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The Maine Voter vol. XVII, no. 2 (Oct 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

*State file - 1000
flyers to each member
& distributed another
5500 to local Leagues*

VOLUME XVII

OCTOBER, 1969

Number 2

VOTE YES ON QUESTION NUMBER 8

The Referendum to "Authorize General Fund Bond Issue in Amount of Fifty Million Dollars and to Appropriate Moneys for the Planning, Construction and Equipment of Pollution Abatement Facilities."

WE SUPPORTED THIS IN THE LEGISLATURE.
GET BEHIND IT NOW!!!

WATER POLLUTION CONSENSUS

So you'd like to do something about it? Your chances are coming!

First, attend your local unit meetings on WATER as we prepare for CONSENSUS. It is anticipated that Governor Curtis will present to the Special Session of the Legislature in January a package dealing specifically with the improvement of our environment. Your participation in the League process of arriving at a broader POSITION on water legislation at the state level will make more effective the ACTION which the LWV of Maine may take. The deadline for consensus is December 10.

Secondly, support the referendum question number 8 for a \$50 million bond issue for planning, construction and equipment of pollution abatement facilities. The Maine Municipal Association's Ad Hoc Committee on Pollution Abatement, also campaigning for the passage of this item, has asked for League endorsement and help. This we have done by lending our name and a \$25 contribution toward the publication of flyers explaining and urging the support of this bond issue. YOU can help in the distribution of the flyers. Remember that all those people against the state income tax and increased state spending will turn out in force to vote down ALL the referendum questions. Your ACTION is needed. Clean water—it's up to you.

Membership - Every Member Responsibility

As a League member you can do much to fulfill the League purpose of promoting citizen participation in government by encouraging more women to join the League of Women Voters. The women who join and become involved in the League will not only develop their own awareness as citizens, but they will, in turn, reach out to others in the community as they participate in League study and action.

The mathematical potential of the idea of every member assuming responsibility for increasing League membership is intriguing. If each of Maine's 684 members brought one woman into the League this year by spring the Maine League would number 1368! Fantastic figure! And to reach it, all YOU have to set as YOUR GOAL is ONE new member for the League.

Differences Between Maine Income Tax Law And League Bill

The law as enacted is patterned on the model bill recommended by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations but closely parallels the League bill in its provisions. Federal definitions are used and adjusted gross income is the same as the federal except when incompatible with laws governing a state's taxing authority. Both bills exempt the interest from municipal and state bonds issued within Maine but tax those from other states. Capital gains are treated the same and withholding of wages is an integral feature of both.

Where the bills differ is in the imposition of the tax at a lower level in the Maine law. One percent is levied on all taxable income below \$5,000. This broadening of the base is offset by the increased personal exemption of \$1,000 for each family member. The family of four with a net taxable income of \$2,000 (after \$4,000 in personal exemptions and other deductions) would pay 1% on this amount—or \$20. The League bill had a cut-off level at \$2,000 of taxable income which would exempt this family from any tax. But as incomes increase, the tax is considerably less than under the League-rate formula. Although the progression of rates is the same for each income bracket, the higher exemptions reduce the tax burden.

It should be remembered that the rate structure the League used was not to be taken as perfect. In presenting the bill, we always mentioned that it could be modified. We used the cut-off level as a means of reversing the regressiveness of the sales tax for the lower income groups but some economists feel that such narrowing of the base is not justified and puts too high a burden on the middle incomes.

The new law is an excellent document and we have no fault to find with the rates, for it is substantially an equitable tax.

WHAT'S NEXT

No sooner did the income tax go into effect than we heard rumblings for repeal. Now a concerted effort is being made throughout the state to obtain 32,000 signatures on a petition to put the matter before the 105th Legislature and to hold a referendum on its decision. No doubt enough signers will be found as there is much misunderstanding on the need for the revenue and the merits of the income tax to produce it. So it seems almost certain that the income tax issue will come before the people in 1971, whether the legislators vote to keep the law as is, to amend it or to do away with it.

This is a serious turn of events as it is an immutable law of human nature that a negative position has the greater appeal and opponents speak with a louder voice. What seemed like victory is now a new call to battle. The Maine League must start all over again to inform the electorate on the inevitability of higher state taxes and the reasons the income tax spreads the burden in the fairest manner. Does "equitable taxation" have a vote-getting ring? How about a new rallying cry?

from the
President's Desk

Dear Maine Leaguers:

Here I sit at my trusty electric portable, thinking of all the League activities that I want to share with you. Much has been happening, much is going to happen.

As most of you know, we have a state office for the first time in the Maine League's history. It is working out very well and more and more people are using it all the time. The location is 2 Mill Street, Orono, and anytime that you are in the area, do drop in for a visit. We won't have a cake but, since a local merchant gave us a good big coffeemaker, we could have coffee.

Your state Board has been doing some other experimenting also. Just recently we had a two-day Board meeting, rather than the usual one-day conclave, and this was judged successful. Another two-day session will be held in January. A second experiment has been the meeting of the state Board with local League Boards. So far the state Board has met with the Orono and Bangor Boards and is planning on meeting with others. We feel much can be gained from these meetings.

In addition to carrying briefcases this fall, many of us have been toting suitcases. Mrs. Stanley Freeman and Mrs. John O'Toole, Portland Area League president, attended a regional League Structure and Procedures Workshop in Nyack, New York, during August. Soon Mrs. Anthony Lacognata and Mrs. Phillip Lovejoy, as well as two representatives from each local League, will be journeying to Manchester, New Hampshire, for another regional workshop. This one is entitled "Action—Making Things Happen." On October 15 and 16 Mrs. Wolcott Dunham and I will attend the Wing-spread Conference on Foreign Policy in Racine, Wisconsin. All of us will be willing to share what we have learned while traveling if you, in turn, will travel and share your ideas with us at a state-wide workshop that is to be held November 1. The Lewiston League will be our hostess.

And now I must pack suitcases for a trip that my husband and I are taking. The League briefcase is being left at home. This, however, does not mean that I won't be thinking of you and hoping to see you at the November workshop.

Willabelle W. Zabel

GOOD BEDSIDE READING

1. Facts and Issues:
"The Electoral College—What Choices for Change"
2. National Voter, September 1968, pp. 1, 4.
"Who Chooses the President? Do You?"
3. National Voter, October 1968, p. 2.
"No Electoral Vote Majority—a Contingent Election?"
4. National Voter, January-February 1969, p. 8.
5. Maine Voter, April 1969.
"Electoral College Spotlight on Maine"

IF YOU'RE A REAL INSOMNIAC TRY

"Who Should Elect the President?"

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

On August 21 in Nyack, N. Y., more than 600 League members representing the Northeast met to discuss how the effectiveness of the League of Women Voters could be improved through changes in its structure and procedures. This was one of six conferences being held in various parts of the country. Mrs. John J. O'Toole, president of the Portland Area League, and Mrs. Stanley L. Freeman, Jr., of Orono, state Chairman for Established Leagues, represented the Maine League in Nyack.

The Conference proved to be a miniature population explosion. When originally planned it was expected to draw between 200-300 delegates. Close to 700 pre-registered, indicating the interest in change that exists among League members.

It isn't easy for everyone in a group this size to have his say between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., but many constructive ideas were expressed and elaborated upon. Some of the new and more challenging ones were:

1. Perhaps the local League is an anachronism. We should concentrate on the establishment of regional Leagues with each regional organization revolving around a central city.
2. Some way should be found to combine the national, state, and local program-planning process so that members could have an overview of total program.
3. League Principles should be reviewed and perhaps reworded so they can be used in some way in the League action process. We should seek out any built-in consensus based on principles before we delve more deeply in some program items.
4. A national Research and Development Committee might be created to help us plan five or ten years ahead on program toward emerging areas of concern.
5. Perhaps regional meetings (pre-program-planning conferences) should be held in the summer before the first round of program planning to exchange ideas and get Leagues stimulated.
6. There might be merit in establishing a Junior League of Women Voters for ages 16-21 giving that age group associate membership in the League of Women Voters of the U. S. and representation on the local Board. However, the Junior Leagues should have their own separate boards and separate agendas chosen by their members.
7. We should seriously consider including men as full-fledged members of the League. This might require a name and attitude change, but it would be in keeping with the concept of all citizens participating as equals.
8. TV and radio should be used more effectively on all levels. The possibility of a national TV and radio program presenting background and in-depth information to coordinate study on a national item should be explored.

There was also a discussion of the relationship of the Education Fund to the League. Since \$6 million of tax-deductible money is being raised for the Funds by the Fiftieth Anniversary Drive, we must learn to use the money of the Funds at all levels of the League. To do this League members should

(Continued on page 3)

HOW ARE WE DOING?*

League	No. of Members	No. Contributing	% Contributing	Ave. Size of Gift	Total Members Contribution	Ave. Gift Per Member	Total 50th Anniv.	68 Finance Drive
Augusta	48	21	44%	\$24	\$ 509	\$11	\$ 514	—
Bangor	53	41	77%	20	814	15	1,396	\$ 895
Brunswick	93	75	86%	27	2,050	22	2,549	671
Kittery-York	40	6	15%	27	160	4	160	612
Lewiston	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	731
Mt. Desert	44	34	77%	11	364	8	364	457
Orono	74	62	84%	24	1,457	19	1,915	771
Portland	190	123	65%	49	6,055	32	7,723	1,544
Rockland	28	32	114%	10	314	11	381	273
South Portland	38	43	113%	10	383	9	821	669
Members-at-large	15	2	—	—	450	—	450	—
Maine State LWV	684	412	60%	29	11,993	17	15,172	—

*As of June 30, 1969, quarterly report from National. This table lists each league's totals through the 2nd quarter. Since there have been errors in reporting gifts and recording results in national campaign headquarters, don't be alarmed if you find inaccuracies.

Now that the legislature has done our thing, the only barrier between the League of Women Voters of Maine and cosmic greatness is for us to do our part to assure that the eleven million dollar 50th Anniversary goal of the League is reached.

Since the Maine kick-off on March 19 at the Blaine House, we have made great progress. The response from members has been gratifying. Many gifts, though modest in dollar amount, represent sacrificial giving from committed Leaguers. The generosity of one donor who contributed \$1,800 has helped bring up the average and the aggregate state total, as of June 30, 1969, to \$15,172. While no quotas have been set for Maine, other than 100% participation, by either National or your state Anniversary committee, the inescapable question must be asked—have we done enough?

The following observations and queries are for: Leagues that have not yet started their drives; members who have not yet contributed; those who have already given but recently won the Irish Sweepstakes, inherited a fortune from a long-lost uncle, discovered oil (preferably not in Casco Bay) or just plain might like to raise their sights and hence their level of giving.

Statistics: The national goal of 11 million is predicated on a total membership contribution of five million—which averages out to approximately \$35 per member. For each League to retain 125% of its best year and still meet all the anniversary goals, local League finance drives should average five times their accustomed level.

Check List: Will your gift enable the League to mount an effective campaign to save the environment?

Will voter participation and citizen education flounder for lack of a mimeograph machine? a printing job?

Does your **once-in-a-lifetime** contribution compare favorably with your annual church pledge? your annual college donation? your annual United Fund contribution? your total cost for a week-end trip including the cost of a baby sitter, road service for a flat tire, and a bottle of spirits at New Hampshire prices?

Can we save the cities, the universe, the atmosphere (even Kittery Naval Yard from New Hampshire, if called upon) on the basis of your gift?

Considering your own particular circumstances, have you been as generous with your treasure as you have with your time and talent?

THE WINNER FOR CORRECT ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE IS THE LEAGUE AND YOUR EFFECTIVENESS WORKING THROUGH THE LEAGUE.

Best wishes,

Harriet Henry
Maine 50th Anniversary Chairman

P. S. The August-September National VOTER shows Maine leading ALL OTHER STATES in the percentage of members who pledged.

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

(Continued from page 2)

have some say in the projects undertaken by the Funds. This can be done if the Boards of the Funds and the League are restructured on the national level in such a way that the Board members of all three Boards are elected by National Convention or if a new single Board were created to do the work of all three organizations and its members elected in the usual manner at Convention. Although no firm vote was taken, it seemed that the delegates at this conference favored a one-Board concept.

In summary, it was evident that those at the conference wished to continue the League tradition of taking action only after thorough study and consensus. The issue was how to speed up program-making and study in order to make League action more relevant and effective. If this can be accomplished, the League of Women Voters will in the future live up to its promise of the past.

Mrs. Albert G. Sims, President of the Connecticut League, was chosen the Northeastern Region's representative to the National Structure and Procedure Committee. The Maine League expects to communicate its ideas to her after exploring Structure and Procedures at its November 1 workshop in Lewiston.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LEAGUE

On the local level . . .

Lewiston Board members are experimenting with a monthly Board workshop, with baby sitters, to allow time for productive work and discussion.

The Augusta Provisional League is aiming toward full League status during 1970.

Both Rockland and Orono Leagues are revising their local booklets, "This is Rockland," and "Know Your Town."

The August 12 referendum on a regional sewage plan passed in Cape Elizabeth, Falmouth, Cumberland, Westbrook, Gorham, Windham, and Standish with the help of Portland Area League members who spoke at hearings and developed and distributed flyers.

The Bangor League sponsored a "Meet Your Candidates" television program to present candidates for the City Council. Mrs. Jennie Magaro, Bangor president, made a statement at the beginning of the program and introduced the moderator. Viewers were invited to call in questions after each candidate made a statement and the two-hour program was not long enough to handle all of the questions.

At the state level . . .

The State League's Voters Service chairman, Mrs. Charles Allen, has prepared a summary of the referendum questions and proposed constitutional amendments to be voted on November 4. A copy of the flyer is being sent to each member with this VOTER and several thousand copies are being made available to local Leagues for public distribution by members.

Mrs. Robert Masterton, State Government chairman, and Mrs. John Mangini, Portland League Voters Service chairman, will speak for the Maine League at the Maine Teachers Association Citizenship Conference on November 8 in Waterville on "How to Organize Citizen Participation." Among the topics to be covered are how to organize voter registration drives and how to gain citizen interest and support for specific legislation.

LEAGUE OPENS STATE OFFICE

Several months ago the State Board approved the expenditure of some of our 50th Anniversary Funds for a League office. Having an office has long been a dream and it is with pride that we announce our dream-come-true. The address is 2 Mill Street, the mailing address is Box 151 in Orono, and our president, Mrs. Lowell Zabel, can be reached on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 866-2805.

The office is already bursting with League files, typewriter, addressograph, mimeograph and a desk and chairs.

We are urging members to write to us to raise questions or express opinions. The office should be a clearing house for all League activity, and the Voter would like to initiate a Letters-to-the-Editor column so that Maine League members can be kept informed of activities throughout the state. Let us hear from you.

THE MAINE VOTER

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50th Anniversary Youth Conference

In June the Maine League was asked to nominate some young people as potential delegates to the National Conference on Youth and Community Involvement, sponsored by the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. One of Maine's nominees, Stanley Cowan, president of the Student Senate at the University of Maine in Orono, was among the 100 college and high school students heavily involved in campus and community action chosen to meet with more than 100 leading social and political activists from across the country.

The Conference was held in Fort Collins, Colorado, on October 17-19. Conference workshops covered such topics as peace activities, community organization, party reform, health and welfare organizing and the transfer of political power. Among the featured speakers were Saul Alinsky (noted social and political reformer), the Honorable Richard Hatcher (Mayor of Gary, Indiana), Fannie Lou Hamer (Charter Member, Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party), and Representative Donald Riegle, Jr. (R., Michigan, co-author of House bill to rescind the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution).

LEAGUE WORKSHOP

Because many of our members are career women, the state Board has arranged a Saturday workshop in the hopes that as many local Board and members as possible will be able to attend. This year's first workshop will be held on Saturday, November 1, at Pettigrew Hall, Room 100, on the Bates Campus in Lewiston.

Three reports on regional and national meetings will be given and those attending will then divide into committee groups to discuss foreign economic policy, environmental resources, local program planning, and finance. Lunch will be available in the college snack bar for those who choose.

Discussion Sessions On Air Pollution

Faculty members, other specialists, community leaders and members of the general public will take part in discussion groups aimed toward lessening the problems identified in "Preliminary Study of the Air Resources in the State of Maine."

Four evening discussions will begin at 6:30 p.m. by viewing the following programs on Educational Television:

October 21, 1969—Program I, The National Scene

October 28, 1969—Program II, The Maine Situation

November 4, 1969—Program III, Solution of Specific Air Pollution Problems

November 11, 1969—Program IV, Legal Aspects of Air Pollution

Materials will be provided participants at a cost of \$5. Discussion groups will be in five different locations and we urge all interested members to contact the University's Continuing Education Division. If you cannot attend, please try to view all of the ETV programs.

DATE REMINDERS

November 30: Consensus on Electoral College

December 4: National Program Planning — First Round

December 10: Consensus on Water