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THE VOTER

Vol. 5, No. 3

The League of Women Voters of Maine

April, 1988

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

ANNUAL REPORT OF STATE PRESIDENT

This has been a year of challenge with people reaching out to help and more members needed. In League we know we cannot do this big job alone and we know the value of our working as a team.

In May, our State Convention in Northeast Harbor was ably organized by Vice Presidents: Alvin Moss coordinating logistics, and Jane Saxl providing a stimulating media panel plus a visit from Senator Bill Cohen.

At our Board Retreat in June at Kingsley Pines in Raymond, we inspired ourselves in discussing long-range goals and in setting our Action Agenda for 1988. Best of all, we spent time as friends.

Board meetings took us around the state: to Pat Cyphers' home perched on the shore at Hancock Point, to our office and the State House in Augusta, and to City Hall in Bar Harbor. League members are encouraged to join us!

Keys to the Capitol, our annual visit to the Legislature, was produced by the team of Margaret Tragard, Jane Saxl, and Judy Johnson, bringing us to meet with our Senate President and a valuable panel in our Basic Human Needs study.

Action this year has included: opposition to Aid to the Contras at a press conference at Portland's Sonesta; opposition to

Parental Consent bill; support of the signing of the INF Treaty and for nuclear freeze; support of Growth Management in land use planning. As your President, I joined other state leaders in strategy meetings with Senators Mitchell and Cohen on Arms Control.

Carol Fritz and Julie Howison have worked tirelessly with full Board support on identifying issues and getting out information on Nuclear Power and Waste. We plan a strong push for adoption of this study at National Convention.

League networking is one of my delights. Meeting frequently to discuss problems and successes, the State League Presidents of New Hampshire (Eileen Kustes), Maine, and Vermont (Claire Anderson) are now joined by LWV Rhode Island (Carolyn Goldman) for this Quad State League Council! LWV Massachusetts President Arlene Stamm joined us for a discussion of how to get the League job done - given limited resources and time.

THAT is the challenge for all of us: volunteers for the State office? members to help the Augusta League get started? contributors to keep programs moving? participants in your local League meetings? The League is vitally needed. We can't do it all, but we can each do a part.

What is YOUR choice to help League move ahead this year?

--Marlee Coughlan

UPDATE :: nuclear issues study

On February 22, Nancy Neuman, president, LWVUS, informed the Board of LWVME that its members could NOT seek member agreement in Maine on nuclear issues through the consensus process because "a state League does not have the authority to conduct a national study and ask members to reach consensus on national issues, particularly those issues covered by LWVUS position statements."

The option remaining is to work for passage of a concurrence for a study of nuclear issues through the LWVUS '88 Convention in Denver in June. We have urged all state and many local Leagues in the country to join us in proposing this study at Convention. A number have responded favorably.

Although we are very disappointed that we will not be able to proceed as planned, we will continue to work toward getting this extremely important study adopted at Convention. We also hope that the vast amount of knowledge and material we have gathered over the years will be used by the LWVUS in developing the study and consensus questions once the study is approved by the Convention.

We continue to explore the possibility of a much narrower focus on issues that may be addressed at the state level, such as evacuation planning and emergency preparedness, decommissioning, intra-state transportation of nuclear materials, and food irradiation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us.

--Carol Fritz (767-3737)

--Julie Howison (772-1197)

Call to Council

LWVME will participate in the Quad-State Council (along with New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island) over the weekend of April 29-May 1 at the Shawmut Inn, Kennebunkport. These biennial meetings throughout the League focus on updating each League's ongoing studies with interim reports, making any changes to state by-laws, and adopting a budget for the coming year. It is also a chance for the four New England Leagues to become better acquainted and share similar concerns. Maine has wanted to host the Quad-State meeting before and is delighted that this has come about this year.

The LWV Maine Council is composed of the presidents of the local Leagues, provisional Leagues and member-at-large units, or an alternate if that president is not able to attend; two delegates chosen by each local League, provisional League, and member-at-large unit; and the Board of Directors of LWVME. Members-at-large who are not in a unit may also send delegates. Call Nellik Doble, member-at-large coordinator, if you would like to be a delegate. All other members of the League in this quad-state area are invited to attend, but only those mentioned above have voting privileges.

Take this opportunity to participate in workshops, talk with Leaguers from the four states, learn new ideas, get re-inspired in the wonderful work of the League!

Accommodations and meals: single, \$208; double, \$150; triple, \$125. Contact Nancy Freeman for a reservation envelope: 282-5665.

CALENDAR, APRIL - JUNE, 1988

APRIL 11, Mon. Deadline for Quad State Council Booklet
14, Thur. Board meeting, State House, Augusta, 9:30-2:30

APRIL 29, 30, MAY 1, Quad-State Council, Kennebunkport, Maine

JUNE 11-15, National Convention, LWVUS, Denver, Colorado

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

Mid-April, 1988: Write draft questionnaire. Present for revision at Council. Network with other state Leagues on long-range planning.

May, 1988: Revise questionnaire.

June, 1988: Seek Board approval of final draft at Retreat.

July-August, 1988: Draft outline of long-range plan.

September, 1988: Publish questionnaire in VOTER.

October, 1988: Compile results of questionnaire.

November, 1988: Write draft of long-range plan.

December, 1988: Seek Board approval of draft. Publish draft in VOTER and seek suggestions for changes. Meet with local Leagues about long-range planning.

January, 1989: Write final draft of long-range plan.

February, 1989: Seek Board approval of final version. Publish final version in VOTER.

May, 1989: Convention approval of long-range plan.

The Long-Range Planning Committee is developing a questionnaire for members to help in the development of the plan. Please send suggestions for questions to
Judy Harrison
27 Poplar St.
Bangor, ME 04401.

* * * * *

1988 ACTION AGENDA ON LAND USE: The LWVME Board of Directors recommended the action on land use based on the Land Use section of the Natural Resources Position in the LWVME 1987-89 State Program. The ten points of this program were printed in full in the January, 1988, issue of the Maine VOTER.

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA COALITION UPDATE

The LWVME joined with 22 other organizations to support the following legislation:

1. LD 1949 and LD 1960--Acts to Make the Language of the Constitution (1949) and the Statutes (1960) Gender Neutral--The LWVME took the lead for WLAC on these bills. Judy Harrison testified on behalf of WLAC and the League.
2. LD 2150--An Act to Provide Child Care and Parenting Education for Students
3. ASPIRE--Governor's welfare reform package
4. LD 2205--An Act to Establish Child Care Availability for Individuals in the Substance Abuse Treatment System
5. LD 1947--An Act to Correct Inequities in the Maine State Retirement System
6. LD 2105--An Act to Increase Work Incentive in the Unemployment Insurance Partial Benefit Structure
7. LD 467--An Act to Expand the Medicaid Dental Program to Include Adults
8. LD 4184--An Act to Appropriate \$2.8 Million to Implement the Job Classification Study of the University of Maine
9. LD 1984--An Act to Ensure Family Medical Leave in the State
10. LD 2212--An Act to Improve the Standard of Living for Maine's Low Income Children
11. LD 2157--An act to Amend the Harassment Law
12. LD --An Act to Require Mandatory Medicare Assignment to Physician Services in Maine

WLAC agreed to oppose the proposed Parental Consent Referendum which would have required minors seeking abortions to have the consent of a parent or judge before they could obtain an abortion. However, the petitions filed with the Secretary of State's office could not be certified because they did not contain enough valid signatures. YIPPEE!!!

CALL YOUR SENATORS (800-423-6900) AND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES (800-423-2900) TODAY AND URGE PASSAGE OF THESE BILLS.

--Judy Harrison

SPIKER TESTIFIES BEFORE STATE COMMITTEE

LaRue Spiker, MDILWV, has been doing a study of land use on Mt. Desert Island for several years. She was instrumental in producing The Cumulative Impact of Development on Mount Desert Island, Maine, a 40-page book that details not only the impact on natural resources, but also the impact on people. On March 16, LaRue testified on behalf of the LWVME Board before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in Augusta, urging passage of LD 2317. She introduced her testimony by pointing out the danger of anarchy that might result from case-by-case decisions on development projects and indicated the importance of ameliorating the deleterious aspects of rapid development. LaRue conveyed League support for state-mandated local comprehensive plans and their compliance with state standards. Her testimony merits being quoted here in full:

"The effectiveness of this type of land use management will, of course, depend on the nature of the standards that are established and the technical information available to the local decision-makers. For example, present knowledge of groundwater is inadequate although a lot of development is spreading into rural areas out of reach of municipal systems. Also, at present, technical consultants advising local planning boards are hired by and responsible to the developer. This situation too often results in a conflict of interest. Local comprehensive plans might institute an arrangement under which consultants would be selected by and responsible to the town with their fees paid by the applicant.

"We are particularly glad to see that the bill requires towns to plan for affordable housing for low and moderate income families. One of the social tragedies of escalating land prices is the continuing break-up of traditional family patterns. Young working people, unable to afford land in their home communities, must live elsewhere and commute back to work. This trend means the loss of viable energies to the community and unfortunate demographic changes with respect to age of the population. It is also having some unanticipated economic effects. I know of one community where a major boat yard has moved to another town and a second one is considering a similar move on the grounds that it makes sense to locate where the work force is.

"We would make one suggestion in regard to the legislation. The time schedule for submission of comprehensive plans is based on population growth. Presumably, this means year-round population. It might be more realistic, particularly for coastal communities, to base the schedule on the actual increase in the number of people, say on August 1.

"Objections may be made to this legislation on the grounds that it weakens local control. Quite the contrary is true. Land use decisions are now controlled by the developers in many towns. When this legislation is enacted, the towns will have much more de facto control over their destinies."

Thank you, LaRue!

POLICIES TO BE ADOPTED

The LWVME Board heard a first reading of the following at its March 2 meeting. A second reading and final adoption is expected to take place at the April 12 board meeting.

NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL POLICY

1. ELECTED OFFICE--The president and voters service chair shall not run for any elective office. Other board members shall not be candidates for partisan office. Board members must resign when petitions are filed.

2. POLITICAL PARTY OFFICE--The president and voters service chair shall not serve in any position in a political party. Board members shall not serve as officers in political party positions at the state level and shall abide by the local League's non-partisan policy regarding holding local party positions.

3. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS--Board members may attend fund-raising events and make campaign contributions.

4. POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS--The president and voters service chair shall not chair or administer fund-raising or political campaigns, chair a campaign event or work in a significant way in the campaign of a candidate for national or federal office. Other board members may undertake such activities for candidates for state or local office after consultation with the presidents and boards of the local Leagues involved.

5. ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION--Board members shall present ques-

tions about specific situations to the state board where the foregoing policies do not resolve the question.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

1. SECURING APPOINTMENTS--The board may encourage and assist League members to secure appointments to government boards, commissions and committees. Unless clearly designated, appointees are not official representatives of the League.

2. SERVING ON BOARDS--Board members may serve on other boards. However, if a serious conflict arises between the two entities, it should be brought to the attention of the League board.

3. LOBBYING--Board members shall not lobby for a position in opposition to or in conflict with an LWVUS or LSVME position, except that board members have the right as individuals to lobby their own members of Congress on any side of any issue. In doing so, they must make it clear they are not representing the League. Board members shall follow the current guidelines for determination of conflict of interest in lobbying.

4. EMPLOYMENT--If a conflict of interest problem arises from employment, it should be brought to the attention of the board.

5. STIPENDS--Board members may not accept stipends or grants for League projects while sitting on the policy-making board that is responsible for administering the grant.

6. HONORARIA--Board members may accept honoraria.

SANE/FREEZE RATES CONGRESS

SANE World/FREEZE Focus has just published a study of the voting records of members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives with respect to issues related to defense and the arms race. The study focuses on arms control, a nuclear test ban, star wars, the ABM treaty, Salt II, chemical weapons, Contra aid, and the War Powers Act. SANE/FREEZE bases its analysis on 12 critical votes in the Senate and 18 votes in the House. Each of the votes is scored as to whether it agrees with the SANE/FREEZE position or not. In brief, SANE/FREEZE favors a nuclear test ban, the provisions of SALT II, the traditional interpretation of the ABM Treaty, and application of the time limits of the War Powers Act to the U.S. military action in the Persian Gulf. SANE/FREEZE is opposed to Star Wars, ASAT testing, chemical weapons, and Contra aid.

Scores of the Senators and representatives from Maine are as follows:

Senator William Cohen	6 out of 12	(50%)
Senator George Mitchell	11 out of 12	(92%)
Representative Olympia Snowe	9 out of 18	(50%)
Representative Joseph Brennan	16 out of 18	(89%)

See SANE World/FREEZE Focus, Vol. 27, No. 1, Spring, 1988, pp. 16-20 for further details. --Benedict M. Hall

WOMEN'S HISTORY

For the past 10 years, the national Women's History Project of Santa Rosa, California, has worked with women's organizations, historians, school districts and sex equity personnel around the country to promote special women's history celebrations and the inclusion of women's history in the K-12 curriculum throughout the year.

The idea of celebrating the unique, multi-cultural history of women in the U.S. has captured the imaginations of teachers, librarians, community groups, women's organizations, and thousands of individuals throughout the nation. Each year programs and activities in schools and communities have become more extensive as information and programming ideas have been developed and shared.

For more regionalized information on special events, contact:

PRESQUE ISLE (Northern Regional Commission for Women):

Martha Grant, WHM Activities Coordinator, 764-3396 (W)
Dayle Ashby, Chair, 764-3266 (W)
Marion Higgins, State Commissioner, Liaison to NRCW,
764-5124 (W)

BANGOR (Eastern Regional Commission for Women):

Judy Harrison, WHM Activities Coordinator, 942-1545 (H)
Sue McKay, WHM Activities Coordinator, 945-9397
Bobbie Flynn, Chair, 941-2840 (W)
Mary Cathcart, State Commissioner, Liaison to ERCW,
945-5102 (W).

-PORTFOLIO UPDATES-

FROM ETHEL SCHWALBE, STATE NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIR:

TWO NATIONAL SECURITY ALERTS -- WRITE NOW!

If you can't write now, write SOON. (Separate letters on each issue.) Letters to Sen. Cohen and Rep. Snowe are particularly important. Here are some key points on each issue to help you write your short, but informed letters.

1. TESTING TOMAHAWK MISSILES OVER MAINE: The main reason for objecting to the Defense Department's plan to test cruise missiles over Maine (to begin this fall) is NOT the risk they would bring to Maine residents or to commercial and private aircraft and passengers. People who support the missiles must be willing to accept the risk.

The main objection is that these missiles undermine attempts to limit strategic nuclear weapons. The Tomahawks (like all cruise missiles) are small, easily concealed, and fly at very low altitudes, thus are very difficult to monitor. Development and testing of new generations of any SLCM's (sea-launched cruise missiles) negate gains made by the proposed INF treaty and make future strategic arms control more complicated.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The proposed flight path of the missiles and their chase planes is from the coast near Ellsworth (specifically, they would come ashore just south of Milbridge) and then a two-leg course NW to Patten, then SW to Rangeley. Reportedly, Maine was chosen for these tests because our terrain is similar to that of the Soviet Union. The Navy already has 1,000 Tomahawks and plans to buy 3,000 more. Cost: \$6 billion.

2. RATIFICATION OF THE INF TREATY: If you have already contacted Senators Cohen and Mitchell on this issue, it won't hurt to write again. Ask them not only to vote for the treaty, but to be active in defending it against amendments that would require renegotiation or link U.S. compliance to other issues (e.g., human rights, Afghanistan withdrawal).

Some less well-publicized strengths of the treaty are:

--It requires that short-range INF weapons be eliminated within 18 months of treaty execution. Since all the weapons in this category are Soviet weapons, the U.S. has the opportunity to assess Soviet compliance before we dismantle any weapons.

--The "on-site" inspection procedures are comprehensive, providing for: a) designation of weapons deployment areas and notification of any weapons movement between designated areas; b) comprehensive and up-dated base-line data exchange; c) explicit rules for destruction of weapons; d) long-term on-site inspection at designated facilities; and e) scheduled inspections and short-notice challenge inspections at other designated facilities. (See the January VOTER for more information on the INF treaty.) The current Senate schedule calls for committee mark-up beginning March 21, and a late April floor vote.

Write to Senators Cohen and Mitchell and Representatives Brennan and Snowe AND call the White House "Public Comment" line. Call at reduced rate hours; all calls are to an answering machine for brief "Pro/Con" statements.

WHITE HOUSE COMMENT LINE: (202) 456-7639.

SEN. WILLIAM S. COHEN
322 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

SEN. GEORGE J. MITCHELL
176 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

REP. OLYMPIA SNOWE
2464 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

REP. JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
1428 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515.

* * * * *

FROM ALVIN MOSS, ELECTION PROCESS CHAIR:

ELECTION LAWS STATUS, STATE OF MAINE, MARCH, 1988

At your March Town Meetings, were you concerned about your Elected Clerks handling absentee ballots? Not to worry. They cannot, just like other candidates who can no longer handle absentee ballots. Howsomever, if an elected clerk is uncontested. No problem. Then they can continue to carry out the smooth functioning of their official duties. The measure giving the elected uncontested clerk this right was emergency legislation, approved by the governor February 12, to be ready in time for the aforementioned Town Meetings. Emergency legislation, incidentally, is legislation that becomes law when signed by the governor.

An act to clarify reporting requirements under the campaign finance law continues to work its way through the process. Basically, this measure "clarifies that when a candidate auctions a contribution either before or during the appropriate reporting period, the value of that contribution is the price paid for it at auction."

Then there is the measure (still in process) called, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Absentee Balloting," which basically provides for the Town Clerk to be open Saturday before every statewide regular election and every election for federal or state office to meet the needs of absentee ballot voters.

The last time the LWVME came to some consensus on County Government was in the 1970's...however...reform was a keynote, calling for the appointment of the sheriff, treasurer, and register of probate. We have been heard. Some 10 years later, there is a bill which would limit elected county officials to commissioners, sheriff, and probate officers. What we have done for the "treasurer's post" mayhap could be done for the others! The Greater Ellsworth Area LWV holds a "Holiday Program" annually on County Government, a continuing state program item.

-PORTFOLIO UPDATES-

FROM PAT CYPHERS, NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR:

The Community Water Quality Issues Survey of the LWV Voters Education Fund is a three-year effort to educate citizens to the issues involved in the management and regulation of our drinking water. This effort involves 1,250 state and local Leagues. As your Environmental representative on the State Board, I did the State Water Quality Issues Survey. Thanks to the leadership of Alyson Hooper of the York County League, two medium-size water companies were surveyed (Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District and the Biddeford and Saco Water Company) as well as one small company (Alfred). We are now anxiously awaiting the assimilation of our surveys with those of the other Leagues and hope that it will show the strengths and weaknesses of our various water suppliers.

A new 18-minute General Groundwater Education video, VHS-VCR format, originally produced by the State Cooperative Extension as a slide-tape show, may be borrowed for nine days (including mail transit time) by contacting

Benita Davis
Maine State Library, Film Services Division
State House Station #64
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 289-5650.

This video presents basic information on groundwater principles and common contaminant threats. It is a good video for group discussion.

LEGISLATION (PRINTED, BUT NOT YET ACTED UPON):

--#2121, An Act to Improve the Regulation of Pesticides: This bill is the result of a study of pesticide regulation by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture.

--"2067, An Act to Provide Additional Resources in the Board of Pesticides Control: This bill is also the result of study by the Joint Committee on Agriculture and it provides funds for two full-time positions on the Board of Pesticides Control: one to direct review of toxicological effects and advise of risks associated with their use and one to prepare newsletters and brochures to inform applicators, dealers and the general public.

--#2156, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriation and Allocations: To Provide \$75,000 for Systematic Mapping of Ground Water Resources of Sand and Gravel Aquifers, and Systematic Ground Water Resource Characterization of Fractured Bedrock Aquifers. Funds are also provided for river flood forecasting as well as for the hiring of one cartographer and one hydrogeologist and for ground water monitoring of wells. This is an important bill as we must locate our water supplies before we can start to protect them!

--#2182, #2182, An Act to Develop a Plan to Minimize and Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste. The Department of Environmental Protection is directed to set up a plan to minimize generation and to deal with collection and disposal of household hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner. This plan, with any necessary implementing legislation, shall be submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources by January 1, 1989. This is a much needed Act as we are now putting these wastes in our dumps and landfills where it is often polluting our ground water!

REPORTS FROM LOCAL LEAGUES

BANGOR-BREWER AREA LWV - JUDY HARRISON REPORTING

We've been very busy since the last VOTER was published. In December, we held, what is becoming an annual event, a joint Holiday Party with the Bangor Historical Society at the Hill House. Attorney Timothy Woodcock, who served on the staff of the Iran-Contra Committee, discussed how the committee worked, his and other staff members' jobs, and his "15 minutes of Warholian fame" when he questioned a key witness during the nationally televised hearings. Mr. Woodcock's perspective was fascinating. We highly recommend him as a speaker at other League programs.

We completed our Meeting Basic Human Needs Study in January. Our consensus was very close to Portland's, the only other Maine League to participate in the study. Special thanks to Judy Dietz, Whit McEvoy, and Diane Hoelter for their hard work and wonderful input.

In February we had an excellent Program Planning meeting attended by 20% of our members. We agreed to retain all current LWVUS positions, and to support the proposed update of nuclear issues. We also urged action on the new Meeting Basic Human Needs position, and arms control issues.

We registered 187 new voters when the Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke at the University of Maine, Orono, February 11. That set a new record for us. President Judy Harrison gave a brief explanation on how to participate in a caucus.

On St. Patrick's Day, we answered phones at MPBN during their March fundraiser. We raised more than \$2900 during the evening. A former Leaguer called from Canada to contribute and tell us "how great it is to talk to the League again!"

The League participated in a Women's Organizational Fair as part of the University's celebration of Women's History Month. We registered voters and distributed information on the LWVME. Judy led a discussion on lobbying and discussed legislation affecting women.

The last week in April, we will register high school students at Bangor, Bapst, Orono, Brewer, and Hampden High Schools as part of Young Leadership Week. The theme is "Register '88--Make It a Class Act." We hope to distribute Voters' Kits to all who register.

Edward Barrett, Bangor's new City Manager, will be the guest speaker at our Annual Dinner May 4. Details to be announced soon.

* * * * *

SPECIAL NOTICE SPECIAL SPECIAL NOTICE SPECIAL SPECIAL SPECIAL NOTICE ←

FOR THOSE PLANNING TO FLY ON THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARTER TO THE DENVER CONVENTION: CORRECT AN ERROR MADE IN THE SCHEDULE YOU RECEIVED. THE CORRECT TWA SCHEDULE IS:

June 10 - Depart Boston 3:45 pm; Arrive Denver (via St. Louis) 8:00 pm.
June 15 - Depart Denver 1:05 pm; Arrive Boston (via St. Louis) 8:20 pm.

ELLSWORTH MAL UNIT SEES ECONOMIC CONVERSION ESSENTIAL TO ARMS CONTROL

At its National Program Planning meeting on February 27, the Ellsworth MAL Unit proposed Economic Conversion as one of its top three priorities. The members wholeheartedly endorsed the proposal of the Monterey CA League for a new item to "consider the orderly redirection of resources from the military economy to socially useful economic endeavors and civilian growth industries and to fulfill the nation's human needs."



In the "Comments" section of its report to LWVUS, the Ellsworth Unit said in part: Only when the problems of "lost jobs and profits" are addressed, can we hope for meaningful, long-lasting arms control. Only when military expenditures are greatly reduced can we hope for significant reductions in the federal deficit. Only when we reduce the deficit can we hope for sufficient federal funds to be available for health care, housing and other human needs for our "underclass," for job training to help many move out of that class, for research into solutions for environmental problems--the list could go on and on.

--Ethel Schwalbe



The Maine VOTER is published quarterly by The League of Women Voters of Maine.
Marlee Coughlan, President;
Marie J. Hall, Editor.
Subscriptions with membership in LWVME.
Non-member subscriptions, \$7.

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

Jane Saxl
37 Pond Street
Bangor, ME 04401



D.K.

Printing 159.90 6 - 6x9 inch sheets
Coloring and styling 85.00
Affix labels 15.00
Soft bundle sale deliver 15.00
Weight deliver postage + insurance