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Maine League of Women Voters Staff

Maine League of Women Voters

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THE VOTER

Vol. 4 No. 2

The League of Women Voters of Maine

Winter 1986

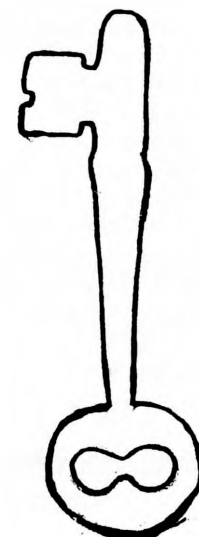
KEYS to the CAPITOL

This year the State Board decided to combine Citizen's Day at the Legislature with the Legislative Reception at the Blaine House. A full day is being planned to which you may bring your friends and stay as long or as briefly as you wish.

February 4, 1987 (Storm date February 5)



- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9 A.M. | Registration |
| 10 A.M. | Ed Pert, Clerk of the House
Mal Leary, Capitol News Service |
| 11 A.M. | Speaker of the House
President of the Senate
Majority and Minority leaders |
| Noon | Lunch with your legislator(s) |
| 1 P.M. | Choice of:
Hearings
Tour of Offices and meeting
with Cabinet Directors
Secretary of State
Human Services Commissioner
Attorney General
Dept. of Environmental Protection |
| 2 P.M. | Tour of the State House |
| 4-5 P.M. | Legislative Reception at the
Blaine House and meet the Governor |



All League members and several Women's Groups will receive invitations with the final schedule included. Plan to car-pool and let us show the Capitol who we are. The League of Women Voters!

Message from Marlee

"First class job you did with the Debate!"
Phone calls from a wide variety of people told of their increased admiration of what League can do. League's enthusiasm was matched by professional leadership and planning, with special kudos to Jo Bancroft, Robin Kelley and Penny Gruen.

What helps us increase League's effectiveness?

Networks: We multiply our influence when we join with other groups for similar goals. Start with that highly praised Debate, we could not have succeeded so grandly without our business sponsors who underwrote the expense. These citizens are often delighted to participate on a specific project when personally approached with a proposal.

Representing LWV of Maine, I meet regularly with leaders of the Leagues of New Hampshire, Vermont and now Rhode Island. We share successes and challenges in program and organization. How to conduct the new LWVUS Human Needs Study, how to combat Acid Rain, what tips can we share on fundraising? This Quad-State League network is a wave of the future for small state Leagues.

I also meet regularly with the leaders of other major Women's organizations to plan public events such as our upcoming Forum with Congresswoman Olympia Snowe, planned for February 28. Come dialogue with her on issues of mutual concern such as Pay Equity, Civil Rights, and Welfare to Work Disincentives.

FIRST CALL TO CONVENTION

May 1-3, 1987
Kimball Terrace Inn
Northeast Harbor

Would you like to be a delegate to the LWV of Maine State Convention?

For ongoing Advocacy effectiveness, League works within WLAC, the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition for impressive box score of success. Aiming for a similar action network in Natural Resources, League is planning strategy with Natural Resources Council and Maine Audubon Society.

And finally, support YOUR OWN NETWORK in the League! How? By writing your check for dues; by attending a meeting or workshop, by circling Feb. 4 on your new League calendar for your Keys to the Capitol! You will learn at briefings by new Cabinet members and Legislative leaders, you may watch a session of the Senate or House, you may join the fun of our Reception at the Governor's Mansion, you may lobby if you wish.

League people are the most stimulating, caring and delightful people I know! Come join the fun!

Marlee



The nominating committee is gathering suggestions for members to serve on the State Board. We need willing and enthusiastic members.

Serving on the State Board is a great opportunity to learn and grow, a privilege open to anyone who desires it. It will take as much time as you are willing to give, in areas that you can choose while doing things you enjoy and establishing friendships.

Contact: Maxine Harrow, Chair
RFD 1, Box 50
E. Holden, ME 04229
843-5289 (h) 581-1820 (w)

OR

Stephanie Martyak, Brunswick
Penny Harris, Bangor
Bonnie Anderson, Falmouth

January is STATE Program Planning

State Program is selected, adopted and used as a basis for Action.

League members meet to
Review current program and consider additional issues of state-wide concern.

Make recommendations to retain, change or drop state positions or to begin a new study.

State Board Members review the suggestions from Local Leagues and formulate a Recommended State Program.

Delegates to the State Convention discuss and vote on State Program for 1987-1989.

ABC



ABC News asked the LWVME to assist it in a nationwide reportage of voting results on the November 4 elections. The newly formed York County Provisional League was the coordinator for the state. ABC News selected 54 polling stations throughout the state as key precincts, representing a cross-section of rural and urban populations. Reporters were found from League members as well as individuals that were recommended by legislators. In September, a kit was sent to each reporter with the specifics. With every thing in place, a test was run on Oct. 28 simulating the actual reporting but using fictitious results. 39% (21) failed to report, reasons ranging from a broken arm, attended a funeral, forgot or left town. When the big day arrived, six reporters did not call in reports because of unforeseen circumstances. i.e. Faulty balloting machines causing had counting, a misunderstanding about the timing, and one reporter fell asleep until Wednesday.

Some interesting questions. Why does one precinct take 3 3/4 hours to count 1,262 paper ballots when another takes 4 1/2 hours to count 571? Or by machine why 1 hour to tabulate 935 ballots while another took 3 1/4 hours for 671?

A good deal has been discussed about the value or disservice of early voting projections. ABC News has wrestled with this issue since "Senator Goldwater blamed the networks for his defeat in 1964." There have been many academic and political studies on the subject but the results continue to be contradictory.

Margaret Tragard
York County

1985-87

GOVERNMENT

- 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.
- County: A continuing responsibility - to achieve reform.
- Citizens Rights: To monitor and act on legislation to protect the right of an individual to make personal decisions on reproductive choices.

SOCIAL POLICY

- Equal Rights for all.
- Comparable worth: Action to achieve.
- Child care: Action to assure the availability of quality child care.
- Educational Finance: Continuing responsibility to ensure equal educational opportunity for all.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Air/Water/Pesticides: Action to promote wise use and prevent degradation of water, and air resources.
- Waste management: Action to ensure the safe treatment, storage and disposal of all wastes, low and high level radioactive, hazardous and solid.
- Land: Continued support for comprehensive land use planning.
- Energy: Action to promote conservation by reducing waste in transportation, residences, commerce and industry.
- Farmland: Action to promote policies that preserve farmland and make farming economically and environmentally feasible.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- National security: Action to promote use of computer simulation, "War or Peace: You Decide" designed to stimulate discussion of the role nuclear weapons play in national security.



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.







We sincerely thank the underwriters of "FOCUS ON THE FUTURE", the 1986 Gubernatorial Debate.

BATH IRON WORKS * CASCO NORTHERN BANK * HANNAFORD BROTHERS *

MERRILL BANK * UNIONMUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE *

Our thanks and gratitude also go to:

Panelists Dave Platt and Patsy Wiggins and moderator Angus King for asking stimulating questions and making the debate one of important issues.

The Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce who contributed the reception following the program.

President Leroy Greason and Bowdoin College staff who graciously gave time and effort to make every detail just right.

Brunswick Area LWV members who helped the evening go smoothly.

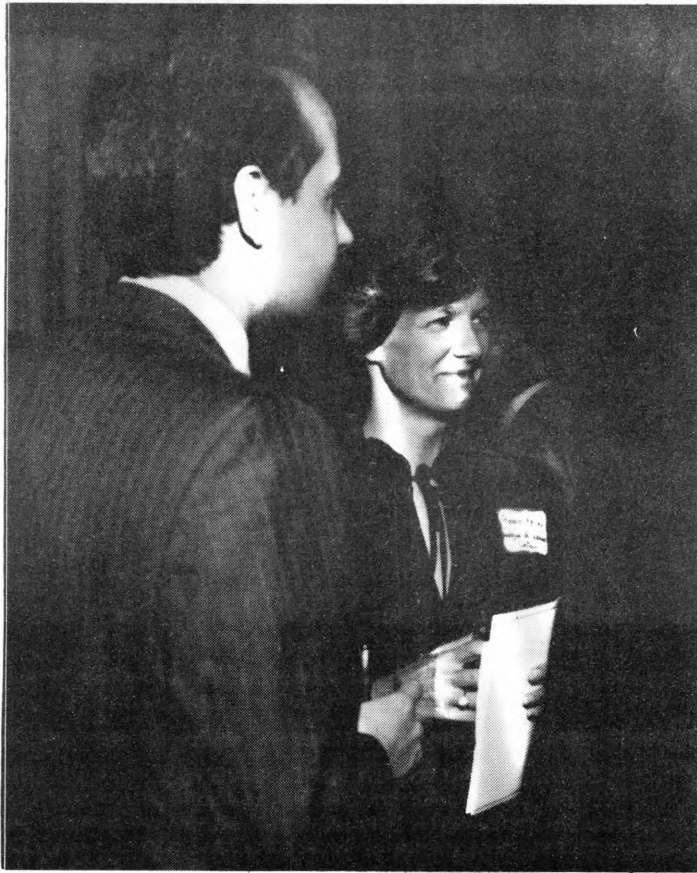
Russ Peotter and WCBB for televising our Debate well and being so cooperative to work with.

The Candidates who used the unstructured format effectively to communicate their positions to our live audience and TV viewers.

All the loyal members who supported the League by their attendance and enthusiasm.

Jo Bancroft, Project Director
Robin Kelley, Finance
Penny Gruen, Publicity





Photos by Dick Bancroft

Local Leagues

Bangor-Brewer Area: Co-sponsored three local Candidates Forums. In Brewer the co-sponsor was Brewer Business Council. In Bangor, the Community of Pride was the co-sponsor for one and Eastside PTO for the second forum.

Ellsworth Unit: Co-sponsored a Gubernatorial Debate with Common Cause. About 500 attended. Panelists represented both television and print media. Refreshments were provided by Ellsworth and Mt. Desert Island Leagues and some \$73 worth of publications and LWV buttons were sold.

Alvin Moss (422-3627)

Mid-Coast Unit: Held five Candidates Forums during October in Camden, Washington, Rockland, Thomaston (& S. Thomaston) and Port Clyde. They were all covered by the media; Courier Gazette, Camden Herald, Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald and WRKD Radio in Rockland. Coffee and dessert for all the winning candidates was held Nov. 20

Molly Brown (354-6508)

Portland Area: A Regional meeting on Global Trade was held at the Merry Manor restaurant. Lunch and a speaker, on Saturday proved to be a good idea. A Voters Service banner was hung across Forest Avenue saying "Your Vote Counts League of Women Voters Candidates nights were held in several local units for state and local candidates.

Marion Holshouser

Marion Holshouser (767-2784)

Have you met?

Alvin M. Moss. He grew up in Philadelphia and has been on the State Board since 1977. (He has served under six state presidents) He was a computer systems manager for the Dept. of Defense, a systems engineer for G.E. Space Systems, was Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Pennsylvania and is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army. He is father of two sons and two daughters. He was on the national governing board of Common Cause as well as the State Chair for 4 terms. He is active in Sorrento (Planning Board) and Hancock County Planning Commission. He has also been President of Greater Ellsworth Unit of LWVME for 8 years. His experience and expertise and loyalty are certainly welcome.

Ruth Moss. Although she is not on the State Board, she is often at the State Board meetings. She and Alvin have been married for 41 years!! Ruth is truly the "mover and shaker" of the Ellsworth Unit and aside from LWV and Common Cause, she has slipped in a Sorrento-Sullivan Historical Society Bulletin, founded the Sorrento-Sullivan Recreation Center and is chair of the Coastal Crescent Kennel Club! Ruth tries to keep a low league profile because she was elected National Committeewoman of the ME Democratic State Committee. These two are truly a "dynamic duo" !

Margaret Tragard. Comes to us from Detroit although she moved East at 13. She once worked with Life Magazine as a secretary to the Asst. Managing Editor. She raised 4 children (2 girls, 2 boys) and returned to work as secretary to a woman who owned her own company and was President. She took six months leave of absence to live in Alaska, find work, travel and find herself. It was very rewarding. She enjoys singing in choirs and women's barbershop and has single handedly formed the York County League of Women Voters. Bravo!

→ Attention Local Leagues
Program materials available

→ Employment Needs of Women
1984 cassette 30 minutes

→ National Security: Not for Experts Only
cassette 29 minutes

→ Membership Slide Show
"What's in Us for you?"
cassette & script & slides

PUBLICATIONS

Requests are coming in for Voters' Kits thanks to Judy Harrison, Public Relations, for sending out press releases to many newspapers in the state.

Candidates Forum, written by Jane Saxl and designed by Teresa Drag is a must for all Local Leagues. \$.50.

Maine How We Govern (revised in 1982) contains a wealth of information about our government. Formerly \$6, now \$3.

League Calendars for 1987 are still available. \$2.

Wini Mott (743-6216)

Natural Resources

The 99th Congress recessed without strengthening the Clean Air Act. Both of the Acid Rain Control bills that the LWV supported will have to be reintroduced in the next session. Acid rain legislation proceeded further in the House of Representatives than ever before so that is a favorable sign. Energy and Commerce Committee Chair, John Dingell (D-MI) has sat on HR 4567 and refused to let it move to a vote.

A new group of Citizens emerged in 1986, Citizens for the Sensible Control of Acid Rain. (CSCAR) This group is a public relations firm hired by the utility industry to lobby against HR 4567. The LWVUS has exposed this group. As league members, we must educate the public on clean air issues. Working with the local media is a good way to start and the acid rain issue is a good one to address.

LWV of Missouri has a 22-minute program that looks at the sources of air pollution, acid rain and pollutant effects on health and the environment. It also examines the strengths and weaknesses of the Clean Air Act and some of the measures designed to improve air quality without hindering industrial growth. The program is made up of 80 slides in a Kodak Carousel, cassette tape, script and an informational brochure. You may rent this program for \$3. Contact: LWV of Missouri
6665 Delmar - Rm. 304, St. Louis, ME 63130

State Energy Director Anthony Armstrong has announced the release of a publication entitled, "Indoor Air Quality and Your Health" designed to inform Maine residents of the health hazards of radioactive radon and other indoor pollutants. Proper ventilation practices as suggested in this booklet, will allow Maine homeowners to enjoy both a healthy indoor environment and an energy efficient home. For a free copy, contact: Office of Energy Resources, State House Station 53 Augusta 04333.

New ways of life bring new products and new wastes. Some new kinds of wastes can injure living things, some to the point of being life-threatening. Such wastes are called "Hazardous Wastes". A hazardous waste is a discarded sub-

stance whose chemical or biological nature makes it potentially dangerous to people. In 1976, Congress required the Environmental Protection Agency to define hazardous waste.

1. It can be explosive or highly flammable, or react violently with other substances.
2. It can be corrosive.
3. Some are poisonous or can cause Cancer, birth defects or other health problems.
4. Some are infectious, like sewage.
5. It is possible (but unlikely) to find radioactive wastes in the home.

There is a newly released consumer oriented booklet discussing how to recognize and handle hazardous household wastes. Do you know how to dispose of old gasoline or motor oil, insecticide, broken smoke alarms, old batteries, cleaning fluid, solvents, oven cleaners, drain cleaners, anti-freeze, flea powder, septic tank degreasers, moth balls, lighter fluid? Send \$2.75 plus \$1.50 postage to Enterprise for Education, 1320-A Santa Monica Mall, Suite 205, Santa Monica, CA 90401. If several leagues would like to order we can get a discount. Contact me by February 1987.

"Beginning at Home: Tackling Household Wastes" is available from LWVME for postage only. It is a video cassette produced by LWVMA. It runs 18 minutes. A new league might find this a good lead into an environmental project.

Pat Cyphers
Hancock Pt., 04640
422-3625

There will be a Ground Water Conference sponsored by New England Governors' Conference and U.S. Geological Survey on December 10 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Contact: N.E. Governors' Conference, Inc.
76 Summer St., Boston, MA 02110
617-423-6900

PLAN FOR ACTION

STATE BOARD 1985-87

DECEMBER

- 10 Ground Water Conference
Boston Park Plaza
(see Natural Resources)
- 11 League night at MPBN
Northern leagues assist with
fundraising by answering phones
- Have a wonderful Holiday Season
Give a League Membership as a gift!

JANUARY

- 7 STATE BOARD MEETING
9:30 - 2:30 P.M. Augusta
Local Leagues hold
State Program Planning

FEBRUARY

- 4 Keys to the Capitol
9:00 - 3 P.M.
State House, Augusta
4-5 P.M.
Reception at the Blaine House
- 5 Snow date for Keys to the
Capitol if necessary
- 11 STATE BOARD MEETING
9:30 - 2:30 P.M. Augusta
- 14 67th Anniversary of LWVUS
- 15 Deadline for the Voter.
- 28 Forum with Congresswoman
Olympia Snowe.
U. of ME Augusta
10 - 2 P.M.

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