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THE VOTER



VOL. 9 NO. 3

The League of Women Voters of Maine

APRIL 1992

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Our excellent program for **Keys to the Capitol** on February 5 had to be cancelled because of a blizzard. We were deeply disappointed, as were our panelists. The State Board agreed that next year our **Keys to the Capitol** should be scheduled for March or April when the weather may be more predictable.

The good news is that I was selected as a participant in the LWV Education Fund training conference on "Thinking Globally" held in Washington on March 20-21. Sessions looked at how poverty in the Developing World affects the U.S., the links through trade, the connections between environment and development, the role women play in development and security issues in the post-Cold War world.

To follow up on this theme, our state will be responsible for the Sunday (May 3) morning session on "Thinking Globally" at Quad State Council. We have noted the general agenda for Quad State elsewhere in this **VOTER** and we hope to see many of you there, either as delegates or as just plain interested Leaguers! It's an exciting agenda. You are welcome to come for all or part of the time. It is not necessary to make reservations to attend the sessions.

Quad State Council also gives us the opportunity to work with the other three states in preparing for National Convention in June where recommendations for our 1992-94 program and emphasis will be debated and adopted. As a result of consensus the League should be well positioned to speak on Health Care issues in the next two years.

If space permits, you will find elsewhere in this **VOTER** a request from the LWVUS for volunteers to the convention in Boston. Don't hesitate to respond if it's what you enjoy doing. Your services will certainly be appreciated.

You will find this **VOTER**, as it always is, full of information on League activities at all levels. Take advantage of it and volunteer for any of the programs listed. We are always looking for new faces.

Marion Holshouser

A Special "Thank You"

Once again the editor had to be out of Maine at VOTER time due to family illness. This time **Marion Holshouser** and **Carol Fritz** (both of whom have other League work!) came through and prepared the January VOTER. A heartfelt "THANK YOU!" from editor and readers.

SUPREME COURT DECISION-MAKING

Leagues Co-Sponsor Study Project



Leagues in six New England states are co-sponsoring a project of the New England Foundation for the Humanities designed to increase knowledge of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision-making process.

Titled "Deciding Justice", the NEH-funded project will provide 30 New England communities with a series of scholar-led discussions beginning in the fall of 1992. Participants will explore the history of significant Supreme Court decisions and individual justices, including Marshall, Holmes and Frankfurter. Freedom of religion, freedom of expression, rights of the accused, and civil rights cases are among the six seminar topics.

Four or five local Maine Leagues will be selected to work with their public libraries in a co-sponsoring role, helping with publicity and encouraging attendance by local League members and other community leaders. Posters, brochures, flyers, books, and scholar honoraria are all provided by the Foundation. Participating League members will be invited to attend a regional orientation conference for scholars, librarians, and other "Deciding Justice" project leaders.

For more information, call Jane Johnson, Project Director, 203-445-0689. To indicate an interest in your League's participation, call Marion Holshouser, 767-2784. (NOTE: A call to Jane Johnson provided the additional information that some Leagues are planning to hold the public seminars during the winter or spring; and that the Foundation will contact libraries and scholars.)

As a "new" Supreme Court begins to decide critical cases respecting the freedoms and rights mentioned above, the "Deciding Justice" project can be an important public service, even falling within a broadly defined "Voters' Service" for Leagues.

The following policy on Letters to the Editor was approved at LWV-ME Board meeting of 3/11/92.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters sent to the VOTER Editor will be accepted from LWV members, based on space and appropriateness to current LWV program. Letters must be limited to no more than 100 words, in addition to the author's name, address, phone number and LWV affiliation.

QUAD STATE COUNCIL AGENDA

LEAGUES OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT

The January VOTER provided basic information (dates, location, reservation form) for the 1992 Quad State Council (held in alternate years with our LWV Maine conventions.) If you missed the deadline for reserving rooms and meals, you can still attend sessions without a prior reservation. It should be an easy trip for many of our members--Durham, NH, where Council will be held, is less than 20 miles from Kittery.

In the Agenda below, major topics and, where individual League sessions are scheduled, Maine's topics are in bold print. However, Quad State is a cooperative effort and Leaguers are free to sit in on any session.

The map to help you get to Durham and the New England Center is repeated at the end of the agenda.

Saturday, May 2, 1992

9:30 a.m.	Registration and coffee
10:00 a.m.	PLENARY SESSION - G. Culpepper, President LWNH Call to Order Welcome from New Hampshire League President Introduction of State Boards Roll Call of Local Leagues Welcome to Visitors Credential Report Council Rules
10:45 a.m.	Individual Sessions - Maine State Board meeting
11:45 a.m.	---LUNCH---(on your own)
12:45-1:45 p.m.	HEALTH CARE ACTION - Rhode Island Q & A on Health Care Develop Questions for Candidates on Health Care
2:00 p.m.	REGIONAL COOPERATION
2:30 p.m.	---BREAK---
2:45 p.m.	TAKE BACK THE SYSTEM: Individual State Leagues
3:45 p.m.	Q & A VOTING RIGHTS: Rhode Island
4:00 p.m.	Discussion: REGIONAL COOPERATION
5:00 p.m.	---SOCIAL HOUR---
6:00 p.m.	DINNER -- Speaker

(Continued on following page)

(QUAD STATE COUNCIL AGENDA)

(Saturday, May 2, Continued from previous page)

8:00 p.m.

CAUCUSES

MAINE: Regional Transportation
New Hampshire: Financing State Government,
Tax Reform
Vermont: Reproductive Choice

MAINE; Budget Committee Meeting

Sunday, May 3, 1992

8:00 a.m.

---BREAKFAST---

8:30 A.M.

THINKING GLOBALLY -- LWV MAINE

10:30 a.m.

---BREAK / ROOM CHECKOUT---

10:45 a.m.

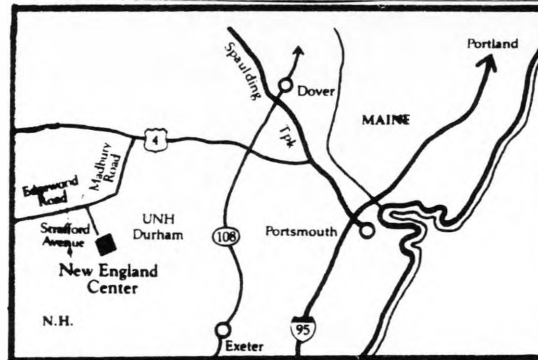
Individual Sessions:
MAINE STATE BOARD MEETING, *cont'd*

11:45 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION; STRATEGIES FOR
NATIONAL CONVENTION
Slate of Officers 1992-94
By-laws
Program
Report of LWV Future Planning Comm.--
Regional Meetings

12:30

---LUNCH---



New England Center
15 Strafford Avenue
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH 03824

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LWVUS BY-LAWS

Our State Board of Directors has submitted a request for the following amendment to LWVUS By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX CONVENTION

Composition

a. Delegates chosen by the members of local Leagues: local League shall be entitled to at least one delegate; every 50 MALs (members at large) within a state shall be entitled to one delgate; when local League membership reaches 100 voting members, the local League shall be entitled to one additional delegate; when MAL membership within a state reaches an additional 100 voting members, the MALs shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter, one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional 100 voting members; and one additional delegate shall be authorized for every additional 100 voting MALs; the official membership count shall be determined by national office records of voting members as of January 1 of the year in which the convention is held.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGES

1. IN LEAGUE says, "Members are the league; they are our lifeblood. Members give the league clout and visibility. They are the source of our leadership. A growing, thriving membership means that we can succeed in accomplishing the goals we share at all levels of the League." MALs are members just as much as local Leaguers, and they deserve the same consideration and respect.
2. The demise of a local league frequently means there are additional MALs in a state. These members are accustomed to representation at national convention; some may have been delegates themselves. They should not be denied participation just because their local league no longer exists. Similarly, when a member moves from an area where there is a League to one where there is none, shouldn't that member (now a MAL) at least be eligible to be a voting delegate at national convention?
3. Providing for MAL representation at convention will help us meet membership growth challenges in the years ahead, especially with the intense competition for members among issue-oriented organizations.
4. The exclusion of MAL representation deprives the league of the contributions of some of its most experienced and competent members. Maintaining MALs as second-class members is more of a loss to the organization than to the MALs themselves.

CLARIFICATION

The chart below represents delegate representation for Members at Large compared to present representation for members of local leagues.

	<i>1 delegate represents</i>	<i>2 delegates represent</i>	<i>3 delegates represent</i>
<i>Local league members</i>	<i>25-99</i>	<i>100-199</i>	<i>200-299</i>
<i>Members at Large</i>	<i>50-100</i>	<i>150-249</i>	<i>250-349</i>

TRANSPORTATION

"Support measures to reduce vehicular pollution and development of alternate transportation systems."

You'll recall that the above is one of four 1991-1992 Priorities for the League of Women Voters of Maine. As the most pragmatic and effective means of working toward it, we chose to use our resources to support fully the Sensible Transportation Act and its sponsoring organization, the Campaign for Sensible Transportation (CST). Our support included endorsing CST objectives, having a LWV representative serve on the CST advisory board, encouraging active participation by our members (through their financial support, legislative hearing attendance, telephoning, writing letters to editors, sponsoring forums, getting out the vote, etc.) The purpose of all these efforts was to secure passage of the citizen referendum in November 1991, the Sensible Transportation Act. This "grassroots" referendum which, as you know, passed overwhelmingly in spite of well-organized, extremely well-financed and highly publicized opposition, is now state law. League members who worked so diligently for its passage can take pride in their accomplishment.

LEAGUE AMONG THOSE HONORED. On Saturday, March 23, 1992, our state League was honored at the New England Environmental Conference and was presented an award by the Environmental Citizenship Program. Seven statewide organizations working collectively through the Campaign for Sensible Transportation were cited individually for "crafting an initiative that included farsighted transportation policy which explicitly involves citizens in making transportation decisions and for having organized an umbrella campaign to promote the initiative in a manner enabling people and organizations statewide to contribute to its passage."

LEAGUE TO ASSIST WATCHDOG EFFORT. The Maine Department of Transportation will soon begin writing regulations to implement the new law. The Campaign for Sensible Transportation has made a decision to extend its life, now as a watchdog organization, during this rule-making process. The League has agreed to work actively on the newly reorganized CST board at least until the rule-making process is over in November 1992.

The purpose of CST as presently perceived is to ensure implementation of the Maine Sensible Transportation Policy Act, and to further its purposes. CST activities during the next few months are expected to include:

1. Monitoring and participating in the rule-making process.
2. Speaking out, where appropriate and desirable, on transportation issues which are or could be affected by the Act.
3. Maintaining communication with affiliates, supporters, and the public.
4. Providing assistance to groups concerned with transportation issues.
5. Advocating on behalf of local groups with the Department of Transportation when feasible and appropriate.

The League expects that many, but not all, of the activities listed above will be in harmony with LWV positions and will support, or not support, them accordingly.

JANE LESTER
Chair, Transportation

TRAVEL WITH THE LEAGUE



*Bringing members and friends together for exciting
and unique travel experiences with a League focus.*

1992-93 Tours

Greece May 8 - 18 \$2160 Cruise extension May 18 - 22 \$670

Costa Rica July 14 - 18 \$865

New Zealand "Fly Free" July 15 - 29 \$1895 Australia extensions

Russia "Riverways" July 25 - Aug 10 \$2139

London September 19 - 27 \$1990

China Highlights September 9 - 23 \$2650 Orient extensions

Scandinavia September 9 - 17 \$2199

Egypt October 2 - 16 \$2499 Sinai extension

Turkey October 16 - 25 \$1990 Pre-tour cruise/Post-tour extension

Spain September-October/ 2weeks \$2000

South India January 1993/ 2 weeks \$3400

Thailand 1993/ 3 weeks \$1990

===== TRAVEL CONCEPTS INTERNATIONAL, INC. =====

5500 Bucks Bar Road

Placerville, CA 95667

Gwen Erwood (916) 621-3007

1-800-762-4216

The tours are fundraisers for the League of Women Voters. Local Leagues may also participate by offering the tours to travellers and potential members in their area. The \$50 nonmember fee goes to the local League which recruits participants.

GREECE



*The choice of the Gods
and the League of Women Voters!*

May 8 - 18 \$2160

Athens, Olympia, Corinth, Delphi,
Mycenae, Hydra, Poros, Aegina

OPTIONAL GREEK ISLES CRUISE

May 18 - 22 \$670

Mykonos, Santorini, Crete, Rhodes
Kusadasi (Ephesus), Patmos



FLY FREE TO NEW ZEALAND

& SELECTED AUSTRALIAN VACATIONS

Select tours throughout 1992 and travel
with other English-speaking countries.

Or, travel with League to the North and
South islands of New Zealand on our
special departure date:

July 15-29 \$1895

Add extensions to Australia

Russia Waterways



**July 25 - Aug 9
\$2139**

A leisurely exploration of fascinating
historic cities via Russia's waterways.
Begin by visiting Moscow and
continue to cruise to Uglich,
Kostroma, Yaroslavl, Irma, Goritsky,
Kizhi-Lake Onega, Petrozavodsk
Valaam-Lake Ladoga. Finish the
grand tour through St. Petersburg.

The Midwest Museum of American Art presents A Museum Tour of London

**September 19-27
\$1990**

National Gallery, Westminster Abbey
British Museum, Georgian Bath,
Stonehenge, Tower of London, River-
launch up the Thames to Hampton
Court Palace, Victoria and Albert
Museum, Tate Gallery, Stratford-
Upon-Avon, evening at the Theatre



China Highlights

**Sept 9-23
\$2650**

Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Guilin,
Hangzhou and Suzhou
Orlent Extensions

Our very favorite itinerary includes the
traditional Chinese landscape of Guilin
with a cruise on the Li River,
Marco Polo's Heaven on Earth - Hangzhou
and picturesque Suzhou with its
classical gardens.

SCANDINAVIAN ENCHANTMENT

**Sept 9-17
\$2199**

Helsinki, Copenhagen, Oslo,
Bergen and Stockholm

*The ideal way to appreciate the scope
and beauty of Scandinavia.....*
Travel by air between Helsinki/
Copenhagen and Bergen/Oslo
Rail transportation Oslo/Bergen and
Oslo/Stockholm and overnight cruise
from Stockholm to Helsinki

TURKEY

**October 16-25
\$1990**

Izmir, Ephesus, Ankara-
Cappadocia, Goreme, Istanbul



Extension prior to tour Oct 9-17 \$760
Yachting the Turquoise Coast

Extension post tour Oct 25-Nov 1 \$1076
Antalya, Side, Perge, Hierapolis/
Pamukkale, Aphrodisias, Bodrum, Pergamum



EXPERIENCE SOUTH INDIA

**January 1993/ 2 Weeks
\$3400**

South India is very different from the
North, and our tour is designed for
second time travelers to India as well as
first-timers. The group will be hosted
by Malathi Ramaswamy. She has
lectured for the Smithsonian and Asian
Societies and in our destination, is the
"Soul of India personified". Join our
small group for an exploration of the
art, architecture and history of South
India. Airfare from East or West coasts.



Cruising the Nile

**October 2-16
\$2499**

Walk in the paths of Ramses II.
Venture into the heart of the Great
Pyramid of Cheops. Experience the
timeless adventure of sailing in a
felucca. Marvel at Ramses' mighty
temple at Abu Simbel. And more!
Extension to Sinal

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED

SPAIN Sept-Oct 2 Weeks \$2000

**THAILAND 1993
3 Weeks \$1999**



**EXOTIC ORIENT 1993
2 Weeks
Bangkok, Bali, Singapore**

PRAGUE & BUDAPEST 1993

TRAVEL WITH THE LEAGUE



Travel in the best of company, with the League of Women Voters!

Tours feature cultural highlights, pretrip study material, home and school visits and luncheon counterpart meetings focusing on mutual interests. Airfare included. Organized by League member.

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Gwen Erwood (916) 621-3007 **1-800-762-4216**

Health Care Consensus

LWV MAINE CONCLUSIONS ON PHASE I

While we are waiting for LWVUS to tabulate responses for the consensus on Phase I of the health care study, it is interesting to see to what extent League members in Maine found common ground on the issues involved.

In reviewing the responses, it seemed clear that group study and discussion clarified the questions; the largest number of indecisive responses and most comments saying that the questions weren't clear came from members-at-large who had not been able to attend group meetings. Without opportunity for an exchange of views, it is more difficult to arrive at a consensus. It is, therefore, particularly significant that our Maine LWV members who participated in this consensus were in agreement on the many points listed below.

1. **What should the goals of health care policy in the United States include?**

Identified as high priority

Minimum basic level of care for all U.S. residents
Efficient and economical delivery of care
Equitable distribution of health service

Identified as lower priority

A reasonable total national expenditure level for health care
Health Care at an affordable cost to the individual patient
Consumer choice in the selection of health care providers
Choice for providers in the selection of type of practice

2. **If a goal of U.S. health care policy is a minimum basic level of care for all U.S. citizens, what should that minimum basic level include?**

Identified as high priority

Prevention of disease
Health promotion and education
Primary care
Acute care

Identified as lower priority

Long term care
Mental health care
Hearing care
Reproductive and prenatal care
Dental care
Vision care

3. **If a goal of U.S. health care policy is equitable distribution of health care services, what would contribute to achieving this goal?**

Agree

Requiring insurance companies to use community rating instead of experience rating
Allocating services to medically underserved areas
Providing for training of health care professionals in needed fields of care
Providing for insurance pools for small businesses and organizations

Continued on Page 8

4. If a goal of U.S. health care policy is efficient and economical delivery of care, which of the following cost control methods would contribute to achieving this goal?

Agree

Regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment
Establishing maximum level of public reimbursement to providers
Use of managed care
Reduction of administrative costs
Malpractice reform

5. In a health care system with limited resources, what criteria should be used in allocating or "rationing" health care services for individuals in need of care?

Agree

Urgency of medical condition
Expected outcome of treatment
Cost of procedure
Quality of life after treatment
Life expectancy of patient
Duration of care

Disagree

Ability of patient to pay (from personal resources or insurance)
Age of patient

While we await the LWVUS report on the first phase of the health care study and the development of the second phase, we are turning our attention to alternative strategies and programs to improve and change the system on a state level. The Maine State Health Care Study is being developed and should be available to local leagues and MALs by this September. We hope that all of our members within the state will find time to participate. There are already many alternative suggestions and legislative initiatives being developed, and we need to be able to evaluate them in terms of a well-defined position.

NOT ONLY



BUT ALSO



*Now the Maine VOTER is printed with soy ink,
as well as on recycled paper.*

Traditional oil-based inks are a major component of the hazardous sludge that is a byproduct of the paper recycling process. Soybean ink eliminates 75% of the normal toxicity. Thank you to our printer (and League member) Irv Marsters for this addition to the VOTER's environmental quality.

Local Leagues

MID-COAST. The Mid-Coast League has developed an ambitious "Preliminary Action Plan" for Election '92. They plan to have a committee that will include representatives from the League, AAUW, Republican and Democratic parties, schools, and the press.

Their plan calls for:

1. DEBATES -- in 5 districts
2. VOTER EDUCATION and REGISTRATION in HIGH SCHOOLS
3. REGISTRATION IN SHOPPING CENTERS

ENERGY NOTES

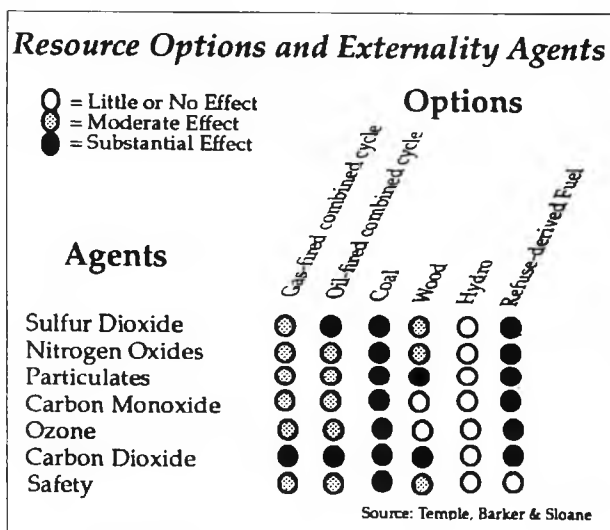
Bonnie Anderson, State Energy Chair, reports:

The Commission on Comprehensive Energy Planning has completed its report which will be sent to the LWV by April 1. Due to the anticipated adjournment of the legislature by this time, it will not be presented as planned but will await the next legislative session.

Only at the end of the meetings did the environmental effects of electric generation come up for discussion. John Flumerfelt of the State Planning Office, staff for this commission, indicated that lack of sufficient budget and expertise had kept this aspect off the table.

A copy of this report will be available at the Quad State Council in May.

Bonnie also provided the following information from the Corporate Challenge News (March issue). (The Corporate Challenge News is published by the Penobscot Valley Publishing Co. P.O. Box 22, Blue Hill, ME 04614.)



"Externalities" are
Environmental Costs

**MAINE'S COMMISSION
on
GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES**

Marilyn Canavan, Executive Director of Maine's Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, described the work of the Commission to the League's State Board at their March 12 meeting. The Board wanted all League members to be aware of the Commission's work and its current funding problems, so Ruth Moss provided a summary of Ms. Canavan's talk for the VOTER.

Maine is one of 34 states which established ethics commissions in the wake of the 1976 Watergate Scandal. Although few of them have the same operations or responsibilities, their authority typically covers one or more of these areas:

ETHICS

LOBBYING

CAMPAIGN FINANCING

In Maine, the Commission has authority to administer financial disclosure and ethics laws for legislators only; executive officers file reports with the office of Secretary of State.

ETHICS: Ethics laws in most jurisdictions require public officials to file reports showing their personal assets and liabilities and to disclose gifts or honoraria they receive during their terms of office. Purpose: To discourage public officials from acting upon a private or business interest in performance of a public duty and to assure that in official acts individuals are free of influence of undisclosed private or business interests. Personal financial disclosure is also designed to develop accountability in government by permitting public access to information necessary to judge performance of those in public office.

LOBBYING: Maine's law requires lobbyists to disclose:

1. Specific dollar amounts of expenditures made to prepare documents and conduct research for the primary purpose of influencing legislative action.
2. The name of any official in the legislative branch on whose behalf an expenditure totalling \$25 or more was made.

In 1987, Maine had 306 registered lobbyists; in 1991, there were 385. Unlike watchdog agencies in 21 other states, oversight over lobbying in Maine is managed by the Secretary of State.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE: Maine's Commission has authority to administer and investigate violation of the campaign finance laws. Candidates are required to file reports of all contributions received and expenditures made in support of their candidacy. In an election year, about 3,000 reports are processed, and about 2,500 are audited for accuracy and to insure compliance with all reporting requirements. In non-election years, about 1,000 reports are processed.

PACs and Candidate Expenditures:

Number of political action committees registered in Maine for the purpose of supporting the candidacy of political aspiratants:

In 1981: 7 In 1990: 80

(Continued on Page 11)

Average expenditure by winning state senate candidates:

In 1984: \$5,500 In 1986: \$7,000 In 1990: \$15,000

The highest spending state senate race in Maine in 1990 was \$77,000 for the two candidates. In 1970, a candidate for governor had to spend \$130,000 to be elected. In 1990, the two major candidates combined spent more than \$3,000,000, more than was spent in Maryland or South Carolina. In 1988, political action committees spent \$1,300,000 on candidates; in 1990, this amount increased to \$1,700,000.

COMMISSION IS UNDERFUNDED: In spite of the increased activity in political campaigns and increasing responsibilities of the Commission, it is underfunded and understaffed, and lacks equipment needed to do its job effectively. Underfunding for ethics commissions happens throughout the U.S.; however, in Maine we are next to last (49th) in terms of staffing and funding.

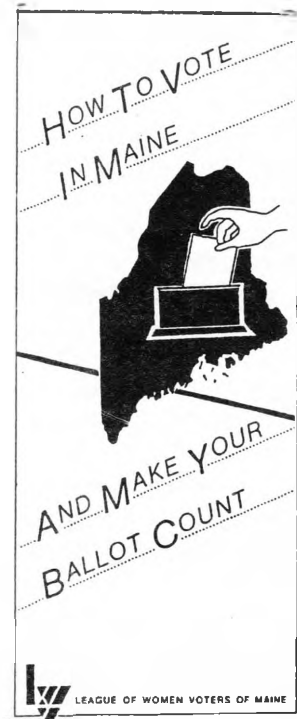
Recent budget cutbacks have reduced the Commission to two staff people, both of whom are furloughed on a regular basis. (Before the recent state income shortfalls and budget problems, the legislature had increased Commission staff to three full-time and one part-time employee.) In 1989, a legislative commission appointed to study public financing recommended computer equipment to enable the Commission to produce more comprehensive statistics on campaign spending; budget constraints prevented this.

Some states have solved funding problems creatively; for example, Kansas set up a dedicated fund for their disclosure commission into which lobbyists' fees, PAC filing fees and candidates' fees are deposited. In Maine a proposal requiring all political action committees to pay a one-percent filing fee to the Commission never got off the ground in the legislature.

So, in Election Year 1992, the Commission will have to cut back on responding to the public's requests for information, monitor fewer campaign spending reports, and cut other activities. Most important, the Commission's investigatory capabilities will be very limited.

Ms. Canavan said that no one will go hungry or homeless if the Commission is not funded, but strong laws are useless unless enforced and the answer to funding shortages is self-funding through penalty and registration fees. She noted in closing that ethics commissions can be a bulwark in the restoration of public confidence in the integrity of government.

Following the question and answer session, state board members agreed that each should (must) contact their legislators regarding adequate funding for the Commission.



MAINE VOTER'S KITS TO HIGH SCHOOLS

State Publications Chair Alice Conkey has arranged to provide the MAINE VOTER'S KIT to each high school in the state (34 private, 155 public.) The kits contain eight brochures explaining registration and voting requirements and procedures, the separate branches of Maine's state government, county government, and the national government. (Ordering information for League members was given in the January 1992 VOTER.)

A grant from the New England Telephone Company has made this distribution of the KITS possible.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT VOTER: JUNE 15

**Mail neat copy to editor at;
Box 137-B, Steuben, ME 04680**



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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335 Water St.

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