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## The Maine Voter vol. 1, no. 5 (Dec1984)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

*Maine League of Women Voters*

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# THE MAINE VOTER

vol.1 no.5

The League of Women Voters of Maine

DEC.84

## League in Action at State Legislature

### GET INTO ACTION WITH THE LWVME!!

NOW is the time to learn how to be an effective voice in the legislative process. Learn with the League. It is fun, interesting and important to get involved with making public policy. Here are some guidelines:

1. Become familiar with League positions. (Read and keep handy for reference: LWVME Position paper, pub.\$1.00; "Impact On Issues 1984-86; LWVUS pub.#386,\$3.00)

2. Prepare yourself on the likely issues. This year they are: Lowlevel Radioactive Waste Disposal; Farmland Preservation; Comparable Worth/Pay Equity, Reproductive Choice; Campaign Finance; Child Care Services.

3. Read a newspaper with good State House coverage every day. Clip articles of importance.

4. Try to keep track of your own legislators views on a variety of subjects. This will help when you call/write. Local newspapers do this well, even publish voting records sometimes.

5. Get your lists together: telephone numbers of legislators, Leaguers with interests in any of these subjects, town/school officials who might make calls in response to a Time for Action, contributors and business people who care about a particular issue.

6. Psych yourself up: The more you do the more fun it will be. Legislators LIKE to hear from constituents. Call to say "thanks" if you know they are on our side. If you know they are not, call anyway. DON'T BE UNPLEASANT! Friendliness will pay off on most issues; most legislators are undecided about most things.

7. Call/write state office if you have any questions concerning legislative action.

ATTEND PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING  
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LEAGUE ISSUES

**First  
Call**



JANUARY 9, 1985

Plan to attend the briefing session and the Legislators' Reception in Augusta on January 9th. The Briefing Session, 2:00-3:30pm in Rm#107 of the State House Office Bldg., is being done by LWV State Board Directors to familiarize members with the League action issues: campaign finance, women's issues, lowlevel waste disposal, farmlands and an update on the computer program project for teaching issues of nuclear arms control (\$3000 grant received from LWV Ed Fund to develop). This session is to prepare members for the reception.

At the Legislators' Reception, 4:00-5:00pm at the Blaine House, we will be the guests of Governor Brennan to sponsor this event. At this time we will inform legislators and guests on League and League program and introduce State Board Directors and Local League Presidents. Governor Brennan has been invited to speak on the citizen's role in the legislative process. This is important to League program. Come to meet other LWVs from around Maine. Call your LL President or organize a car pool to attend.

Snow date: January 16, 1985

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## President's Column

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Campaign finance \* Comparable worth  
\* Absentee balloting \* Day care \*  
Lowlevel waste disposal \* Arms  
control \* Education finance, etc.  
What are the LWV's positions? Do you  
want the LWV more visible at the  
State House?

Now is the time for you to set the  
direction of the League. It is  
currently program planning time.  
Every local League will be having a  
meeting to discuss the issues the LWV  
will be involved in for the next two  
years. Now is the time for you to say  
what programs you will be willing to  
give your membership, time, and  
money to support. What voice can the  
League be over the next two years  
which will make you want to continue  
to be a member/leader?

Attend your program planning meeting  
-check the schedule list in this  
VOTER. If you can not attend a  
meeting please share your thoughts  
and ideas with the form included in  
this issue. For more information on  
state LWV positions contact your  
local president or state office or any  
state board member.

The LWVs needs the love, care, and  
attention of all its members to grow,  
to make its voice heard and to make  
its mark in setting public policy. Will  
you give a couple of hours to share  
with local League leaders how you  
want the LWV to spend its energy and  
resources from 1985-87.

No matter how long you have been in  
LWV or how much you know about the  
issues this program planning meeting  
is for you. YOU are important to the  
goals of the League. This VOTER will  
give you all you need to know to  
attend your meeting.

Delegates from each local League will  
vote for the 1985-87 state program at  
state convention May 3-5 at the

Samoset Resort in Rockland. Make sure your  
League has a full delegation coming to vote.  
This will be an exciting weekend with  
workshops, interesting speakers, the unveiling  
of the new computer program Persis Hope has  
developed with the \$3000 grant we got from  
LWV ED Fund, a National Board guest and  
much more.

Program planning is the beginning of an  
exciting and important process. Get involved  
and MAKE YOUR MARK IN THE LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS!!

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### STATE BOARD

President: Penny Harris-325 Garland St. Bangor

V.Pres.: Maxine Harrow-R#1, Box 50, E. Holden  
04429

V.Pres.: Alvin Moss-Box 305, Sorrento 04677

Secretary: Ruth Cumings-Prospect  
Harbor 04669

Treasurer: Kathy Meeker-196 Winn Rd.  
Falmouth 04105

VOTER Editor: Joyce Bancroft-80 Hennessey,  
Brunswick 04011

Membership: Marlee Coughlan-Box 279, R#85,  
Raymond 04071

Natural Resources: Carol Fritz-Hunt Club  
Woods, Cape Elizabeth 04107

National Security: Persis Hope-R#2, Box 70,  
Turner 04282

Voters Service: Jane Saxl-37 Pond Street,  
Bangor 04401

Public Relations: Judy Harrison-27 Popul  
Street, Bangor

## Board, Bylaws, Budget

Planning for the League of Women Voters also includes electing a new state board, making bylaw changes and passing the 1985-86 budget.

### BUDGET:

Will you support an increase in the state per-member payment (PMP) from the current \$6 to \$10? At \$6 we are the lowest in the country and at \$10 we would be about in the middle. Would you support a state office in Augusta? The office would give the League visibility, be a resource for all local Leagues, a place to keep our files and also be a citizen information office. It could help to increase out membership and financial support. Much is expected of the LWVs and we find it hard to request much of volunteers and not be able to pay their expenses. We are also hard to find because we are all over the state with no center place. Very few state Leagues are without an office.

### BYLAWS

Would local Leagues like their president (or representative) to have a vote on state board? Submit a bylaw proposal to reflect this. Are there any other changes in the bylaws you would like to see?

### NOMINATIONS

The entire state board needs to be elected. If you would like to nominate someone please send the name and short paragraph on his/her qualifications. The state board is an exciting, interesting and challenging place in the LWV. It deserves your strong support.

\*ATTEND YOUR PLANNING MEETING\*\*

## MAKE YOUR MARK ON POLITICS

Join the League of Women Voters

## SCHEDULE OF LOCAL LEAGUES' STATE

### PRORAM PLANNING MEETINGS

Bangor-Brewer Area: January 16, 1985  
7:00-9:00pm - Bangor Public Libraty

Brunswick Area: January 23, 1985 - 7:30pm  
Teena Patton, 5 Jeff Street, Brunswick

Ellsworth MAL Unit: Third week of January.  
Contact Alvin or Ruth Moss 422-3627 for definite time.

Lewiston-Auburn: January 27, 1985 - 7:00pm  
Trica Buls, 3 Benson Street, Lewiston

Mount Desert Island: January 2, 1985 -  
12:00 noon - Bag lunch - Doris Riley,  
Seawall Rd., Southwest Harbor

Orono-Old Town-Veazie: Meeting time will  
be announce in the local Voter.

Portland Area: January 29, 1985 -  
7:30-930pm - Unionmutual Bldg.

### STATE BOARD PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

February 13, 1985 - State House - Augusta  
9:00am - 3:00pm

\*\*\*If you are a League member you are  
invited to any or all of the meetings  
mentioned above.

"MAKE YOUR MARK IN THE LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS"



### YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please send dues of \$20. to 325 Garland St.,  
Bangor 04401. If you are renewing membership  
send dues before Jan 1 to prevent a break in  
your membership.

"Give a friend a membership in the League"

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

1985-87

If you are unable to attend your local program planning meeting please fill in this form and return to: LWVME, 325 Garland Street, Bangor 04401 no later than February 1, 1985.

**\*\*Please answer the following questions (use back of paper if necessary):**

1. I(would\_\_\_\_) (would not\_\_\_\_) support the PMP going to \$10.
2. I would support a \$\_\_\_\_\_ increase.
3. I would like to see the League of Women Voters of Maine have a state office  
(\_\_\_\_Yes) (\_\_\_\_No)
4. I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
for the state board. (include name,address, and phone)
5. I would like to see more action alerts on state legislative issues  
(\_\_\_yes) (\_\_\_no)
6. I would like to .the League to study \_\_\_\_\_

### Your League's Recommendations for 1985-1987

Current Program Issues	Retain Issue with emphasis on:						
	Priority Action	Monitor Action	Update	Reevaluation and Consensus	Community outreach	Back burner	Drop Issue
Government:							
1. State							
2. Campaign finance *							
3. Country							
Social Policy:							
1. ERA *							
Natural Resources:							
1. Air *							
Water *							
Solid Waste *							
2. Pesticides							
3. Land							
4. Energy *							
low level waste							
5. Farmlands							
Education Finance							

\*National positions are used for state level advocacy. Dropping or changing these positions can only be accomplished through national program planning and national convention.

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## Program Planning LWVME 1985-87

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### SUMMARY OF RECENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The following summaries highlight only a few program activities during the past two years and give suggestions for future possibilities. These are being provided to give you some possible directions during your state program planning sessions. Keep in mind how we use our positions; we have been able to apply positions to take action on referendum issues, legislation, budgets, agencies activities, etc. In what areas are we lacking positions so that we can take the kind of action local League members want us to take? There may be some areas members would like us to study.

### GOVERNMENT:

1. State - This has been a back burner item. But our positions includes action on legislative staffing, length of legislative terms and the size of the house. Refer to LWVME positions papers 1983.
2. Campaign Finance - We had speakers on campaign finance (CF) at state meetings last year and had articles in the VOTER. This year we will be using the national position on CF to examine the procedure of reporting campaign expenditures to the Secretary of State's Office, monitor legislation, and act on our findings. This is still an important area. National has just published a new pub and the national VOTER has articles. Running for office in this state is getting very expensive.
3. County - This has been a back burner program item. Refer to our position papers for more information.

### SOCIAL POLICY:

1. ERA - Equal rights for women lost this year. Do we organize to provide information and build a support base for its return. Do you want to be a member of a coalition called Maine Alliance for Equal Rights (or something similar). Do we raise money for the next time? Do we drop it?
2. Women's Issues - This is not now a part of state program. Do we want to work on other women's issues: Comparable worth and pay equity, protect our right to choose, etc.

### NATURAL RESOURCES:

1. Air - This was a back burner issue.
2. Water - This has been a back burner issue. National is much more active in water now. Do we need to do more about Maine water supply, protection of, etc.
3. Solid Waste - This too is a back burner issue. Read Impact on Issues and our positions papers for possible action.
4. Pesticides - Back burner issue. Position was adopted in 1971. Read position papers.
5. Land - A back burner issue. This position allows action on a comprehensive land use plan for Maine. Refer to position papers.
6. Energy - We have work on lowlevel waste disposal. We studied and came to a consensus on LLW and have continued to work with other state Leagues and National to refine and concur with them. WE have testified at the Siting Commission and monitored all their activities. A state committee made up of League members from around the state continue to work on this program item.
7. Farmlands - This issue was on the back burner last year, but with new leadership this year and activities in the Dept. of Agriculture this issue will see action this year. The emphasis will be to make farming a economical advantage and this will aid in the preservation of farmlands. This will continue to be important for Maine.

### TAXES:

1. Educational Finance - This has been a back burner program item. Refer to positions papers for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*TAKE THIS VOTER WITH YOU TO YOUR PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING\*\*\*\*\*



## STATE PROGRAM PLANNING

### GOVERNMENT

1. Campaign Finance: Cost of running for state office is going up. Are the procedures for reporting campaign expenditures efficient and easy to understand? How much of a role do PACs (Political Action Committees) play in Maine? Is there a role for LWV in making financing election campaigns in Maine to be more equitable, effective, and open?

2. Election Process: Absentee Balloting—Do you know if your absentee ballot is questioned your vote could become public? Do you know wardens at some polling places at primary election turned away registered voters because they weren't registered in a party? These voters were not allowed to vote on referendum questions. Is there a need for the LWVs to be involved here?

### NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Energy: Lowlevel waste disposal discussions, studies, and meetings work toward solving this need to make the disposal efficient, cost effective and create the safest environment for future generations. Next fall voters could have a referendum vote on rather the citizens should vote to approve or disapprove any disposal site. Will a public vote guarantee the criteria listed above will be met?? What role can the LWV play?

2. Farmlands: How do we best preserve Maine farmlands? Can farming be economically viable? Can the LWV be active in educating citizens on this issue?

3. Water: How clean is the water in Maine? Given Maine has the most beautiful rivers, lakes, marshes, and coastline what is the state in planning for Maine water resource development? Is their effective management of Maine water resources?

### SOCIAL POLICY

1. ERA: Do we want to join a coalition with other organizations to form a Maine Alliance for Equal Rights? The purpose would be to educate, update, research, fundraise to build a strong base of support for equal rights to get a federal ERA ratified here.

2. Women's Issues: The LWVME is a member with other organizations of a women's Legislative Coalition. The agenda is an equal rights agenda for economic equality, equality in the workplace and the home. Support includes legislation on child care, displaced homemakers' project, comparable worth, and funding for Family Crisis Services. We will vigorously oppose any attempts to erode a woman's "right to choose." How can the LWV be more effective in meeting needs necessary for providing equality for women? In Maine: are day care needs being met? Do we need more study on comparable worth? Are there programs for young mothers to get needed training to complete in the job market? How can the LWV organize to provide equal opportunities for women. (Read: LWVUS Pub # 359, \$.60: Send to LWVUS, 1730 M St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036)

## **MAKE YOUR MARK ON U.S. TAX POLICY**

It's easy to participate in the LWVUS fiscal policy study. Just read your Winter 1985 *National VOTER* and be sure to make your mark by sending the tear-off form to the national League office. Deadline for receipt of responses is February 15, 1985. Remember, the success of this national study depends on you!



The League of Women Voters

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

Made any New Year's Resolutions yet? Everyone's offering suggestions this time of year so let me join the pack. Here are some considerations for your list- and what ever you put on that list; let's hope you can stick with it!

1. Resolve to do something for your health: Eat better, exercise, manage stress better, and quit smoking!

2. Resolve to do something for your mind: Seek out new and interesting people, read for pleasure, organize your life (budget time, activities, etc.) and turn off the tube more often!

3. Resolve to do something for the League: Since you belong, make it count. Start by attending the Legislators reception Jan. 9. Pick an issue that appeals to you and follow it through. Learn more about it, ask your Legislator what she/he thinks, clip the news items, ask questions, participate in discussions on the topic expanding your viewpoint and knowledge. Attend your local planning meetings and/or voice your interest to local League board and officers. There is a place for you in League whether you have a little time or a little time (who has a lot these days!).

A healthy, productive New Year  
to all. Jo







# Jolly Holidays!

MARTHA WOLFE, past editor of this publication gave birth to a baby boy, Calvin William Shabb in Sept. The family is moving to Virginia in Jan. where husband Bill will be practising anesthesiology at the Winchester Hospital. Martha expects to be active in the League there and enjoy life on the farm they've purchased. We will miss her. Keep in touch- new address is:

Martha Wolfe  
Siler Rt. Box 508  
Winchester, VA 22601

## The Maine VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Maine

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