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The Maine Voter vol. 1, no. 2 (Spring 1984)

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Maine League of Women Voters

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THE MAINE VOTER

Vol 1., No. 2.

The League of Women Voters of Maine

Spring 1984

State Council 1984

This year's State Council will be held May 4 and 5 at the Inn at Loon Mountain in Lincoln, New Hampshire. A first in our League's history, this year's meeting will be a Tri-state Council consisting of local League presidents and delegates from the LWV's of New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. The council's focus will be on "Communication in the 80's" with particular attention paid to regional problems.

The agenda for the Tri-state Council includes workshops on low level radioactive waste disposal, long range planning for the LWVUS and communicating more effectively with members and the public. A special workshop for Voter and Bulletin editors will also take place.

Two delegates from each local League are being chosen now to attend the Tri-state Council. If you have ideas you wish to be brought up at the Council, now is the time to approach your delegates or your local president or both. Tri-state Council is also the time when delegates to the National Convention will be directed on what messages their Leagues want brought out at National Convention in Detroit this May.

The Inn at Loon Mountain also offers swimming, jogging, boating, tennis and fresh, fresh air. Don't forget, registration is due by Apr. 18. See you there!

Inside:

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Citizens' Day

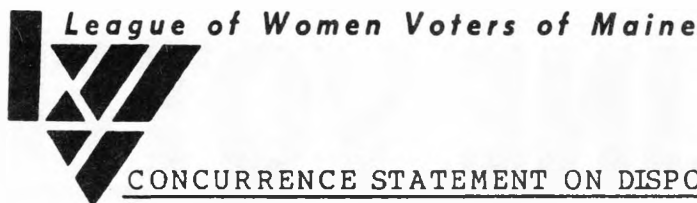
By Penny Harris

A Press Conference to announce the LWVME's support for the State ERA plus speeches from Attorney General James Tierney and Representatives John Michael and Jim Handy highlighted our day at the legislature this year. It was an interesting and informative day in which participants got to see the League in action.

The day started with shoveling ourselves out from under the largest snow storm of the year in order to get to Augusta by 8:45 AM! At registration everyone received an "ERA for me" button and a copy of our new pamphlet "ERA why ME?" Raffle tickets and other publications were also on sale for members and their friends.

At 9:00 AM, Attorney General Tierney told us that a State Equal Rights Amendment to our state constitution would not really change our lives in Maine. Since the state legislature ratified the national ERA in 1974, much has been done to make Maine laws "gender neutral." But, he stressed that the value of having a state ERA is to make these changes permanent. As they stand, any state legislature could change the laws if they so chose. Mr. Tierney made several suggestions on how to build a successful campaign for ratifying the state ERA in November. One warning: don't take the vote for granted. We cannot be sure of ratification since our opposition is also very strong.

Representatives Michael and Handy spoke to us next about campaign finance legislation which they are sponsoring. This bill



CONCURRENCE STATEMENT ON DISPOSAL OF LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The League of Women Voters of Maine adopts the following position on Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal in Maine:

COMPACT STATUS

The League of Women Voters of Maine believes there are a number of acceptable solutions for the State of Maine to meet its responsibility under the Federal Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980 and to dispose of low-level waste generated within the state. The LWV of Maine supports:

1. A compact between Maine and a small number of states.
2. Developing a single site in Maine for disposal of waste produced in Maine providing the legal questions of Federal preemption and interstate commerce laws are resolved.

DISPOSAL METHODS

The League supports disposition of nuclear wastes in an environmentally sound manner. If a disposal site is located in Maine, the State must be responsible for monitoring and ensuring isolation of the waste for the duration of its radioactive life. Because Maine has complex geologic, climatic, hydrogeologic and seismic conditions the LWV supports storage and disposal methods which provide for monitoring separation and retrievability in engineered facilities using best available technology.

SITE SELECTIONS

The League wants hazardous and radioactive waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities sited under conditions which pose the least amount of risk to the public and to sensitive environmental areas and natural resources. They must be located away from natural hazard areas, drinking water supplies, fragile land areas, valuable ecosystems, significant renewable resources, wildlife, historic and agricultural areas. Secondary land use impacts, such as buffer areas, adequate roads and transportation safety, must also be considered.

MANAGEMENT

The League endorses state control during all stages of managing low-level radioactive waste. The State of Maine should oversee: site selection, active operations, the decommissioning and closing down of the site. This must include long-term monitoring and maintenance to ensure wastes remain isolated until they are environmentally safe. The State needs enforcement capability and be able to sue violators for damages.

ECONOMICS

Evaluation of the economic, social and environmental impacts need to be carried out so decision makers and the public have adequate information on which to base a decision. The full cost of planning, selecting, building, administering, operating, monitoring, providing liability coverage and maintenance for perpetual care after closure must be adequate and borne by the generators of the waste.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

THE League of Women Voters strongly believes the success of important decisions on low-level waste disposal will depend on public understanding. The League proposes provisions for public participation be clarified, provisions for minutes and adequate notice of meetings be made, and public hearings be required. Citizen participation throughout the decision-making process must be assured at every governmental level.

ENERGY QUESTIONNAIRE

Please check those things in the first column that you would like to see done next year and check the second column if you would like to join us.

- | | | |
|------|-------|---|
| I | _____ | Low-Level Waste Disposal: |
| | _____ | Follow legislation relating to low-level waste disposal and siting and take action if necessary using our concurrence. |
| | _____ | Work on a more detailed concurrence statement addressing specific issues such as type of disposal methods. |
| | _____ | Continue educating membership on low-level waste. Which method do you think is most effective?
_____written material; _____discussion groups
_____meetings with speakers or films. |
| | _____ | Print a "follow up" flyer to the informational background flyer already printed with current and updated information. |
| | _____ | Attend local hearings if Maine "goes it alone". |
| II | _____ | Follow other energy-related legislation. |
| III | _____ | Refresh the membership on State and National positions |
| IV | _____ | Study high-level radioactive waste and Federal laws regarding the this. |
| V | _____ | October is <u>Energy Conservation Month</u> and groups can have events published for state-wide distribution by the Office of Energy Resources. Should the League participate next October ('84) ?
_____Yes _____No. If yes, what would you like to do: _____display materials; _____organize workshops; _____sponsor a poster contest |
| VI | _____ | Join the Maine Coalition on Alternative Energy. |
| VII | _____ | Look at energy alternatives: _____do workshops; _____have speakers; _____write articles. |
| VIII | _____ | Study local energy issues and/or resources. |

ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME.

Your Name,
Address, League
and Telephone #

PLEASE MAIL FORM TO:
Julie Howison
State Energy Chair
262 Capisic Street
Portland, ME 04102

Citizen's Day (cont.)

would limit the amount of Political Action Committee (PAC) money any candidate could accept. Support for the bill is not strong because it is felt there is no need for this type of legislation in Maine. Handy and Michael agree, but see a need to prevent campaign costs from skyrocketing in Maine as they have already done in other states, not to mention the cost of national Congressional and Presidential campaigns.

The LWV position on campaign finance does not allow us to support or oppose legislation limiting candidates ability to accept PAC money. The LWV National Board is currently studying our position and will be making a decision on this issue soon. There will be a new publication out this fall with information on campaign finance. State Board will also be researching the issue, if anyone would like to work on it please contact Alvin Moss on the State Board.

After League members had lunch with state legislators or conferred with each other on important League issues, they joined together to show support for a state ERA at a press conference. Jane Roy, LWVME Action Chair, and I each made statements in support of the ERA. This effort put us in the papers and on the 6:00 PM news in Bangor and Portland, a fine example of Action Packed Politics. The LWVME has joined with the ERA for Maine Steering Committee to make this a successful campaign. Sherry Huber, a LWV member and a member of the Steering committee, attended the press conference. Marge Clark, a League member from Brunswick, is also a member of the committee. We will need lots of help on this campaign. If any of you want to join the effort, please contact Joyce Bancroft on the State Board.

Citizens' Day at the Legislature was a success. There is no better way to feel a part of the State League than to attend a function in Augusta to meet and talk with members from around Maine. A

"thank you" goes to all who attended. A special apology goes to members of the Portland Area League. Flyers were mailed in what should have been plenty of notice but, alas, the Portland Post Office held them before delivery. From the State Board...we are very sorry!!

Raffle

MAINE: A GREAT EXPERIENCE

Tickets for a chance to win a piece of Maine in our Spring raffle are going quickly. We have also added some more prizes:

- **Dinner for two at the Holiday Inn in Ellsworth
- **Ram Island Dance Center, Portland (4 tickets to a performance or an Athletic Dance course, winner's choice.)
- **Portland Symphony Orchestra (tickets to candlelight concert.)

Thank you for supporting this project. The 16 winners will be notified by phone after the drawing, to be held at the April 26th State Board meeting. Winners will be announced in the summer VOTER.

ERA for ME

The State Board Social Policy Committee has printed a public information pamphlet called "ERA why ME?" The pamphlet is available to local Leagues at \$20 per 100 copies and is an excellent way to inform your local public about the November referendum to establish an Equal Rights Amendment to the Maine State Constitution. For more information or to order your pamphlets, call Joyce Bancroft at 729-8423 (Brunswick.)

LWVME budget:

APRIL 1, 1984 - MARCH 31, 1985 (ABRIDGED)

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>'84 BUDGET</u>	<u>'84 ACTUAL</u> (As of March 31 '84)	<u>'85 BUDGET</u>
Balance, end of fiscal year	\$3,500		\$1,500
Local League Support (12.8%)	2,022	1,989.50	2,085
MAL Dues	1,200	908.	1,000
Contributions	550	766.	1,250
Publications	950	2,290.	2,000
Interest	128	60.71	120
Fundraising	2,000	266.	4,975
Projects and Programs	1,700	1,379.	300
State Council/Convention	5,450	2,873.	0
LWV/US Education Fund	3,000	1,667.25	3,000
In/Out Income	100	84.30	100
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,000	\$16,196.19	\$16,330

EXPENSES

A. Operating Costs (10%)	\$1,670	\$ 410	\$1,670
B. Board Administration (23.5%)	4,300	2,034.07	3,840
C. Delegate Travel/Conferences (17%)	6,660	4,683.11	2,920
D. Affiliations (4.6%)	820	601	750
(LWVUS PMP goes to \$13)			
E. State VOTER (4.9%)	800	603	800
F. Educational (30%)	5,500	5,430.53	5,000
1. State Studies/Projects			
Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal			
Farmland, Energy, Women's Issues,			
Campaign Finance			
2. National Study (National Security)			
3. Voter Service			
4. Publication Production			
G. Position Support (8.27%)	850	427.87	1,330
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$20,600	\$14,190.64	\$16,330

BUDGET EXPLANATION:

- A. Operating Costs: This expenses reflected here generally have to do with running an office. Since we have no office, the costs are for League stationery, postage, Travel expenses for Board members to board meetings and travel to local Leagues.
- B. Board Administration: This show the cost of Board members to do their jobs. This includes telephone, copying costs, postage, publications. This also includes the costs to keep our membership list on a computer. This also includes the fundraising, PR, Nominating, Budget, Bylaws, Policy Committees.
- C. Delegate Travel: \$5450 reflects the cost of State Convention. All delegates paid hotel, registration, etc. through the League treasurer. We made one payment to the Samoset. We are sending 3 delegates to National Convention in Detroit.

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Calendar

May 4-6...Tri-State Regional LWV meeting...The Inn at Loon Mountain; Lincoln, NH.

May 13-17...LWVUS National Convention Detroit, Michigan.

June 1,2...Workshop for Displaced homemakers and their helpers...USM, Gorham. For info. call Audrey Diagle 1-800-442-2092.

Help Wanted

Needed: State VOTER editor beginning August 1984 for one year. This is a chance to learn editing and writing techniques and to contribute to the League in one of its most visible and rewarding positions. Call Penny Harris: (207)-947-4737

WHY DON'T I JUST QUIT?

It seems to me that every year
I'm busier than before...
I'm tempted to resign from League
Instead, I take on more!
"Now why is that?", I ask myself.
(For surely there's a reason)
"I'll have more time", I tell myself,
"Right after the rush season."
Besides, the League pals are my good friends...
I couldn't let them down."
These surface reasons I advance,
The real one's further down.

I think the answer lies somewhere
Deep within myself.
I want to see my talents used...
Not rusted on the shelf.
I want America to be
A better place to live.
Just talking won't improve it...
We also have to give.
I want to find myself among
The workers, not the floaters...
And that is why I am neck-deep
In the LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS.

—Minnesota LWV

The Maine VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Maine

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