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## The Maine Voter vol. 1, no. 3 (Summer1984)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

*Maine League of Women Voters*

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AUG 7 1984

# THE MAINE VOTER

Vol. 1., No. 3.

The League of Women Voters of Maine

Summer 1984



Maine State LWV President Penny Harris addresses Tri-State Council.

## Tri-State Council Loon Mountain, NH

In a national convention year state Leagues customarily conduct their business at a "Council" rather than the larger format of a Convention. This year Maine joined Vermont and New Hampshire for two days of respective states business and joint preparation for National Convention which occurred one week later. It was a "first" and the result of more than a year's planning. There are many reasons for the three northern states of New England to pool their resources and energies, small population size and geographical interests most apparent. Alice Johnson, LWV Lewiston/Auburn and past state President, has represented Maine and promoted the fine cooperation required to accomplish this. Other joint acti-

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## Convention '84

The overwhelming focus of this Convention was the consideration of the Long Range Plan. We discovered immediately that Leagues across the country were moved to activism by the anticipation that local Leagues might play a less-important role. Evidence of this opposition to the LRP was the flood of "GRASSROOTS" buttons seen everywhere. Another significant point was the wording of the new statement of purpose which included "political" organization and more stress on activism. As the week progressed delegates arrived at an understanding of the LRP and finally accepted a slightly amended version with firm instruction to the National Board.

Two National Program study items were approved: An amended continuation of the National Security Study ("Examine the interdependent nature of Internat'l Relations program, including new and innovative ways to promote global security."), and a new study of Financing the Federal Government which will use the National VOTER for a tear-off consensus form.

A significant change of the by-laws prohibits delegates to future National Conventions from voting until their local PMP is paid. The proposed budget was accepted with the increased PMP of \$13 which will provide \$1,302,394 or 61 per cent of the 1984-85 budget.

There were 1,130 voting delegates from 50 states; Penny Harris, Jane Saxl, Bonnie Anderson, Carol Fritz, Jane Amro, Alma Otto and Joyce Bancroft represented Maine. The Westin Hotel which accomodated the entire convention is the tallest hotel in the world with 73

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## President's Column

When it comes to influencing public policy, League members have an advantage from the start. League keeps you informed about issues--at local, state and national levels--and informs you early, so you can act, not just react. League members probe, inform, lobby, initiate, litigate and support issues with which they are concerned. Whatever level of involvement is possible for you, there's an important place for you in the League of Women Voters. It is a bigger place in the political process, the place to be when you want to say more than just mark your ballot.

So it says on our new membership flyer. Of course, we know the League of Women Voters is all this and much more. Meeting and working with interesting people, learning from people who believe in informed participation in government, learning leadership skills, meeting and working with elected and appointed officials on important issues and gaining personal confidence are some of the unsung benefits of being a League member.

There are no mandatory meetings to attend. There are no regularly scheduled events to be organized. Members are not required to donate any specified amount of time in any one year. Members are encouraged to participate by joining a program or project committee which interests them. Activities, projects and events are planned with flexible organization so even the busiest people can share in making things happen. Leadership is open to people who work full-time because they can organize League projects around their work schedule. Patrick Flanagan, in the June 1984 issue of SELF magazine, encourages women to increase their on-the-job visibility by becoming more visible off the job through volunteering. "By being visible, you'll learn new organizational and leadership skills while developing valuable business contacts," writes Flanagan.

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## Campaign Finance

The state program item, Campaign Finance, received its first infusion since it was adopted at the LWVME State Convention when two state legislators, John Michael and Jim Handy, of the Legislative Election Laws Committee, addressed a "Citizen's Day at the Legislature" audience in March.

State Rep. Handy, who is completely committed to limiting the role of PACS (political action committees), has sponsored the "Political Action Committee Registration and Reporting Law. This law, written by Handy who is chair of the sub-committee on Campaign Finance Reform, is known as "landmark" legislation requiring comprehensive reporting by political action committees. It is designed to check the phenomenal growth PACS have experienced in recent years. Rep. Handy's view is that PACS deny the ordinary citizen his political rights by putting pressure on key elected officials with large contributions, thus buying their way of thinking.

It is most important that our State League be informed about the role of PACS in Maine and the relationship to the national scene as well, since it is a national program item.

All League members interested in campaign finance, please contact Alvin Moss, Sorrento, 04677; or call 422-3627.

by Alvin Moss

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## World's Fair

The League of Women Voters of New Orleans is offering single (\$30) and double (\$40) rooms in members' homes during the 1984 World's Fair, May 13 to Nov. 17. For information contact: the state office at 1636 Toledano St., Suite 301, New Orleans, La. 70115, (504)-895-2062; or Susan Hoffman 1531 Verna St., New Orleans, La. 70119, (504)-482-0683.

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## Spring Raffle

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Everyone in the League of Women Voters of Maine was a winner in this latest raffel! Thank you for supporting this project by buying and selling tickets. In one month you were able to raise \$1,123. The lucky prize winners are:

JANE SIMONDS, Cape Elizabeth  
BONNIE LOUNDSBURY, Auburn  
ELINOR MULTER, Orr's Island  
CASSANDRA LUTTS, Kittery point  
GLORIA McLELLAN, Bangor  
HELEN STAPLES, Bangor  
GLORIA McLELLAN, Bangor  
KATHARINE MEEKER, Falmouth  
MARTHA MICKLES, Portland  
PHIL HUNTER, Bangor  
EMILY FARLEY, Portland  
PAT KACHNER, Scarborough  
PAIGE THERIAULT, Bangor  
ELIZABETH CRANDALL, Brunswick  
JOAN MOHLAR, Readfield  
KATIE GREENMEN, Old Town  
DELORES VAIL, Falmouth

Weekend at the BAR HARBOR MOTOR INN  
Course at the SHELTER INSTITUTE  
Ride in crane at BATH IRON WORKS  
Tickets/Course at RAM ISLAND DANCE  
Tickets to the PORTLAND SYMPHONY

Dinner at the HOLIDAY INN/ELLSWORTH  
20 lbs. of MAINE POTATOES

one carton of MAINE BLUEBERRIES  
\$15 gift certificate from BOOK REVIEW  
1 year subscription to MAINE TIMES

1 year subscription to DOWN EAST

one case of MAINE SARDINES

Delegates to the Tri-State Council at Loon Mountain also raffled off a weekend at SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN. We raised \$180 in 24 hours. The winner: SUSAN OECHSLE, New Hampshire State President.

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### CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!

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#### Tri-State Council (cont.)

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vities such as the National Security conference in Portland last fall and close communication on Low Level Radioactive waste plans are examples of the possibilities of this coalition.

At Loon Mountain the predominant subject of discussion was the Long Range Plan just received from LWVUS. The consensus was that our three states were opposed to any move toward weakening the influence and character of Local Leagues. It was hoped that those measures to help and strengthen Local Leagues would be implemented as well as continued importance of education with advocacy and voter service. All seven local leagues from Maine were represented as well as State Board members. Next year's Convention will again be held at the Samoset.

by Joyce Bancroft  
from the Brunswick Spring/Fall Voter

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#### Convention '84 (cont.)

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floors and is the focus point of the Renaissance Center of Detroit.

Guest speakers included Secretary of State Schultz; Lee Iacocca, chair of the Chrysler Corp.; Judy Woodruff, PBS news correspondent; and Paul Conrad, political cartoonist.

I found the special sessions on Membership most challenging and wonder how we can adopt some ideas in Maine. The Maine delegates met many friends of our state. It seemed at every turn we met someone from Maine or who summers here (or wishes they could!)

League Conventions are always exciting, challenging, intense and exhausting but certainly provide a terrific "shot in the arm." It is reassuring as well as exciting to communicate with so many other people from all over our nation who are as concerned and committed to the League and its issues as we are.

by Joyce Bancroft  
Maine VOTER/ Summer 1984 **3**

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## AILEEN SHEA ZAHN

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The Greater Ellsworth Area LWV mourns the death of Aileen Shea Zahn, 82, of Bucksport. She died on May third while visiting her daughter in New Jersey. Easily recognized by her immaculately braided silver-white hair and intense blue eyes, Aileen approached LWV issues from her years of expertise as a social worker and the continuance of her profession at the Bangor Mental Health Institute. A champion of the "Older American", Aileen was known for having read and fully comprehended each word of the lengthy and laborious Social Security Act. Aileen's thoughtful and penetrating questions will be sorely missed at our meetings.

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## Calendar

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State Board Meeting.....Aug. 15.  
(Jim Henderson will speak to Voter Service people on voter registration and notary public qualification.)

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## President's column (cont.)

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Because the League of Women Voters offers so many opportunities, I encourage each of you to share League by getting one new member this year. We could double our enthusiasm for the LWV while sharing the responsibilities. If we are going to grow larger we need every member helping.

This is going to be an exciting year because it is the year for: a state ERA; continued work on the process and location for disposal of low level radioactive waste; studying new legislation on forming agricultural districts; and researching campaign finance issues in Maine. We will publish four issues of the State VOTER, organize Citizens' Day at the Legislature, as well as provide time for members to lobby legislators and testify at the State Capitol. 1984 is also an important election year and we will be publishing information for Maine voters on candidates and issues and registering voters. All of these projects need volunteer time and talent and they offer members an opportunity to learn. Don't miss these opportunities to participate. Contact your local president or the state office to get your name on a project that interests you. There is a job for you no matter how much time you can give. **YOU DESERVE A BIGGER PLACE IN POLITICS!**

by Penny Harris

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## The Maine VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Maine

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