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THE VOTER

Vol. 6, No. 2

The League of Women Voters of Maine

December, 1988

THE NEXT PRESIDENT . . .

The board of LWV-ME confirmed JANE SAXL as president of the state League on November 16. Jane has served in numerous capacities: bulletin editor, voter service chair, Keys to the Capitol coordinator, president of the Bangor-Brewer area League, and vice-president of LWV-ME.

Jane is the proud mother of four children and has one son-in-law and a most remarkable grandchild, Jomi. She was elected in 1987 to the Bangor City Council; previously she served as a member and vice-chair of the Bangor School Committee. She sits on the boards of the Greater Bangor Area Shelter for the Homeless and Congregation Beth-El. She is a member of the Maine Municipal Association Legislative Committee and the sub-committee on solid waste disposal.

Jane is dedicated to the League's principles, believing that this country's strength lies with an informed citizenry. "The League," she says, "has a responsibility to educate the voters on the critical issues of the day." In light of this, she is proud that the League will be sponsoring a solid waste/recycling symposium in 1989. It is her belief that the League must address the old duo, money and members, "so that we will be able to reach out into our communities and influence the important decisions of our day."

* FIRST CALL TO

STATE CONVENTION 1989

MAY 5-7,

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY, CASTINE

We look forward to delegates gathering Friday,
May 5, 1989!

THANK YOU, MARLEE!

For the past three and a half years, the Maine state board has been fortunate, in an age of increasing bureaucracy and impersonalization, to enjoy the leadership of a truly compassionate individual. Marlee Turner Coughlan has recently resigned as state president in order to devote full time to her business concerns. That she has managed to give us so much during this difficult period of reorganization speaks well of her abilities. As LWV-US moves toward tighter, more process-oriented central control, let us remember the clarity with which Marlee saw the ISSUES and the courage with which she tackled them. For many, Marlee represents the dynamic spirit of League at its best. May she continue to inspire us! -Patty Letcher, Pres. LWV-MDI



CONTINUITY

Joyeux Noël Feliz Navidad Buon Natale Frohes Weihnachten

FROM JANE SAXL, PRESIDENT LWV-ME, TO ALL MAINE LEAGUERS

On November 16, the LWV-ME board accepted the resignation of Marlee Turner Coughlan. Marlee served as president from May, 1984, to November, 1988. As we look back on that period of LWV-ME history, there are numbers of accomplishments in which Marlee can truly take pride. Under her leadership we added the York County League, we formed the Mid-Coast MAL unit, and have witnessed the beginnings of the Capitol Area MAL unit. The tri-state inter-League organization grew to quad-state. Marlee welcomed Rhode Island and presided over a successful Quad State Council in the spring of 1988.

During Marlee's tenure, we opened the LWV-ME office in Augusta. Governor Joseph Brennan cut the ribbon and reminded the League of our impressive past and urged us to assume an important role in educating others and shaping future legislation for the State of Maine.

Each June Marlee opened her children's camp to the board. The concept of LWV-ME retreat was born. It was during these weekends that we planned our year, set goals and argued League philosophy. There was time to play in and on the water, time to develop friendships and time to set the League agenda.

In addition, Marlee has begun the process which will lead to establishing the LWV-ME Education Fund. It should not be long before LWV-ME will be able to accept tax-deductible contributions in its own fund rather than going through the lengthy process of passing such monies through the LWV-US Educational Fund.

Marlee's mother, a state board member in Connecticut, gave Marlee her LWV membership for her 21st birthday. Since then, Marlee has been a League member in Connecticut, Ohio, Texas, California, and Maine. She loves League and has worked in various positions both at state and local levels, culminating in the LWV-ME presidency. To her League jobs she has brought intelligence, enthusiasm, and faith that our work is meaningful and significantly affects the governmental process. Marlee cares deeply about national security and environmental issues. She has been an active voice for the League. She spoke out against the siting of a high level nuclear waste depository in Maine, in opposition to Contra aid, and for a more peaceful world. Her caring warmth has encouraged many of us and most of us have been touched by her rare spirit of giving and sensitivity.

In each of our lives there comes a time when there is need for a change of direction. I know that we all wish Marlee the courage to face the new challenges which lie ahead for her and more specifically, great success with Northern Pines as she becomes its sole owner and manager. We will miss her as a leader of the state board, but know that the time has come to devote her energies to this exciting new project. Marlee will continue to act as an advisor and consultant to the LWV-ME board. As she steps down, I want her to know how much we value and appreciate her leadership.

* * * * *

As we approach the holiday season, let me take this opportunity to wish each of you happiness and joy as you celebrate with your family and friends. May 1989 be productive and rewarding for us in League!

LWV AND ELECTION DEBATES

"It has become clear to us that the candidates' organizations aim to add debates to their list of campaign-trail charades devoid of substance, spontaneity, and honest answers to tough questions," said Nancy Newman, president of LWV-US when the League withdrew its sponsorship of the scheduled presidential debate. The LWV-ME office had many calls supporting the decision of our national president. In Maine our efforts to bring the candidates to the public in the debate forum were also unsuccessful.

The first congressional debate scheduled between Joseph Brennan and Ted O'Meara was cancelled the day before the debate. Second Congressional District candidate, Olympia Snowe, was invited, but declined to join opponent, Ken Hayes, for a voters' forum at the Somesville Firehouse. The York County League worked long hours and for many months raising money and arranging a televised senatorial debate between Jasper Wyman and George Mitchell which did not come to fruition.

It is not only in Maine, but across the nation that League debates were blocked by campaign strategy. There was much time for the photo opportunity and for the 30-second commercial, but no time for full and fair discussion of the issues. Over the coming months there will be much discussion of this year's campaign. Certainly it is time for the League to try to find some method of ensuring that in the future voters will see those who would hold office and hear their answers to the pressing questions of the day. The public has the right to hear discussion of the hard and complex questions which face this state and the nation. Now is the time to work for campaign reform.

--Jane Saxl,
President, LWV-ME

* * * * *

THE STAND-FOR-PEACE COMMITTEE urges League members to observe a moment of silence for peace at noon on Inauguration Day, Friday, January 20, 1989, in support of non-violent means to achieve world peace through constructive dialogue. For more information, contact Tony Aman, P.O. Box 60, Brooklin ME 04616.

KEYS TO THE CAPITOL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1989
(snow date, February 1)

Come one, come all to State's Capitol -- hear, learn, and observe our legislation in action!

The tentative agenda for the day (registration between 9:00 - 9:30, \$3 for League members, \$5 for non-members) is centered around waste management/recycling and all that encompasses. But before we hone our teeth on "real" issues, let's visit the legislature in action, meet the new legislative leaders of the two parties, and the indispensable Ed Pert (House Clerk) and Joy O'Brien (Senate Secretary). Following that, we will have a briefing on legislation the League supports and on LWV-ME priority issues.

Lunch with your legislators from 12 to 2.

In the afternoon, we hope to concentrate on waste management with the people in the newly formed Office of Community Development. We will also get information on the Parental Consent legislation, the Housing Authority's plans on affordable homes, status of property taxes, land use, and campaign finances -- the League has more interests than time.

The day will be topped off with a League-sponsored Blaine House reception with the Governor for the Legislators. Then home with visions of legislative sugarplums dancing in our heads.

Watch for your personal finalized agenda, to be mailed soon. We look forward to a town full of Leaguers on January 25.

--Margaret Tragard, York County
--Barbara Bowler, Bangor/Grewer

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FAMILY PLANNING SPEAKER AVAILABLE:
RICHARD CLONAN, on sabbatical from Scarborough High School where he teaches health education, is available to any group of 10 or more that meets during the day or early evening. Speaking on behalf of the Family Planning Association of Maine, Clonan covers teen pregnancy issues and parent-teen communication. For more information, call him at 799-5198.

POST-DECISION '88: WHAT NOW?

Are the prospects for significant arms reduction and federal deficit reduction as grim as the campaign statements of the presidential race winner would imply? There is some relatively encouraging news in a recent appointment by President-elect Bush, and some discouraging news in recent Pentagon press releases. League members should stay alert on SDI funding and other national security issues. At this writing, a Secretary of Defense has not been named, and the person who fills that role will be critical to prospects arms reduction.

However, it is good news that Brent Scowcroft will be National Security Advisor. His credentials (from the pro-arms-control viewpoint) are:

--He prefers the mobile, single-warhead Midgetman missile to the more costly, vulnerable, and controversial MX.

--He is less than enthusiastic about Star Wars; he seems to feel it is not technically feasible.

--He has criticized the Reagan administration's re-interpretation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (considered a cornerstone of deterrence). However, he has differed with the Reagan administration on aspects of the INF Treaty and current proposals to reduce strategic weapons by 50 per cent.

--He recently said that the U.S. "should consider banning sea-launched cruise missiles that have nuclear warheads, because he believes the Russians could use such weapons to threaten the U.S. from vessels off the American coasts." (N.Y. Times, Nov. 24, 1988. See the October VOTER for more details on the threat.) His views should be given full publicity when the cruise missile referendum is before the voters of Maine.

--His background seems broader than that of the average retired Air Force general. He has a Ph.D. in international relations from Columbia (1967), speaks Russian and Serbo-Croatian, and has taught Soviet history at West Point and the Air Force Academy.

UPDATE ON "STAR WARS" (SDI)

The LWV national office has given priority to opposing SDI, to keep its funding to a minimum, and to prevent deployment. There has been

increasing reluctance in Congress to provide the level of funding requested by the Administration. But recent reports indicate that Star Wars will not go down easily, and that we will continue to spend billions on it:

--The Pentagon is proposing a new role for some of the weapons systems developed under Star Wars--use as anti-satellite weapons. (VP-elect Quayle has advocated building such a weapon and the Republican platform calls for one to be deployed "rapidly.") Such use would clearly be aggressive, in contrast to the "purely defensive" purpose of Star Wars that has been claimed even in the face of scientific criticism that it could easily be turned into an offensive system.

More important, critics say that anti-satellite weapons are far more favorable to the USSR than to the U.S. because the U.S. has a greater dependence on space-based military systems, which rely on satellites.

Why would anyone supposed to be responsible for defending his country even suggest weapons systems that are clearly more favorable to "the other side?" Perhaps Marshall McLuhan's maxim is at work here: "For the specialist is one who never makes small mistakes while moving toward the grand fallacy." It's a variation on "can't see the forest for the trees" syndrome as well as the natural tendency of anyone to become totally committed to the project on which he/she spends all of his long working days.

But what excuse can we find for Congress? By now it should be clear that when any weapons system receives initial funding (for "preliminary development," "research into feasibility," etc. etc. etc.), it becomes a self-perpetuating budget expenditure. Not until a weapons system has been proved beyond doubt to be a failure is funding cut off. What was that song of the '60's: "When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?"

--Another indication that Star Wars is alive, if not as well as its proponents would like: a series of major and extensive experiments on SDI hardware is planned for 1989. As important

as technical reasons, the tests are meant "to persuade a skeptical Congress that the controversial program should continue to be lavishly financed despite the nation's budget problems." To date, the program "has received more than \$16 billion...making it one of the biggest military research projects of all time." (N. Y. Times, Science section, Nov. 29, 1988.) Critics say that the program's planned tests will undercut the ABM Treaty and that the Department of Defense seems bent on stretching to the limit the "ambiguities" it claims to find in the Treaty.

THE FEDERAL DEFICIT AND THE DEFENSE BUDGET

As usual, there is little reason to be hopeful that the Pentagon (and the other departments with military items in their budgets) will be asked to bear a proportionate share of the cuts necessary to bring the federal deficit down--or even to keep it from growing larger! Secretary of defense Carlucci says that 2 per cent real growth (above inflation) is necessary to prevent cuts in overseas forces and aircraft carrier deployments. And the Pentagon traditionally overestimates future rates of inflation in its budgets.

President-elect Bush has promised to cut waste and fraud, reform Pentagon procurement procedures, etc. etc. etc. How often have we heard that promise before? How often have we been told, "Now we've solved the problem."?

MILITARY SPENDING AND THE ECONOMY

The myth that war and preparation for war are good for the economy persists in the U.S. in part because of our atypical experience in WWII. We gained economically because we were insulated from war damage, while our main commercial rivals in world trade were destroyed. Today, however, the unique benefits of WWII are gone.

"As a rule of thumb, for every 1 per cent of gross national product devoted to military spending, overall economic growth is reduced by about one-half of 1 per cent. Although the U.S. has done somewhat better than this would suggest, the full bill for military spending --the

federal deficit--still has to be paid." (Prof. Joshua Goldstein, USC, in "How Military Might Robs an Economy," N. Y. Times, October 16, 1988.)

Perhaps we have not done as well as suggested by the Department of Commerce figures on the economy. Several studies (by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the Brookings Institution, the Economic Policy Institute) have shown that the data underlying official optimistic pronouncements about manufacturing growth are untrustworthy, in part because of "ad-hoc adjustments" to prior statistics, failure to include the effect of import prices, and other technical matters too detailed for this article.

Nearly half the world's military expenditures are consumed in Europe, thus the key to cutting military spending is in mutual cuts in conventional forces there. Thus, while nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to the world's survival, conventional forces are an even greater threat to our economic health. We need to reduce both.

Be prepared to write to Senators Mitchell and Cohen in the coming year when the media tell us that funding requests are before the Congress and when the ABM Treaty is under threat again (and to Rep. Snowe and Brennan) on funding issues). If you would like to be put on a mailing (or calling) list to receive timely "action alerts," let me know.

--Ethel Schwalbe
Box 137-B
Steuben, ME 04680

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MAINE CRUISE MISSILE REFERENDUM PETITION: To put a referendum on cruise missile testing on the ballot next November, 43,000 signatures were needed, over 70,000 were collected at 180 polling places across the state on November 8, far more than any other referendum petition has ever received in the state of Maine. The politicians, the press and the public cannot fail to be impressed by this extraordinary effort as we move into the next stages of public education and political organizing.

--Eric Johnson, Petition Drive Coordinator

CALENDAR FOR 1989

JANUARY Program Planning for all local Leagues for State Program
 10 TUESDAY BOARD MEETING, Augusta
 25 Keys to the Capitol, Blaine House Reception, Augusta

FEBRUARY 1 Deadline for program, by-laws proposals
 20 Consensus on Nuclear Issues
 22 WEDNESDAY BOARD MEETING, Augusta

MARCH 15 VOTER deadline
 29 VOTER publication - second call to Convention '89

APRIL 4 TUESDAY BOARD MEETING, Augusta

MAY 5-7 51st LWV-ME State Convention (details to follow)

JUNE LWV-US National Council
 LWV-ME Board Retreat

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LWV-ME NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bonnie Anderson reporting:

The nominating committee has been meeting since spring to formulate a slate of officers and board members for LWV-ME for the 1989-91 term. Although we have most of the positions filled, we certainly do not want to overlook any interested member.

The state board meets about nine times a year at various sites in Maine, most often in Augusta. It is a wonderful way to learn what is going on in other Leagues in the state and to work with the enthusiastic, committed women and men that serve us on the state level.

For further information, contact any of the members of the committee:

Bonnie Anderson, Chair	Falmouth	797-3883
Ruth Irwin	Brunswick	729-1413
Ruth Moss	Sorrento	422-3627
Margaret Tragard	Cape Neddick	646-4068
Charlotte Wilbur	Portland	773-9072

* * * * *

1988 LWV-ME FUND-RAISER WINNERS (aren't we all?)

Dow Associates of Portland won a \$30 tab at Snow Squall Restaurant (how many associates are there?). The other prizes all went to League members: Martha Nadel, Bernard; Jean Orr, Stetson; Phoebe Tonseth, Cumberland; Norma Staples, Thomaston; Barbara Klopp, Camden; Pat Cyphers, Hancock; Nelda Holder, Vermont; Winifred Stevens, Bangor; Carol Fritz, Cape Elizabeth; Jean Childs, Westbrook; Sarah Ledoux, Kennebunk; Val Schurman, Gorham; Jane Quirk, Gouldsboro; Beverly Peterson, Puerto Rico; Ann Knowles, Cumberland; Phyllis Charpentier, Somesville; Elinor Nutter, Orrs Island; Philip Lord, Punta Gorda, Florida. The fund raiser netted \$644 for LWV-ME.

PORTFOLIO UPDATE

ENVIRONMENT — WASTE — RECYCLING

It has been reported by Flis Schauffler, Coastweek coordinator for the State Planning Office, that nearly 8 tons of trash was collected during Coastweek 1988. More than 1300 volunteers cleaned up 75 shorefront sites from Piscataqua River to Passamaquoddy Bay. Along 114 miles of coastline, 1325 volunteers collected 15,200 pounds of debris. There is no data yet on the composition of the debris.

According to Worldwatch Paper 76, Mining Urban Wastes: The Potential for Recycling, by Cynthia Pollock, residents of a typical American community generate an average of 50 pounds of hazardous materials per person per year. There are three methods of dealing with wastes:

- sanitary landfills, ones covered daily with dirt or other fill;
- incinerators that burn the waste and are designed to recover energy;
- separating the wastes and retrieving valuable materials that can be recycled.

By recycling, we can slow the buildup of greenhouse gases and scale back pollutants that contribute to acid rain.

Nearly \$1 of every \$10 that Americans spend for food and beverages pays for packaging. In industrial countries, this constitutes about 30% of the weight and 50% of the volume of household waste. Paper equals one-half of the packaging material; glass, metals and plastic account for the rest.

The Office of Waste Recycling and Reduction was established by legislation that is part of Public Law, Chapter 517, "An Act to Ensure the Safe Management, Recycling and Disposal of Solid Waste and to Reorganize the Solid Waste Law." In consultation with the Recycling Advisory Council, municipalities, regional councils and the private sector, this office shall complete on or before January 1, 1989, a plan to identify and encourage recycling opportunities throughout the state.

According to a survey taken last November by the Western Washington County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee, money is being saved by a small but growing number of Maine towns that recycle solid waste rather than pay to have it taken to a landfill or burned in an incinerator. This committee was organized December 3, 1987, to seek a regional solution to the area's common problem of solid waste disposal. In Brunswick recycling is mandatory, and this committee's survey indicates that it has saved \$108,000 in landfill space.

It is my hope that in the fall of 1989, the LWV-ME will be able to sponsor a one-day environmental workshop on the subject of waste reduction and recycling. Meanwhile, it is a subject to be pursued and studied; then we will be in a better position to speak out in regard to the plan that will be forthcoming from the new office of Waste Recycling and Reduction and the legislation to put it into operation.

--Pat Cyphers
Environmental Chair

HELP SHAPE YOUR TOWN

Letters are going out to local Leagues and MALs asking that they set up a system for observing and, where possible, participating in the comprehensive planning process in their communities.

Under a recent law, towns in Maine are required to establish a comprehensive plan. It is hoped that such a plan will be used as a basis for local land use management. When well done, a comprehensive plan is a valuable tool in safeguarding a community against the worst hazards and impacts of burgeoning development. The quality of the planning is important to all communities. Past experience indicates that this quality will vary considerably among the towns; where the process of planning will fall to citizen committees that must function without or with very little professional planning assistance, the towns will be at a disadvantage. Citizen participation is, of course, a vital part of the process since, in the end, the question will be a political issue. A citizen group unaided by qualified professional advice, however, will be faced by a number of problems: time and energy constraints, lack of knowledge and of planning skills, and frequently, susceptibility to political and economic pressures. The League's objective approach to issues and its accessibility to valid materials can help to counteract these weaknesses.

Even in towns where professional help is available, some vital phases of the process may be missing for a number of reasons. Traditionally, a natural resources inventory has been a minor part of most comprehensive plans. Generally, a number of the components are described and sometimes mapped, then forgotten under the pressures of opinion questionnaires and neighborhood meetings in which the residents express their preference for lot size, types of development, etc. These preferential expressions are quite naturally based on citizens' personal taste for the kind of neighborhood they wish to live in rather than on scientific realities.

All of us live on Earth; we are completely dependent on the resources and limitations of the Earth. It follows as night the day that our own activities must conform to those resources and limitations. This means that we must have detailed information on the nature of the resources found in any particular planning area. The information must be derived and evaluated on the basis of scientific fact. It must be recorded and specific enough that, when a development application is submitted, the granting agency can be alerted to any need for more detailed information on possible hazards of developing a particular site.

A natural resources inventory, if adequately done and evaluated, is an important guide for decision makers. Without it, they can only grope for an answer to vital questions. The committee planning the project for observers/participants hopes that League members will make the natural resources inventory a priority. The observers and other interested League members will find these publications helpful:

--Natural Resources Handbook: A Planning Tool for Maine Communities, Maine Association of Conservation Commissions, P.O. Box 831, Yarmouth, ME 04096

--Design with Nature, Ian McHarg, The American Museum of Natural History Press, Garden City, N. Y.

The MACC publication costs about \$2 and is well worth owning. The McHarg book is a classic in the field of planning, and may be borrowed through your library.

--LaRue Spiker

State Program

1987-1989

GOVERNMENT

State: A continuing responsibility-- to achieve reform of Maine's legislature.

Election Process: Monitor and act on State legislation consistent with the National LWV position on campaign finance.

Monitor legislation with a view to action on the absentee balloting process.

County: A continuing responsibility-- to achieve reform of county government.

Citizens' Rights: Monitor and act on legislation consistent with the national position on reproductive rights.

SOCIAL POLICY

Equal Rights: Continued action to support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and to bring laws into compliance with the goals of ERA.

Comparable Worth: Action to achieve comparable worth.

Child Care: Action to assure the availability of affordable and quality child care for all.

Educational Finance: A continuing responsibility-- to pursue equal educational opportunity, adequate and relatively equal funds must be available on a per pupil basis in every school district.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Air/Water/Pesticides: Action to promote wise use and prevent degradation of water and air resources in Maine.

Waste Management: Action to ensure the safe treatment, storage, and disposal of all wastes (including low and high-level radioactive, solid and hazardous.)

Land: Action in support of comprehensive land use planning in Maine and action on land use issues with emphasis on cumulative effects of development.

Energy: Action to promote conservation in transportation, residences, commerce, and industry. Action to develop renewable resources for power production in Maine: clean, decentralized and native.

Reconsider current State and National positions on nuclear power and nuclear waste.

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 program developed to teach decision-making on avoiding nuclear war.

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SUMMARY OF RECENT LWV-ME PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

GOVERNMENT

State: This has been a backburner item. Our positions include action on legislative staffing, length of legislative terms and the size of the House. (Refer to LWV-ME Positions 1983.)

Election Process: We have monitored and supported Campaign Finance reform legislation, including the law making it illegal for candidates to handle absentee ballots. The LWV-ME has been asked to support the proposed referendum which would limit PAC contributions to candidates for Governor. We supported successful legislation to make it easier for registered voters to cast absentee ballots. A record number of absentee ballots was cast in the November '88 election, thanks, in part, to our efforts.

County: This has been a backburner item. Refer to Positions for more information.

Citizen's Rights: Through the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition (WLAC), we have supported successful efforts to keep parental consent laws off the books in Maine. Again this legislative session we will support such action. This item is on our 1989 Action Agenda.

SOCIAL POLICY

Equal Rights: We supported the successful effort to make the language of the Maine Constitution and statutes gender neutral. Most of our work on this item was done through WLAC.

Comparable Worth: We supported successful legislation to allow state employees to bargain pay equity issues. We helped pass the bill which implemented a pay equity plan for the classified staff in the University of Maine system.

Child Care: This is a 1989 Action Agenda item. Through WLAC, we have supported bills which have increased the availability of affordable and quality child care for Maine parents.

Educational Finance: This has been a backburner item. Refer to Positions for more information.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Air/Water/Pesticides: Air has been a backburner issue on the state level, although we did support legislation to reduce acid rain in Maine. Most work on this is done at the national level. We have been very active on water issues. NR Chair Pat Cyphers served on the Governor's subcommittee on groundwater. We participated in the LWV-US Water Quality Issues Survey and supported efforts to protect our aquifers. We will support efforts to create a state-wide plan for the disposal of household hazardous waste. These items are included in the 1989 Action Agenda under Tackling Toxics.

Waste Management: Problems of solid waste disposal will be a hot topic this coming year. Leagues throughout the state are planning meetings on this issue. We opposed the consideration of Maine as a possible location for a nuclear waste site. We've supported the state's edfforts to promote recycling, which will be discussed at Keys to the Capitol, January 25.

Land: We supported the comprehensive Planning and land Use Regulation Act, and urged local Leagues to "undertake...an ongoing evaluation of the adequacy of conception and direction of the planning for and drafting of comprehensive plans..." of their towns. This is an Action Agenda item.

Energy: The study on state nuclear power and waste issues will take place in February and March. This is an Action Agenda item. Our efforts to gain LWV-US permission to support the closing of Maine Yankee and to expand the LWV-US position were unsuccessful.

Farmland: This has been a backburner issue. See Positions.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

National Security: The promotion of the computer program to teach decision-making on avoiding nuclear war has become a backburner item.

SUMMARY OF RECENT LWV-ME ACTIVITIES BASED ON LWV-US PROGRAM

SOCIAL POLICY

Equal Access to Education, Employment and Housing: We will introduce legislation this session to "Create Incentives to Provide Affordable Housing." The bill would provide for a state-funded education credit to municipalities which promote the development of affordable housing units. This is an Action Agenda item.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Arms Control: We urged adoption of the INF Treaty and supported the traditional interpretation of the ABM Treaty. We cosponsored with Physicians for Social Responsibility the fall symposium, "Risk and Opportunity: Health and Security in the Nuclear Age." We also cosponsored "Arms Control '88" with the Maine Peace Mission. This is an Action Agenda item.

Military Policy and Defense Spending: We supported reduced SDI funding. This is an Action Agenda item. We had hoped to oppose the testing of cruise missiles. But, according to LWV-US, the position "does not permit us to oppose testing" because "the sea-launched cruise missile is not prohibited by any existing treaty." LWV-ME members have been active on this issue as individuals.

* * * * *

The materials on pages 9 through 13 was provided by Judy Harrison, Bangor-Brewer LWV president and member of the Long-Range Planning Committee.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

Timely Topics for Consideration at Program Planning Meetings

PROPERTY TAX REFORM

Communities across the state have considered spending and/or tax caps to relieve the property tax burden. Where will future revenues come from? Which plan will offer relief and not just shift the taxation burden? When tax reform becomes a reality, how will the options provided be implemented in your community?

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The cost of running for office in Maine has increased greatly. How should campaign finance reform be implemented? Should the LWVME support the proposed referendum to limit campaign contributions in the Governor's race? How can Legislators be persuaded to support such reform?

WASTE REDUCTION/RECYCLING

Solid waste disposal may be THE crisis of the 1990s. Should the state implement mandatory recycling? Should household hazardous waste disposal be implemented? What is the most environmentally sound form of solid waste disposal?

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Property values and rent prices are increasing at rapid rates. What is the best approach to meeting the needs of those seeking affordable housing? Rent subsidies? State support of construction of middle- and low-income housing units? What are the implications if the problem becomes a crisis?

LAND USE PLANNING

Hailed as "landmark legislation," the comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act was passed last year. Should the LWVME continue its efforts to make sure municipalities plan effectively for their future? How can we make sure review of such plan by the state does not become a "rubber stamp?"

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The Maine Right to Life Committee will again introduce legislation this session requiring minors seeking abortions to have parental or judicial consent for the procedure. How actively should we oppose such efforts? What kind of alternative legislation should we support?

LWVME PROGRAM PLANNING 1989-91

If you are a member-at-large or unable to attend your local program planning meeting, please complete and return this form no later than Feb. 1, 1989 to:

Judy Harrison, 2nd Vice-President, Program
27 Poplar Street
Bangor, ME 04401

1. I would support a state per-member-payment increase from \$10 to \$12. YES NO

2. I would support a state study on

3. I would like to see more Action Alerts on state legislative issues. YES NO

4. I would like to nominate to the LWVME Board:

Name(s) _____

Address(es) _____

Phone number(s) _____

PROGRAM ITEM	READOPT	DROP	EXPAND/MODIFY	EXPLAIN
GOVERNMENT				
State				
Election Process				
County				
Citizen's Rights				
SOCIAL POLICY				
Equal Rights				
Comparable Worth				
Child Care				
Educational Finance				
NATURAL RESOURCES				
Air/Water/Pesticides				
Waste Management				
Land				
Energy				
Farmland				
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS				

AND FROM THE LOCAL LEAGUES

LWV-YORK COUNTY - Blanche Staples reporting

The general membership meeting was held on November 19 at 9:30 a.m. The subject was recycling as a waste management device. Carolyn Blouin, South Berwick, gave a delightfully witty account of one small town's successful experiences with recycling. The second speaker, B. J. Jones, a program specialist with the Waste Recycling and Reduction Office in the Department of Economic and Community Development, Augusta, outlined a very comprehensive program which will be presented to Governor McKernan before January, 1989. The state government is making waste management a top priority for the upcoming legislative session.

MAL ACTIVITY - Nellik Doble reporting

At the request of Channel 8 in Auburn, the League supplied volunteers for that station's election night coverage. Since there is no active local League in that area, the treasure hunt was up to the MAL coordinator. And if it hadn't been for Peggy Rotundo, Lewiston, we wouldn't have gotten anywhere.

She not only secured most of the League ladies, she also referred me to the head of the Political Science Department at Bates. Professor Hodgkin was kind enough to mention the "opportunity" in his classes, and as a result, half a dozen students participated in the event. Our heartfelt thanks to Peggy and to Professor Hodgkin and his students, and to Ann Ward and Virginia Griffiths of Lewiston, Jane Gilbert, Nancy McCarty, Pat Melaragno, and Shirley Rand of Auburn, and Judith Downing and Margaret Vaughn of Hallowell.

To quote Peter Weyl, the station's news director, "...the LWV volunteers gave our newscasts a real boost and worked tirelessly to extract returns from tight-lipped town clerks around the state." He also expressed the hope that the League would make a comeback in Lewiston-Auburn soon!

* * * * *

LONG-RANGE PLAN BULLETIN

If you have neglected to fill out your Long-Range Planning Survey, you still have time. If you did not receive a copy of the survey, you have not missed your chance to tell the Long-Range Planning Committee where you believe the LWV-ME should be headed. Mail your completed survey or request a survey form from:

Judy Harrison
27 Poplar St.
Bangor, ME 04401
942-1545.

You are the League of tomorrow. Help LWV-ME plan for your future!

FROM THE HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE PORTLAND AREA LEAGUE

Ann Knowles, Chair, reporting

The Housing Committee of the Portland Area League began its investigation of the affordable housing crisis in August. After gathering statistics and the reports of housing organizations, we heard a speaker from the Yarmouth Affordable Housing Committee, Martha Dunlap, a former developer for the Cumberland-York Housing Development Corporation (federally subsidized).

Three members of the committee attended the Blaine House Conference on Affordable Housing held in Portland after the Governor's Task Force on Affordable Housing had concluded its work. We each attended a different panel: Private Sector Initiatives, Financing Options and Municipal Initiatives.

The committee invited Lynne Ballew of the Maine Housing Enterprise, a nonprofit foundation, to speak. Maine Housing Enterprise is an offshoot of the Rouse Foundation. Several nonprofit groups are working cooperatively with municipalities to develop housing. One such group is the Cumberland County Affordable Housing Venture, a partnership of United Way, the Cumberland County Council of Governments and the Cumberland County Commissioners. Its Board of Citizens has raised \$700,000 for a revolving housing fund and its director, Anne Gass, has a busy speaking schedule to zoning boards and town councils.

We explored the idea of using the State of Maine surplus funds, presently about \$37 million, for a revolving housing fund for affordable housing. We researched revolving housing funds now operational and successful in Massachusetts, Vermont and Dallas. "Housing Vermont" is funded through surplus funds and is a revolving housing fund.

The committee invited several legislators to a meeting at University of Southern Maine: Phil Jackson of Harrison, Dave Stanley of Cumberland, and Tom Andrews of Portland. Stanley and Andrews had been members of the Housing Task Force, now disbanded. Jackson is on the Taxation Committee. At the meeting, Linda Smith, a Special Assistant to the Governor (Dept. of Economic and Community Development), described the Governor's proposal of \$5 million, part of which is for a mortgage insurance fund. The legislators and Smith agreed that a much greater initiative is needed, including legislative encouragement to municipalities and developers. As one of the legislators said, much of the money will be used for management and for mortgage insurance. The amount is a drop in the bucket.

The committee has decided not to continue developing the concept of a revolving housing fund, but discussed an idea that would build into the state education formula, an incentive for affordable housing. "An Act to Provide Incentives for Affordable Housing" would give an educational bonus through the educational formula to every town that made it possible, through its zoning ordinances, for affordable housing to be developed.

The state board of LWV-ME approved this idea of the committee. The committee and the first sponsor, Representative Annette Hoglund of Portland, will develop the wording during December, other sponsors will be sought. Research on the formula and the feasibility is underway. The committee will seek the approval and advice of other legislators and appropriate committees such as the Education Committee and the Taxation Committee.



HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SITE DISCOVERY PROGRAM

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

Signs of potential hazardous waste sites are:
piles of discarded drums, containers, electrical
transformers, compressed gas cylinders or batteries;
rusty or oily-looking sticks on water or soil;
stressed or dead vegetation; wildlife or fish-kills.
If you know of a possible hazardous waste site,
report it by calling 1-800-822-6220.

Sponsored by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection

1-800-822-6220

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NEW
YEAR!



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