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The Maine Voter vol. XVI, no. 5 (March 1969)

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

VOLUME XVI

MARCH, 1969

Number 5

50th ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN SPONSORS NAMED

The following persons having accepted invitation to serve as sponsors of the League 50th Anniversary Campaign in Maine:

- Kenneth M. Curtis
Governor of Maine
- Percival P. Baxter
Former Governor of Maine
- Frank M. Coffin
Judge, U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals
- Burton M. Cross
Former Governor of Maine
- Edward T. Gignoux
Judge, Federal District Court of Maine
- Edward S. Godfrey
Dean, University of Maine Law School
- William D. Hathaway
Representative, U. S. Congress
- Curtis M. Hutchins
Civic leader and industrialist
- Peter N. Kyros
Representative, U. S. Congress
- Eugene A. Mawhinney
Prof. of Political Science, University of Maine
- Edmund S. Muskie
United States Senator
- Frederick G. Payne
Former Governor of Maine and former U. S. Senator
- John H. Reed
Member, National Transportation Safety Board,
Former Governor of Maine
- Jean Sampson
Vice-chairman, Board of Trustees, University of Maine
Director, Catalyst
- Margaret Chase Smith
United States Senator
- James A. Storer
Dean of faculty, Bowdoin College
- Frederick W. Whittaker
President, Bangor Theological Seminary,
Former State Senator

Early reports indicate that League members in Maine have responded generously to the membership phase of the campaign. The goal is still 100% participation, whether the gift be large or small.

The public phase of the drive was launched officially on March 19th, League Day at the Legislature, at a tea at the Governor's Mansion honoring women who voted in 1920, past

SECOND CALL TO CONVENTION

May 13-14

Holiday Inn, Portland

Mrs. Bertrand Cobb, Chairman

Convention consists of delegates, local League Presidents and members of State Board.

Each League is entitled to one delegate for the first 15 members and an additional delegate for each additional 5 members.

Start planning now for a full slate of delegates from your League!

PROPOSED STATE PROGRAM 1969-1971

After consideration of the proposals submitted by local Leagues, your state Board is recommending the following program:

1. **Evaluation of structure and functions of state government with continued study and support of measures to improve the Maine Constitution.**

Local Leagues discouraged both expansion of our constitution studies and concentration in any particular area of state government study. The Board recommends retention of the present wording of the item, however, for the following reasons:

- a) to allow for continued action on Constitution support positions.
- b) to leave open the possibility for further study of the Constitution or State Government as directed by Council in 1970.
- c) to allow completion of the Know Your State Survey, with a view towards publication in the next two years.

2. **Study and support of state policies and procedures which promote conservation of environmental resources with emphasis on land use.**

We have had two years of sampling different parts of our environmental resource program. Your state Board feels that now is the time to narrow the study. Land use can cover

(Continued on page 3)

state League presidents, and our sponsors. Mrs. Kenneth M. Curtis, an honorary League member, was hostess. All Legislators and League members were invited to attend.

A special guest was Mrs. David O. Ives of Lincoln, Mass., National League Chairman for State 50th Anniversary Celebrations and Campaigns.

Proposed State Budget For 1969-70

EXPENDITURES

General Administration	
President's Expenses	\$ 100
Operating Costs	
Secretarial	350
Supplies, printing, repairs	250
Postage	150
Telephone	200
Audit	35
Board Expenses	
Meetings	300
Administration Committees	
Public Relations	50
Budget and Nominating	50
Total for General Administration	\$1,485
Delegates, Travel, Affiliations	
State Convention (Portland, 1969)	150
National Convention (Washington, 1970)	675
National conferences and regional meetings	50
Women's Legislative Council	25
Total for Delegates, Travel, Affiliations	\$ 900
Services to Local Leagues	
Organization—new Leagues	100
Membership—old Leagues	140
Workshops (Board travel)	50
Finance Committee (including free flyers)	60
Total for Services to Local Leagues	\$ 350
Program and Activities, Community Services	
Publications	
VOTER—including postage	600
National material for board—duplicate mail	150
National material for members-at-large	65
National material for promotion (teachers, libraries, etc.)	25
State publications net (printing vs. sales)	0
Program	
State Committees	75
National Committees	25
Legislative Action	50
Community Services	
Voters Service	200
Total for Program, Activities, Community Services	\$1,190
National Pledge for Services	2,000
Capital Expenditures	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$5,925
INCOME	
Members-at-large	\$ 75
Local League Support	4,905
Augusta	\$ 100
Bangor	420
Brunswick	556
Kittery-York	315
Lewiston	472

THOUGHTS ON THE BUDGET

Our drive for contributions from members for the 50th Anniversary Campaign Fund is just ending. As part of this drive, we have been asked to pause and think about the League of Women Voters, to ask ourselves how each of us, our community, and our state have benefited from the work of our Leagues. We have reflected and most of us have contributed sums both large and small, all of which proves that we intend to carry the League forward with new purpose and greater means so that we can increase our effectiveness.

The state budget committee has also paused and done some thinking about the money the state Board needs to do its job during the next League year. On reflecting, we know what the League means to Maine and, further, we know that there is a direct ratio between effectiveness and dollars. Our job was to search for the dollars and allocate them wisely.

To put it frankly, this proposed budget is a bare subsistence one which will allow us to do the minimum job. This year's proposed budget is \$120 less than last year's and in the interest of conserving our resources, perhaps this is good. But our intention was not to save money, rather to spend it carefully in the interest of all local Leagues.

The money allocated to the several categories of expenditures is about the same as last year, with some rearrangements. Next year is not an election or legislative year but our program and voters service efforts should be just as great as this year's. An off-legislative year permits us to strengthen our program studies and provides us time for workshops to sharpen our League abilities. Our dollars must work hard for us; it was our intention to provide Board members the amounts they need to continue their dedicated work. The more our budget can provide for basic tools, the better use we can make of the talent at our disposal.

Under our Bylaws, responsibility for financing the work of the League at all levels is assumed by local Leagues. The pledge support proposed for the local Leagues was determined after much consideration of the health of each League, the membership, and the projected income as its share of the 50th Anniversary Drive. (Each League is guaranteed an amount equal to the best of its finance drives during the past three years plus a bonus of 25%).

We have asked Maine's Leagues to increase their pledges by only five percent over last year. This seemed the fairest formula for getting the extra dollars needed by the State Board. We did not want to ask any League to use its 50th Anniversary bonus for normal operating expenses nor did we feel the state Board should use its share to balance the budget. We felt that this "windfall" should be used for special projects in the Leagues. Yet, here we are with the proposed budget, asking each League to give a little more, just as we are asking the state Board to dip into its 50th funds to help us balance the budget.

(Continued on page 3)

Mount Desert	315
Orono	762
Portland	1,260
Rockland	210
So. Portland	395
Contributions	100
Interest on Savings	50
From Reserves (unexpended balance)	695
From state League's 50th Anniversary Funds	200
TOTAL	\$5,925

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

A task force appointed by the state President and composed of five members of the state Board has been reviewing policies and procedures of the state Board. A three page questionnaire soliciting suggestions and evaluations was sent to local League Presidents and state Board members. Based on the preliminary findings of the task force, the state Board is recommending two changes in Bylaws for consideration and action at Convention:

Article V, Section 5 Regular Meetings

Presently reads: There shall be at least **eight** regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. (The rest of the section to remain as is.)

Proposed change: There shall be at least **four** regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. (The rest of the section to remain as is.)

Considerable interest has been shown in experimenting with the format of state Board meetings. Many state Leagues are enthusiastic about the advantages of holding two day meetings, giving the Board more time for careful policy decisions and allowing for committee meetings, both within the Board and involving local League members. While not committing future Boards to a specific procedure, this proposed change in the **minimum** number of meetings required would allow a flexibility not now possible.

Article IX Council Section 2. Composition

Presently reads: The Council shall be composed of the presidents of the local Leagues or an alternate in the event the president is unable to attend, **one** delegate chosen by each local League, and the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Maine.

Proposed change: The Council shall be composed of the presidents of the local Leagues or an alternate in the event the president is unable to attend, **two** delegates chosen by the local League, and the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Maine.

The purpose of state Council is to provide an opportunity for local Leagues to give guidance to the state Board on Program, methods of work, and budget. When there are but nine or ten Leagues as at present, representation could be about equally divided between local League representatives and state Board members. In order to insure that the voice of the local Leagues is heard, the state Board recommends that the number of delegates be increased.

THOUGHTS ON THE BUDGET

(Continued from page 2)

As each of you review this proposal, please remember that rising costs affect the League budget just as they do your home budget. Help us with your dollars and your suggestions.

State Budget Committee:

Mrs. James M. Clark, Chairman
 Mrs. Louis Farley, Portland
 Mrs. Clinton Goudy, South Portland
 Mrs. Ivan McDaniel, Orono
 Mrs. Weldon Russell, Lewiston
 Mrs. William M. Shook, Jr., Bangor
 Mrs. David Sirabella, Augusta
 Mrs. John P. Thornton, Jr., Portland
 Mrs. Eugene Wakely, Brunswick
 Mrs. Stanley L. Freeman, Jr. (ex officio)

NOMINEES FOR STATE LEAGUE OFFICE 1969-71

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Lowell W. Zabel, Orono League

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Robert R. Masterton, Portland Area League

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. George Birkett, Brunswick League

SECRETARY

Mrs. Roger W. Axford, Bangor League

TREASURER

Mrs. E. F. Snyder, Orono League

DIRECTORS

Mrs. Charles W. Allen, Portland Area League

Mrs. Stanley L. Freeman, Jr., Orono League

Mrs. Angelo A. Lacognata, Portland Area League

Mrs. Eugene Wakely, Brunswick League

Mrs. Frederick W. Whittaker, Bangor League

Mrs. Richard M. Woolford, Bangor League

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 1971

Mrs. Paul Hazelton, Chairman, Brunswick League

Mrs. Dana Childs, Portland Area League

Mrs. John J. Nolde, Orono League

VOTERS MANUAL SUPPLY EXHAUSTED

The Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Maine reports that twenty-three thousand copies of the VOTERS MANUAL have been distributed since its publication in September! The League has been asked to prepare a new edition for publication next fall, incorporating changes made by the 104th Legislature. Meanwhile, League members, treasure and share your copies of the green and white edition.

The Extension Service reports that this has been the most popular item on their list of publications for free distribution. It has been made available to all the secondary schools in the state, both public and private, and has been amazingly popular with town clerks and town officials. The demand for the VOTERS MANUAL has exceeded even the League's wildest dreams. Publishing it on our own since 1945, we had built up a following of steady customers, but were never able to sell more than about 3,000 copies per year.

PROPOSED STATE PROGRAM

(Continued from page 1)

many areas where state control is needed, such as state planning and zoning, mining and forestry, and pollution control. Since Maine is on the edge of undergoing many developmental changes, we feel that the League will be more effective with a thorough understanding of land uses so that we can reconcile economic growth with preservation of our natural resources.

3. Support of the principle of a state income tax, both personal and corporate.

Assuming that no enactment of an income tax takes place this session, the above wording of this item would allow for further study or action. A logical pursuit might be a critique of the personal income tax bill based on the percentage of the federal tax plus investigation of various formulae for imposing the tax on corporate incomes.

* * * *

Final decision on the program for the next two years will be made by the delegates to Convention. The state Board may make changes in the proposed program on the basis of recommendations submitted by local League Boards by April 22nd. Now is the time to let your voice be heard.

A Recipe From The League's Cookbook . . . For A NEW, IMPROVED Maine House!

START WITH. . .

reapportionment of the House in 1971, based on equal populations determined by Federal Census figures.

MEASURE OUT. . .

three House districts to each Senatorial district.

REDUCE. . .

the size of the House to 96 members (VOTE YES ON L.D. 464).

ADD. . .

higher pay for legislators (VOTE YES ON L.D. 73), more research and clerical staff, more office space.

SERVE PROUDLY TO THE ELECTORATE!

Produces quality rather than quantity, makes 96 good lawmakers, each

- more visible to the electorate
- less parochial in interests
- more responsible to the state as a whole
- better equipped to perform as a legislator
- proud of the office of legislator.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON L.D.s 464 and 73!

ACTION ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The League's recipe for an improved Maine House was distributed to all Legislators on March 4th. In spite of the unanimous "Ought to Pass" report from the State Government Committee, L.D. 464, A Bill to Reduce the Size of the House from 151 to 96, lost in the House on March 5th, 86-53. As for the Senate, L.D.47, Four Year Terms for Senators, was killed in the House on January 21st, 92-34. Action is pending on two additional bills supported by the League, L.D. 90, To Abolish the Executive Council and L.D. 15, Annual Sessions.

Our State Government Chairman, Mrs. Robert R. Masterton, gives an enthusiastic report of her experiences testifying for the League before the State Government Committee.

"Dear to League hearts is the idea—the hope?—that bustling State House corridors and smoke-filled hearing rooms echo the same kind of high-minded discussion and debate on governmental issues that we hear in our own League units. The State Government Committee, which is oriented more towards the philosophy and structure of state government than programs and their budgetary problems, hears arguments which range from highly theoretical to down-right practical on proposed changes in state government—constitutional and statutory. The atmosphere at hearings is always amiable, sometimes jovial, always thoughtful, sometimes very lively indeed."

The "Liberty Amendment" Rises Again

Watch for signs of activity on the Liberty Amendment! For a number of years, the Liberty Amendment Committee has been attempting to persuade state legislatures to pass resolutions asking Congress to call a convention to amend the Constitution. Leagues have been opposing this movement wherever it has appeared under the long-standing position in opposition to constitutional restrictions on tax rates, and to constitutional changes that would limit the existing powers of the President and Congress over foreign relations. The text of the resolution, as it has been passed in 7 states and introduced in many others, follows:

Section 1. The Government of the United States shall not engage in any business, professional, commercial, financial or industrial enterprise except as specified in the Constitution.

Section 2. The constitution or laws of any state, or the laws of the United States shall not be subject to the terms of any foreign or domestic agreement which would abrogate this amendment.

Section 3. The activities of the United States Government which violate the intent and purpose of this amendment shall, within a period of three years from the date of the ratification of this amendment, be liquidated and the properties and facilities affected shall be sold.

Section 4. Three years after the ratification of this amendment the sixteenth article of amendments to the Constitution of the United States shall stand repealed and thereafter Congress shall not levy taxes on personal incomes, estates and/or gifts.

The proponents figure that if the U. S. Government is prohibited from operating business-type activities, the expenses of government would be reduced to the point where an income tax would be unnecessary. Among the 700 corporate activities which would be prohibited are the Social Security Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Parcel Post, National Park Service, Federal Housing Authority, School Lunch Program, Federal Reserve Bank, and the World Bank.

Nelson A. Pryor of Bridgewater is Chairman of the Liberty Amendment Committee of Maine. He was also chairman in 1964 when local Leagues reported a flurry of newspaper articles, letters, and news items supporting the proposal.

State Income Tax Has TWO Hearings

The income tax is attracting more than usual attention this year, being, as it is, the key to the Governor's proposed program. In spite of brief advance notice, an overflow crowd turned up for the hearing on March 4th, necessitating a last minute move to the largest hearing room in the State Office Building. Twelve League members were present.

The first income tax bill on the list was L.D. 657, the Governor's bill introduced by Rep. Levesque, proposing a tax of 25% of the personal federal obligation, and a 5% tax on corporate income. Testimony tended to be general, in favor of the principle of an income tax, and proponents held the floor for nearly three hours. The audience had dwindled considerably by the time a handful of opponents had a chance to speak. Time ran out and L.D. 803, the League's graduated tax bill introduced by Rep. Cotrell, had to be rescheduled for hearing March 18th. Mrs. George Birkett, state Treasurer and former Tax Chairman, spoke for the League on both bills.

THE MAINE VOTER

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