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## The Voter vol. 3, no. 1 (Summer 1985)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

*Maine League of Women Voters*

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# THE VOTER

Vol. 3 No. 1

The League of Women Voters of Maine

Summer 1985

## STATE CONFAB POLITICAL FEAST

The State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Maine was a highly successful conference. More than 40 official delegates plus other members attended from the local Leagues all over the state. One of the most important projects accomplished at Convention was setting the Program from which we will work during 1985-87. Two members of the National Board attended our Convention, Nancy Newman, LWVUS First Vice-President and Mary Ann Pollak, Chair of the National Nominating Committee.

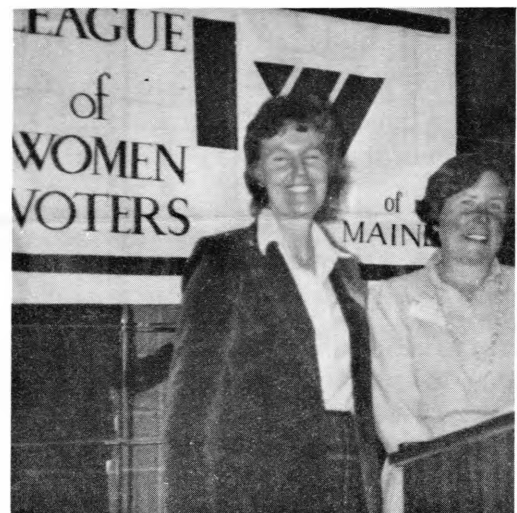
Nancy Newman addressed the evening session, explaining the League's need to set up long-range planning. She stressed the vital need of the National League, as well as state Leagues, to set program and projects within reasonable expectations of the people who are likely to participate. "It is counter-productive," she said "to set grand plans knowing you only have a few people to accomplish them."



Liz Crandall, Brunswick, and State Senator Nancy Randall Clark

Mary Ann Pollak addressed the Recognition Breakfast, describing her job on the nominating committee. Immediate past president in Maine, Penny Harris, has been mentioned as a possible nominee to a National League position. Mary Ann explained that

her committee is responsible for nominating a slate of 12, while up to eight other people can be nominated by other National officials. The League is looking for breadth and continuity of experience as well as a combination of talents and skills for the National Board.



New State League President Marlee Coughlan and Gubernatorial Candidate Sherry Huber

Maine gubernatorial candidate Sherry Huber spoke to the convention on "High Risk in a Small Segment." She talked about running for a visible, high risk job such as governor, knowing that only a small segment of the population is interested in politics. She discussed the nuts and bolts decision-making process for a woman, indeed any, candidate thinking of running for office. It was a thoughtful address, giving attendees real insight into Huber's decision to run for the Blaine House.

Two other state officials addressed the Convention. State Senator Nancy Randall Clark, Assistant Majority Leader, and Senator Barbara A. Gill, Assistant Minority Leader, gave delegates an up-date on the status of bills in the state legislature of interest to the League.

## MARLEE'S MUSINGS

"Why can't we make decisions based on what is good for *people*, not just for birds, rivers or peace negotiations?", said a friend who is an oil company executive in a lively discussion with me recently. In thinking about each of League's principles, goals, and programs, don't we seek to *improve the quality of life for all people*? Looking at each of our Program items in this *Voter*, which ones are especially important to *your* quality of life? As a bonus, the very process of working—with interesting, caring League members on an issue of vital concern—improves the quality of my life!

Recent actions that the LWV of Maine has taken to improve the quality of life include:

- a. Letters to State Representatives, Senators, and major newspapers in support of the Maine Commission for Women, the Child Care Study, the Comparable Worth Study, assistance in providing medical aid to victims of rape and incest, and assistance in helping victims of domestic abuse;
- b. Letters in opposition to requirement of parental consent for minors seeking abortions and to marital rape;
- c. Letters to our Congress members to urge passage of the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985;
- d. Oral testimony in Augusta to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that the proposal for the Big A Dam does not justify the loss in natural resources to the people.

What will League do next? Fall projects include Voter's Service information on election referendum issues and programs on Low Level Radioactive Waste—where to put it?

League is needed in many issues. How can we meet these needs? We are growing in strength as we gather individual League members into a unit—such as is being explored by League members in the Augusta area. Our effectiveness increases as we gain skills. State Board is planning workshops in the afternoons of Board meetings in Augusta

So we are back to improving the quality of life: Explore an issue that interests YOU and let League help improve the quality of YOUR life!

## MALS MERIT MORE!

Mal-apropism . . . mal-adjusted . . . mal-de-mer . . . who wants to be a MAL-member? Several members-at-large in Maine would prefer to be called something besides MALs, and who can blame them? MALs are not *malevolent* or *malefactors*, they're valuable members of the League of Women Voters. But what can we rename our at large members (some folks don't like "at large" either—sounds like they're escapees!). What can we rename those folks that gives them a title sounding more like the important people they are?

The State Board is hoping that *you* can come up with the answer. Many of us thought in terms of an acronym that would be better than MAL, but it doesn't have to be an acronym, it could just be a good name. To show you we're serious about making this change, the Board has authorized a contest to rename the MALs. The prizes are a one-year membership in the LWV and our own special "League of Women Voters loves ME" t-shirt.

So here's your chance to win a prize *and* do something special for our special members. Send your suggestions to Marlee Coughlan, Route 85, Box 279, Raymond, ME 04071.

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Jane Saxl (Bangor-Brewer Area) will conduct a Voters' Service Workshop on September 11, 1985 at the State House in Augusta from 2PM to 4PM. The workshop will feature discussions of

- absentee balloting procedures
- voter registration procedures
- up-date on election laws
- how to run a candidates' night.

Please register in advance by calling Jane Saxl (945-5786) or Marlee Coughlan (655-3321) or 655-7624) to let us know how many people from your League will attend. And let Jane know if there are other Voters' Service topics you would like to discuss at that workshop.

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# LEAGUE SAYS NO TO BIG A

League of Women Voters State President Marlee Coughlan presented testimony to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission last June on the subject of building the Big A Hydroelectric Project. Here is an excerpt of her testimony stating the position of the League.

"The Maine Critical Areas Program identifies the Ripogenus Gorge as being of statewide significance because of its scientific, scenic, logging and Indian history, and natural features. The Federal government has determined this section of West Branch of the Penobscot River to be eligible for designation under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The National Park Service study has also identified this portion of the river as a potential ecological/geological National Natural Landmark, primarily because so many different valuable natural features are found in one place.

"The League of Women Voters of Maine has studied thoroughly the proposal to build the Big A dam as we have attempted to balance the land use, energy, and economic concerns. We have concluded that

the significant natural resources of the West Branch of the Penobscot River should only be sacrificed to economic development as a last resort. Since Great Northern Paper has not yet demonstrated that it has taken substantial advantage of conservation measures and alternative energy sources, the League of Women Voters of Maine believes the company is not justified in being granted permission to build the Big A dam.

"We place a high priority on conservation and use of efficient technology. Although Great Northern Paper has reduced its consumption of oil in recent years, considerably more could be done, as is pointed out in the Maine Office of Energy Resources' report and in other testimony during the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission hearings. The Swedish pulp and paper industry is much less energy intensive. Inefficiencies within Great Northern's mills should be upgraded to the state-of-the-art before seeking to exploit a significant natural public resource. For example, the boilers of 1950's vintage usually run at only 25% of capacity.

(continued on page 5)

## ACTION LETTERS

The following Action Letters were sent to all appropriate legislators at the request of members attending the LWV State Convention in May.

*To Members of the Maine State Legislature:*

LWVME urges you to oppose LD 1113, an act to require parental consent for minors seeking abortions.

LWVME urges you to support LD 1390 and LD 1001, which would implement the recommendations of the Child Care Study conducted by the Departments of Human Services and Education.

LWVME urges you to support LD 1184, an act to provide medical assistance for victims of rape and incest.

LWVME urges you to support LD 780, an act to provide programs for children who accompany mothers to domestic abuse refuge centers, and LD 1315, an act to fund a community intervention program to deal with domestic abuse.

LWVME urges you to support the implementation of the recommendations of the current "Comparable Worth Study."

*To All Members of Maine's US Congressional Delegation:*

LWVME appreciates your support of HR 700, the Civil Rights Restoration Act, and urges you to oppose all substantive amendments.



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The *Maine Voter* is published quarterly by The League of Women Voters of Maine. Marlee Coughlan, President; Judith H. Frost, Editor. Editorial offices 181 Broadway, Bangor, ME 04401, (207) 947-0221. Subscription with membership in LWVME. Non-member subscriptions \$7.

# PORTFOLIO UPDATES-PORTFOLIO UPDATE

## Natural Resources

### sulfur dioxide emissions plan

The Committee on the Environment of the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers met in June and came up with a New England/Eastern Canada sulfur dioxide emissions reduction plan. The report presents a comprehensive and coordinated plan for reducing emissions of sulfur dioxide which contribute to the problem of the long range transport of air pollutants and acid deposition in the New England/Eastern Canada region.

The plan is a commitment to action by the states and provinces involved. It recognizes that, while the greatest contribution to the problem comes from air pollution sources located outside the region, local sources can be important and steps must be taken to control them. The plan also recognizes that while there is no substitute for an international trans-boundary agreement to address this continental problem there are actions that can be taken by the states and provinces to move forward in anticipation of an international agreement.

### coastal zone management

Barbara Fegan, LWVME Coastal Specialist, is alerting us to the fact that the final vote on Coastal Zone Management Act Reauthorization has been postponed to both houses of Congress until September. There is a real possibility that the President will veto any CZMA bill, and it is important that there be visible public support for the reauthorization.

Since its enactment in 1972, CZMA has proven to be an effective management tool for promoting preservation of fragile coastal habitats. Twenty-eight of 35 eligible states and territories have approved programs that are now in place. Loss of Federal support would have serious negative effects on those states' ability to maintain their programs.

Both Senate and House Committees have approved bills reauthorizing the CZMA, S959 and HR2121 respectively. It will be up to the full bodies to cast the deciding votes. Even if the most critical sections of the CZMA are reauthorized the Act will remain substantially different from its 1972 concept unless Congress deals with the issue of consistency. This provision requires that Federal activities likely to affect a state's coast be consistent or compatible with

that state's method of managing its coast. In 1984 the Supreme Court weakened the consistency provision when it decided that off-shore oil and gas leasing is not an activity that directly affects the coastal zones, thereby exempting the Federal government from meeting the consistency requirement. Please write your representatives or phone their Washington offices to express your feelings regarding HR2121 and S959.

Pat Cyphers  
Natural Resources Chair



## Public Relations

The revised and improved Voters' Kit will be available by the end of September. The pamphlet on lobbying the Legislature also has been redesigned. Individual pamphlets will be 25¢ each. The Voters' Kit, which contains eight pamphlets, will cost \$1.50. Bulk rates will be available. To order copies contact Wini Mott, Publications Director, Paris Hill, Paris, ME 04271, 743-6216.

Penny Harris, immediate past president of the LWVME, and Jane Saxl, Vice-President of the LWVME, recently appeared on "Follow-up" on Channel 5 television in Bangor.

Don Colson, WABI-TV news anchor, discussed League's history, action, planned projects, national and local studies and voter service. Penny has the interview on tape. Leagues wishing to see the 15-minute program should contact her at 947-4737.

Local radio and television public service programs are always looking for topics. We hope to arrange more interviews like this on a statewide basis. Try getting your local League President and local public information program together.

Judy Harrison  
Public Relations Director

# -PORTFOLIO UPDATES-PORTFOLIO UPDAT

## National Security

The computer program "Nuclear War—Holocaust or Peace: You Decide," designed to stimulate discussion about peace alternatives, will be tested this Fall in the Falmouth High School. Development of this program has been funded through a grant from the LWV-US Education Fund.

Delegates to the Maine State Convention reacted with great enthusiasm and interest to the presentation of the program. There was a lot of discussion about its use as a teaching and thinking tool. Persis Hope, one of the program's designers, was delighted by the enthusiastic response of the Leaguers. Accolades also go to Alma Otto who edited the 70-page Teachers Manual.

I attended a Nuclear Crisis Control Workshop sponsored by the Massachusetts League. William Ury, Director of the Nuclear Negotiation Project, and author of *Beyond the Hotline: How We Can Prevent the Crisis that Might Bring on a Nuclear War*, presented his ideas on crisis reduction. He advocates the establishment of a Crisis Reduction Center which would be run by American and Soviet personnel trained in defusing crisis situations. For more information, read his book, *Beyond the Hotline*. For a more detailed description of the crisis center concept, the Nuclear Negotiation Project at Harvard Law School has published *Beyond the Hotline: Controlling a Nuclear Crisis*. This report to the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency is available from the Nuclear Negotiation Project, Harvard Law School, Cambridge MA 02138 for \$10. I have read both and I recommend the Harvard report for a detailed description of the proposed crisis center.

I also attended a three-day workshop sponsored by the Committee for National Security called the "Fourth Women's Leadership Conference: National Security, Enduring Problems, New Issues." Some of the more famous speakers were Paul Warnke, Les Aspin, Betty Bumpers, Geraldine Ferraro and Claudine Schneider. Although many interesting topics were discussed, the issue that seemed to get the most attention was the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI or Star Wars). The League opposes development of the SDI because "... it would lead to the abrogation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty and threaten to unleash an arms race of epic proportions."

Persis Hope  
National Security Chair

## Election Laws

The 112th Maine Legislature completed its session in June after making changes in the absentee ballot laws as well as other election laws. At this time, James Henderson, Deputy Secretary of State, is putting the changes together for hand-outs to groups and individuals. He is also planning a series of workshops for interested groups.

If your League wishes such a meeting with Henderson, let me know, or call him directly in Augusta at 289-3501.

As we proceed with our election laws study and the more knowledge and depth in this subject that we gain, we hope to serve as a community resource, thus enhancing the League image.

Alvin Moss  
Election Laws Chair



## BIG A Continued

"We believe the Maine Office of Energy Resources and others have made many valid suggestions for combinations of alternative energy options including conservation, cogeneration, biomass, and alternate dam sites. These options consist of existing technology now being used by the paper industry in other countries and as close as Maine and Vermont. We further believe that installation of conservation measures and use of alternative energy sources will allow Great Northern to remain competitive and maintain jobs for people in the Millinocket area, without building the Big A dam.

"We urge you members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to give major consideration to the remaining unique natural features of the Penobscot River with its importance to the people of Maine and the nation for its natural, scenic, historic, and recreational values. The League of Women Voters further urges that a finding be made by the Commission that viable energy alternatives, including conservation, do exist."

# STATE ACTION PROGRAM 1985-87

## GOVERNMENT (Alvin Moss)

- State: A continuing responsibility—to achieve reform of Maine's legislature.
- Election Process: Continued evaluation of campaign financing to enable candidates to compete more equitably for state offices.  
(Ruth Moss and Janet Palmer)
- Monitor legislation with a view to action on the absentee balloting process.
- County: A continuing responsibility—to achieve reform of county government.
- Citizens' Rights: Monitor and act on legislation consistent with the national position on reproductive rights.  
(Judy Harrison)

## SOCIAL POLICY (Stephanie Martyak)

- Equal Rights: Continued action to support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and to bring laws into compliance with the goals of ERA.
- Comparable Worth: Action to achieve comparable worth.  
(Judy Frost)
- Child Care: Action to assure the availability of quality child care.  
(Martyak & Cyphers)
- Educational Finance: A continuing responsibility; to pursue equal educational opportunity, adequate and relatively equal funds must be available on a per pupil basis in every school district.

## NATURAL RESOURCES (Pat Cyphers)

- Air/Water/Pesticides: Action to promote wise use and prevent degradation of water and air resources in Maine.  
(Cyphers)
- Waste Management: Action to ensure the safe treatment, storage, and disposal of all wastes (including low and high level radioactive, solid, and hazardous).  
(Carol Fritz)
- Land: Continued support for comprehensive land use planning in Maine.
- Energy: Action to promote conservation in transportation, residences, commerce, and industry. Action to develop renewable resources for power production in Maine: clean, decentralized and native.  
(Julie Howison)
- Farmland: Action to promote policies that preserve farmland and make farming economically and environmentally feasible.  
(Kathy Meeker)

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (Persis Hope)

- National Security: Action to promote use of computer program developed to teach decision making on avoiding nuclear war.

**action packed  
POLITICS**



The League of Women Voters of Maine has the opportunity to share suitable office space in Augusta at a very low cost. The State Board is seeking volunteers from local Leagues who would be willing to work a few hours a day once a month answering phones, handing out or selling literature and answering questions. Taking advantage of this important opportunity depends on having people staff the office. If you might be interested please contact Marlee Coughlan (655-3321 or 655-7624) or your local League president.

# LWV AND WLAC LOBBY SUCCESS STORY

The League of Women Voters of Maine joined with 19 other state-wide organizations to pass a wide-ranging program of legislation to benefit women and families. The Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition (WLAC) had an outstanding year in Augusta, despite the fears of many that the defeat of the ERA last fall wounded a death knell for many women's issues. Of particular note is the successful lobbying effort to defeat bills attempting to limit women's right to choose. Many League members were instrumental in WLAC's successful efforts. Here is the final tally.

1. **AFDC Funding—LD 710**, sponsored by Rep. Larry Connolly, D of Portland, Rep. Ruth Joseph, D of Waterville, Sen. Mary Najarian, D of Portland, and Sen. Charlotte Sewall, R of Medomak, would have increased AFDC funding by 10%. Compromise gave a 5% increase this year and another 5% increase next year.

2. **Child Care—LD 1390**, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Clark, D of Freeport, and **LD 1001**, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Clark, D of Freeport, and Rep. Merle Nelson, D of Portland, sought to implement the recommendations outlined in the Child Care Study conducted by the Departments of Human Services and Education.

**LD 1390** would have provided for a three-person office of child care coordination and a child care advisory committee in the Department of Human Services.

**LD 1001** would have increased the availability of affordable, accessible, quality child care.

**LD 1001** was withdrawn due to its cost, but **LD 1390** was passed to fund a two-person Child Care office.

3. **Displaced Homemakers**—All Part I and Part II requested funds approved.

4. **WEET Program**—The Welfare Employment, Education and Training (WEET) Program received all requested funds.

5. **Pay Equity—LD 1202** (revised as LD 1559), sponsored by Sen. Charles Pray, D of Millinocket, Sen. Thomas Perkins, R of Blue Hill, Rep. John Diamond, D of Bangor, and Rep. Thomas Murphy, R of Kennebunk, made the results of the Comparable Worth Study of the State Government pay system negotiable.

6. **Rape Law Reform—LD 772**, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Clark, D of Freeport, Sen. Charlotte Sewall, R of Medomak, Rep. Edward Kane, D of S. Portland and Patricia Stevens, D of Bangor, lifted the spousal exemption provision of the former law which allowed a man to legally rape his wife.

7. **Domestic Abuse**—Maintenance of current funding for community intervention programs for domestic abuse approved.

**LD 780**, sponsored by Sen. Mary-Ellen Maybury, R of Brewer, Sen. Barbara Gill, R of S. Portland, Sen. Beverly Bustin, D of Augusta, and Rep. Rita Melendy, D of Rockland, would fund programs for children who accompany parents to the domestic abuse shelters. Funding included in Part II budget.

**LD 1315**, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Clark, D of Freeport, Sen. Mary Najarian, D of Portland, Rep. Polly Reeves, of Gardiner, and Rep. Patrick McGowan, of Canaan, would fund a community intervention program, based on a successful Minnesota plan. Program received part of requested funds.

8. **Maine Commission for Women Funding**—A 5% increase in funding for the Commission was included in the Part I budget. Funding for secretarial support and upgrading of staff requested in Part II was approved with the provision the Commission *not lobby the legislature*.

9. **Rape and Incest Protection—LD 1184**, sponsored by Sen. Thomas Andrews, D of Portland, Sen. Charles Dow, D of W. Gardiner, Rep. Merle, D of Portland, and Rep. Mary Small, R of Bath, would have provided medicaid-funded abortions for victims of rape and incest. Compromise which passed will allow groups to give these victims list of doctors who will perform abortions free of charge for such victims.

WLAC opposed the following legislative efforts:

1. **Limiting the Right to Choose—LD 1113** (replacing LD 387), would have required a consent form to be signed for minors seeking abortions by the minor's parent or guardian. The House approved this bill, the Senate approved a less stringent version. The current law, requiring no parental consent, stands.

**LD 134**, sponsored by Rep. Ada Brown, D of Gorham, would have required the presence of two physicians for abortions performed after "viability" (undefined). The bill was withdrawn from the Judiciary Committee because it was deemed unnecessary.



## PLAN FOR ACTION

### SEPTEMBER

10 Low Level Waste Flyer ready  
11 STATEBOARD MEETING, State  
House, Augusta 9:30-3:00 P.M.  
Wednesday 2:00-4:00 P.M. Voters  
Service Workshop  
30 Voters' Kit ready  
65th Anniversary Celebration of Lewiston/Auburn  
League

### OCTOBER

16 Deadline for copy for State VOTER  
STATE BOARD MEETING, State  
House, Augusta, 9:30-3:00 P.M.  
Wednesday  
10th Anniversary Celebration, Greater Ellsworth  
Member-at-Large Unit

### NOVEMBER

1 Publication of VOTER  
5 ELECTION DAY  
13 STATE BOARD MEETING, State  
House, Augusta, 9:30-3:00 P.M.  
Blaine House Reception Planning

The Maine *Voter*  
League of Women Voters of ME  
Editor: Judy Frost  
181 Broadway  
Bangor, ME 04401

## STATE BOARD 1985-87

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