fun!**

In keeping with tradition, the conference will again feature a **SILENT AUCTION** to benefit Maine NOW and Maine NOW/PAC. It's a super fun way to support our organization. We need your help seeking donations from businesses or donating items yourself. **Contact:** Chris Rusnov, 11 Bolduc St., Winslow, ME 04901 873-0878 hayrus@mint.net

**NOW members and friends are welcome to join us in planning**  
all aspects of the conference

e.g. soliciting for the Silent Auction; submitting a press release to your local paper; distributing posters; set up and clean up; offering ideas for & helping to arrange a workshop etc. Although Greater Portland NOW is hosting the conference, we need help from activists in every chapter so please

**Contact Rachel 737-2329 or Kim 871-9786.**

We look forward to conferring with you soon!  
Women, men, members & non-members welcome!

# Reproductive Freedom Legislative Report

by Rachel Lowe

The first session of the 118th Legislature will go down in history as a test of reproductive freedom in Maine. A group of right-wing legislators lead the charge to defund family planning services, restrict minors rights through the Parental Rights and Responsibilities Act, and parental consent for contraceptives, and make severe restrictions to abortion access in Maine.

Representatives who lead this charge were Reps Ahearne, Mack, Kasprzak, Lane, Waterhouse and Underwood, just to name a few. Fortunately, the bill to defund family planning was defeated as were the Parental Rights and Responsibilities Act and minors contraceptives bills.

## Legislature Defeats Anti-choice Bills

Along with the perennial parental notification and waiting period bills was the well known Partial Birth Abortion Ban bill which would have banned a specific abortion procedure. Passed on the Congressional level last year and vetoed by President Clinton, it was clearly the top priority for the anti-choice minority. This bill changed the tone of the abortion debate. The supporters graphic descriptions of the procedure, the moral crusade by conservative religious groups, and the attacks on women and physicians as murders took the debate to new extremes.

The Ban bill gained more support than either of the other anti-choice bills, and we lost legislators who had voted against anti-choice bills in the past. The reality is that later term abortions are rare, but are a needed medical procedure to save the life or health of a woman with a pregnancy gone wrong.

Through the Maine Choice Coalition, local activists made the difference by participating in a phone bank and by calling their local representative and senator. In the end, Maine women made a difference by talking to legislators and telling their stories. Fortunately, most of our legislative allies held firm. The House of Representatives passed the Ban bill and the Senate defeated it. Because the legislature was divided, the bill failed.

Clearly, women made a difference in the Maine Senate. Only one woman voted for the Ban bill, and 13 women voted against. Be assured that this issue will be added to the other perennial anti-choice bills, and will continue to be one of our greatest challenges.

## The Final Votes

**LD 535 Partial Birth Abortion Ban**  
passed 96-49 House, defeated 18-15 Senate.

**LD 661 24 Hour Waiting Period**  
defeated 97-46 House, defeated 26-7 Senate.

**LD 662 Parental Notification**  
defeated 87-55 House, defeated 24-9 Senate.

To find out how your legislator voted, call Rachel Lowe at 737-2329.

In order to continue to defeat these bills, we must elect pro-woman, pro-choice legislators. Please contact me if you are interested in running for office or are just thinking about it.

You can make the difference!

## *Maine Women's Lobby*

### A Special Thank You!

#### to the Maine Women's Lobby

who advocates on behalf of Maine women every day. The Lobby is the only organization that has a paid lobbyist working solely on behalf of women in the State House.

**The Lobby takes on the tough issues:** economic justice including welfare reform, violence against women, reproductive freedom, and lesbian/gay/bi civil rights. Thank you MWL for being there for all of us!

If you would like more information about the MWL or would like to make a donation (they could use a little extra help right now), contact them at P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347 or 622-0851.

## Positive Changes for Low-Income Maine Families by Chris Rusnov

*(The following information comes from the M.A.I.N. Summer 1997 newsletter written by Mary Henderson and Chris Hastedt of the Maine Equal Justice Project. These two women along with other allied organizations and many low income individuals put in tremendous hours working to achieve these successes. Thank you so very much!)*

First of all, thanks to all who took the time to contact your legislators on these issues. Your phone calls, letters and presence at the legislature was critical.

The presence of the people most affected, those living in poverty, speaking for themselves, made a great difference. Many of you filled out surveys, contacted legislators and came to Augusta to testify -- not an easy thing to do. You are Great! Congratulations - your voice was heard!

The "Walk-a-Mile" project endorsed by Maine NOW and many other groups also helped a great deal. Legislators were matched with women receiving AFDC. They spent time with each other to learn about the realities of raising children, working, going to school and being creative to survive on so little income. Maine had more people participating than any other state. Bonney Ryder from the People Regional Opportunity Program, director of the project, was rewarded with a grant to organize the project throughout the country. Go Bonney, go!

So many, many positive pieces of legislation passed that will allow low-income individuals and families live in less fear of going hungry or becoming homeless and will give them a better chance of becoming self-sufficient. Probably the most important change in and out of the legislature was a change in attitude from one of blaming the individual to one of facing the realities of our economic and social systems that keep people poor.

### AFDC Becomes "TANF"

The Aid to Families With Dependent Children" (AFDC) program has now been replaced by the "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" (TANF) program. While important changes have occurred, the basic structure of the old AFDC program has been retained.

### Access to Education

We can be proud that we are one of two states that has saved access to two and four year post secondary education for TANF participants despite the federal governments attempts to eliminate it. A state-funded student aid program, "Parents of Scholars," was created. It will give participants a much better chance of finding living-wage employment.

### Making Work Pay

One of the biggest complaints from AFDC recipients has been that when they went to work, they "lost everything" -- AFDC, food stamps, and for some, child care subsidy - so their was no income to be gained from working. Rep. Elizabeth Mitchell (D-Portland) sponsored the bill that eventually got support for a demonstration project in half the state beginning January 1998. DHS will "disregard" a bigger portion of TANF parents' earnings. This is on earnings under the federal poverty level (\$13,330 for a family of 3). As a result, people who are working will be able to earn their way out of poverty before losing their TANF cash assistance. In the other 8 counties, the disregards will also increase.

Transitional child care assistance will now be provided *indefinitely* to eligible families until their income exceeds 85% of the state's median income (about \$28,000). Transitional Medicaid will be available to families whose income falls below 185% of the federal poverty level (\$24,660/ family of 3) for one year after loss of cash benefits. The legislature has required

DHS to seek approval from the federal government to expand it to three years.

### Health Care

Bills were introduced to expand Medicaid coverage to children, working parents, and the elderly for prescription drugs. These expansions would be paid for with a \$.37 increase on each pack of cigarettes. A youth smoking prevention program was also part of this package.

As of this writing, the legislature passed the above bill minus health care for working parents. The Governor vetoed this bill. He wants the monies for a tax rebate and believe new taxes to should not go to new programs. (ed. note: Who's money is paying for the \$60 million tax breaks for BIW?) The legislature reconvenes on June 20-21 to decide what action to take.

### Individual Development Accounts

Senator Sharon Treat (D-Gardiner) and Rep. Carol Kontos (D-Windham) both sponsored bills that allow TANF recipients and others to save money in Family Development Accounts without becoming ineligible for benefits. Funds must be used for: education & training; purchase or repair of a home; purchase or repair of a vehicle; start up of a small business; health care costs exceeding \$500 that are not covered by insurance, or emergencies.

### Access to Child Support

The new federal welfare reform law repealed the requirement that states pass through to AFDC recipients the first \$50 of child support collected on their behalf. The feds required that about two-thirds of this money (about \$2 million in Maine) be sent to them. But in Maine, where approximately 5,000 families rely on this child support, the \$50 pass-through will continue.

## Time Limits

The 5 year time limit on receiving TANF assistance began in Maine on November 1, 1996. To be sure that people who needed assistance longer would not be left destitute, M.A.I.N. asked Sen. Ann Rand (D-Portland) to sponsor a bill which would assure assistance after five years. The Health and Human Services Committee decided not to deal with time limits this year but will consider it in January 1998. Much work needs to be done over the next several months to convince the legislature that innocent people could be hurt by any arbitrary time limit.

## Protection for Victims of Domestic Violence

TANF participants face many requirements as a condition of receiving assistance. Those requirements include cooperating with DHS in establishing paternity and in child support enforcement and participating in work or education and training program in ASPIRE. For victims of domestic violence who are being stalked or who fear further violence, these requirements can be dangerous unless protections are written into law. The new federal welfare law repealed protections. Maine enacted in state law protections for women with good cause: can't participate due to the physical or psychological effects of abuse, the need to participate in legal proceedings, because the abuser interferes with participation, because the participation puts the person at risk or for other good cause related to domestic violence.

## Will Legal Immigrants Still Receive Assistance?

The federal welfare reform law gave states the option of eliminating TANF and Medicaid assistance to most legal immigrants. Maine chose to continue those benefits.

The federal law cut most legal immigrants from food stamps and SSI

(Social Security Income for aged and disabled people) which are entirely federally funded. A bill sponsored by Rep. Elizabeth Mitchell (D-Portland) to replace these benefits with state funded programs is delayed for consideration until January 1998. Legal immigrants who receive these benefits are scheduled to have them eliminated by August 1, 1997. Some will still be eligible. Ironically, Native Americans born in Canada but living in the U.S. are also in danger of losing food stamps and SSI.

## DHS to Seek Help for Unemployed Cut from Food Stamp Rolls

The federal welfare reform law limits food stamp benefits to 3 months in a 3 year period for unemployed able-bodied workers without dependent children. There are some exceptions to this new limit for people who are incapacitated, working, volunteering, collecting unemployment benefits, or in training programs.

At the urging of M.A.I.N. a coalition of low income individuals and groups, DHS asked and got a waivers from the feds for Aroostock, Franklin, Hancock, Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, Washington counties and the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Reservations.

As food pantries and non-profit agencies found themselves swamped, advocates and legislators strongly urged DHS to seek waivers for other parts of the State with high unemployment. DHS refused. In response Rep. Pat Colwell (D-Gardiner) obtained unanimous approval of a bill requiring the State to seek waivers for Penobscot and Kennebec counties and the Sanford market area. It also requires DHS to ask for waivers for the following groups of individuals no matter where they live in the state: people that don't have reliable transportation; those with literacy or language barriers; homeless individuals; migrant farm workers; and those who lack the necessary skills, education, employment references or work history to be expected to find work.

The request will be submitted to the feds this summer. There is no guarantee that they will be granted.

## Commission to Study Poverty Among Working Parents

Nine of the 14 Commission recommendations to the legislature became law: allowing TANF recipients to keep more of their earnings; preserving post-secondary education & training; exempting taxpayers with income below \$10,000 from state income tax filing; expanding child care assistance; expanding the Circuit Breaker Program including a check off for applications on tax forms; Maine Dept. of Economic and Community Development must assess the needs of people starting small businesses; and State Planning Office must produce an annual report card on the status of poverty.

Commission proposals to increase the **minimum wage and create a State earned income tax credit for low income families** were delayed until January 1998.

Defeated was legislation setting a "living wage" standard and expanding health care to low income working parents and their children.

## It's about time...Pay Equity

The Legislature enacted a law that requires the Maine Department of Labor to adopt regulations implementing Maine's "pay equity" law. Maine women, on average, earn 63% of men's hourly wage. The law has been on the books since 1965 prohibiting employers from discriminating on the basis of sex by paying lower rates of pay for jobs with comparable requirements.

So much more happened, but these are the highlights. **If you want more information and more detail call me or write me and I'll send you a copy of the M.A.I.N. newsletter.** Chris Rusnov, 11 Bolduc St., Winslow, ME 04901 873-0878.



# Pesticides & You

by Nancy Oden

Pesticides? Haven't we got enough to worry about already? Don't bother us with more environmental stories!

Sorry, gotta do it. Nearly everything you eat has pesticides residues in it, as well as the air you breathe, and in many places the water you depend on for life. Long-lasting poisons in our water. Scary.

Toxic chemicals are a woman's issue. We have about 250 toxic chemicals stored in our body fat from our lifetime exposure to agricultural, industrial, and household chemicals.

When we get pregnant, we pass some of these toxic chemicals through the placenta to the baby. When we breast feed our babies, since breast milk is mostly fat, our babies take more poisonous chemicals into our bodies. (Breast feeding is still the best option, however; all others are worse.)

Our babies are starting out with nearly a lifetime's load of poisons in their bodies. Is it any wonder asthma and other immune system diseases are on the upswing among children?

Many pesticides are known to act as endocrine (hormone) imitators and disruptors. Minute amounts of these chemicals can cause birth defects, brain damage, behavioral disorders, boy babies born with deformed or tiny genitalia, extremely low sperm counts, endometriosis in young girls, prostate, testicular, and breast cancer-- all sorts of awful things are happening.

Organophosphate pesticides, which attack the human central nervous system are widely sprayed on food crops. Many people in sprayed areas have "Gulf War" symptoms. Organochlorines are also exceedingly dangerous pesticides, including DDT,

Dieldrin, Endrin and Aldrin. They are extremely persistent in the environment. Organochlorines are stored in our body fat. DIOXIN is an organochlorine. Studies show that virtually all pesticides are contaminated with dioxin.

Toxic chemicals are a woman's issue. We have about 250 toxic chemicals stored in our body fat ...

## BUT WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.

After trying legislation, agency rule-making, begging and pleading, logic, science, none of which made any change in agri-business' use of pesticide (use it up!), we've decided to use our weapon of last resort: the **Citizens Referendum**.

We've just begun gathering signatures; we need about 60,000 by year's end to get it on the ballot in **November 1998**.

## If successful, the Citizens Referendum would:

- ◆ ban aerial spraying of pesticides;
- ◆ ban putting pesticides into Maine's waters;
- ◆ make these acts a Class A crime. (It's already a crime to contaminate Maine's waters, but industry and agriculture have exemptions!)
- ◆ allow citizens who live in affected to vote on exemptions to pesticide laws. (We don't think too many people will vote to have poisons rained down on themselves and their families.)

## What can you do?

We need to **collect PLENTY** of **signatures** of registered voters.

We also need **PLENTY** of **money**, so please send what you can. We're volunteers, and none of us is independently wealthy.

If you can get a few or many signatures, call/write/e-mail us and we'll send you a packet of Petitions and Fact Sheets. This Referendum is simply written and easy to understand. The Fact Sheet goes into more details about pesticides and you.

If you know a **group we can speak to** -- a church, civic, student or other group, let us know and we'll set a date.

If you don't think you'd be comfortable collecting signatures (even though this is extremely easy - people **WANT** to sign, especially women), but you would **pass out Fact Sheets**, let us know and we'll send you a bundle. These can be passed out nearly everywhere. One of the primary objectives of this Referendum is to reach people with the truth.

If you'd like to be on our mailing list, send money, get Petitions and Fact Sheets, or just want to contact us for more information, we are:

**CLEAN: Maine, P.O. Box 186, Jonesboro, ME 04648, 207-434-6228 phone/fax, [cleanmaine@nemaine.com](mailto:cleanmaine@nemaine.com)**

Nationally, as well as in Maine, women are in the forefront trying to stop human and wildlife exposure to toxic chemicals. We didn't create the toxic chemicals, but it looks like it's become our task to save what's left of clean water and our health, before it really is too late.

**Please help.**

# Bangor Clean Clothes Campaign landmark reached

by Joanne Dauphinee

The Bangor Clean Clothes Campaign reached a landmark on June 9th when the Bangor City Council voted unanimously to endorse the Clean Clothes Resolution. This makes Bangor the first city in the U.S. to officially oppose clothes and goods made in sweatshops. While it is a resolution, not a law, it sends a strong message to retailers that a new day is coming, and it gives retailers another tool with which to influence suppliers.

**Bangor is the first city in the U.S. to officially oppose clothes and goods made in sweatshops.**

It was a beautiful festive sunny day in West Market Square, downtown Bangor, as CCC supporters and curious passersby were treated to live music, a bit of semi-improvisational street theater, and a few short rallying words from representatives of PICA (Peace through Interamerican Community Action), NAACP, AFL-CIO, and of course, NOW. There was a blow-up of the CCC signature ad which had recently appeared in the Bangor Daily News, other displays and handouts, munchies donated by Three Sisters Cafe and EPT's Sub, and electricity for the sound system donated by the Grasshopper Shop.






A bagpiper led our merry troupe over to City Hall, where we packed the room. Counselor Charlie Sullivan read the resolution with much feeling, and gave it a

heartfelt recommendation. CCC representative Debbie Bergard presented the Council with our nearly-7500 signatures on petitions, and spoke briefly about the opportunity before the Council. Mayor Patricia Blanchette asked for a verbal roll call, and as each Councilor said "yea" they put on a "StopSweatshops" button. After considerable applause and cheering, the Mayor had a few words of praise for CCC's efforts.

It was the lead story on all three major TV stations, and the CCC continues to enjoy generous and favorable coverage by all local media - TV, radio, and print. Doors continue to open, as we continue to educate locals on the reasons and purpose of our work.

## Next Phase of the Campaign

The next phase of the campaign will include:

-  increased outreach to retailers;
-  searching for the ways to successfully trace suppliers who contract with honorable garment & goods makers;
-  continue networking with organizers in the sweatshops; and
-  joining with other efforts to improve national and international enforcement and monitoring of laws and codes of conduct.
-  We hope, eventually, to have **Clean Clothes sections in most Bangor stores.**

**We must succeed on all fronts to make this happen!**

See page for JoAnne's speech in West Market Square.

## BANGOR AREA EVENTS

**June 27 - Respects & Protects Day**

CURes Project 945-4024

**July 12 - Bangor Pride.** Celebrate lesbian/gay/bi pride. Parade 11 am. Festival 12-3. For more info call 942-7681.

**August 26 - Women's Equality Day** at the Peace & Justice Center - 7pm. Call GBNOW 989-3306.



# A day of hope

by JoAnne Dauphinee

speaking on June 9 at West Market Square in Bangor on behalf of Greater Bangor NOW and Maine NOW

Today is a day of hope for the Bangor Clean Clothes Campaign, a good day to take note that in 10 short months we have turned the attention of thousands of Maine people to the alarming rise, over the past couple of decades, in the use of sweatshop labor to produce our clothes, toys & other goods. Just 20 years ago, about 80% of Canadian garment workers were unionized. Today, only 20% are. As governments and corporations have increasingly closed their eyes to all but the bottom line, sweatshops are making a big comeback even in places like Canada and the United States.

U.S. Labor Department officials estimate minimum wage and overtime violations in over HALF of the 22,000 U.S. sewing businesses. Violations of environmental laws, labor laws, and tax laws are rampant in this underground economy. But, just as surely as greed and our relative exploitation of nearly a third of the world's workforce, the rising voices of workers and consumers can stop this tidal wave of abuse by turning the spotlight on those trying to make change, and a continuing offenders.



Workers and consumers are beginning to pay off. Let me tell you of two recent, hopeful developments.

The Phillips-Van Heusen (PVH) company owns factories in Guatemala. PVH company Chair & CEO, Bruce Klatsky is known for taking a key role in promoting improvements in human rights conditions in his factories, as well as encouraging other companies to follow suit. Still, the Human Rights Watch detailed consistent discrimination against those trying to organize a union. Recently however, PVH recognized the union. For a major U.S. manufacturer to recognize a union in the Guatemalan maquila - rather than crushing the union or moving the factory - is indeed a big deal!

In Nicaragua, another breakthrough has occurred. The first successfully negotiated collective bargaining agreement between a manufacturer and a local union since Nicaragua re-opened its Free Trade Zone in 1991.

Here, in the city where I was born and raised, I am proud to be one of 7500 voices yearning for the abuses to end. Imagine the wake-up call to CEOs and government bigwigs, as they read about Bangor, Maine, the major retail center for half our state, going on record to say we don't want your "dirty clothes" - tainted by the exploitation of your workers. Clean up your act. Then, we will welcome your "Clean Clothes" to Bangor!

## Greater Portland

In April GPNOW held two (by accident) sign making parties in support of Take Back the Night. We had a great time and made some fabulous signs! We are planning a summer potluck for July 22 - location tba.

GPNOW is the hosting chapter for the Maine NOW Annual State Conference so we expect the rest of the summer to be devoted to conference planning and spontaneous actions. Maine NOW activists are well known for having fun while they work so join us!!! Also....

### Congratulations

to **Karen Geraghty**, a great feminist activist and former president of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance for her recent victory in the Portland City Council elections!

### Chapter Contact:

**Kim Simmons 871-9786 or  
Kim8892@aol.com.**

## Greater Bangor

GBNOW is forever vigilant and active. The current group of activists are involved in the Bangor Clean Clothes Campaign, CUREs project, and Penobscot County Maine Won't Discriminate and many other groups and projects. They participated this spring in the Clean Clothes Campaign door-to-door petition drive, HOPE Festival, Take Back the Night march, Take Our Daughters to Work Day, International No Diet Day and the presentation of the CCC petitions to the Bangor City Council. NOW that's a busy group!

GBNOW will have a table at the **World's Largest Garage Sale on JUNE 21**. Drop off your items in Jo's Garage anytime at 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer.

### Chapter Contact:

**JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306**

## Kennebec Valley

KVNOW relected Don Craig as coordinator and Ruth Gabey as Treasurer at our March meeting. We also have been working on updating our membership list and tagging each member in our data base with state house and senate districts. Using this information we can then contact members when specific legislators need some lobbying from their constituents.

In April we hosted Betsy Marsano from the Coalition for Economic Justice. In May JoAnne Dauphinee from Greater Bangor NOW trucked on down to present the Bangor Clean Clothes Campaign slide show. It was very informative and sparked lively discussion on the sale of clothing made in sweatshops here in the U.S. and internationally. (Congratulations to PICA and all the supporters of the Campaign for their victory in getting the Bangor City Council to pass a resolution supporting the sale of "clean clothes" in Bangor. Let's reproduce these efforts throughout Maine!!!)

On **Saturday, JUNE 28** from 8 am - 3 pm rain or shine, KVNOW will be having a **GIANT GARAGE SALE** at 138 Maine Ave., Farmingdale at the home of Rep. Elizabeth Watson. She's got a great yard and big garage! We need your treasurers to sell -- no clothing please -- and your help setting up (June 27) and cleaning up. This fundraiser will benefit KVNOW and Maine NOW/PAC. Call to say you can donate items or help out for a few hours. **Don 582-1686 or Chris 873-0878.**

### Chapter Contact:

**Don Craig 582-1686**

## Greater Farmington

GFNOW had a busy spring. At the March meeting the pro-choice video, "Leona's Sister Gerry", was shown and discussed. In April they helped organize and participated in Take Back the Night. Their annual planning session was held in June. The chapter will not meet in the summer but will hit the ground running in September. Contact the chapter to receive a copy of the calendar of events and action for the coming year.

**Chapter Contact: Aimee DesRoches 778-6107**

## Brunswick Area

Brunswick NOW has just finished a very successful Women's History Month project. They sponsored a poster contest for grades 3 through 12 with the theme of "Women and Girls Who Change the World." Over eighty entrees were submitted from area schools. Maine's First Lady, Mary Herman, gave out the prizes at a May celebration. A cash prize of \$40 from Brunswick NOW was given to the 1st place winners in grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Second and third place winners in each grade grouping were gift certificates from local businesses.

The posters were judged by two Bowdoin professors, a local artist and owner of a local graphics company. Bowdoin Professor of History, Sarah McMahon, spoke at the celebration pointing out that the world is not changed by individuals but by group efforts. Thanks to new chapter activists, **Sam Caplan-Gershon and Kathleen McNally** for taking the lead on this wonderful project.

On June 14 the chapter will have a picnic and retreat to plan for the coming year. Sandra Holland will continue on as coordinator but due to more personal/family obligations chapter activists will take on the responsibilities of organizing monthly meetings. If you have ideas for meetings or actions and want to help coordinate them, give Sandra a call.

### Chapter Contact:

**Sandra Holland 729-4663**

# 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-Huffman 772-3368  
Computer Wizards - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306  
Consumers For Affordable Health Care-VACANCY  
Dirigo Alliance - Beth Edmonds 865-3869  
Lesbian Rights Task Force - Janet May 862-5907  
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

Ruth Young, Bronx, NY  
Marsha Pappas, Albany, NY  
Judy Murphy, Manchester Center, VT  
Gerry Miller, 7320 Aqueduct Ave.#13, Bronx, NY 10468 212-367-2435  
Lois Reckitt, 38 Mrytle Ave., South Portland, ME 04106 799-8744  
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 - Aimee DesRoches 778-6107

**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  
Co-coordinator - Kim Simmons 871-9786  
Call for meeting schedule.

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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.

**"It is not special rights. What we are talking about here are the most basic rights that all of us take for granted... We have enemies in Maine. They are poverty, disease, ignorance. They are not gay people... Those who are worried, who are uneasy... join us in making Maine the best society we can create."**

Governor Angus King

on May 16, 1997 at the signing into law "An Act to Prevent Discrimination" putting "sexual orientation" into the Maine Human Rights Act.

**Note from the editor:** Thanks to everyone who wrote for this edition. If the reader finds any major errors, blame it on my computer. It got out of control when I was coming down the home stretch, sorry. If you have anything to submit for the Fall *Maine NOW Times* -- ie. letters to the editor, articles, cartoons, announcements -- get them to me by **AUGUST 26.** Chris Rusnov, 11 Bolduc St. Winslow, ME 04901 873-0878 hayrus@mint.net

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



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