

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Maine Women's Publications - All

Publications

7-1-1987

The Voter vol. 4, no. 4 (July 1987)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

Maine League of Women Voters

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all



Part of the [Women's History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Staff, Maine League of Women Voters, "The Voter vol. 4, no. 4 (July 1987)" (1987). *Maine Women's Publications - All*. 580.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all/580

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Women's Publications - All by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

THE VOTER

Vol. 4, No. 4

The League of Women Voters of Maine

July, 1987

Letter from THE VOTER editor

The Voter is published four times a year. Its main purpose is to inform LWV members in Maine of what their organization is doing and where it is going. The Voter depends on League members, particularly members of the State Board, Portfolio Chairs, and local League Presidents, for the information it distributes. The Voter can be only as good as the material submitted to its editor. (We all know about the impossibility of creating something out of nothing and the futility of trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, which is what I would be working with if you failed to contribute.) Articles submitted for publication must be dated and signed. Who knows where unsigned items might have come from or how long an item might have been delayed in the mail or in a stack on someone's desk. Publishing unsigned, undated articles is a risk no editor should be expected to take. Articles submitted should contain solid and specific information, and should, if at all possible, be typed neatly in double-spaced format. They should meet deadlines published in the calendar that appears elsewhere in this issue.

Counting on much good will and cooperation, I hope to do a serviceable job of producing this and the next seven issues of The Voter.

--Marie J. Hall, Editor

* * * * *

1987 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE CONVENTION SYNOPSIS

The Annual State Convention, held in Northeast Harbor on May 2 and 3 was the fiftieth convention of LWV Maine. Thirty-eight delegates representing six Leagues and Members at Large elected the following officers: President, Marlee Coughlan, of Raymond; First Vice President, Jane Saxl, of Bangor; Second Vice President, Alvin Moss, of Sorrento; Secretary, Charlotte Wilbur, of Portland; Treasurer, Nancy Freeman, of Saco.

The following directors were elected: Membership, Margaret Tragard, of Cape Neddick; Natural Resources, Pat Cyphers, of Hancock; Voter Editor, Marie Hall, of Bar Harbor; Public Relations, Judy Harrison, of Bangor; Publications, Wini Mott, of Paris; Fund Raising, Jo Bancroft, of Brunswick; National Security, Ethel Schwalbe, of Stueben; Members-at-Large Coordinator, Nellik Doble, of Brooklin.

The following local League Presidents will serve as board members: Bangor-Brewer area, Judy Harrison, of Bangor; Brunswick, Joan Saxe, of Freeport and Robin Kelley, of Brunswick; Ellsworth Area, Alvin Moss, of Sorrento; Mid-Coast, Molly Brown, of Thomaston; Mount Desert Island, Patty Letcher, of Southwest Harbor; Portland Area, Marion Holshouser, of Cape Elizabeth; York County, Sarah Ledoux, of Kennebunk. (cont'd p. 2)

Convention Synopsis continued:

The budget proposed and published in the Spring issue of The Voter was adopted.

Action motions were adopted to support the closing of Maine Yankee, to support the Governor's Task Force on Teenage Pregnancy, to urge limiting SDI funding, to support compliance with Salt II, to recommend reauthorization of the Clean Air Act, to deny further aid to the Contras, and to make the nuclear industry liable for victim compensation.

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

PENNY HARRIS, member of the Board, LWVUS, urged us to look toward dreams, expectations, possibilities. She spoke about welcoming new members at local and state levels and about soliciting project support from outside sources. She left us with a statement by an unknown author, reproduced here in full:

RISK

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool--

To weep is to risk being called sentimental--

To reach out to another is to risk involvement--

To expose feelings is to risk showing your true self--

To place your ideas and dreams before the crowd is to risk being called naive--

To love is to risk not being loved in return--

To live is to risk dying--

To hope is to risk despair--

To try is to risk failure--

But risks must be taken because the greatest risk in life is to risk nothing.

The people who risk nothing do nothing, have nothing, are worth nothing, and become nothing;

They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they simply cannot learn to feel, and change, and grow, and love, and live...

Chained by their servitude, they are slaves; they have forfeited their freedom.

Only the people who risk are truly free.

SENATOR WILLIAM COHEN, noted for many things in addition to being a senator, e.g., being a member of the New England Basketball Hall of Fame, being a summa cum laude graduate of Boston University Law School, and writing five books, spoke about the issues facing the spring session of Congress.

He stated that while one-half of our income tax money goes to pay interest on the federal debt, the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill "is not a great way to legislate" a solution. He sees compromise in the offing with a freeze on some items and enactment of some excise taxes. The Clean Air Act sets a deadline at 12/87; the issue is whether to enforce or to extend the deadline. West Virginia and Ohio, economically impacted areas, are "dragging feet" on clean-up and on prosecuting polluters. A consensus is emerging on the Welfare issue: provisions may be made for child-protective services, workfare, and training and education. Cost is the major problem. On SDI, Mr. Cohen said that he believes in smaller more mobile defense systems. He favors arms control as a step toward stability.

JENNIFER VASILOFF, LWVUS On the Hill Staff, said that the League is respected for providing accurate facts, endorsing issues, not candidates, and for working well with coalitions. She encouraged continued concern about many issues, especially ozone depletion. Jennifer conducted a very lively workshop on lobbying.

MARKINGS FROM MARLEE

"What does the League do?" asked a Kitchen Helper at the State Board Retreat at Kingsley Pines in Raymond. An opportunity for me to explain our study of Basic Human Needs, our action on Water Resources and Women's Issues, our renewed focus on Nuclear Power and Waste, and our sponsorship of Candidates Forums and Debates. And we have fun doing these!

What opportunities does League offer YOU this year???? Here are a variety of ways to enjoy camaraderie and friendship while choosing tasks, such as:

1. Spend three hours in the Augusta Office, with a friend or on your own. Tour the State House! (call Marlee 655-7624).
2. Join the team planning our November Conference on Human Needs (call Jane Saxl 945-5786).
3. Participate in the Nuclear Energy Committee Meetings in the study you adopted at State Convention (call Julie Howison 772-1197 or Carol Fritz 767-3737).
4. Help with Women's Issues (call Judy Harrison 945-1545).
5. Attend State Board Meeting - next one is August 5, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Hancock (call Pat Cyphers 422-3625).
6. Tell us your ideas!

I love the work and challenges of League. Thank you for electing me to a second term! Come help us as a team to make a difference in the quality of life in Maine!

Marlee

CALENDAR FOR 1987-1988

JULY 1987

15 Publication of THE VOTER
20 Deadline for copy for COMMUNIKIT

AUGUST

5, Wed. BOARD Meeting, Hancock Point, Pat Cypher's, 10-3
Distribution of COMMUNIKIT
Calendar and Program additions

SEPTEMBER

10, Thurs. BOARD Meeting, Augusta, State House, 9:30-2:30
19 Maine Coastweek, until October 12

OCTOBER

10 Deadline for copy for THE VOTER
20 Publication of THE VOTER
24, Sat. BOARD Meeting, Bar Harbor, 10:00-
Reception at Ridgeway Inn with LWVUS Nominating Committee

NOVEMBER

3 ELECTION DAY
12, Thurs. Statewide Symposium on Basic Human Needs, Dinner Meeting
Place: ?

DECEMBER

2, Wed. BOARD Meeting, State House, Augusta, 9:30-2:30
15 Deadline for copy for THE VOTER

JANUARY 1988

4 Fact Sheet, Consensus Questionnaire on Nuclear Power, Waste
ready for local Leagues
10 Publication of THE VOTER
20, Wed. BOARD Meeting, State House, Augusta, 9:30-2:30
27, Wed. KEYS TO THE CAPITOL and Blaine House Reception
Input on National Program due

FEBRUARY - Local Leagues hold consensus meetings on Nuclear Power and
public meetings wherever possible

MARCH

2, Wed. BOARD Meeting, State House, Augusta, 9:30-2:30
20 Deadline for copy for THE VOTER - Call to Quad State Council

APRIL

1 Publication of THE VOTER - last call to COUNCIL
10 Deadline for Quad-State Council Booklet
14 BOARD Meeting, State House, Augusta, 9:30-2:30
Consensus on Nuclear Power

MAY

6, 7 Quad-State Council, Kennebunkport, Maine
National Convention, LWVUS, Denver, Colorado

PORTFOLIO UPDATES-PORTFOLIO UPDATE

JULIE HOWISON and CAROL FRITZ: NEW STATE STUDY OF NUCLEAR ISSUES

Delegates at the LWVME State Convention adopted the following new study for 1987-1988:

--"To reconsider current State and National positions on nuclear power and nuclear waste."

GOALS: To update, study, reevaluate, clarify and consider new aspects of military and commercial nuclear facilities and waste management issues.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE:

- Summer/Fall - gather information
 - prepare fact sheets
 - prepare consensus questionnaire
- January - distribute fact sheets and consensus materials to local Leagues statewide
 - meet with local League contact people
- February - meetings by local Leagues or combined Leagues
- March - meet to arrive at consensus; deadline for consensus 3/25
- April - LWVME Board approval of consensus
- May - seek National concurrence with our State consensus at National Convention '88

SCOPE OF STUDY:

- decommissioning: methods, responsibility, worker protection
- classification of radioactive waste and "mixed" waste
- liability issues: utility, contractor responsibility vs taxpayer responsibility
- evacuation planning and emergency preparedness
- state's rights (allowing states more authority on nuclear decisions)
- changes in Atomic Energy Act
 - Nuclear Policy Act '82
 - Low-Level Waste Policy Act '80
- defense facilities - environmental laws
- alternative sources of energy
- siting criteria for waste disposal - high- and low-level
- deep geological burial for high-level waste (is this the safest method?)
- radiation exposure levels - what is really safe?
- food irradiation
- transportation and packaging of nuclear waste
- regulations and enforcement

If you wish to help research any of these topics and assemble information to help out, please contact either Julie Howison, 262 Capisic St., Portland, 04102, 772-1197 or Carol Fritz, 9 Hunt Club Woods, Cape Elizabeth, 04107, 767-3737.

-PORTFOLIO UPDATES-PORTFOLIO UPDAT

PAT CYPHERS: NATURAL RESOURCES

The sixth annual Coastweek will take place September 19-October 20, 1987. If any State League wants to plan or is planning any specific project, please give me a call.

Having served on three of the six subcommittees formed by the Maine Ground Water Standing Committee that was established by Executive Order on June 10, 1985, I became aware of the problems we have in locating our aquifers and in protecting our drinking water.

Ground water provides drinking water for 98% of all rural Maine households and for more than 60% of all households statewide. Already up to 10% of the state's total resources have been contaminated. Out of this study came 29 specific recommendations that have been or will be administratively implemented by the appropriate state agencies; 12 will require legislative action. Total state cost over the next two years will be about one million dollars.

A complete report on all the studies we have made was given to the legislators at the beginning of the 113th session. It is now our job to monitor these bills that came out of committee and to speak in favor of them at any public hearings.

The League's (LWVUS) position on environmental protection and pollution control states: "The League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment. The League's approach to environmental protection and pollution control is one of problem solving. The interrelationships of air, water, and land resources should be recognized in designing environmental standards. The League's environmental protection and antipollution goals aim to prevent ecological degradation and to reduce and control pollutants before they go down the sewer, up the chimney, or into the landfill" (quoted from Impact on Issues 1986-88, A Leader's Guide to National Program).

The State League supports enforcement of Maine's water laws and opposes extension of clean-up deadlines and variances. In the period leading up to the passage of the Maine Site Location of Development Act, the League urged that such legislation protect and prevent damage to the environmental quality of the State of Maine, including coastal water, by uncontrolled industrial development.

Landfills by their very nature pose a contamination threat to ground water. Several acts have been introduced by the 113th Legislature to close down landfills to protect this precious commodity.

The LWVUS Education Fund has received funding for a Safe Drinking Water project. This will be a three-year citizen-education effort on community water systems. Participation in this program is optional. According to

Maine Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Hazardous Materials Control officials, more than 6,000,000 gallons of petroleum products are leaking into the ground in Maine each year, posing a serious threat to drinking water supplies. Underground bare-steel storage tanks, many of which have been abandoned, are the primary source of this contamination. The DEP has said that the problem will continue to get worse until the tanks are identified and removed.

The main focus during the first year of the three-year Safe Drinking Water Project of the LWVUS Education Fund is a survey of local drinking water systems. This is to be done by volunteers at the local level who will compile various pieces of information that will eventually be catalogued and mapped.

The State Ground Water Committee appointed by Governor Brennan recommended to the 113th Legislature that there be five pilot programs set up in the State to accomplish this same objective. Only one pilot program was approved and funded, and that one is in the Lamoine/Hancock area.

Water, giver of life, was basic to U.S. growth. Gradually it had come to be taken for granted. Now only when it is in short supply do people realize its value! What are our current growth/water problems? What other land use problems will arise as our state continues to grow? We are fortunate to have LaRue Spiker of the MDI League as a resource person for our Land Use Development Agenda for 1988-89.

We must become active on the local level in addressing environmental issues if we are to be successful in promoting wise use of our air, water, and land and in preventing degradation.

* * * * *

ETHEL SCHWALBE: NATIONAL SECURITY

As arms control (especially the Administration's proposal to scrap medium-range missiles in Europe), SDI funding, and an increased U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf move to the head of the news and Congressional agenda, I hope all Leaguers are writing to both senators and your representative on these issues. (And, writing more than once!)

Of course, you write your own opinions, and don't even mention League membership; nonetheless, reviewing some pertinent excerpts from our national position on arms control might help get you started.

"The U.S. government should give the highest level of importance to arms control efforts that: limit or reduce the quantity of weapons;...prohibit first use of nuclear weapons; reduce tensions in order to prevent situations in which weapons might be used.

"The U.S. government also should negotiate measures that inhibit the development and improvement of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons that increase incentives to attack first in a period of crisis." (cont'd next page)

"As a long-term goal, the League supports the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons.

"The League does not support tying progress in arms control to other issues. The League believes that arms control is too important in and of itself and too crucial to all nations to be linked to other foreign and military policy goals."

For a full statement of the League's position, see National Publication No. 386, Impact on Issues - 1986-88).

* * * * *

ACTION UP-DATE

STATE LEGISLATURE

May 1, STEPHANIE MARTYAK testified in favor of LD 1682, An Act to Appropriate Funds for New and Existing Services Relating to Teen Pregnancy.

May 11, MARLEE COUGHLAN testified in favor of LD 602, An Act to Include the Term "Sexual Orientation" in the Maine Human Rights Act.

May 21, CAROL FRITZ testified in favor of LD 1442, An Act to Enhance Local Control of Community Growth and Strengthen Maine's Land Use Laws.

May 24, JANICE CARPENTER testified in favor of LD 1499 in concert with specific amendments proposed by the Maine Solid Waste Coalition.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

By letters and in person, June 17, MARLEE COUGHLAN, PENNY HARRIS, and JANE SAXL met with Senators William Cohen and George Mitchell and with 1st District Representative Joseph Brennan to urge their support of arms control via SALT II, ABM Treaty, ASAT, and opposition to high funding of SDI. They also lobbied for the Clean Air Bill with special concern for acid rain, for Free Trade, Civil Rights Reconstruction Act, and Campaign Finance, and urged that the League be allowed to continue as sponsor of the Presidential debates. Representative Olympia Snowe was unavailable for interview.

* * * * *

CONGRESSIONAL INTERVIEW

League members BONNIE ANDERSON and TIMI RICHARDS, Portland area, and NANCY FREEMAN and SARAH LEDOUX, York County, interviewed Congressman Joseph E. Brennan on February 12, 1987:

As a member of the Armed Services Research and Development Committee, he supports ABM research at a modest level and strongly opposes SDI.

He believes that the federal government must assume major responsibility in welfare reform and that control of pollutants and acid rain requires legislative initiatives.

Congressman Brennan welcomes questions and comments. Call his Portland office, 772-8240.

LWVME BOARD MEETING, June 20, 1987

JO BANCROFT, fundraiser, is devising a letter to members, corporations, etc. asking for financial support.

State position papers have been revised and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

The Board will review and approve material on the Nuclear Issues Study to be presented by CAROL FRITZ and JULIE HOWISON at National Convention 1988. (See "Portfolio Update" in this issue of THE VOTER.)

CAROL and JULIE'S work on closing Maine Yankee is of primary concern. They will be traveling to other regional states to ask for support of our position in order for National to give consent for our participation in the November referendum. The issue is health and safety at risk.

* * * * *

LWVEF CONFERENCE: "REDEFINING NATIONAL SECURITY"

This Conference was held in Washington, D. C., on June 19-21, 1987. MARION HOLSHOUSER, President Portland Area League and Chair of that League's National Security Committee attended. Her report follows:

Seventy participants were selected to attend the conference which focused on national security issues covering (to name a few) arms control, military funding, economic implications, foreign policy issues and challenges to U.S. national security. Imagine 70 Leaguers concentrating on one issue, hard at work defining national security, recognizing the challenges, looking for alternatives and challenging the "experts," and you might have some idea of the total concentration and continuing (almost marathon) discussions that went on in true League fashion! That was the easy part.

The work of taking the information back to our Leagues and spreading the word to members and nonmembers and convincing our legislators to support the League's positions began the day after the Conference.

Emphasis was given to "reaching out" and "plugging in." We'll work at networking and coalition building. Networking is also to be developed among League portfolios where national security issues also impact on our other items, including Agriculture, Meeting Basic Human Needs, Natural Resources, etc.

The Conference was funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Exxon Corporation, James C. Penney Foundation, Inc., Rockefeller Family Associates, and Unilever U.S. Inc.

* * * * *

RANDOM NOTE: The \$1.1 trillion budget for the fiscal year beginning in October was given preliminary approval in the Senate by a vote of 50 to 49. George Mitchell voted YES, and William Cohen, NO. Does one vote count?

ATTENTION LOCAL PRESIDENTS AND PUBLICATIONS CHAIRS

IF YOU WANT ANY NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

ME SO THAT I CAN PLACE AN ORDER IN BULK:

WINI MOTT, STATE PUBLICATIONS CHAIR
PARIS HILL
PARIS, ME 04271 207/743-6215

I WILL THEN GET THEM TO YOU EITHER BY MAIL OR AT THE NEXT

BOARD MEETING WHICHEVER IS MOST EXPEDIENT.

FOUR VIDEOS FEATURING MATERIAL FROM BOMBS AWAY--PRESCRIPTION FOR A HEALTHIER WORLD, a PSR-sponsored symposium have been prepared by the MDI LWV in conjunction with Acadia Film/Video:

IMPLICATIONS OF CHERNOBYL (22 min) features the outstanding young speaker, Dr. Wesley Wallace, a physician who talked with Chernobyl victims in Moscow and visited the shattered power plant. Dr. Wallace's dramatic speech shares some of the important lessons we all must learn from this tragic event.

In PRESCRIPTION FOR THE FUTURE--YOURS AND YOUR CHILDREN'S (24 min), Dr. Julian Kuffler, Southwest Harbor, Maine, shares his thoughts on the nuclear age as he introduces the featured speaker, Dr. Robert MacBride. Dr. MacBride practices medicine in Lubec, Maine, from the house where he was born 70 years ago. He was the 1986 recipient of the national award, Physician of the Year. Dr. MacBride's speaks to the law, love your neighbor, and develops what has been called by his admirers a "true Maine ethic."

RUSSIAN IMPRESSIONS (22 min): Many of us wonder, what are the Soviets like? Can we trust them? This highly visual video features the Soviet physicians who visited the United States after the Chernobyl accident. Participants in the PSR symposium, they are introduced by Congressman Joseph Brennan. As scientists, educators, veterans, fathers and grandfathers, the Soviet doctors share their concerns with us. Walter Nowick, director of the Surry Opera Company, which achieved wide acclaim for its tour of the USSR, talks about his experiences briefly as the video begins.

ARMS CONTROL: THREE POINTS OF VIEW (45 min) features a panel discussion that includes Michael Stafford, special assistant to Ambassador Nitze; Pamela Solo, a fellow at Bunting Institute, Radcliffe College; and Admiral Noel Gayler (USN-Ret.), former Commander of all U.S. forces in the Pacific and head of the National Security Agency from 1969 to 1972. In a clearly organized speech, Mr. Stafford presents the Reagan administration stand on arms control. Miss Solo and Admiral Gayler offer alternatives and argue strongly that, in a nuclear age, we must go beyond what our elected government offers us as security.

For more information, contact Patty Letcher, President MDI LWV - 244-7347.

NOTES FROM ALL OVER

massachusetts has a problem:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MASSACHUSETTS

The NIMBY Syndrome
Not In My Back Yard



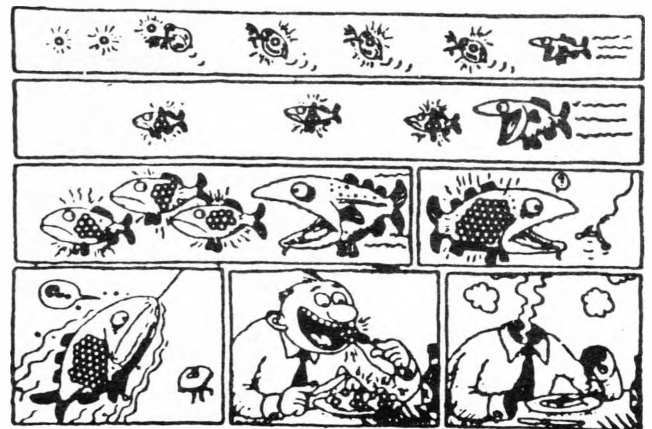
"Sure, we need to build prisons, waste disposal facilities, housing, shelters, highways and community residences—his backyard would be perfect." Cartoon by Kristen Kingsbury Henshaw,

GORBACHEV SPEAKS

"Damage is often done by idle talk and an inability to speak to people in the language of truth, and at times it happens that a person hears one thing and in reality sees something different." (4/23/85)

"What was all right yesterday is not enough today. Therefore, we must not concentrate on how things were yesterday, but on what must be done today, and especially tomorrow." (4/17/86)

"We need democracy not to show off and not to play democracy. We need democracy to rearrange many things in our life, to give greater scope to the creativity of people, to new ideas and initiatives." (2/25/87)



THE MAINE PROGRESSIVE
January, 1987

SOVIET-AMERICAN NEW ENGLAND WILDERNESS EXPEDITION

A unique group of Soviet and American physicians and medical students who have traveled together in the USSR (and climbed Mt. Elbrus in the Caucasus, elevation 18,510) are planning to kayak from Islesboro to Mount Desert Island starting on July 15. Their plans include camping on an island on the way, arriving at Northeast Harbor on Sunday, July 19, doing some hiking on MDI, and climbing Mt. Katahdin on Thursday, July 23. The group combines interests in the outdoors with concern for peaceful relations between the two nuclear superpowers. To promote a world safe from nuclear weapons, the group will show slides of their mountaineering and sea kayaking adventures on Friday, July 24, 7:30 p.m. at the Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. Portland. Come and meet face to face with Soviet citizens. Admission is free, contributions are appreciated.

* * * * *

HELP WANTED - Volunteer League members are needed to staff the League of Women Voters office in Augusta, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 12:00 to 2:00. Call MARLEE, 655-7624, for further information. The pay is low, but the company is reputable and the experience rewarding.

WATCH for LWV pocket calendars coming in the Fall -- great little Christmas gifts!



© LWVME, 1986

The Maine VOTER is published quarterly by The League of Woman Voters of Maine.

Marlee Coughlan, President;
Marie Hall, Editor.
Subscriptions with membership in LWVME. Non-member subscriptions, \$7.

League of Women Voters of Maine
335 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
207-622-0256

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 43
Brunswick, ME 04011