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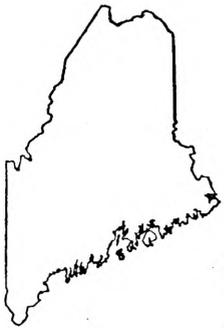
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The MAINE VOTER

Published by The League of Women Voters of Maine

MRS RICHARD WAGNER
26 MOUNTAIN AVE.
LEWISTON, ME 04240

VOLUME XXI

MAY-JUNE 1974

No. 5

NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT 1974

Bobby Graham

The major items on our agenda were: to consider and evaluate League policies, long and short term; to amend our by-laws to give ourselves greater flexibility within which to operate; to adopt a working budget for the coming biennium; to set up our program for the next two years; to elect new officers and directors to the National Board.

In addition to these inescapable duties, there were many other scheduled activities of real importance -- workshops, caucuses, films, and tours, formal reports from National Board members, panels, and speeches, and last but not least by any means, unscheduled opportunities to meet other League members from all over the country to exchange ideas informally.

Maine sent 8 of a possible 12 delegates: Shirley Knowles and Bobby Graham from State Board (1 missing), Delores Vail and Carolyn Murray from Portland (1 missing), Nancy Ruff from Lewiston-Auburn, Marilyn Dwyer from Brunswick, Sue Walker from Bangor-Brewer, and Polly Morrison from Orono-Old Town-Veazie.

Instead of making many individual changes in the bylaws concerning representation at Convention and the nominating process, a committee was proposed with broad representation from all levels of the League to examine the entire structure of both National Convention and Council and to make recommendations to the 1976 Convention. This was adopted.

Two by-law changes will have a real impact the first on the future composition and the second on the emphasis of the League's ability to act.

(1) Striking the word "women" from the definition of voting members of the League "citizens, at least 18 years of age who are enrolled in recognized local Leagues."

(2) Article XIII Sec. 1 under Program, we substituted for "action to protect the right to vote of every citizen" the new statement "action to implement the Principles" of the League.

This simple change of wording is really very important. It broadens the scope and strengthens our ability to act decisively especially in the light of a proposal to amend the principles which we also adopted. To the principle which reads: "The LWV believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens" we added "and to that end, that meetings of all governmental bodies should be open to the public; that citizens should have access to the public records of those bodies; and that measures should be taken to insure the public's right to know what formal actions are being considered by governmental bodies."

Program was the next order of business. Out of 12 new program suggestions put forward, only 3 won consideration:

(1) Proposed by the National Board was an in and out item: the formulation of a national Task Force on energy issues, composed of Board and non-board members charged with directing the production of energy related materials to further League and public understanding and to produce recommendations to be used as a basis for League discussion, concurrence and action. This we accepted.

(2) Health care delivery -- which eventually lost.

(3) The Role of the Executive Branch (to complete the picture of Representative Government.) This item lost initially but was brought up again for reconsideration. A night lobbying, the defeat of other non-recommended items, and good arguments on the floor turned the tables and this item was finally accepted.

So now our national program stands as follows:

Environmental Quality enthusiastically carried as is. **Land Use** -- as is (so far state positions do not agree very well). **Human Resources** --as is -- plea for more housing and emphasis on Indians. **International Relations** --vote indicated lower priority. **Representative Government** which now includes new study on Executive Branch. **Task Force on Energy.**

So in League-like fashion we've kept all our old program and added still more. So next comes the **Budget**. Where will all the money come from to carry the load to which we have now obligated ourselves.

(1) The motion to increase per member payments from \$4 to \$4.25 carried.

(2) The effort to delegate authority to the 1975 Council to raise the PMP to not more than \$5 next year if necessary was voted down.

(3) A motion to appoint a committee to explore causes of underpaid PMP and state pledges and to report possible solutions to the 1976 Convention lost.

(Continued on page 2)

A NEW VOTER SERVICE PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

A bilingual pamphlet in French and English

THE POWER IS IN YOUR VOTE! REGISTER

Le POUVOIR EST à VOUS VOTEZ! ENREGISTREZ

3¢ a copy order from:

Dorothy McLean
30 Philips Rd.

South Portland, Me. 04106

LAND USE STUDY AND CONSENSUS

The land use study was completed in July (except for state agencies). Most of it was mailed to the committee members and local leagues this spring. A few sections were sent later to be added.

The study is an impressive working document, both in scope and the quality of the research it reports. It should serve as a good basis for reaching consensus on a number of important land use-human resource questions in preparation for the 1975 legislature and for work with other organizations interested in similar issues.

The state level land use study committee met in July to formulate the general areas of consensus. The specific wording of the questions has been done by a sub-committee. These questions will be reviewed by the State Board in August. The final version will be sent to the local leagues in Sept.-Oct. with a request for consensus by the end of November.

The local leagues' answers to the consensus questions will be reviewed and collated by the State Board and published in a future Voter.

This has been a major project for a League the size of ours, but it has had a number of values. (1) A great many Leaguers in Maine have obtained experience in planning a study and doing research on complicated issues. (2) The study has awakened in the League a broader recognition of the scope of the problems and the effect on the state if those problems are not solved. (3) It lays a sound foundation for League participation in problem-solving and stimulating sound community participation on issues.

Issues to bring up with candidates

Legislative Reform

League supports: Annual Legislative Sessions
Abolition of the Executive Council
Reduction of Size of the House

Returnable bottles

League supports this concept

Land Use questions

1. How do you think the public lots issue should be resolved?
2. Should the state exert more control over forestry practices in Maine?
3. Have you considered the value of an overall enforceable land use plan for Maine that would set goals and priorities for the state and coordinate the policies and decision-making of state agencies involved with land use problems

DECISIONS — State Council 1974

State Council is the time that local league delegates gather to give direction to the State Board for state program and action, and to act upon the proposed state budget. Discussion also includes Voters Service and state implementation of national program as well as organization and administration of the state League. We did all of this and more on May 21 and 22 at the Oblate Fathers' House in Augusta. Many excellent suggestions were made and the state board is already moving to put them into action.

(Continued on page 3)

NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT 1974 (Cont. from page 1)

Because of the added financial burden of the Task Force, the Executive study and the committee to study Convention and Council structure there was a bit of juggling of figures and priorities and a total budget of over a million dollars was adopted, \$1,204,036 to be more exact. The ERA had \$10,000 to kick off with and sold \$202,000 worth of bracelets.

Of numerous **Motions to Express the Will of the Convention**, 2 passed.

(1) A telegram to Mr. Nixon urging the President of the U.S. to honor all requests of the Judiciary Committee of the House, so that the Committee and the Congress can fulfill their constitutional mandate and expedite the impeachment process.

(2) That the League, as its Bicentenary contribution, undertake thru the EF some form of public education on the Bill of Rights and the role of individual liberty in our society today.

We must make the most of our available woman power, and man power -- maybe it should be called horse power. And we have to develop some horse sense too. Lucy Benson, in her keynote speech asked: "How do we put yesterday and tomorrow together and use them to deal with today?" League was never intended to be a shelter or a safe harbor -- we should swing with rather than shrink from controversy. If we're ready for ERA we ought to be ready for men. The question is, are they ready for us? Our basic structure is covered with barnacles! Our emphasis must be on flexibility, leadership, adaption to working men and women, priority setting, confidence in ourselves, responsibility to learn, to teach and to do. And her parting shot was, Have as much confidence in our future as we have pride in our past -- as for the present -- that's up to you."

Ruth Clusen, our new President asked: "Why can't the League be larger, more visible, a greater political force, the channel and the platform for a rebirth of confidence in government?" And she answered, "We can if we are willing to spend more money and take more chances, if we can learn to be more comfortable with the word political, can learn to live with uncertainty, if we can trust our leaders at every level of the League.

The Maine delegates worked very hard to absorb not just the details of the Convention but its flavor, its message. We have returned, I think, with renewed enthusiasm and a new commitment to the League. I hope you'll make use of our new knowledge wherever you can. And we're most grateful to those of you who selected us to be your Maine representatives.

THE MAINE VOTER

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President: Shirley Knowles, 193 Main St., Winthrop, Maine 04364

Subscription price 50¢ per year as part of membership dues.

DECISIONS — State Council 1974 (Cont. from page 2)**State Government**

1. Expansion of the scope of this item to include the study of Maine's regulatory boards and commissions affecting consumer goods and services. Since the State Government Booklet to be published in January, will include complete information on all boards and commissions, it was decided to use it as a basic tool for this study.
2. Use the State Voter as a Facts and Issues on legislative reform since this will be an action priority in the 107th Legislature. An overrun on that issue could be used as action tool for public information.
3. The League could write its own bill on Reform. A non-partisan bill could attract more bi-partisan support.

Taxes

Formation of a Tax Task Force which will work on a fact sheet on state tax structure and to make recommendations to the State Convention on future plans for this item. Not all Leagues feel that this is a priority item, but that there are enough people interested to get much needed information to members. Local presidents were asked to send names of Task Force members to Jan Krofta, state Tax chairperson.

Land Use

Consensus or Concurrence will be in the fall. The state committee will explore new ways of reaching a state position.

National Program**International Relations**

The state committee will investigate the possibility of a one-day workshop or seminar on an aspect of IR which directly affects Maine. This would be in the spring. One strong suggestion was the international use of the ocean off our coast. Congressional hearings have already been held on Federal Legislation which would extend the 12 mile limit. This would certainly have a large impact on our fishing industry.

Human Resources

Local leagues will each be responsible for one area of Human Resources. Local chairmen will keep track of state legislation in these areas and make recommendations to the state board for action. They will be part of the state action committee.

Organizations

Workshops will be held in September for local League board members to meet with their counterparts. Marie Lisi from the National staff and Lois Wagner, state organization chairperson, will be working during the summer to make this as productive a day as possible.

Voters Service

There will be a fact sheet on the referendum questions. The idea of a televised candidates debate for both the gubernatorial and congressional candidates was discussed. Since the media seems to be putting a great deal of effort into giving state candidates heavy exposure, the state board was urged not to put all

its efforts into duplication. Perhaps one area which has been neglected has been county office candidates. Warning: we must not forget that we raise issues that no other organization does with state candidates.

In addition to all the discussions and recommendations, delegates also previewed the new state land use slide show. It can be obtained by writing to LaRue Spiker, P.O. Box 625, Southwest Harbor 04679. It comes complete with script, postage to be paid by user.

PROGRESS REPORT OF STATE FINANCE DRIVE

From the sixty finance letters sent in mid-March and the many follow-up calls made by committed League members, we have, to date, received \$340. for our finance efforts. There are a few calls yet to be made and many more calls that **could** be made. Would anyone be willing to make calls this summer in Dexter, Wilton, Rockland, Patten, Guilford, Woodland, Searsport, Monson, Kezar Falls, or North Berwick?

Another \$100 contribution is expected to arrive soon, which would boost our total to \$440.. Although the dollar totals are small, we have made many in-roads for future contributions and have located prospective contributors for special projects or publications. Finance **must** and **will** become a year-round effort, and we must have more members willing to make calls following-up the initial letter request.

Our plans for a new fall beginning are in the works. Anyone with ideas for the drive or fund raising ideas, in general, or interest in joining the Finance Committee, please contact Mrs. Pat Skaling, 35 Highland Ave., Waterville 04901.

Of the two local Leagues who have reported their finance drive results so far, the news is very good! Lewiston-Auburn Area has realized \$1124., having budgeted \$1000; and Orono, Old Town, Veazie has realized \$1116., having budgeted \$900.. Well done!

LAND USE SLIDE SHOW

By the time you read this, the colored 45mm slide show on land use issues in the state, produced by the League of Women Voters of Maine, will be ready for booking throughout the state. It deals with conditions and problems in the use of Maine land and natural resources and suggests indirectly some broad solutions. The show is designed primarily, however, not to solve problems but to stimulate an awareness of them and to awaken the interest of citizens to the issues. It will be accompanied by copies of a questionnaire to learn the opinion of the people who see the show and a suggested discussion outline.

The show runs about 30 to 35 minutes and thus constitutes, with discussion, a full evening's program for those groups wishing to use it. The slides will come loaded in a Carousel slide tray which can go on that type of projector. If some other kind of projector is used, the slides will have to be reloaded into the type of tray in question. Two copies of the script will come in the same package -- one for the reader, one for the projector. Both are keyed by number to the corresponding number of each slide so the person running the project can time throwing the slide on the screen at the given point each illustrates in the script.

(Continued on page 4)

LAND USE SLIDE SHOW*(Cont. from page 3)*

Several booking dates are already set, and we will welcome more. The show deals with important issues and should have as broad use as possible, both by local leagues and all other community groups who are interested. Requests for bookings should be sent to LaRue Spiker, P.O. Box 625, Southwest Harbor 04679. These should arrive soon enough before the showing to allow for necessary time in the mail and to give the team showing it a chance to rehearse. The slides and script should be mailed back to the above address the following day, this is important if the booking schedule is to be met.

There is no charge for the show, but we do request that the group in question reimburse us for the mailing costs. We of course will be grateful for any contributions which will be placed in an ear-marked fund to cover expenses of Leaguers when they present the show to other community groups.

An effort will be made at the state level to set up listings of groups throughout the state advising them of the nature and availability of the show. Will the executive board of each local league please also set up a list of groups in their community? These can include church groups, clubs, granges, civic organizations, schools, and whatever. The list should include the name and address of the group's program chairman or president. It may be sent to LaRue Spiker; or upon your request, we will send you a sufficient number of the mimeo notices to mail locally.

LITIGATION WORKSHOP - OCTOBER 19, 1974

The Maine State League is working on plans for a Litigation Workshop this fall, in cooperation with Leagues from New Hampshire and Vermont, and other groups who may be interested in learning more about the process.

Litigation, as used by the League, calls on the courts to enforce current laws or to strike down invalid laws. Tax deductible money may be used for public interest suits brought to advance the public welfare or interest.

To date 140 local leagues and 30 state leagues have been involved in Litigation and many have been very successful. Subjects of League involvement are as wide ranging as league positions allow. Voting rights, reapportionment, housing, welfare, discrimination, schools, environmental impact are a few.

Joanne Hayes, National Chairman of the Litigation Department has tentatively set Oct. 19, 1974 for a workshop in this area. Mark your calendar and watch for time and place in a later communication.

Bobby Graham

LWV OBSERVER CORPS FOR LURC AND BEP

The State Board has been trying to set up an observer corps for the Land Use Regulation Commission and the Board of Environmental Protection. Several people made a start at it but had to quit for personal reasons. We are now seeking League members to attend the meetings in Augusta.

Those local Leagues that have observers for local governmental bodies need no persuasion as to the importance of this type of League action. By the same token, the importance of observation of state bodies has important values. It gives the agencies in question a sense that they are not operating in a vacuum and places the League in a better position for fulfilling its responsibilities on state government in regard to structure and the quality of administration.

Both LURC and BEP are making major decisions that will affect the future of all Maine citizens for years to come. They need the benefits accruing from this type of citizen participation.

Both groups meet twice monthly, and we want volunteers for each one. The Leaguer in question will be briefed on the laws on which the agency is founded and on its present efforts. A letter of introduction will be sent to the agency head. Before each meeting the observer will receive from the agency an agency and some advance background materials on its contents. Others are furnished at the meeting itself.

Our League finance committee is making a strenuous effort to obtain a grant to cover minimal expenses -- travel, baby sitting, etc. and possibly a small stipend for the coverage of each meeting.

The Leaguers who have done some observing of these two agencies, both of which meet twice monthly, have found them stimulating and interesting. Interest grows over a period of time as the observer becomes acquainted with the modus operandi of the board members and the staff. We hope very much that some Leaguers will come forward to offer their services for this. Will you please write LaRue Spiker, P.O. Box 625, Southwest Harbor 04679.

Welcome to the State Board

Diane L. Whittaker of Brewer: Secretary

Diane was born in Madison, Wisconsin but spent most of her life in Columbus, Ohio. Diane has worked as secretary for the United States Department of Agriculture in Kentucky, where she, also attended Berea College. In 1968 she and her husband, Jim, moved to Maine where he is a forest economist. Diane joined the Bangor LWV in 1969 and became their Bulletin Editor for over 3 years until she took on the new pilot project, Boards and Commissions. She also worked in the Orono State League office when Willabelle Zabel was state president. Diane's hobbies include swimming, crewel work and sewing.

Elaine C. Goodwin of Manchester: Legislative Chairman

Elaine was born and reared in Indiana. She was educated (over a period of years) at The Western College for Women, Oxford, Ohio; Northwestern University School of Commerce, Evanston, Illinois; and George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee where her majors were in the areas of economics and industrial management. For several years she was manager of a shoe factory in Indiana and Tennessee. Then for three years she was a member of the editorial staff of the Adult Curriculum Division of the Methodist Publishing House. She has been married for 17 years to Alan Goodwin, a city planner with the State Planning Office. With their two children they moved to Maine in 1969 from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It was in Harrisburg that she first joined a League. Since moving to Maine she has been active in the local MAL unit and acted as chairman. She is a volunteer librarian in the local elementary school and a member of the school board. She enjoys, with her family, contributing time and talent to the local Community Church. Racing sailboats on Lake Cobbosseeconte is the family's recreation.