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NOW - Maine Newsletter (Sept - Oct 1974)

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National Organization for Women - Maine Chapter

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September - October 1974

STATE COORDINATORS TO MEET IN OCTOBER SESSION

Unemployment insurance and state and federal employment agencies will head the agenda when NOW State Coordinators meet in Hartford. All chapter presidents can expect an agenda soon. The coordinators will also discuss Eastern Regional Convention Resolutions and National Task Forces. State Coordinators meetings, as all NOW meetings, are open to interested members.

SEARCH ON FOR FRIENDLY PRESS

We're trying to spread the word on the Right to Choose. National NOW has an abortion press kit and we are considering sending copies to sympathetic journalists and radio and television personnel. Ask your chapter president how you can help. Also, we now have designated abortion lobbyists in Washington. Senators Edmund Muskie and William Hathaway have been so notified by the State Board.

ROLLS SWELL BY SEVENTEEN

Maine NOW reports seventeen new members in the past month. Seven of those represent Aroostook County.

NOW PREPARING CLOSE LOOK AT NEW TITLE 9 GUIDELINES

NOW will be sending its comments on the new Title 9 Higher Education guidelines to Washington. The Health Education and Welfare Department will be enforcing the final draft of the guidelines in schools using federal funds. Maine NOW chapters are dividing the topics of their comments. The Houlton Chapter will concentrate on athletics and sex education; Mid-coast NOW will do textbooks and Portland, admissions. Copies of their comments will be sent to chapters for comment. then to HEW..

Copies of the government guidelines can be obtained by writing HEW or by looking in the Federal Register (in your local library) for June 20, 1974, Vol. 39, Number 120

DRIVE LAUNCHED FOR ABORTION ACTIVISTS

You can be an abortion activist. The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) needs letter writers. The first compulsory pregnancy constitutional amendment may face Congress in a few weeks so your help is needed now. Please write Cathy Flynn, 32-A Church Street, Brighton, Me. 04009

DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS?

May protective labor laws be used to deny you a job? That is one of dozens of topics in the American Civil Liberties Union Book, The Rights of Women. The book covers constitutional rights, employment discrimination, education, mass media, crimes and juvenile delinquency. The book costs \$1.25 and you can write or call the Maine Civil Liberties Union office, 193 Middle St., Portland 04111, telephone 774-5444

STATE NOW MEETING SET FOR HAMPDEN

October 5 and 6 are the dates for the next statewide NOW meeting. It will be an overnight event at the farm of Cathy Flynn in Hampden near Bangor. We can stay overnight but we must bring our own food for potluck meals. Cathy will coordinate.

STEELWORKERS SEEKING HELP

Is it right that a woman with 20 years' experience should train younger men for high-paying, salaried positions while she remains under union jurisdiction at a lower, hourly wage?

Help Baltimore NOW fight illegal sex discrimination by Bethlehem Steel and the United Steelworkers of America. Tax deductible contributions may be sent to:
Bethlehem Steel Fund
Women's Law Center
c/o Emily M. Rody
10 N. Calvert St. Room 700
Baltimore, MD 21202

WE NEED YOUR BALLOTS

Please return your ballots on the proposed by-laws changes.

READY RECRUITMENT --WRITE NOW

We now have a membership brochure to aid you in your local recruiting. It was designed by Lee and Lou Agger of the Greater Portland Chapter and printed by State NOW. Multiple copies are available at three cents each. Contact Lois Reckitt. Stationary is also available.

State officers for NOW Maine for 1974-75 are:

Lois Galgay Reckitt, 38 Myrtle Ave., S. Portland 04106, 799-8744 Coordinator
Cathy Flynn - 32-A Church St., Bridgton 04009, 647-8168, Asst. Coordinator
Sue Chandler 54 Central St., Hallowell, 04347, 622-7832, Legislative Coor.

MID-COAST NOW

We have had a busy Summer, with the following meetings:

- June 15 Anne Brady's poetry reading.
- July 10 Terry Ann Lunt spoke on the functions of the Human Rights Commission.
- July 20 Fran Harriman and Bobbie St. Jean discussed rape, and Kevin Colquhoun gave a self-defence demonstration. Due to the interest of several members, Kevin offered a self-defense course during the month of August.
- July 31 Donna Thidodeau, Director of the Maine State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission discussed possibilities for women's participation in the celebration.
- August 25 Danny Morris, Director of the Lincoln County Cultural Association and Ramona Barth, biographer of Lorothea Dix, led a program on women in Prisons.

The following members plan to attend the N.E. NOW Conference in Atlantic City: Cathy Flynn, Gore Flynn, Pamela Chalfant, and Barbara Warner.

We have decided to concentrate on the Health Task Force for this year, and the Fall meetings (dates not yet set) will be concerned with planning future actions.

A course entitled "Women Today-Issues and Answers" will be offered this Fall at Lincoln Academy in New Canaan as part of the Adult Education Program. It is based in part on the Women's Political Caucus Course "Women in Politics", but will include Women in Business, Women and Religion, Legal Rights, Organizations affecting Change, and others.

ATTENTION

- October 13 Round trip to Boston
 - Morning In Boston to hear Wilma Scott Heide at the Community Church of Boston.
 - Afternoon Special opening for Maine women of the Schlesinger Library of Women in America.
- Join National Planning Committee of the Women's Coalition for the Third Century.
Send \$7 for Bath to Boston busfare (7a.m. to 7p.m.) to Ms. Ramona Barth, Alna, Maine.
The bus will pick up in Brunswick, Portland and Kennebunkport.