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## The Voter vol. 4, no. 1 (Fall 1986)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

*Maine League of Women Voters*

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# THE VOTER

Vol. 4 No. 1

The League of Women Voters of Maine

Fall 1986

## GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE - 1986

### FOCUS ON THE FUTURE OF MAINE

Plans for the League sponsored Gubernatorial Debate continue to solidify. All four candidates - Sherry Huber, John McKernan, John Menario, and James Tierney - have accepted the League's invitation to participate in the October 23rd, 8 p.m. event. The debate will be televised live and carried on radio statewide from the Morrell Gymnasium on the campus of Bowdoin College. Organizers expect a live audience of 500 ticket holders to view the debate and attend a Candidates' Reception immediately following.

The Steering Committee includes three members of the Brunswick League, Joyce Bancroft, Project Director, Robin Kelley, Fundraising Director, and Penny Gruen, Publicity. The committee initiated plans for

the debate this past spring and has worked on arrangements since then. Dr. LeRoy Greason, President of Bowdoin College, agreed to allow the debate and reception to be held at Bowdoin. WCBH will produce the broadcast to be carried by MPBN radio and television so that Maine voters will have the best possible opportunity to see and hear their candidates focus on issues of importance. With Angus King as moderator, three other media experts (to be announced later) will question the candidates on particular areas of concern outlined by the Steering Committee. \*

You may request tickets for the Debate through your local League President. If you would like further information, call Joyce Bancroft at 729-8423 after 6 p.m.



The League of Women Voters of Maine



### Gubernatorial Debate 1986

October 23, 1986 • Morrell Gymnasium, Bowdoin College  
8 p.m. (Audience requested to be seated by 7:50 p.m.)

# National

## CONVENTION '86: A Capital Idea!!

The LWV national convention was held in Washington, D.C. June 14-18. Generous time was allotted to networking, so that attendees could do what they do best - learn from each other- without having to squeeze it all in during short breaks and late-night get-togethers. An entire day was spent on Capitol Hill lobbying, including a tax reform rally addressed by Senators Bob Packwood (R) and Bill Bradley (D). A non-recommended study on the Role of the Federal Government in Agriculture was passed as well as the study on Meeting Basic Human Needs. Due to a severe funding crunch at the national office, the Per-Member-Payment (PMP) was raised to \$14. The following were the Maine contingent. Marlee Coughlan, Alvin Moss, Judy Harrison, Madeline Brown, Marion Holshouser, Molly Brown, Persis Hope, Jo Bancroft, Carol Fritz and Julie Howison.

## League of Women Voters of the United States 1986 Advocacy Agenda

1. Achieve fair and responsible federal fiscal policy through tax reform, deficit reductions and budget policies.
2. Create a climate for arms control through spending decisions on space weapons.
3. Protect public health and the environment through control of air and water pollution.
4. Protect the rights of women and minorities through legislation and litigation responding to current attacks on civil rights and employment policies.

# State

On July 30, a mini-board meeting and welcome reception for the new LWVUS President was held at the home of Maine's LWVUS national board member, Penny Harris. Nancy Neumann comes to Steuben in the summer so she was invited to speak and socialize with the 14 League members. Charlotte Wilbur's notes mention that League will continue to balance advocacy and education, make extra effort to get League in the media and will continue the direct mail solicitation since at present we have more donors than members.

"Nancy is warm, genuine, articulate and projects a very positive attitude and is a good listener."

# Local

## M.D.I. BUS TOUR - ANOTHER SIDE OF EDEN

On July 23, the MDI League sponsored a bus tour of the Mt. Desert Island. The route explored some of the land use changes that are taking place in the towns. Some of the changes are acceptable and inevitable but others are the flawed impact of exploding developmental pressures. In another 10 years, these could change the life-style of the residents. The tour looked at some of these impacts and attempted to analyze whether they were good or bad. 36 interested citizens went on the tour and the League felt it was successful in raising awareness on an important public issue. Look for pictures and an article in the next National Voter. LaRue Spiker

The Orono-Old Town LWV voted to disband at its annual meeting in April. Lack of leadership, loss of members, and other time demands were cited as reasons for the breakup.

"We all have very happy memories of League," said former President Alma Otto. "It was with great regret and resignation we decided to disband. We hope we will be able to start up again some day."

Funds from the Orono-Old Town League's treasury will be turned over to the state board and used to fund new leagues.

SO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE  
LEAGUE ? Send \$25 and  
your name and address to  
LWVME, Rte 85, Box 279  
Raymond, Maine 04071.  
YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID.

# Citizen Education

Women, Power and Politics: a Gubernatorial Candidates Forum and Workshop on Issues of Concern to Women.

Sponsored by the Family Planning Assoc. and LWVME with six other sponsors.

Saturday, September 13

Workshops 9:30-12:00

Discussion with Candidates 1-2:30

Registration \$12 lunch included

Contact: UMA Community Programs  
622-7131

LWVME and Common Cause will co-sponsor a Gubernatorial Candidates Night at the Hancock County Auditorium in Ellsworth. Panelists from television, radio and the newspapers will question the candidates.

Sunday, September 28 at 7 P.M.

Contact: Alvin Moss 422-3627



"Bombs Away?" will be an international symposium organized by the Maine Physicians for Social Responsibility and other medical and civic groups in Maine. (LWVME and 19 other groups) The effects of the proliferation of nuclear weapons on public health and welfare will be examined. A faculty of distinguished American and Soviet experts will consider realistic alternatives to the Nuclear Arms Race and explore avenues of international cooperation.

Saturday, September 27 9-4 P.M.  
Peakes Auditorium, Bangor High School  
Contact: PSR 947-8311 ext 360

## Voters Service

LWVME published a Voters' Guide for the June Primary Election. The guide profiled candidates in the gubernatorial races and was published in the Bangor Daily News on June 4.

Candidates were asked their views on economic development in the state, closing Maine Yankee, reproductive choice, ways to raise revenues in view of Gramm-Rudman, and what the most important issue facing the state was.

Funding for the guide was provided by Tabitha and Stephen King and the Bangor Daily News.

## ABC

Margaret Tragard and the York County Provisional League will undertake the ABC election reporting. 54 volunteers are needed to visit polling places and phone in the results. This project provides the League with substantial funds. To volunteer contact Margaret at 646-4068

1987 CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE  
8½ x 11" wall/desk calendar with  
League quotes will help you and  
raise some funds for LWVME.  
\$2.00 plus postage

Contact: Wini Mott  
Paris Hill  
Paris, ME 04271  
743-6216

# PORTFOLIO UPDATES-PORTFOLIO UPDA'

Election Laws legislation to become effective July 1, 1986, enacted by the first regular session of the 112th Legislature notes:

1. there will now be standard designation for party enrollment.
2. voting lists must use designations of: "D" for Democrat; "R" for Republican and "U" for Unenrolled.
3. the Secretary of State may designate other letters for new parties.

Those voting an absentee ballot for the June 10th Primary are reminded that as of January 1, 1986, a notary public seal will *NOT* be required when an absentee ballot is received by a voter and returned to the clerk by U.S. mail.

Parents of voting age students are reminded that effective January 1, 1986, a person temporarily out 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 the U.S.

I would highly recommend that all LWV members have in their library a copy of the Secretary of State publication, *State of Maine Election Laws and Procedures Handbook - 1985*. This is a précis of the Election Laws and much easier to read. This publication can be secured from the Election Laws Bureau in the State Office Building, Augusta, 04333 or by calling James Henderson, Deputy Secretary of State, 289-4189. (Note: This is the *new* number for Henderson's office.) The Handbook is a new publication having just come from the presses in February. League members at the Brunswick LWV meeting on Election Laws were among the first in the state to receive copies.

For further questions about Election Laws, if you cannot reach Henderson—call me, 422-3627.

Ruth Moss  
Elections Laws Chair

The League of Women Voters of Maine computer simulation *War or Peace: Decision-Making in a Nuclear Age* has now been released for sale. It is available from Bright Ideas, Inc. for \$49.95. (1-800-628-2828 ext. 649) The program includes: a Briefing Book which examines the nuclear question in detail; a Manual to copy and distribute to participants; Lesson Plans; computer program diskettes for either Apple or IBM compatible computers; full color graphics; six different crisis situations; and U. or Soviet perspective. The goal of the program is to stimulate discussion of the decision-making that can lead to nuclear war. This is done by putting participants in the role of making decisions for either the United States or the Soviet Union during a super-power crisis. The program was created by Grant Reynolds, Visiting Associate Professor of Political Science at Bates College, and Persis Hope, National Security Chair, League of Women Voters of Maine.

Persis has used *War or Peace: Decision-Making in a Nuclear Age* in several different groups including: Falmouth High School's Nuclear Issues Class; a Day of Dialogue workshop at Falmouth High School; the Lewiston Auburn League of Women Voters; a military history class at Bates College; a psychology of the arms race class at Bates College; The Nuclear Weapons Policy Discussion Group at Bates College; and Citizens Opposing Nuclear Arms. It has been very well received. John Drisko who co-teaches the Nuclear Issues class at Falmouth High School made this comment about it: "*War or Peace* is a superb teaching tool that has allowed my students to explore a myriad of different aspects of the nuclear issue. Once they got started, they did not want to stop talking about it. I was very impressed."

Persis Hope  
National Security Chair

Next Voter early December.  
Board profiles, Letters to  
the Editor (send some)  
suggestions welcome. Ed.

# -PORTFOLIO UPDATES-PORTFOLIO UPDAT

The LWVME again this year joined with 23 other organizations in the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition to support legislation of particular interest to women and children. The following legislation was supported with the following results:

1. LD 1793—An Act to create a rape crisis center in Augusta was passed and funded at \$17,000.
2. LD 1826—An Act to increase the Maine child care credit under the state of Maine income tax passed. The deductible was increased from 15% to 16% and will increase gradually to 25% over the next three years.
3. LD 1864—An Act to encourage employers to assist their employees in meeting their child care needs and expenses passed but was not funded.
4. LD 1876—An Act to insure training and employment opportunities for all AFDC recipients was included in the governor's budget and was passed.
5. LD 1888—An Act to fund long-term care budget for Maine's elderly, handicapped and at-risk citizens who need support and health services was included in the governor's budget as \$900,000 for home-based health care and passed.
6. LD 1896—An Act to increase AFDC payments by 10% failed. This is the first time in 7 years there has been no AFDC increase.
7. LD 1907—An Act to improve access to child care services was partially funded. \$50,000 was appropriated for a pilot program from "latchkey" children.
8. LD 1966—An Act to guarantee insurance coverage for child care centers and family day care providers licensed by the state will be studied for one year.
9. LD 2003—An Act to establish a toll-free state-wide hotline for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence was withdrawn by its sponsors.
10. LD 2124—An Act to provide community education and family health services passed and was funded at \$206,000.

Judy Harrison  
WLAC Liaison

The State Publications Portfolio is alive and well, despite the seeming low profile during the past year. Judy Harrison and Cynthia Post have completely rewritten and redesigned the eight pamphlets which make up the Maine Voters' Kit. This is Your Legislature  
How a Bill Becomes a Law  
How to Register to Vote in  
Maine and Enroll in a Political Party  
How to Vote in Maine and Make Your  
Ballot Count  
Courts of Maine  
Executive Branch  
County Government  
National Government

Also, Talking to the State House.  
Pamphlets are 50¢ each or the entire Voters' Kit is \$3.

Each year Leagues throughout the state give the kit to new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies. High school students attending Girls State use the kit in their mock government program and the State Legislature purchases and distributes some of them as well.

Our philosophy is that publications (both state and national) are an important part of our League's success in educating voters. The key is knowledgeable League members; therefore, we are going to try a little "League Trivia" game in the *VOTER*. Questions will be taken from publications you should be familiar with. The prize will be a free copy of a publication. Send your answers to me within one week after receiving this *VOTER*.

## League Trivia Game No. 1

1. Who must sign an enacted bill before it goes to the Governor?
2. How many joint committees are there in the Maine State Legislature?
3. What is the term for a bill if only one house passes it or if no compromise is reached?
4. What is a "resolve" as a legislative term?
5. How many times is a bill read before the Legislature?
6. What is a "private or special" law as differentiated from a "public" law?

Send your answers to LWVME Publications, Wini Mott, Paris Hill, ME 04271.

# Message from Marlee

Members' enthusiasm has caused two new Leagues to form! The August Board meeting in Paris (ME) made official the Provisional York County League. The (pre-provisional) Mid-Coast League is a Member-at-large unit with members from Camden, Rockport and Thomaston areas.

Board meetings are a time to visit with state-wide friends as well as to communicate the events and concerns of all the Leagues in our state. The list of accomplishments and plans always amazes me. Your membership helps to provide:

A Voters Guide insert in the Bangor Daily News; a Voters' Kit providing clear facts on State Government and the role of the citizen; a televised Debate of the gubernatorial candidates plus three other forums.

League co-sponsorship of an international symposium with Physicians for Social Responsibility. "Bombs Away?", Prescription for a Healthier World to include Russian and U.S. doctors and noted journalists. Purpose: to promote peace. To raise consciousness of young people we offer our Computer Simulation, War or Peace? You Decide!

Research and lobbying to protect our Natural Resources. Action to stop Acid Rain, to protect precious Ground-water and to avoid Nuclear Waste dumping.

Protection for our Women and Children as League works in a Legislative Coalition for effective action in Augusta.

Report of Congressional Interview with Olympia J. Snowe, 2nd District, Maine  
Marlee Coughlan, President LWV Maine, interviewer

Subjects discussed and views of MC on each:

1) SDI ("Star Wars") – President needs to keep SDI for negotiation with Soviets at Summit Meeting. She supports *lowest* funding for research and testing. Deployment should be negotiating chip (or perhaps testing). She is not strong on moving defense to outer space.

2) Tax Reform – She prefers to stay open rather than supporting specifics now. Effects on middle income people in Maine are important. Proposed reform aids the most wealthy and the most poor. Deficit is untouched by tax reform. How solve deficit? Spend less. Agrees on some limits to military spending. She was member of a Moderate Republican Coalition proposing a budget which would be better than President's. Proposal lost.

3) Acid Rain – She supports measures similar to Sen. Mitchell's proposal. We have studied enough. Acid rain is a problem to be dealt with in the Clean Air Act update. Utilities should bear brunt of costs.

4) Civil Rights Restoration – (In her reply letter to me in May, she affirmed co-sponsorship without amendments. She opposes abortion amendment.)

**Other Information** – Gave her copy of State Voter listing LWVME Program and Action priorities plus success list on Women's Issues. She is very supportive of LWV, was once a member, is considering rejoining.

What can YOU do to help League in this important work?

Offer to spend one day a month in our Augusta Office, 10-2. Read League publications, meet interesting people, get to know the Capitol.

Inform voters by doing research for the Voters' Guide. Attend the Debates and Forums. A good audience is vital.

Each of you is valuable to League.

Whether you can give time frequently, rarely, or simply write a check.

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

# Natural Resources

## RADON: WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT US?

Radon is a colorless, odorless and chemically inert gas. It is also radio-active. It is a naturally occurring pollutant found in low concentrations almost everywhere on earth. All groundwater contains some radon and therefore some degree of radioactivity. The levels of radon vary from one locality to another because of differences in bedrock geology. Radon gas is the immediate product of the radioactive decay of the elements uranium and radium. Radon is mid-way in a chain of radioactive transformations originating with uranium, which has such a long half-life as to have been present at the earth's formation.

In the early 1960's and 1970's, it was discovered that many wells in Maine were above some suggested drinking water standards. In 1978, researchers at the University of Maine found radon concentrations to be at their highest level when found in granite bedrock. As soon as groundwater is brought to the surface and exposed to the air, the radon is lost to the air. Consequently, there are low levels of radon in lakes and public water supplies, but due to the recent energy conservation studies, super insulated homes prevent radon from escaping. It is said that Americans spend 90% of their lives indoors. Radon can be found in groundwater, soil or construction material. When radon is inhaled the elements (lead, bismuth and polonium) will stick to the lungs. Radon progeny ingested with water cannot pass through the walls of the body into the blood. Radon entering the air

passageways can cause severe problems and cancer.

Radon concentrations are usually expressed as pico curies per liter (p Ci/L) of air or water. A curie is a standard measure of radioactivity. For waterborne radon, no standard has been set. Health effects of low level radiation is still uncertain and government agencies have been wary in setting standards for radon. Ventilation and water-use habits are varying factors in the determinations of radon levels in our homes. You may have your well water tested for the presence of radon by writing to Dept. of Human Services, Augusta 04333.

## NATURAL RESOURCES VIDEOS FOR LOCAL USE \* \* \* \* \*

Tackling Household Wastes produced by LWV of Massachusetts.

Groundwater produced by the LWV of Missouri.

Both available for the cost of postage, contact : Pat Cyphers 422-3625

## New Publication

*Coping with Conflict: Reproductive Choices and Community Conflict.*

We know that many Leagues and other citizen organizations have been looking for a tool to help them play a constructive role in resolving community conflicts over reproductive issues by improving citizen understanding of the issues involved. We hope that this publication will serve as a basic guide to ameliorating community conflict. The LWVEF is grateful to the Population Dynamics Foundation for a contribution that made this publication possible. In addition, we acknowledge a contribution from the Alaska Women's Camping and Brushranger Society that helped to defray publication costs. Pub. #802 \$2.50



# PLAN FOR ACTION

# STATE BOARD 1985-87

## SEPTEMBER

- 13 Women, Power and Politics  
Candidates Forum & Workshops  
9-2:30 P.M. U.M. Augusta
- 27 "Bombs Away?" Seminar  
9-6 P.M. Bangor High School
- 28 Gubernatorial Candidates  
7 P.M. Hancock County Aud.  
Ellsworth

## OCTOBER

- 1 STATE BOARD MEETING  
9:30-2:30 P.M. Augusta
- 19 Gubernatorial Candidates  
2 P.M. Bangor
- 23 LWV of Maine Gubernatorial  
Debate  
7-8 P.M. Bowdoin College

## NOVEMBER

- 4 ELECTION DAY  
LWV reporting for ABC.
- 12 STATE BOARD MEETING  
9:30-2:30 P.M. Augusta
- 15 Global Conference  
LWV of New Hampshire  
St. Anselm College
- 15 Deadline for the Voter.

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