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## The Maine Voter vol. XIX, no. 5 (Mar 1972)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

*Maine League of Women Voters*

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# The MAINE VOTER

Published by The League of Women Voters of Maine

VOL. XIX

MARCH, 1972

Number 5

## Governor Proclaims April 3 - 8 LWV Week In Maine

### It Happened At Special Session

Thirty-eight would-be League Lobbyists descended on Augusta February 3rd to learn their way around the State House, review the process of "How a Bill Becomes a Law", brush up on League Legislative Program, observe the Legislature in action, and to have a go at lobbying first-hand. Consensus was, after a couple of hours in the corridors and hearing rooms, "talking with Legislators really isn't so difficult".

Of the five bills selected for League action during the Special Session, welfare funding was the particular focus of Lobby Day. Pending national welfare reform, the League has been urging that there be no reduction in the present level of payments. The revised appropriations bill cut \$200,000 from funds requested for the remainder of this fiscal year and an additional \$200,00 from next year's budget request. Funds appropriated will cover present grant levels for the current caseload of about 17,500 families. However, if case loads increase as anticipated to 20,000 families or more, there will be a problem.

In the environmental field, approval of Air Quality Standards breezed through without much difficulty. The League urged further study of the controversial Maine Industrial Port Authority bill, which was withdrawn toward the close of the session at the request of its sponsor.

Bills to abolish the Executive Council and to change the method of reapportioning the House failed for lack of the 2/3 vote required for a Constitutional amendment. There was considerable interest in the substitution of an eleven-member Legislative Council for the Executive Council. A bi-partisan Council composed of members responsible to an electorate would have been an improvement over the present Executive Council elected by the majority party of the Legislature.

The bill to apportion the House into single-member districts was defeated along party lines. Democrats considered this a Republican plot to reduce their power in the cities, which tend to elect Democrats running at-large. The League is not united on single-member districts, but this bill was a vehicle for repealing the present unnecessarily complicated constitutional provisions for House apportionment. Recent court decisions implementing the one-man one-vote principle are demanding districts of equal population with variances or not more than 1 or 2%. There is a growing awareness that it will be impossible to come up with numerically equal districts under the present constitutional method of apportionment. Before adjournment the Legislature tossed the problem to a newly established Commission to Study House Reapportionment.

### Toward A Better Government

Have **YOU** been requested to solicit businesses during your local finance drive? Do you feel unprepared and uncomfortable??? Relax!!! The most important single thing to remember is that we are not asking for donations; **we are selling a service**. Many, many businessmen throughout Maine give the League of Women Voters financial support because they know its gains and its accomplishments; for these contributors the LWV performs a service that they themselves may not have time to do. If you personally believe in the goals, the accomplishments, and the potential of the League of Women Voters then you are a candidate for participation in the finance drive. Add a dash of knowledge about the programs and projects undertaken by your local League this year (your local finance chairman will give you this information) and you are ready! Solicitors' kit in hand **YOU** are now prepared to make friends for the League.

Gov. Curtis will proclaim April 3-8 as League of Women Voters Week in Maine. We are pleased with this recognition of our services from our state government. As you know, your state League performs services that help citizens in your local areas. Our major focus this year, as directed by you at State Convention, was a massive effort to retain the state income tax. To this end 245 members throughout the state contributed over 1,400 hours of time and traveled over 5,000 miles. Thousands of Maine citizens were reached through our booth at nine state fairs, twelve television and radio appearances, forty-five speeches and the distribution of 125,000 fliers.

In addition, you might want to mention to your contributors that your State Board members have testified at numerous legislative hearings pursuant to League positions; completed a survey of Legislative staffing in Maine; prepared material for a study of land use in Maine; held a training session to teach LWV members effective lobbying; provided Voters Service activities such as advising the ETV program "How A Bill Becomes A Law In Maine," updating VS pamphlets, and encouraging the newly enfranchised youth to exercise their voting rights; and provided Voters Service activities aimed at encouraging total citizen participation in all phases of our governmental processes.

#### Maine Public Broadcasting Series "ALL ABOUT WELFARE"

Six 30-minute documentaries on Tuesdays beginning  
March 21 at 8:00 p.m.

Followed by 2 original 90-minute dramas and  
"Welfare in Maine"

# PROPOSED STATE BUDGET FOR 1972-73 EXPENDITURES

<b>General Administration:</b>	
President's expenses .....	\$ 75.00
Operating costs:	
Secretary .....	350.00
Supplies, printing .....	250.00
Equipment repair and replacement .....	50.00
Postage .....	150.00
Telephone .....	400.00
Audit .....	25.00
Board meetings .....	300.00
Public Relations .....	20.00
Finance .....	35.00
Budget and nominating committees .....	25.00
<b>Delegates, travel, affiliations:</b>	
State Convention .....	200.00
National Council .....	300.00
Women's Legislative Council .....	10.00
Delegates to Regional Meetings .....	25.00
Natural Resources Council .....	15.00
Local Presidents' Council .....	20.00
<b>Services to Local Leagues:</b>	
Workshops .....	100.00
Formation of Provisional Leagues, and MAL Units .....	50.00
Existing Leagues, and MAL Units .....	150.00
Scattered MALS .....	30.00
<b>Program and Activities:</b>	
Publications:	
VOTER .....	650.00
National material for Board .....	95.00
State-National Material for promotion .....	50.00
State-National material for MALS .....	150.00
Program:	
State Program Committees:	
Environmental Resources .....	25.00
Taxes .....	65.00
State Government .....	15.00
National Program Committees:	
Congress .....	5.00
Representative Gov. and Voting Rights .....	00.00
Human Resources .....	25.00
Environmental Quality .....	5.00
FEP .....	5.00
Legislative Action .....	100.00
Legislative Lunch .....	50.00
<b>Services to Maine:</b>	
Voters Service:	
Publications .....	125.00
Committee work .....	25.00
Voters Manuals .....	739.00
<b>National Pledge .....</b>	<b>1,900.00</b>
	<b>\$6,609.00</b>

## INCOME

### Local League support:

Bangor .....	\$ 550.00
Brunswick .....	675.00
Houlton (provisional) .....	60.00
Lewiston-Auburn .....	500.00
M.D.I. ....	400.00
Orono .....	700.00
Portland .....	1,500.00
So. Portland .....	450.00
<b>Members-at-Large Dues .....</b>	<b>375.00</b>
<b>State Finance Drive .....</b>	<b>300.00</b>
<b>Interest on Savings .....</b>	<b>24.00</b>
<b>Election Night Reporting .....</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>State Duplicate Presidents' Mailing .....</b>	<b>75.00</b>
	<b>\$6,609.00</b>

Items contained in the budget which might profit from explanation: The **telephone** item now covers only long distance phone calls, not phone rental for a LWV of Maine listing. This was dropped because Portland already has a LWV listing and gets the League calls; because the League phone would change with the president's location; and because it is listed in only one community, so no statewide coverage. **Legislative action** is up \$100 because this will be a regular session.

A disconcerting feature of our neatly balanced budget proposal is that Election Night Reporting is the device which did the trick. All concerned Leaguers should be thinking about where that \$1,000 will come from next year.

The State Budget Committee was composed of: Emily Farley, Abby Grant, Norma Hyde, Jan Krofta, Nancy Masterton, Gail Meier, Sue Walker, and Silver Leamon, chairman, with Bangor, Lewiston-Auburn, M.D.I., Orono, Portland and South Portland Leagues represented.

## LEAGUER APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR

Sheila Seymour, former Chairman of the Environmental Committee of the LWV of Maine has been appointed by the Governor to the Citizens' Task Force on Energy, Heavy Industry and the Maine Coast.

### FOR ALL LEAGUERS INTERESTED IN WELFARE Welfare Workshops for YOU

If you want to know more about the problem of Welfare . . .

If you want to be part of a stronger League action effort . . .

#### SOUTHERN MAINE:

Thursday, April 6  
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
St. Joseph's Parish Center  
699 Stevens Avenue, Portland

#### NORTHERN MAINE:

Thursday, April 13  
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Mrs. Charles McEvoy's house  
51 Highland Street, Bangor

### THE MAINE VOTER

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Editor: Anne Perkins

President: Nancy N. Masterton, 36 Delano Park, Cape Elizabeth 04107

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