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Maine NOW Times (Winter 1998)

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National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter

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Maine NOW Times

Winter 1998

Coordinator's Corner

The Last Hurdle For Civil Rights

By Rachel Lowe, State Coordinator

After 25 years of fighting for civil rights for Maine Lesbian and Gay citizens the anti-discrimination bill was finally passed into law. However, in summer of 1997, the Maine Christian Civic League and the Christian Coalition gathered enough signatures to force the passage of the anti-discrimination bill to the voters.

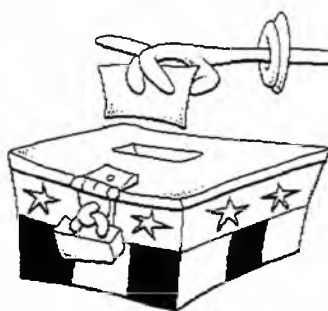
Maine voted no against discrimination in 1995 and Maine needs to vote no again in 1998. Maine NOW needs your help to defeat the referendum. Mark the election date on your calendar: February 10th, 1998. We need ever member to vote. Voter turn out is expected to be low and our 1000 members can make the difference.

Unlike 1995, when we had to convince people how to vote, this year we just need to get ourselves and like-minded friends to the polls on February 10th.

Maine NOW and Maine Won't Discriminate need your help. One evening of phoning or a Saturday doing student voter registration on a Maine campus can make the difference.

Maine NOW will not ask you for money to support our hard work on this effort. Please give generously to Maine Won't Discriminate so we can assure civil rights for all Maine citizens.

Please call one of our chapter coordinators or Rachel at 737-2329 to get involved.



**Vote NO
Tuesday
February
10th.**

Maine Still Won't Discriminate

Election Day:

Tuesday, February 10, 1998

The Question:

"Do you want to reject the law passed by the legislature and signed by the governor that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation with respect to jobs, housing, public accommodations and credit?"

What you can do:

- 1) Write a letter to the editor of your local paper, urging people to VOTE NO on February 10, 1998.
- 2) Send a contribution, payable to:
Maine Won't Discriminate
PO Box 11061
Portland, ME 04104
Ask friends and family to do the same. Financial support is vital.
- 3) Prepare to spend as much time as you can between January 2 to February 10, helping the campaign with field work including Mass Mailings, Get-Out-The-Vote activities and Phone Banks.
- 4) Go to the polls on February 10th and give someone else a ride.

All information pertaining to the referendum in this newsletter has been authorized by:

Maine NOW PAC
87 Sunset Strip
Brewer, ME 04412
JoAnne Dauphinee

Chapter News

Greater Portland Chapter:

The Greater Portland Chapter will be holding a special meeting to discuss the referendum on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in the USM Women's Center. We will also meet on our regularly scheduled day: Tuesday, January 27, also at 7:00 pm in the USM Women's Center.

On January 22 at 7:00 pm the Maine Choice Coalition will be showing the movie, "If These Walls Could Talk" at the USM Luther Bonney Auditorium, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The Greater Portland Chapter will be holding a gender equity bake sale at this event. Your goodies are welcome!

Before the next regular meeting, Melissa will be attempting to pull together ideas generated in meetings past to create a tentative calendar of events for 1998. Please let us know if you have any special interests or skills, and would like to organize a meeting or help with the details of the calendar. Ideas and feedback are welcome and encouraged.

If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns regarding any of the information listed, please leave a message for us at one of the following numbers and your call will be returned: 829-3360 or 797-8508. Melissa can be e-mailed at mfyre71@mail.caps.maine.edu.

Kennebec Valley Chapter:

The KV NOW will be holding its next meeting on January 14th at the Augusta City Center from 7 to 9 PM. At the meeting, we will accept nominations for Coordinator.

The most important part of the agenda will be to get ready for the referendum to be held February 10th. We have committed to work in our local areas and to help organize the campus Get Out The Vote (GOTV) at Colby and

UMA. It is extremely important to get our people out and we cannot do it without help.

A mailing will be going out to all members in early January and follow-up phone calls will be made to all members in order to 1. remind people to vote, 2. get people to commit to help with phone banking, and 3. get people to the meeting on January 14th. Please attend the meeting to work on the campaign to defeat this referendum and keep KV NOW a viable chapter.

See you on January 14th!

Brunswick Area Chapter:

The Brunswick Area NOW Chapter is pleased to invite one and all to dinner on January 23 at the Humble Gourmet from 6 to 8 pm. Join State Senate Majority Leader Chellie Pingree and the Brunswick Chapter as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Roe v. Wade-- \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Half of the proceeds will support students attending the Northeast Regional Young Feminist Summit. Space is limited so please RSVP by January 16th to Anna J. Boll, 729-1952.

The Humble Gourmet is located at 103 Pleasant Street in Brunswick and is owned by Sandra Holland, past NOW coordinator, and her husband Chris Toole. Call 721-8100 for catering or take out.

Our numbers of involved NOW members are dwindling. I can no longer count on the "dependable six" to show up at monthly

Continued on Page 3



Calendar

Jan 10: Board Meeting, Winslow
9:30 coffee talk, 10-3 meeting

Jan 21: "If These Walls Could Talk," 7:30 pm
Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville, free

Calendar, continued

Jan 22: Roe V Wade 25th Anniversary
"If These Walls Could Talk," 7:00 pm, free
Luther Bonney Auditorium, USM Portland

Jan 23: Brunswick Area Chapter Roe v. Wade,
Celebration/Fundraiser. \$20 adults, \$10 students
6:00 pm-8:00 pm, The Humble Gourmet, 103
Pleasant St. , Brunswick.

Feb 10: Election Day Referendum to overturn
Gay Rights Law.

Feb: Board meeting

Feb 20-22: Women of Color and Allies Summit,
Washington, D.C.

Feb 27-Mar 1: Young Feminist Conference,
Boston, MA

March: Women's History Month

• Girls Day at the State House with Seneca Falls
150th Theme

March 14: Board Meeting: we will focus on
VISION for State NOW

April 26: Northeast Regional NOW conference,
Albany, NY. Activist input for the VISION for
National NOW.

• Board Meeting possible dates: 4th, 18th, 25th

Head's Up!

July 10-12: National NOW VISION
Conference, Rochester, NY

July 17-19: 150th Anniversary Seneca
Falls Convention, Seneca Falls, NY

Brunswick, Continued from Page 2

meetings. To put it bluntly, we need you. Please
attend the fundraising dinner on January 23rd.
NOW is a grassroots organization and our
members will be instrumental in ending the
discrimination and hate of the anti-gay minority.

We have been charged with organizing voter
registration and election efforts on the Bowdoin
campus for the February 10th election. If anyone
can help by: driving election day shuttles, or
working at a voter registration tables in late
January, please contact Anna. 729-1952

Good news! It is reported in the Maine Sunday
Telegram that President Clinton will propose an
increase to the Federal Child Care Tax Credit
2441. Our chapter submitted this same proposal
to Rep. Tom Allen at his November 1997
Brunswick Town Meeting. Please take time to
remind Rep. Allen that we support this change as
step to making child care more affordable. This is
going to be a big election year issue so keep
your eyes open and remember you heard it first
at the September, "State of Day Care in Maine,"
Brunswick Area NOW forum.

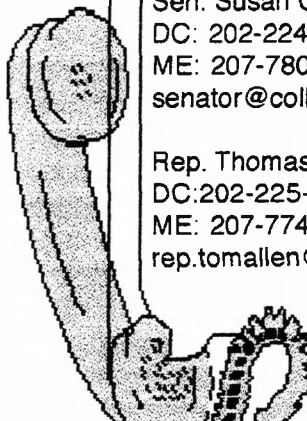
Contact your elected officials:

Sen. Olympia Snowe
DC: 202-224-5344
ME: 800-432-1599
olympia@snow.senate.gov

Rep. John Baldacci
DC: 202-225-6306
ME: 207-942-6935
baldacci@hr.house.gov

Sen. Susan Collins
DC: 202-224-2523
ME: 207-780-3575
senator@collins.senate.gov

Rep. Thomas Allen
DC: 202-225-6116
ME: 207-774-5019
rep.tomallen@mail.house.gov



Conference Roundup

There are two important NOW conferences happening in February. There are feminist who would like to attend but have limited funds. You can help by sponsoring a feminist who may not otherwise have the means to attend. If you would like to sponsor a conference participant please contact Rachel Lowe at 737-2329.

Women of Color and Allies Summit: Linking Arms in Dangerous Times

February 20-22, 1998

Washington National Airport Hilton Hotel

This summit will bring together women of color and supportive allies from across the country to discuss current concerns and future strategies. This Summit will celebrate our commonality, share our ideas, and create a framework to ensure the value, vision and inclusion of women of color in the feminist movement.

The Power of Our Voices: A Young Feminist Summit

Sponsored by the Northeast Region of the National Organization for Women (NOW)

Friday evening, February 27 through Sunday afternoon, March 1, 1998

Royal Sonesta Hotel/Boston.

The Summit will provide an energizing and thought-provoking forum for young women and men who care about women's and girls' rights – and our futures. We will talk about the diverse experiences of young women, the opportunities we have to create change – and the barriers we face. We will think through our role in the political process, our access to power and our agendas for change. Joining together feminists from urban areas – from New York City to Portland, Maine – with those of us who live in rural areas – from small towns in Vermont to sea-side communities in Rhode Island – we will explore where we've been and where we're headed.

Northeast Regional NOW Conference

April 26, 1998, starts at 9:00 am

Howard Johnson's Hotel, Albany, NY

This year the NE Regional Conference will be focusing on the vision for the future of NOW and the election of our new National Board Members.

National NOW VISION Conference

July 10-12

Rochester, NY

150th Anniversary Seneca Falls Convention

July 17-19

Seneca Falls, NY

Conference starts at 9:00 am Sunday.

LOCATION: Howard Johnson Hotel, 1614 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12205

Phone 800-293-3794 (518)869-0281

ROOM RATES: \$49.00 Per night

DIRECTIONS: From the New York State Thruway (West or South) take Exit 24, Albany.

Immediately after the toll, take Route 87 North (The Northway, Montreal) From 87 North, take Exit 2W (NY Route 5/Central Avenue.) The hotel is 1/2 mile west on Route 5 on the left.

REGISTRATION: \$25.00 Includes coffee and tea and lunch on Sunday.

REGISTRATION FORM

NOW - NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE 1998

LUNCH MENU:

Circle one:

Greek Salad Plate

Shrimp Salad Plate

*Classic Deluxe Charcoal Broiled Burger

*Chicken Breast with Oregano

*(Served with house salad and home-fried Grecian style potatoes)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____ EMAIL _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NOW, N.E. Region

PLEASE MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION TO:

Marcia A. Pappas, NE Board Member, 3 Equality Court, Albany, New York 12205

The Power of Our Voices:

A Northeast Young Feminist Summit

*a conference sponsored by the Northeast Region of
the National Organization for Women (NOW)*

February 27 - March 1, 1998

Royal Sonesta Hotel/Boston
Massachusetts

WHAT WE'RE DOING ...

Join us - young women and men from New York City to Portland, Maine and from small towns in Vermont to sea-side communities in Rhode Island - to talk about women's rights, girls' and young women's futures. Join in conversations about our diverse experiences, the barriers we face and changes we hope to create. Be part of crafting our agendas for women's - and girls' - rights. Be there.

HOW WE'RE DOING IT ...

Starting Friday evening with a cabaret featuring acoustic music, slam poetry, and comedy as well as an open mike, continuing Saturday through Sunday afternoon, the conference will provide forums to speak out and actions to join. It will include workshops about the issues facing us and the skills we need to address them, and sessions where we will hear from young women who are out there making a difference and women who have led the way - from NOW's National President Patricia Ireland to WNBA basketball players, Pulitzer-Prize winning journalists and elected officials.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED ...

We want you to be there. And we want you to spread the word. Bring a friend. Bring a delegation from your community. If you can get involved in organizing for the Summit, call your local NOW office, Greater Boston NOW at 617/232-1017 or e-mail us at massnow@gis.net.

YES, I want to be part of the Summit!

Send this form to: Greater Boston NOW, 214 Harvard Ave., Boston, MA 02134.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

phone (day/eves) e-mail address _____

Enclosed please find:

\$ 25 - Conference registration (more if you can, and sliding scale for NOW members)

\$ 40 - Registration fee *and* NOW membership for 1 year

I am paying by check (circle) or credit card.

My card number is: _____ exp. date _____

For hotel reservations, call the Royal Sonesta Hotel/Boston directly at 617/491-3600. Special NOW rates are: \$ 108 per room (single, double or quad) for the first fifty rooms to be reserved, \$ 115 after that. This rate is guaranteed to January 30, 1998. For affordable housing options, call Greater Boston NOW at 617/232-1017 or e-mail at massnow@gis.net.

PROMISES OF THE PATRIARCHY:

It appears that America's anti-Biblical feminist movement is at last dying, thank God, and is possibly being replaced by a Christ-centered men's movement...

--Rev. Jerry Falwell

Don't you understand, mister, you are royalty and God has chosen you to be priest of your home?

--Tony Evans

... sit down with your wife and say something like this, "Honey, I've made a terrible mistake ... I gave up leading this family, and I forced you to take my place. Now I must reclaim that role." ... I'm not suggesting you ask for your role back, I'm urging you to take it back ... there can be no compromise here. If you're going to lead, you must lead ... Treat the lady gently and lovingly. But *lead!*

--Tony Evans

It's been too long that three percent of homosexuals control our moral majority.

--Tony Evans

I believe that slavery, and the understanding of it when you see it God's way, was redemptive.

--Wellington Boone

The nation is plagued with "wrong conduct." Prisoners believed they could get away with it. Homosexuals believe they were born that way...

--Ed Cole

I want to boldly affirm Uncle Tom. The black community must stop criticizing Uncle Tom. He is a role model, who, when he was stepped on like a worm, at a point of crisis, evidenced the nature of the classic, model worm, Jesus.

--Wellington Boone

The demise of our community and culture is the fault of sissified men who have been overly influenced by women.

--Tony Evans

Blacks have had more than two centuries of training in being a slave of man. It can be added as a long-term qualification to prepare them to be a fine slave of God or to rule as a king.

--Wellington Boone

You do know, don't you, that we're raising our children at a time when it's an effeminate society. It's not the proper climate. We need young boys that are launched to be men and that has to be imitated for them by a godly man.

--Bill McCartney

The primary cause of this national crisis is the feminization of men.

--Tony Evans

Arrogantly demanding their rights, activist gays and lesbians have become a militant voice in American politics, influencing elections and affecting the policies of high government leaders. Their public demonstrations and political lobbying have fooled many in our country into believing that they deserve special status.

--Bill Bright

... I believe that feminists of the more aggressive persuasion are frustrated women unable to find the proper male leadership. If a woman were receiving the right kind of love and attention and leadership, she would not want to be liberated from that.

--Tony Evans

The quotes above are from prominent Promise Keeper leaders and speakers.

HELP NOW STOP THE PROMISE KEEPERS -- BEFORE THEY CAN KEEP THEIR PROMISES.

National Organization for Women • 1000 16th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20036

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 - VACANCY
 Maine NOW Phone Coordinator - Renee Berry-Huffman 772-3368
 Maine NOW PAC Treasurer - JoAnne Dauphinee 989-3306
 Maine NOW Times - Cynthia Phinney 778-9506
 Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition - VACANCY
 Coalition for Economic Justice - Chris Rusnov 873-0878

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
 Coordinator - Don Craig 582-1686
 Call for meeting schedule.

BRUNSWICK AREA NOW

P.O. Box 133, Brunswick, ME 04011
 Coordinator - Anna Boll 729-1952
 Monthly meeting - 3rd Monday of every month

GREATER PORTLAND NOW

P.O. Box 4012, Portland, ME 04101
 Coordinator - Melissa Frye 797-8508
 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.

Save the Dates

In commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe V. Wade decision, the Maine Choice Coalition invites you to special showings of:

"If These Walls Could Talk"

an HBO produced film. This is a trilogy of stories about women confronted with unplanned pregnancies that follows society's changing attitudes toward abortion from the 50's to the 90's. With Demi Moore, Sissy Spacek, Cher, Anne Heche. Directed By Nancy Savoca and Cher. Followed by the screening of "CUREs: Our Community Respects and Protects," and concluding with a panel discussion.

Our deep appreciation to the Railroad Square Cinema for their generous support of this effort, and to the USM Women's Center, co-sponsor of the Portland event. For more information, contact: Susan (874-1100, x323) or Sally (774-5444) in Portland; Joanne (622-7524,x15), Lucy (623-2661), or Laura (622-0851) in Augusta.

Wednesday, January 21, 1998

7:30 p.m.

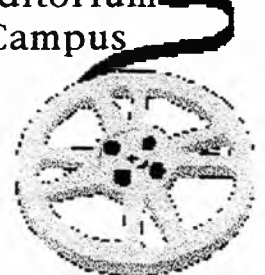
Railroad Square Cinema
Waterville



Thursday, January 22, 1998

7:00 p.m.

Luther Bonney Auditorium
U.S.M. Portland Campus



FREE ADMISSION

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Chapter News

25 Years of Choice

Conferences

Referendum Info

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