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## The Maine Voter vol. XVII, no. 6 (April 1970)

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  
P. O. Box 151, Orono, Maine 04473

VOL. XVII

APRIL, 1970

Number 6

## STATE COUNCIL MEETING

May 26 and 27, 1970

Bar Harbor Motor Inn, Bar Harbor

**Tuesday, May 26**

**Wednesday, May 27**

9:45 a.m. Pre-Council State Board Meeting  
11:00 a.m. Coffee and Registration  
11-12 Tour of Mount Desert Island  
12:30 p.m. Luncheon  
Table talk on future emphases  
2:00 p.m. First business session  
5:30 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. Banquet  
Speakers: Mr. David B. Benson  
Mr. Patrick N. McTeague

9:15 a.m. Second business session  
12:00 noon Luncheon  
Report of Northeast Coastal Waterways  
Seminar—Mrs. Charles D. McEvoy, Jr.  
1:15 p.m. Adjournment  
2:00 p.m. Post-Council State Board Meeting

### Legislators To Speak To Council

Speakers at the State Council banquet on May 26 will be two members of the Maine House of Representatives, who will share with the League their own ideas on how the legislative process might be improved and how the League can be more effective both on legislative reform and other support positions. David B. Benson, Southwest Harbor, who serves as Assistant Majority Leader in the House, will view the Legislature with an experienced eye. Patrick N. McTeague, a Brunswick Democrat, is a freshman legislator but well-known to the League as sponsor of the Human Rights Commission bill. Both legislators have agreed to informal exchange after their prepared remarks, so come prepared to take advantage of the opportunity!

The primary business of Council will be to discuss and select emphases for state program and adopt a budget for the coming year. Combined with an opportunity to talk about how the state and local Leagues can be more effective and with national Convention delegates present, Council will provide a forum for spirited discussion and direction to state Board.

Voting delegates at Council include members of the state Board and the president and ~~one~~ <sup>two</sup> delegate from each local League, but all members are invited to attend. Husbands and friends will be welcome at the banquet. Reservations may be made through your local League president or directly with the Convention Chairman, Mrs. Hans Meier, Mount Desert.

### NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 29th Convention of the LWV of the US will be held in Washington, D. C., May 3-8. Delegates from each state and Puerto Rico will choose a Program of national issues, approve a budget and elect officers and directors.

Our 50th Anniversary year is appropriately designated as the Year of the Voter. And one of the highlights of the Anniversary Convention for Maine's eight delegates will be presenting the signatures gathered during the Washington, D. C. Petition Drive to our senior Senator, Margaret Chase Smith. Maine League members have gathered thousands of signatures as part of a nationwide effort to dramatize for Congress the interest of citizens everywhere in providing full voting representation in Congress for the citizens of the District.

Local League delegates are: Augusta Area, Mrs. Wendall Tremblay; Bangor, Mrs. William G. Farthing; Brunswick, Mrs. John W. Ambrose, Jr.; Orono, Mrs. Raymond Krofta; Portland, Mrs. John J. O'Toole and Mrs. Bruce Coggeshall. Representing the state Board will be Mrs. Lowell Zabel, Mrs. William Dunton, and Mrs. Roger Axford.

## Rockland League Disbands

After a realistic evaluation of the possibility of continuing a viable League of Women Voters in Rockland, it was agreed by Rockland League members, the state Board and the national Board that the League of Women Voters of Rockland should disband at this time. This action was taken reluctantly and with regret.

The Rockland League has had a proud history of almost forty years of community service, but it was never able to recover completely from a low point in the 1940's and 1950's that was experienced by many Leagues established early in League history. The many women who served the Rockland League so well and with such devotion deserve our sincere appreciation. The present members of the Rockland League automatically become members-at-large of the League of Women Voters of Maine.

## Houlton Area Organizes

Wednesday, May 20 has been set as the date for the organizational meeting which we hope will mark the establishment of a provisional League in the Houlton Area. Mrs. Eugene Wakely, Mrs. Lowell Zabel, and Mrs. Stanley Freeman have met twice with a group of enthusiastic women who feel that the Houlton Area can both support and benefit from an organized League.

We are fortunate in having Mrs. Merle Fenlason, a former president of the Bangor League now residing in Houlton, as coordinator of the organizational effort. Mrs. Fenlason has agreed to serve as Temporary Chairman to prepare for the meeting on May 20. She is being assisted by Mrs. Horace Bell, Mrs. Treston Bubar, Mrs. Harold Lycette, Miss Jane Madigan, Mrs. Glenn Manuel, and Mrs. Wendell Wood.

The immediate goal of the Houlton group is to assure that thirty-five or more women from Houlton and surrounding communities will agree to become charter members of a Houlton Area League of Women Voters and will join by meeting time on May 20.

If you know any women now residing in the Houlton Area who might have an interest in the League, ask them to contact any member of the Houlton committee or send their names to Mrs. Eugene Wakely, RFD 2, Topsham 04086. Help make our first League in Aroostook County a reality!

## New Voters Manual

The newest edition of the VOTERS MANUAL is now available. Each member is urged to order a copy for herself and interested citizens and each voters service chairman should make copies available to local schools and libraries. The VOTERS MANUAL is only 15c and can be ordered from your local publications chairman or directly from the state League publications chairman, Mrs. R. M. Woolford, Box 257, Winterport, Maine 04496.

## Public Relations — What Is It?

Public relations translates League activity and study into action. For the general public the prime purpose is to stimulate citizens to become more effective participants in government. League public relations efforts work to create better public understanding of issues and to increase awareness of the League, through its members, as an integral part of the community.

For the members, public relations is a tool striving to keep members informed, assisting them in understanding and accepting the goals of our organization and stimulating each of us to attain these goals. Much of this is accomplished through our publications and through the wide distribution of the state League VOTER.

Public relations chairmen for the local Leagues work directly with the news media informing the public about our voters service work, meetings and program studies. The recent Washington, D. C. Petition Drive provided us a chance to alert citizens to the inequities in representation in our Capitol. Editorials and news stories both favored and featured our drive for signatures. Mrs. Barbara Cuetara appeared on ETV to explain the League's historical position and to urge citizens to help our Petition Drive. The success of this undertaking depended in large part on public relations releases. Preparing news releases, however, is only a part of the public relations field.

If we ask who is the most effective contributor to League public relations, the answer would be each League member. We are the League to friends, neighbors, fellow workers, guests and other organizations. Their impression of the League comes from what they hear, see or read, and from the personal contact they have with League members. Like it or not, each of us is a public relations expert for the League. If you note the articles on this page of the VOTER, you learn that the newest edition of the VOTERS MANUAL is ready for distribution—how can you contribute to good PR for the League? By recommending to your League names and organizations that might benefit from a copy of the Manual. Or in November your willingness to be an ABC vote reporter will provide another chance for you to help inform the public—and you will be furthering our voters service work. When it comes to good public relations, we need every League member.

## 1970 ABC Coordinator

Mrs. James O'Brien of Waterville, a member of the Augusta Area League, has been named coordinator for the ABC Election Night Reporting. League members throughout the country will call in vote tabulations from key precincts to ABC. In Maine, members from local Leagues and members-at-large will have an opportunity to observe the tabulating process in specified Maine towns and city precincts, telephoning the results to our coordinator. The procedure has been revised and simplified and the state League treasury will receive a larger contribution than in either 1966 or 1968. We urge each member not to miss this opportunity for direct contact with the voting process, and when the request to help comes, please say "yes."

### THE MAINE VOTER

VOL. XVII NUMBER 6

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Second class postage paid at Bangor, Maine 04401

Editor: Mrs. James M. Clark

President: Mrs. Lowell W. Zabel, P. O. Box 151, Orono 04473

Subscription price 50¢ per year as part of membership dues.

## Preview of Maine June Primaries

Three Ballots for Monday, June 15, 1970

ALL Maine voters may vote on the four REFERENDUM QUESTIONS. Republican and Democratic Party members will nominate candidates for the General Election to be held Tuesday, November 3, 1970.

REPUBLICAN PARTY BALLOT	DEMOCRATIC PARTY BALLOT
<b>For U. S. Senator</b>	<b>For U. S. Senator</b>
Neil S. Bishop (Stockton Springs)	Edmund S. Muskie (incumbent)
Abbott O. Greene (Columbia)	<b>For Governor</b>
<b>For Governor</b>	Kenneth M. Curtis (incumbent)
James S. Erwin (York)	Plato Truman (Biddeford)
Calvin F. Grass (Standish)	<b>For Representative to Congress</b>
<b>For Representative to Congress</b>	(1st District Voters)
(1st District Voters)	Peter N. Kyros (incumbent)
Robert L. Gram (Cumberland)	John D. Rigazio (Biddeford)
Ronald T. Speers (Winthrop)	<b>For Representative to Congress</b>
Robert S. Stuart (Brunswick)	(2nd District Voters)
<b>For Representative to Congress</b>	Albion D. Goodwin (Pembroke)
(2nd District Voters)	Wm. D. Hathaway (incumbent)
Maynard G. Connors (Franklin)	

(Party ballots will also include nominees for offices of State Senator, Representative to State Legislature and County offices).

### Explanation of Referendum Questions

1. "Shall 'An Act to Amend Bond Issue Act as to Limitation of Interest on Bonds for York County Regional Vocational Education Center or Centers,' passed by the 1st Special Session of the 104th Legislature, be accepted?"

Issuance of these bonds with a 5% limitation on interest was authorized by the voters in 1965. It is considered unlikely that they can be sold at such a low interest rate. A YES vote would permit the Treasurer of the State to determine the interest rate which these bonds shall bear. A NO vote would mean that the State could not provide the financial assistance required by law to two communities in York County for vocational centers already under way.

2. "Shall the State provide for construction of facilities and purchase of equipment at the State Vocational-Technical Institutes in order to allow increased enrollment and expanded vocational opportunities for Maine youth and adults and for a diagnostic facility for treatment of emotionally disturbed boys at the Boys Training Center, as passed by the 1st Special Session of the 104th Legislature by issuing bonds in the amount of \$3,825,000?"

A YES vote would provide for the following:

Central Maine Vocational-Technical Institute Laboratory Wing.....	\$950,000
Eastern Maine Vocational-Technical Institute Laboratory Wing.....	\$840,000
Northern Maine Vocational-Technical Institute Student Dormitory .....	\$650,000
Southern Maine Vocational-Technical Institute Culinary Arts and Electronics Electrical Building.....	\$1,010,000
Boys Training Center, Diagnostic unit....	\$375,000

Total: \$3,825,000

A NO vote would prevent construction of these facilities.

3. "Shall the State provide expanded classroom facilities and improvements at the several campuses of the University of Maine to allow for program improvement and increased enrollment by issuing bonds in the amount of \$14,985,000?"

A YES vote would provide for the following:

Aroostook State College	
Classroom Building .....	\$1,200,000
Augusta	
Library Wing .....	500,000
Bangor	
South Campus Alterations .....	500,000
Farmington State College	
Dining Hall and Student Union.....	980,000
Equipment for Classroom .....	50,000
Fort Kent State College	
Classroom/physical education bldg.	862,000
Gorham State College	
Renovation of Corthell Hall .....	250,000
Underground systems .....	150,000
(heating, electrical, sewer, etc.)	
Orono	
Business, English, Math Building.....	2,300,000
Physical Education Facility .....	4,000,000
Pulp and Paper Wing, Chemical Engineering Building .....	1,100,000
Roads and Parking .....	375,000
Utilities Extension .....	385,000
(electrical, heating, water)	
Portland	
Central Heating .....	300,000
Student Center .....	1,200,000
Walpole	
Darling Center Pier .....	100,000
(for oceanography research boats)	
Washington State College	
Library .....	615,000
Physical Education Field .....	118,000
Total:	\$14,985,000

A NO vote would prevent construction of these facilities and improvements.

4. "Shall the moneys appropriated for an addition to the Gould Academic Building at the Boys Training Center be used for the construction of educational classrooms at the Boys Training Center, passed by the 1st Special Session of the 104th Legislature?"

A YES vote would provide for a change in location of classrooms to be constructed. (The money is already appropriated).

A NO vote would prohibit a change of location of the classrooms and mean that they would be attached to an old building now being considered for another use.



Governor Kenneth M. Curtis is pictured signing a proclamation declaring April 6-10 as League of Women Voters Week. With the Governor are Mrs. Noel Evans of the Bangor League and Mrs. Lowell L. Zabel, state League president. The Leagues' finance drives are underway throughout the month of April, and preliminary reports indicate that citizens in each community, as well as League members, are responding enthusiastically to fund requests for the 1970-71 League year.

## League Testifies Before Party Platform Committees

The Democratic and Republican Parties held their Platform Committee meetings in March. Interested citizens and organizations were invited to testify and make recommendations before each Party's Platform Committee. Mrs. Anthony Lacognata, state Board, appeared before the Democratic meeting in Portland and Mrs. Robert Masterton, also of the state Board, submitted in writing League recommendations to the Republican Platform Committee.

The testimony presented to each Party touched many areas of League program and interests. To the end of strengthening the Executive branch, the **abolition of the Executive Council** was recommended, reassigning its functions to other agencies in the Executive. Further, we urged incorporation of a plank studying the establishment of a **unicameral Legislature**. Until this could become a reality, it was further urged that Maine reform the present bicameral Legislature by approving **four-year terms for Senators** and **reducing the size of the House** to approximately 100. **Annual legislative sessions** to regularize the workload and to improve budgetary procedures were also requested in the testimony.

Because of our environmental resources studies, the League called for a strong plank on **planning, management and development** of our water resources, incorporating the following principles: long-range planning for development; river-basin or regional management; cost-sharing of water development by federal, state and local governments and private users; improved coordination of water-related agencies at all levels; citizen participation in water resources decisions; and procedures that supply information and encourage intelligent weighing of alternatives for Maine water resources. We also asked support for the concept of immediate **preventative and protective** legislation against uncontrolled industrial development, **strict accountability of industry** for the cost of accidents fouling our waters and the

support of state zoning regulations. The control of all pollution should be administered by a strengthened Environmental Improvement Commission.

It was pointed out that although a state income tax has been enacted, a movement to repeal the tax is under way before it has had the chance to prove itself as an equitable and dependable source of revenue for needed state services. We urged the Platform committees to incorporate a plank to vigorously support the income tax, both personal and corporate, as the fairest and most flexible means of taxation available to Maine.

The League urged platform support of **equality of opportunity** for all Maine citizens in education, employment and housing. The creation of a **Human Rights Commission** was urged and we asked the Platform Committees to commit their parties to combatting poverty and hunger in our state.

Our studies of the electoral college provided the League an opportunity to testify urging a **direct popular method** of electing the President and Vice-President, and providing for a national run-off election if no candidates receive 40% of the popular vote.

Concerning our views of current foreign economic policy, we stated that, "The citizens of Maine cannot separate their concerns into neat state, national and international categories. The effect of trade policies cut across political and geographical boundaries. The League of Women Voters urges a plank for a liberal U. S. trade policy. We find the arguments for unrestricted imports of shoes and textiles as good as those for oil. The imposition of quotas by the United States leads to retaliatory measures by our trading partners . . . we firmly believe that imposition of restrictive trade measures is a short-range palliative at the expense of the consumer public (of which low-income people are part)."

Our testimony before the Platform Committees urged them to incorporate these recommendations as part of each Party's planks.