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Maine League of Women Voters

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THE VOTER

Vol. 3 No. 2

The League of Women Voters of Maine

Winter 1986

ELLSWORTH TENTH

The Greater Ellsworth Area Unit of the League of Women Voters of Maine celebrated its tenth anniversary with a gala noon luncheon on a sunny October 16 at the Crocker House Inn on Hancock Point. More than 70 LWV members and friends joined the festivities, accented with presentations by three candidates for governor—all of whom are League members.

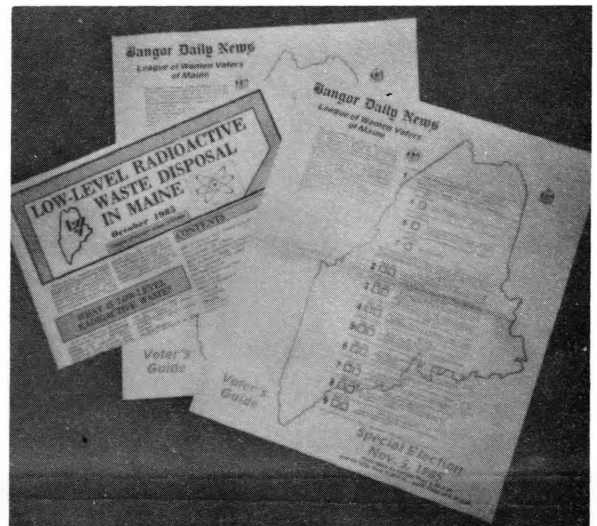
In alphabetical order, Bill Diamond, Sherry Huber and Jim Tierney, all multi-termed state legislators, spoke about the environment, hazardous waste and energy. Bill and Jim will vie in the Democratic gubernatorial primary and Sherry will run as an Independent candidate for governor. Letters of congratulations were sent by Governor Joseph Brennan, US Senator George Mitchell and US Representative Olympia Snowe.

Alvin Moss of Sorrento is the chair and a founder of the Ellsworth unit, which has a high percentage of male members. Ruth Moss, also an original founder of the unit, was the project director for the celebration. Flowers for the occasion were supplied and arranged by Virginia Suyama, Secretary of the Ellsworth League.

Ruth Moss
Vice-chair, Ellsworth Unit

The League will sponsor Citizen's Day at the Legislature from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 12 at the State House in Augusta. The program may include discussions with leaders of the House and Senate, a tour of the State House and state offices, and observance of legislative sessions and committee hearings. Snow date will be March 19.

LWV INFORMS ME



The LWVME produced two important and highly visible publications this Fall. *Low Level Radio Active Waste Disposal in Maine* is an informative publication which discusses the problem of low level waste in careful detail. It also explained the low level radio active waste siting referendum (1A, 1B and 1C) in clear and understandable language. This publication's value goes far beyond the election, however, because of its broad coverage of the problem of low level radio active waste. Carol Fritz of Cape Elizabeth and Julie Howison of Portland collaborated in researching and producing this valuable publication.

The LWVME produced a new *Voter's Guide* this year in cooperation with the *Bangor Daily News*. The *Voter's Guide* was distributed with the *Bangor Daily News* in its circulation area, and additional copies were available throughout the state. This sets the stage for even wider distribution of future *Voter's Guides*. The guide was coordinated and produced by Jane Saxl of Bangor. Special thanks to Tabitha and Stephen King who underwrote the publication.

MARLEE'S MUSINGS

"What is special about League?", I was recently asked in a group of leaders of women's organizations. Volunteer time is at a premium now, with so many diverse demands on our time. So what DOES League offer our members which is unique and valuable?

Let's start with an important workshop: LWV Maine will sponsor an evening workshop on *High Level Radioactive Waste Disposal*, February 24. Your back yard or mine? How is the decision on disposal site made? How can League members and other concerned citizens influence this decision? Read League's latest publication on High Level Radioactive waste and come share your concerns where waste that lasts 10,000 years should be put.

Citizens Day at the Legislature, on March 12, is a wonderful opportunity to learn how our State Government works. Listen to Legislative leaders and Cabinet members. Ask questions! Invite your own Representative or Senator to lunch in the State Office Building Cafeteria at affordable cost and for interesting conversation. Bring a group of friends!

Volunteer to spend one day a month in our *Augusta office*, from 10 am to 2:00 pm. Read League publications, meet interesting people, get to know the Capitol!

Inform voters, by helping with our Voters Guide for the Primary Election. Help plan Gubernatorial Debates for the Fall. We need your ideas and enthusiasm.

Help start a new Member-At-Large *League group* in your area! York County, Camden/Rockport Area, and Augusta have interested League members looking for a group!

Each of you is valuable to League, whether you can give time frequently, rarely, or simply write a check.

Why be a League member? We care about issues, we care about fairness, we care about people, we care about effective government.

Let's broaden our membership and increase our effectiveness! I ask YOU to sign up one new member this year!

Marlee

HEADING FOR 100 YEARS

The Lewiston Auburn League is 65 years old this year and still not retiring. To celebrate 65 years of educating voters the League revived an old tradition of the League Tea. It was held during the fall in the warm sun of Nancy Ruff's yard in Lewiston. Cucumber sandwiches, petit fours, cookies, and of course, cups of tea were served. What made the whole affair really special was the fact that Emily Farley, Charlotte Wilbur (State Secretary), and Nancy MacLean from the Portland League came up to join the celebration. The Tea ended with Susan Hayward giving the history of the Lewiston Auburn League. It is extremely touching to remember the hard work and dedication that was put into starting and maintaining the League.

action packed
POLITICS



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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.

LEAGUE INTERVIEWS SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL

This interview with Senator George Mitchell was held on May 30 at the Senator's Bangor, Maine, office. The interview was conducted by Penny Harris, Jane Saxl, Judy Harrison and Leigh McCarthy, all members of the Bangor/Brewer League. Here is a synopsis of that interview.

1. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)

Although, Sen. Mitchell describes himself as a "freeze supporter," he does support "continuation of research as a prudent matter," he strongly opposes full deployment of any "Star Wars" program(s) for the following reasons:

- deployment would be an ABM treaty violation;
- program would be "enormously expensive";
- certain reaction of USSR would be to improve their offensive weapons system;
- deployment would escalate the arms race;
- fundamental logical flaw in idea is that system can never be reliably tested.

"Why should we put our trust for our future into the hands of an untestable system?" the Senator concluded.

2. Acid Rain

Sen. Mitchell is again sponsoring a bill which would reduce the quantity of sulfur dioxide release in 31 states in the Eastern United States. "The bill has made it out of committee twice but has been unable to get to the floor because of the opposition of Senate leadership," he said. "I expect the same thing to happen this year."

Sen. Mitchell said a new study report on acid rain is due out in February and some members of Congress want to wait for the report before acting. "This is the most anti-environmental presidency in this century," Sen. Mitchell said, "but I feel the risk of inaction on acid rain is greater than risking action." He also said he felt the paper companies in their own best interest should be "leading the charge" in the fight to control acid rain.

3. HR 700 Civil Rights Restoration Act

Sen. Mitchell is a sponsor of the Civil Rights Restoration Act. "I think the bill will make it through," he said, "because support is so strong and the principle is so correct."

The Senator did not think any substantive amendments (i.e. abortion limitation) would be passed but had no idea when the issue would make it to the floor of the Senate. "Most Americans think that battle (Civil Rights) is over with and want to go on and build on it. They don't want to see it fought again on the floor of the Congress," he stated.

Sen. Mitchell has many times expressed his great respect and admiration for the League, its members, and its positions. Since Sen. Mitchell spoke at Conference, he is familiar with League leaders. It is best, he says, to approach him and his staff directly and honestly. The Senator is responsive to environmental and women's organizations.

Note: Reports on interviews with the other members of Maine's Legislative Delegation will be printed in the *Voter* as they are completed.

NEW CONVENTION DATE

The 1986 LWV national convention dates have been changed to June 14-18, 1986 in Washington, DC. The dates had previously been April 26-30. Two reasons necessitated the change. One, the former date was midway through the Passover celebration and could cause a hardship for Jewish members. Secondly, a significant saving on the average room rate (up to \$50 a day) can be achieved in June.

Make plans now to attend in '86—the League of Women Voters National Convention at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel in Washington, DC on June 14-18.

TRI-STATE COUNCIL

Tri-State Council will be held May 2, 3, and 4 in Vermont. The president and two members of each local league may attend. Further information will be available soon.

PORTFOLIO UPDATES-PORTFOLIO UPDATE

NATURAL RESOURCES

US Senator George Mitchell has sponsored S-720 to create a permanent boundary for Acadia National Park. Environmentalists as a whole support this bill as a good beginning, but would like to see modification of a number of key provisions.

ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS

1. The Secretary of Interior should be given eminent domain authority on *all* lands within the boundary.
2. New private development within the Park's boundary should be prohibited.
3. The five-year limit on Park land exchanges should be deleted.
4. The Acadia Park Advisory Commission role should be strictly advisory and should be limited to a ten-year life as with other parks.

There are additions they would suggest to the Park boundary and conservation easements that they would like on Schoodic Peninsula. They propose a study to be completed by 1991 examining the impact of Park visitors on Acadia's natural resources and the quality of life in surrounding towns in regard to economic relationships.

This is a *start* in the right direction to ensure that the integrity of Acadia National Park is maintained. Write to these committee members to express your feelings.

Senator Malcolm Wallop, Chair
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and
Resource Conservation
Dirksen Office Building, Room 308
US Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Bruce F. Vento, Chair
Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Pat Cyphers
Natural Resources Chair

SOCIAL POLICY

CHILD CARE

An update on child care in Maine, "The Child Care Dilemma—Whose Responsibility Is It," was held in October in Augusta. With input from representatives of the Maine State Legislature, the Maine Coalition for Children, business and the Massachusetts Governors Task Force on Child Care, barriers were identified which hinder the development of child care resources. Specifically:

- the child care system in Maine is too complicated and needs to be simplified for both consumers and prospective providers
- building codes for schools and child care facilities need to be consistent with each other in order to utilize existing school facilities
- opening new child care facilities requires extensive investment capital to meet licensing requirements
- child care is regarded as a high risk for insurers, resulting in increasingly expensive liability insurance.

These comments reflect the findings published by the Maine Child Care Task Force.

INNOVATIVE CHILD CARE

Despite many barriers, some innovative child care programs have been developed in Maine. Some of these were highlighted at a Community Education Forum sponsored by the Bath-Brunswick LWV in September. In Freeport, child care services are provided by contract agreement between the school system and a local provider. In Auburn, child care is provided at Clover Manor, a long-term care facility for the elderly. And in Winthrop, the Kennebec Girl Scout Council rents space from the school to provide after school programs for children as a form of child care.

Many positive things can be accomplished through community based efforts. What can you be doing to initiate similar action in your community to meet the needs of children?

Stephanie Martyak
Social Policy Chair

-PORTFOLIO UPDATES-PORTFOLIO UPDAT

NATIONAL SECURITY

You are the President of the United States and you glance around the briefing room at your cabinet members. There is a rebellion in East Germany, and the United States has been asked to join. Do you risk starting world war III to attempt to unify Germany? Or should you just send supplies? Fortunately you do not have to make this decision alone. You will listen to the cabinet as they discuss the situation. Also you know they have been well briefed on national security from the briefing book all of you just read. But you cannot waste time, if you do not pick an option presented on the computer screen soon, one will be picked for you.

Actually you are not the President, but a high school student using the League of Women Voters of Maine computer simulation *War or Peace? YOU Decide*. *War or Peace? YOU Decide* is a computer aided simulation designed to stimulate discussion of the role nuclear weapons play in national security. The program will be available in both an Apple II 1 and an IBM PC2 version and ready for release February 17, 1986.

Using *War or Peace? YOU Decide* involves taking on the role of high level decision-makers in the Soviet Union or the United States. The best results occur when a group of about five people use it. Groups do not compete against each other. Several people at the State Convention last May had a chance to see it. Since then graphics have been added.

This simulation was funded by a grant to the League of Women Voters of Maine from the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It was created by Grant C. Reynolds, Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science at Bates College and Assistant General Counsel to the Air Force, and Persis E. Hope, Chair National Security Committee League of Women Voters of Maine and staff Registered Nurse at Bates College Health Center.

War or Peace? YOU Decide is accompanied by a Students' Briefing Book which is meant for most high school students. It is designed to provide the student with the information he/she will need to take on the role of a super-power decision maker. There is also an Advanced Briefing Book which is a more detailed introduction to national security. There is also a Teacher's Manual which contains several lesson plans and discussion questions.

ELECTION LAWS

Our State Program (1985-1987) includes an item under "Government" which states that, for the next two years, we will "... monitor legislation with a view to action on the absentee balloting process." At the September State Board meeting, James Henderson, Deputy Secretary of State in charge of election laws, presented a workshop on election laws changes by the 112th Legislature. Included in the changes are absentee ballot provisions which became effective on January 1, 1986.

Some of these changes are:

1. Voters working during the entire time the polls are open are now eligible for absentee ballots.
2. A person temporarily outside of the state may have a spouse, blood relative or guardian deliver a written request for an absentee ballot without an application—this previously applied only to those outside of the country.
3. An absentee ballot may be issued without an application if the voter requests it from the clerk by telephone. The clerk must verify that it is the voter requesting the ballot and must mail it directly to the voter. No third person may be involved.
4. A notary public is no longer required when an absentee ballot is received by a voter and returned to the clerk by US mail. When a third person is involved in delivery of an absentee ballot, a notary, the municipal clerk, a dedimus justice, clerk of courts or two other individuals may be witnesses. The "two other individuals" is the new provision.
5. A new restriction regarding assistance in marking the ballot states that anyone may assist *except* the employer or agent of that employer, or official or agent of the voter's union. Also, assistance must be made in the presence of at least one other witness.

Ruth Moss
Election Laws Chair

If you want your school system to stimulate their students' minds with this program let them know that they can buy it for \$49.95 by dialing 800-628-2828 ext. 647 after February 15. The Maine League will have copies of its own for use with local Leagues.

Persis Hope
National Security Chair

RESTORING CIVIL RIGHTS

This is a critical time for HR 700, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985. HR 700 has not yet passed both houses of Congress because of impending amendments which seek to link civil rights for all citizens with abortion and religion. Supporters of these amendments are "holding civil rights hostage to abortion" says the LWV national office.

Maine's legislative delegation has been solidly in favor of HR 700 and has consistently resisted substantive amendments that would restrict the intent of the legislation. HR 700 is designed to reverse the impact of the Supreme Court's 1984 *Grove City v Bell* decision, which left institutions receiving federal funds free to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age and disability in all but the specific programs receiving federal funds. HR 700 would restore the four civil rights laws affected by the Supreme Court's decision—Title IX, Title VI, Sec. 504 and the Age Discrimination Act—to their pre-Grove City status.

Please write your congress person and our two state senators and thank them for their courageous support of HR 700, and encourage them to resist any substantive amendments to this legislation.

Senator William S. Cohen (R)
322 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2523
(207) 622-8414 (Augusta Ofc)

Senator George J. Mitchell (D)
364 Russell Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5344
(207) 790-3561 (Portland Ofc)

Rep. John R. McKernan, Jr. (R) District 1
1535 Longworth House Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6116
(207) 780-3381 (Portland Ofc)

Rep. Olympia Snowe (R) District 2
133 Cannon House Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6306
(207) 945-0432 (Bangor Ofc)

MEET MARLEE



Marlee Coughlan, of Raymond, is the new President of the League of Women Voters of Maine. Co-owner and director of Northern Pines Health Resort and Kingsley Pines Camp and Conference Center, Coughlan joined the League on her 21st birthday.

"I received my first call to attend a Unit Meeting while I was in labor with my first child," she recalled. "He attended the meeting with me four weeks later, to voices of 'Too bad it's a boy and can't be a member.' They were wrong. He joined on his 18th birthday."

Marlee has been active in League in Ohio, Texas and California before moving to Maine in 1982. She has served as Director of Membership for the LWVME for the past two years, and served as Director of the National Security Conference held in November, 1983, which was attended by League members from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

"I continue to be impressed by how we are accomplishing so much, are increasing in visibility, and are undaunted by new challenges," she said in anticipation of her presidency. "The members of the League are the jewels . . . League members are always ready to look at all sides of an issue, to avoid judging people, and keep a large perspective."

Marlee, the granddaughter of two women activists and the daughter of a League president, will serve as President of the LWVME through April 1987.

LEAGUE AND WLAC TARGET WOMEN'S ISSUES IN MAINE

The League again has joined the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition (WLAC) to support legislation of interest to women. At press time the bills had not been printed and no further information was available. The following legislation has been accepted by WLAC for this legislative session:

1. An ACT to Insure Training and Employment Opportunities for all AFDC Recipients. Sponsor: Rep. John Lisnik.
2. An ACT to Reauthorize the Dislocated Workers Fund. Sponsor: Rep. John Martin.
3. An ACT to Establish a Toll-Free Hotline for Victims of Rape, Incest and Battering. Sponsor: Sen. Nancy Clark.
4. An ACT to Create a Rape Crisis Center in Augusta. Sponsor: Rep. Pat Paradis.
5. An ACT to Improve Access to Child Care Services. Sponsor: Sen. Nancy Clark.
6. An ACT to Increase the Maine Child Care Deduction Under the State Income Tax. Sponsor: Rep. John Diamond.
7. An ACT to Encourage Employers to Assist Their Employees in Meeting Their Child Care Needs and Expenses. Sponsor: Rep. John Diamond.
8. An ACT to Guarantee Insurance Coverage for Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Providers Licensed by the State of Maine. Sponsor: Rep. Annette Hoglund.
9. An ACT to Fund a Long Term Care Budget for Maine's Elderly, Handicapped and at Risk Citizens Who Need Support and Health Services. Sponsor: Sen. Nancy Clark.
10. An ACT to Provide Community Education and Family Health Services. Sponsor: Sen. Charles Pray.
11. An ACT to Increase AFDC Payments by 10%. Sponsor: Rep. John Lisnik.
12. An ACT to Establish the Maine Small Business and Job Development Program. Sponsor: Sen. Tom Andrews.
13. An ACT to Amend the Regulation of the Practice of Nursing. Sponsor: Sen. Nancy Clark.

To date there are no bills WLAC plans to oppose.

YOUR HELP NEEDED

Office Workers—Now that the League's State Office is open, we need help staffing it on a semi-regular basis. Anyone who could work in the office for a few hours a month or when they are in Augusta on other business should contact their local League President, or Stephanie Martyak, 729-6868.

ABC Reporting Coordinator—A coordinator is needed to plan the reporting to ABC News on the 1986 election. A salary is paid by the network. This information will not be used for projecting a winner, but will be used in tabulation of the final vote. This project generates substantial income for the state League. The Board has voted to participate, providing it can find a coordinator. For more information call Mary Hunter, 947-4466. To volunteer call Marlee, 655-3321.

CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

The State Board of the LWVME recently voted to support our officemate, Maine Common Cause, in its support of the creation of a Citizen's Utility Board (CUB) in Maine. The CUB would act as a citizens' advocate group before the Public Utilities Commission. For more information, contact Alvin Moss, 2nd Vice President, 422-3627.

FLASH!
PENNY HARRIS, IMMEDIATE
PAST PRESIDENT OF LWVME
HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO
THE LWVUS NATIONAL
BOARD. WE ARE PLEASED
AND PROUD OF YOUR
ACHIEVEMENT, PENNY.
CONGRATULATIONS!

PLAN FOR ACTION

FEBRUARY

- 12 STATE BOARD MEETING,
9:30 A.M.; Publication of VOTER
14 66th BIRTHDAY FOR U.S.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
15 National Program Planning due

MARCH

- 12 CITIZENS' DAY AT THE LEGIS-
LATURE, 9:30-3:00 P.M., Augusta
19 Snow date for above
26 STATE BOARD MEETING, Augusta;
Deadline for copy for State VOTER
Planning for Tri-State Council

APRIL

- 10 Publication of VOTER

MAY

TRI-STATE COUNCIL, New Hamp-
shire includes STATE BOARD MTG.

JUNE

- 14-18 NATIONAL CONVENTION,
LWVUS, Washington, D.C.

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

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