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Winter 1-1-1996

Maine NOW Times (Winter 1996)

National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter Staff

National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter

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★ Equality Countdown Campaign '96!

Announcing NOW's campaign to defeat punitive initiatives and referenda like the California anti-affirmative action initiative and to elect more feminists to office. We will also be building our grassroots strength for our renewed efforts to write women into the Constitution: the ERA.

We must all work together over the next 12 months to stop the cynical politicians pushing an agenda of sexism, racism, homophobia, classism and xenophobia. Gingrich and Dole are dismantling—at an alarming rate—women's and civil rights programs that took years to establish, as well as social welfare programs that have been part of the American fabric since the 1930s.

The bedrock of NOW's Countdown Campaign is the call to return to community values, to the politics and policies that favor the needs of people over the profits of corporations and the comforts of the few. It is a year-long campaign to wrest power from the enemies of women at the local, state and national levels.

The plain truth is astounding and we must tell it. While we work for a government that seeks to eradicate poverty, they trample all over poor women and their children.

As we struggle for comparable pay and equal opportunity, they are trying to dismantle affirmative action and shut women and people of color out of board rooms and higher-paying jobs. As we strive to end violence against women, they cut funds for domestic violence shelters and training for police, prosecutors and judges. While we fight for safe accessible child care, they implement cuts in child-care subsidies. While we work for lesbian and gay rights, they fight to make illegal the anti-discrimination laws. As we lobby for comprehensive universal health care, they work to deprive senior citizens and the poor of the most basic health services. As we struggle for equal education for girls and women, they renew their efforts to dismantle Title IX and fight to deny women access and equal funding.

See page 12 for some key events that will take place in 1996 to help build a government that values people.



MAINE

NOW

TIMES

WINTER 1996

*Happy
New Year!*

DATES TO REMEMBER

***Martin Luther King Jr's
Birthday
Jan. 15***

***23rd Anniversary
of Roe V. Wade
Jan. 22***

***February is Black
History Month***

***March is Women's
"Herstory" Month***

E MAIL

Are you on line yet??? Thought about becoming an e-mail feminist? Last December I issued an invitation to anyone with e-mail access to sign on to the e-mail feminists, and we have a lively group of a dozen or so. Here's an invitation to the rest of you.

The joy of e-mail is that it is wonderfully fast, and is a MUCH MUCH MUCH cheaper way for us to get you information for action alerts than either the phone or the US mail. It's also possible to (relatively easily) get more information to you about a given issue than is practical to convey over a phone tree. There are lots of people who don't have e-mail - computers aren't cheap - but lots of you do have e-mail either at home or at work, and here's a way to put it to work for feminism.

To enroll, just e-mail me at CPHIN@aol.com. What you will get are reminders or notices of events, information about hot issues, and occasional action alerts when a call and/or letter (or something else) is needed fast. I think it's safe to say that, so far at least, I haven't overstuffed anyone's e-mail boxes. But we have been able to generate a few extra calls on a couple of key issues, and have also done some good passing on of news items of interest. I am eager to use this technology more widely for getting out information that just can't wait for the Maine NOW Times and when we don't have time or volunteers for phone trees. So far I am excited with our results.

If you have an e-mail address where it would be appropriate to get feminist notes, e-me! See you on-line.

Question 1 Defeated

Maine NOW worked with Maine Won't Discriminate to defeat question 1. NOW's work was spearheaded by Kimberlee Ward, the Lesbian Rights Taskforce Coordinator for National NOW, Andrea Lee, an Intern, and committed volunteer, Celine Wood. Rosemary Dempsy, National NOW Vice-President for Action visited Maine campuses where she spoke about the "Politics of Hate" and organizing by the radical right in the Maine anti-gay referendum. This work on the campuses provided massive support on the October 28th NOW Action Day where people came out to leaflet information on the referendum across the state. The vote on November 7th, although close, was clear. Maine NOW registered a record number of people to vote, often for the first time, at the Common Ground Fair and on the college campuses. This strategy made a clear difference. Thank you Maine NOW members for your work state-wide on this critical vote.

The following examples show areas where Maine NOW did substantial organizing. It made a difference!

MAINE QUESTION 1 Unofficial Poll Results Bangor Daily News and Portland Press Herald

1. Overall

2. Organized Areas

YES (%) NO (%)

Aroostook County	55	45
Fort Kent	38	62
Hancock County	38	62
Bar Harbor	21	79
Penobscot County	47	53
Orono wd 1	22	78
Orono wd 2	27	73
Waterville (overall)	34	66
Wd 3 (Colby)	16	84
Franklin County	49	51
Farmington	43	57
Cumberland County	41	59
Brunswick	34	66
Portland	34	66

Sneak Attack on Choice

Through a series of funding and authorization bills, the Republican-dominated Congress is backhandedly pushing through an anti-choice agenda both in the US and overseas.

- The House passed an amendment allowing states to deny Medicaid funds for abortions for women pregnant as a result of rape or incest.
- The House voted to override the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education's (ACGME) requirements that ob-gyn programs provide training in abortion or risk losing federal funding. The new bill would ensure funding for programs whether or not they adhere to ACGME's guidelines.
- The House and Senate passed an amendment that bars government funding for abortions for federal workers, except when the life of the woman is at risk.
- The House voted to de-fund the United Nations Population Fund—the UN's family planning wing—and to deny US funds for any foreign nongovernmental family planning program that performs or provides information about abortions. They also revoked funding for any organization, foreign or domestic, perceived as trying to influence a foreign government's policy on abortion.
- The House Judiciary Committee approved the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1995, which would restrict doctors from performing a late-term abortion procedure known as a D&X, generally done only when the woman's life is in danger. These bills will be working their way through the Senate in the next few months.

We must not tolerate any obstructions to our reproductive freedom.

Action: Write or call Senators Dole, Cohen and Snowe to protest these attacks on reproductive choice. Call or write President Clinton urging him to veto any bill that seeks to limit a woman's reproductive rights.

New in Maine

**FAMILY PLANNING
HOTLINE
1-800-528-3555**

Maine Voters for Clean Elections

On Election Day about 1100 volunteers collected approximately 65,000 signatures to take big money out of Maine politics. Several Maine NOW members played vital roles in coordinating the signature drive in their communities.

Working with the Dirigo Alliance (of which Maine NOW is a member) and ten other organizations, Maine Voters for Clean Elections surpassed the 51,131 signatures required to place the comprehensive campaign-finance reform referendum question on the ballot for 1996. The initiative is the most forward-looking proposal in the country: It seeks to change the way elections are paid for as well as leveling the playing field so candidates can focus on raising ideas and solutions rather than money.

The initiative aims to limit what candidates spend on campaigns, reduce what the wealthy and special interests can give to candidates, and toughen enforcement of election laws.

"The overwhelming support of our petitioning shows that Maine voters truly want clean elections without the influence of big special interest money," commented David Donnelly, campaign manager of the effort. "Further grassroots support will be needed as we take this issue directly to the legislature and to voters."

To get more information or to find out how you can help, contact Maine Voters for Clean Elections at (207) 773-3274.

■ Reading Suggestion ■

Living on the Edge: Women Working and Providing for Families in the Maine Economy, 1979-1993,

by Stephanie Seguino of the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy, Jan. 1995. (\$13.20, \$.79 tax, \$3.01 shipping) Available at the Maine Center for Economic Policy, P.O. Box 2422, Augusta, ME 04338 622-7381.

Bangor CUREs Project

by JoAnne Dauphinee

The Bangor CUREs Project is a most welcome effort, the impact of which will be felt throughout eastern and northern Maine. CUREs stands for Communities United for Reproductive Safety, and is meant to explore ways communities can act to deter violence at women's health clinics, and related kinds of harassment. It is partially funded by a grant from the Pro Choice Resource Center. The "lead" organization is the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center in Bangor.

Currently, I have the distinct pleasure of serving as NOW's representative to the Bangor CUREs Project. The thoughtful intelligence, good humor and commitment of those involved I have seldom seen matched in my many years of community activism.

We are convinced this project is timely, and offers some hope of relative calm against the relentless and menacing opponents of choice. We believe this community is ready to send a message of support for safe reproductive care, and the Bangor CUREs Project is the group to help frame that message.

Securing and maintaining the widest possible right to choose has required the constant vigilance of many individuals, groups, and coalitions over the past two decades. I have been happy to serve this cause in many capacities over the years. We have had much luck winning the hearts and minds of our communities and the legislature. Now we need to protect our too

few providers from harassment and harm.

As you are surely aware, the opponents of choice have been known to cross the line here as elsewhere. As an activist, some years ago I had my car window smashed and messages left in wax on the hood; also, ketchup smeared on my front door, and unfriendly phone machine messages were left for me.

More recently, the Mabel Wadsworth Center had a rock thrown through its back window and it is frequently picketed. Local providers are harassed at their homes. The wariness of the community is reflected in a recent ordinance to try to limit the types of demonstrations that can occur in neighborhoods. So far, however, the home intimidations continue.

Maine NOW has applauded the work of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center throughout its formative years. Its many programs, workshops and conferences are very well received and their work deeply respected by the community. I am privileged to know some of the women who brought the Center itself from dream to reality.

The *Thursday Group*, which is the group of local activists who came together in order to support the Center's work, is pleased to announce that Kassie Stevens has been hired to coordinate the first round of our efforts. It is ambitious and exciting, and as is often the case, NOW is there!

Maine NOW Board Meetings Schedule

Jan. 27 - Winslow
Feb. 24 - Richmond
Mar. 30 - Winslow

Maine NOW members welcome.
Call for directions 873-0878.



 **HAS YOUR NOW MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?**

Is it time to RENEW?

Is this a complimentary newsletter?

Check your mailing label...for an expiration message, a complimentary copy message or for your expiration date.

**WE DEPEND ON YOU!
JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!**



Voice Mail Action Alert Network

The ActionAlert Network at NOW Action Center has voice mail! This is helping local activists to stay on top of breaking national stories! As an extension of this, there is an ActionAlert Update recording, which is changed every Tuesday. You can get the Alert by calling the National NOW Action Center at 202-331-0066 and accessing Voice Mail extension 358.

Religious Compulsion Constitutional Amendment

Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) introduced a version of the so-called "religious equality" constitutional amendment, H.J. Res. 121, intended to "secure the unalienable right of the people to acknowledge, worship, and serve their Creator, according to the dictates of conscience." The text of the amendment states, "Neither the United States nor any State shall deny benefits to or otherwise discriminate against any private person or group on account of religious expression, belief, or identity; nor shall the prohibition on laws respecting an establishment of religion be construed to require discrimination."

According to People for the American Way, this amendment would alter the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment; create a constitutional entitlement for individuals and groups to receive government funding to support sectarian religious activities; grant individuals a constitutional right to use public funds through vouchers, grants or certificates at sectarian religious institutions; promote government-coerced religious activity and taxpayer funding of religion; and allow a variety of coercive religious activities by government

officials—including public school teachers, government employers and military officers—seeking to promote their religious beliefs.

This constitutional amendment is unnecessary because the First and Fourteenth Amendments prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion and protect voluntary religious expression. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 protects all people of faith against government actions that substantially burden their religion. Current law allows students to pray silently to themselves at any time, to say grace at lunch, or to gather to pray before or after school. Public employees may pray non-disruptively, read the bible or discuss religion with co-workers at their jobs when they are not required to be performing regular duties, and wear religious symbols and attire. Governments cannot deny someone a job or welfare benefits or otherwise discriminate because of religion.

Action: Keep your eyes open for more info on this bill. Write our Congressional delegation for their opinions and **give them yours.**

Florida Baptists Vote to Boycott Disney

A Baptist group asked its one million members to boycott Disney theme parks and products, saying Disney showed a lack of moral leadership by extending health insurance to the partners of its gay workers. The resolution was approved unanimously at the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention, which represents most of the state's Baptists.

Disney announced in October that it would extend insurance benefits to the domestic partners of its gay and lesbian employees beginning January 1. The company said the new benefits plan was in line with its policy of not discriminating against workers based on race or sexual preference.

Thanks to all who contributed to this MNT:

Joann Clark, JoAnne Dauphinee, Rachel Lowe, Cynthia Phinney and Debora McLaggan.
Next deadline FEB. 1. MNT, Chris Rusnov, 11 Bolduc St., Winslow, ME 04901.



Maine NOW Celebrates 25 Years in 1996



In 1971 Maine NOW picketed Guy Ganett News to protest sex segregated want ads, invaded the males only tavern at Scarborough Downs, rallied for abortion rights, & succeeded in including several planks in the Democratic platform including a call for liberalized abortion laws (2 years before *Roe v. Wade*!).

In our early years, Maine NOW led the call for ratification of the federal Equal Rights Amendment, picketed in support of the Farah boycott over sweatshops, worked to establish and fund rape crisis centers, battered women's shelters and hotlines, held a "Myth America" contest, lobbied (often successfully) for AFDC increases, organized Consciousness Raising (C.R.) groups, worked in the schools on Title IX equal education

law, held speak outs on many issues, and NOW was the first organization to lobby regularly for women's rights in the Maine legislature.

From 1977 through '85 Maine NOW took the lead on introducing and defending the Lesbian & Gay Rights bill in the Maine legislature, and we were active in the formation of Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance in 1985. NOW activists also helped form the Maine Women's Lobby, Dirigo Alliance, Coalition for Choice, and helped found and currently serve in numerous other Coalitions.

NOW has persued several court cases through the years including a suit to allow women to keep or return to their "maiden name", a suit to force EMMC to allow mid-tri abortions and to stop first-tri restrictions, and, more recently, Maine NOW appealed the redistricting plan as being unduly discriminatory in changing or eliminating districts currently held by women.

Maine NOW Political Action Committee was formed in 1978 to change the Maine Legislature by electing feminists. A dozen or so NOW members served in each of the several recent Legisla-

tures, and since 1978 we have gone from a legislature of 10% women to a legislature with one of the highest percentages of women in the U.S. (about 1/3rd of both houses). Maine NOW PAC activists have also served as campaign managers, and as both paid staff and volunteers on referendum questions.

Maine NOW has always supported several chapters. Greater Bangor NOW & Greater Portland NOW are two of the oldest continually active chapters in the U.S. Maine NOW has connections to the National NOW Action Office, NOW Legal Defense & Education Fund, National NOW PAC, NOW Equality PAC, & Northeast Regional NOW. National NOW is about 280,000 strong with about 1000 members in Maine.

Look for Maine NOW wherever action is being taken to bring Maine women closer to equality and justice — in the streets, in the schools, in the home, on the picket line, in the courts, in the legislature, on the clinic defense line, in the pride march, in progressive coalitions, and National and Maine NOW can most recently be found in cyberspace! Stay tuned to future MNT for how to join Maine NOW activists in celebrating 25 years of action in 1996!



WANTED

LESBIAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE CHAIR

Sit on Maine NOW board; help coordinate & initiate actions on lesbian rights issues; write occasional updates for MNT.

MAC COMPUTER PERSON

Work with Cynthia Phinney to help keep Maine NOW's data base up-to-date.

MAINE NOW REPRESENTATIVES TO... WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA COALITION -

Work together with other Maine women's organizations to select and support legislation of concern to women such as child care, reproductive choices, work place issues, domestic violence, sexual abuse...

CONSUMERS FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

- Work in coalition with other Maine organizations to help shape the face of health care in Maine and the nation.

TAXPAYERS FOR A FAIR BUDGET - A coalition dedicated to educating and taking action on both state and national budget issues making sure that we all share the responsibility and no one group bears the burden.

Coalition Responsibilities: Meet monthly - some daytime, some evening - depending on group. Report back to the Maine NOW board on info and actions & write occasional updates for MNT.

**Interested or want more info
call Rachel 737-2329.**

"When I dare to be powerful-
to use my strength in the service of my vision,
then it becomes less and less important
whether I am afraid."

Audre Lorde

February 18, 1934 + November 17, 1992

— LOOKING — FOR FEMINIST MERCHANDISE

Do you produce or know of someone who produces items we can sell for our profit and yours? Currently, we sell buttons, bumper stickers and occasionally t-shirts/sweat shirts all of which we purchase from out-of-state catalogs. We sell them at meetings, fairs, and conferences. We are looking for new, exciting, different items that support feminist ideas (eg. mugs with feminist sayings). If you have any ideas or products, contact us at: Maine NOW, P.O. Box 4012, Portland, ME 04101.

MAINE NOW BOARD CHANGES

The Maine NOW State Board elected Rachel Lowe to fill the unexpired term of **Merrie Allen** as Maine NOW State Coordinator. Merrie is stepping down in order to have time with family following a recent loss.

Merrie has been our inspiration, our heart, a talented organizer and a sensitive listener, communicator, and mentor. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for being such a dedicated and loving sister. Merrie isn't disappearing. She'll still be representing the feminist spirit in her work with Maine teens, the Maine Children's Alliance and singing with Women in Harmony...and she's sure to get those "help me think this one through" calls from many of us.

Our new State Coordinator, **Rachel Lowe** has been active with Maine NOW beginning as a member of the Brunswick chapter and becoming heavily involved in the campaign against parental notification laws.

Born and raised in Freeport, where her family has resided for several generations, Rachel now lives in Richmond and is employed by the Family Planning Association in Augusta. Rachel recently organized women on several campuses in Maine to attend the NOW Young Feminist Summit in Washington, D.C. in April of 1995. She also coordinated the local arrangements for the speaking tour of Rosemary Dempsey and Kim Ward from National NOW to work against Question 1, the anti-gay referendum.

Rachel brings great enthusiasm along with her experience. We look forward to working with her in her new position. Congratulations Rachel!

We also want to welcome **Renee Berry-Huffman** to the board as our new Affirmative Action Coordinator. Renee is a long-time human rights activist with the NAACP, Maine Civil Liberties Union and The Haymarket Fund. Two of her many passions are eliminating racism and eradicating discrimination in housing and employment. Her experience has shown that racism and sexism still limit equal access to job opportunities for women and people of color. Renee says, "We must stop the anti-woman activists from making affirmative action a dirty word. We (Maine NOW) will join in coalition efforts to keep the issue in the forefront, taking a decisive role in generating a feminist response to these attacks on women's equality." Welcome Renee!

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT

A special thanks to **Mary Garvey Donnelly** for her representation of Maine NOW on the Consumers for Affordable Health Coalition. Mary went beyond her job description by also following legislation in hearings, work sessions and votes. Fear never stopped her from speaking up for what she knows is right - affordable health care for all Maine citizens. But alas, Mary finds herself over loaded with many obligations and must pass this task to someone else. She's willing to mentor someone who is willing to keep women's needs in the forefront of the health care debate. Call her for info 729-5843.

Additional thanks to...Rep. Elizabeth Watson who represented NOW on the Maine HIV Advisory Committee and to **Val Howard** our outgoing Affirmative Action Coordinator. Thanks for being a part of our vision to empower women to take action to make feminist social change.

Legislation to Watch for & Take Action on

LR 2593 An Act to Prohibit Discrimination (pro-civil rights bill)

LD 1448 An Act to Reconcile Rights and Responsibilities with Respect to Sexual Orientation and Related Matters (anti-civil rights)

LD 1079 An Act to Improve Coverage for Women's Health Services

LD 1385 An Act to Ensure That Basic Health Care Needs of Women Are Covered In Insurance Policies

LR 2745 An Act To Prohibit Stalking

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION 287-1692

ACTIVE COMMUNITY TRAINING I: FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

FEBRUARY 24, 1996 10 am - 5 pm
UNIV. OF MAINE, ORONO - MEMORIAL UNION
open to the public - FREE
INFO: 942-9343

- fight the Contract on America & its consequences for our community
- make clear the connections among us
- break down the myths & stereotypes
- articulate alternatives
- create strategies for ongoing action

Co-sponsored by: Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine; Univ. of Maine Social Work Dept., Women's Resource Center, & Women in the Curriculum; Maine Peace Action Committee; & INVERT.

Maine Congressional Delegation

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

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

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

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

Pres. Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500
tel-202-456-1111

Congress has passed legislation making fundamental changes to a host of our nation's safety net programs. It's dreadful—extremely harmful especially to women and children.

- \$82 billion worth of cuts over all to children & families
- 2/3 of children on SSI will be cut or their benefits reduced
- \$35 billion in food stamp cuts over seven years
- requires states to pass legislation exempting themselves from family caps
- legal immigrants will not be eligible for school lunch, child nutrition and WIC programs

ACTION: Call or write President Clinton. Ask him to veto any welfare "reform" legislation that includes:

- block grants
- a family cap
- decrease in maintenance of effort
- exemptions for legal immigrants
- cuts in food stamps and other nutrition programs

(Note: all welfare programs combined make up 3-4% of the federal budget).

All of these issues and more will be filtering down into the Maine Legislature this session. Keep up with the news and contact your State Representative and Senator. Questions: Call Chris 873-0878.

Blue Ribbon Commission on Hunger & Food Security was established in the last legislative session. It will hold public hearings throughout the state over the next few months "to inquire into the experience of hunger in this State and investigate changes in policies and programs that will enable all citizens...to attain food security and move toward economic self-reliance."

Want to get involved or get more info? Contact Maine Coalition for Food Security, P.O. Box 4503, Portland, ME 04112 871-8266

NOTE: More than two in five Maine kids are hungry or at risk.



MAINE CHAPTER P.O. Box 4012, Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 797-8508

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Put Your Action Where your Heart Is!

Nearly all that Maine NOW does is accomplished by volunteers who want to put their feminist ideals into action. They are people like you, putting their skills/ time/ talent toward the realization of our goals for all women. Whether you feel you can do a little or a lot, there is room for you. Please take a minute to let us know some of the ways you'd like to be involved.

- ☐ call or write Maine legislators
- ☐ call or write Congress people
- ☐ write letters to the editor
- ☐ write for the Maine NOW Times
- ☐ start a local chapter
- ☐ run for the legislature
- ☐ work on political campaigns
- ☐ enter data on the computer
- ☐ help with other computer tasks
(please describe your skills)

- ☐ make signs/ banners for rallies, etc.
- ☐ help staff NOW tables at events
(i.e. Common Ground Fair)
- ☐ organize a bake/ food sale
- ☐ organize a rummage sale
- ☐ organize a concert
- ☐ organize other fund-raising events
consistent with NOW's goals
(please describe your ideas)

- ☐ testify at legislative hearings
- ☐ coordinate legislative testimony
- ☐ donate items for silent auction

- ☐ head up a task force on:

- ☐ serve on a task force on:

- ☐ work with the Maine NOW Board as:
 - ☐ scribe,
 - ☐ telephone message taker,
 - ☐ phone tree coordinator,
 - ☐ officer,
 - ☐ coalition representative
- ☐ coordinate bulk mailings
- ☐ help with bulk mailings
- ☐ organize a conference
- ☐ meet with legislators
- ☐ meet with congress people
- ☐ pay dues
- ☐ call other NOW members about
actions, events
- ☐ other ways I'd like to be involved:

Name _____

Street _____

Town _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ NOW member ☐ Yes ☐ No

Chapter Info: Check it out! Where can you plug in?

Greater Bangor NOW

This chapter led by Joyce Blakney and JoAnne Dauphinee has linked up with the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine on several actions/issues including the H.O.P.E. festival, work against the Republican Contract ON America, and fighting NAFTA. They also organized the 1995 Roe v. Wade commemoration with a march/rally in support of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center and serve on the CUREs project. They participated in the Lesbian/Gay Pride day, the D.C. Rally Against Violence Against Women, the Maine Won't Discriminate Campaign and organized a celebration of the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage. Contact them to join in this years actions! They're a great bunch! Joyce 825-3962.

Brunswick Area NOW

Under the new leadership of Sandra Holland, this chapter organized the Roe v. Wade anniversary rally in Portland and a Walk for Access to raise funds for the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center and S.A.F.E., an abortion fund for low-income women. In April, they held a dance to raise \$800 for Maine Won't Discriminate as well as help organize volunteers and educate folks on the issue. They're always looking for new energy, so join in. Sandy 729-4663

Greater Farmington NOW

This chapter led by Peggy Stubbs has been pivotal to the success of UMF student education on Question 1. They have a busy calendar for the upcoming year, so give them a call and see where you want to plug in. Peggy 778-5609.

Greater Portland NOW

This chapter has spent the past year reorganizing, thanks to new coordinator Cindy McGinn and treasurer Barbara Hester with mentoring by veteran activists. Throughout the year, they have shown films, worked in coalition on the "Take Back the Night" march and rally, and organized volunteers who worked to defeat Question 1. Contact them to get involved. They'd love to have you. Cindy 854-1741.

Kennebec Valley NOW

This past year, members worked to defeat Question 1 by volunteering for phonebanks and leafletting. Enthusiasm surfaced in the Waterville area during the campaign. As a result, KVNOW is planning a meeting in late January in Waterville to see if folks are interested in keeping this chapter active. Contact Ruth at 582-1004 for day, time and place.

32 CENT
STAMP

Maine NOW
P.O. Box 4012
Portland, ME 04101

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 - Annie Lunt 883-1195
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 - Joyce Blakney 825-3962
Meets second Monday of each month

GREATER FARMINGTON NOW

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

KENNEBEC VALLEY NOW

P.O.Box 503, Augusta, ME 04330
Contact-Ruth Gabey 582-1004
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.

1996 KEY EVENTS

FAT LIBERATION WORKSHOP

Mabel Wadsworth Health Center
Late January Call 947-5337 for date and info.

ERA: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

March 20, 1996

On the University of Maine cable system - ITV.
NOW's JoAnne Dauphinee, will be the guest presenter.

MARCH TO FIGHT THE RIGHT!

April 14, 1996 • San Francisco, CA
National action to repudiate right-wing hate-mongering and to promote a return to community values. Info: Call Rachel 737-2329.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL NOW CONFERENCE

April 27, 1996 • Hartford, CT
Interested in attending, call Rachel 737-2329.

NOW 30th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

June 28-30, 1996 • Las Vegas

THE OLYMPICS

July 27, 1996 • Atlanta

The Summer Olympics will hold a celebration of women in sports. An opportunity to promote Title IX and equal education.

THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

August 11-16, 1996 • San Diego
Protest. Protest. Protest.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

August 25, 1996 • Chicago

On August 25, NOW will observe the anniversary of the Suffrage Amendment with a Women's Equality Reception in Chicago to honor women in politics and raise money for NOW/PAC's 1996 electoral work.



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

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