
[Equality News](#)[Periodicals](#)

Fall 2004

Equality News (Fall 2004)

Maggie Allen

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/equality_news



Part of the [American Politics Commons](#), [American Studies Commons](#), and the [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Allen, Maggie, "Equality News (Fall 2004)" (2004). *Equality News*. 2.
https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/equality_news/2

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Periodicals at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Equality News by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.

Equality News

Advocacy for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Communities since 1984

PO Box 1951, Portland, ME 04104 • 207-761-3732 • fax 207-828-8620 • mlgpa@mlgpa.org • www.equalitymaine.org

EQUALITY
maine

FALL 2004

Register in the new domestic partner registry and become legally recognized by the state of Maine. Only six states currently recognize our relationships. See story page 1.

In this issue

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| New DP Law | 1 |
| President Steps Down. . . | 2 |
| Voter ID | 3 |
| Endorsements. | 4 |
| Kerry's Maine Man | 5 |
| Progressive Organizing. 6 | |
| Annual Awards 2005 . . . | 8 |
| Nomination form. | 9 |
| Legislative Challenges. 10 | |
| Anti-Palesky Effort. . . . | 13 |
| Annual Meeting | 16 |

Domestic Partner Bill Becomes Law!

Maine made history on July 30, 2004 when it became just the sixth state in the country to recognize, and extend benefits to, same-sex couples on a statewide basis. Notably, we are the only state to recognize these relationships without first having a statewide anti-discrimination law.

The other five states and their recognitions are Massachusetts (marriage), Vermont (civil unions), California (a civil unions-type recognition), and Hawaii and Maryland (domestic partnerships). Maryland joined this list just weeks before Maine. All five states have statewide anti-discrimination laws, passed in 1989 (Massachusetts), 1991 (Hawaii), 1992 (California & Vermont) and 2001 (Maryland). Twenty seven years after it was first introduced in the Maine Legislature (1977), a statewide anti-discrimination law still does not exist in Maine.

That is about to change. See page 10.



Partners Alyson Cummings (2nd from left) and Jan Begert (2nd from right) celebrate their legally recognized relationship with family members—3-year-old son Eli Begert, center, and nieces Julie and Jenny Begert.

On July 30th, forty six couples came to Augusta to hale the new domestic partner law—and to become one of the first couples registered in the statewide domestic partner registry. In the Hall of Flags in the State House, Equality Maine provided *Declaration of Domestic Partner* registration forms, twelve notary publics, a photographer, flowers, and live music. Couples lined up to have their registration forms signed by a notary public, then celebrated by having their photographs taken with their notarized registration forms.

We held a press conference with Governor Baldacci, Senate President Beverly Daggett, Rep. Ben Dudley (sponsor of the bill), and director of the Bureau of Health, Dr. Dora Mills. Also in attendance were Senator Ethan Strimling, Senator Neria Douglass, and Rep. John Eder, all of whom worked very hard to pass the domestic partner bill. In setting up for the press conference, we asked all the couples to line the grand staircase in the Hall of Flags as a backdrop for the press conference. We were

Continued on page 14

Equality Maine

Acting in support of people of diverse orientation and gender identity through education, legislation and collaboration in Maine.

Board of Directors

Maggie Allen
President

Rodney Mondor
Vice-President

Linda Conti
Secretary

Marty Hagglund

John Hennessy

Mark Holt

Jane Lincoln

Joanne Mattiace

Dottie Melanson

Susan Pate

Barb Wood

Staff

Betsy Smith
Executive Director

Darlene Huntress
Project Coordinator

Erica Quin-Easter
Development Director

Thomas Sumner
Bookkeeper

1 Pleasant St, 4th floor
PO Box 1951
Portland, ME 04104
207-761-3732
800-556-5472
207-828-8620 fax
mlgpa@mlgpa.org
www.equalitymaine.org

Maggie Allen Steps Down as President

Maggie Allen is stepping down as president of Equality Maine in September. She was president for three years, vice-president for one, a board member for two and committee chair for one. Seven years is a long time to devote to an organization, especially in the passionate and committed way that Maggie has been devoted to this organization.

Under her leadership, Equality Maine has made quantum progress, moving from an all-volunteer to a fully staffed organization with enough resources to wage critical legislative and grassroots efforts simultaneously. She can always carry with her that due to Equality Maine's efforts, Maine became just the sixth state in the country to recognize, and extend benefits to, same-sex couples.

There is, of course, a long list of victories, accomplishments, and challenges that accompany Maggie's seven years with Equality Maine. I could have simply listed them and given you the facts, but instead, Maggie has offered to share her farewell thoughts with you directly.

On behalf of the Equality Maine membership, I thank Maggie Allen for her all her years of hard work, strategic thinking, and commitment to this organization. We won't be the same without her.

With the greatest of thanks, Betsy Smith, Executive Director

Dear friends,

How can I begin to encapsulate my past seven years with Equality Maine? How could I possibly describe one of the major cornerstones of my personal life? And how to not include all the wonderful people and experiences that created my passion for equal rights advocacy? Perhaps, the best I can do is to tell the story as a personal journey realizing that I could never do justice to the most profound experience of my life.

Equality Maine came into my life with the phone ringing. Karen Geraghty called to ask if my partner at the time, Susan Sparaco, would like to join the board. MLGPA, as we were called then, was looking for an attorney to help them form a 501(c)3. Susan joined gladly and suggested that the Executive Committee meetings happen in a more central location—our home in Bath. I offered to feed them supper. Somehow, I ended up co-chairing the annual awards banquet a few months later.

Then the fun began! Fortunately, my fellow co-chair was Jennifer Goldman, who had extensive event background. If you ever want to know the community that represents an organization, chair an event. I had a blast! We met and dragged in countless supporters and developed a vibrant committee. Huge kudos to Lisa Smith, whose graphic design work moved us into our first truly professional invitations and program book. I learned a great deal from our successes and my mistakes, but mostly I learned the absolute importance of full equal rights and the need for a strong statewide advocacy organization. I was smitten.

The next year I became a board member. I helped where I could—from licking

Continued on page 11



Maggie Allen, second from right, celebrates Westbrook's ballot measure victory in November 2002. Equality Maine (then MLGPA) worked side by side with Westbrook volunteer leaders to uphold that city's human rights ordinance that protects LGBT people from workplace and housing discrimination.

Building Support One Voter at a Time

This year, LGBT communities across the country are seeing an unprecedented attack on equality. Out of 15 states under attack, Missouri passed the first constitutional amendment on marriage in August, Arkansas votes on it in September, and 13 states vote in November. As the state that is second only to Oregon in facing anti-LGBT ballot measures, Maine has been identified by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force as one of the states most in danger of facing an anti-gay marriage referenda in 2005.

Our task at the Equality Knocks Project is to build political power so that we can routinely win legislative and referenda campaigns. One of the best indicators of a successful referendum campaign is to begin early. Hence, we began talking with voters between 18 and 30 months out from the next referendum campaign so that we won't end up like Missouri—facing an anti-gay marriage ballot measure with only six months to defeat it. It is impossible to identify tens of thousands of supportive voters in just six months.

If we can win the next LGBT referendum campaign decisively, it will make using referenda a much less desirable tool for our opponents. Our best chance to win decisively is to begin identifying supportive voters now. Leaders across the state are recruiting and organizing hundreds of volunteers to do this crucial work over the next 18-30 months. Some of the volunteer leaders and their counties include:

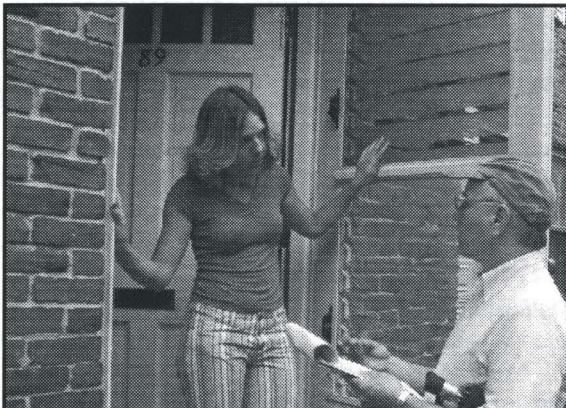
Cumberland—Jim Bishop, Steve Ryan, Dee Hutchins, Mark Fitzgerald, Corey Hascall, Sue Comyns, Betsy Parsons, Terry Morrison, Michael DeAngelis & Nicki Norman
Kennebec—Lauralee Raymond, Laura Harper & Sue Deliberto

Penobscot—Kevin Gilgan & Elaine Peresluha

Androscoggin—Julia McDonald

Knox—Lucie Bauer & Annie Kiermeir

With door-to-door voter identification in Portland, Falmouth, Brunswick, and Hallowell, with voter ID at the June primaries in Lewiston, Auburn, Scarborough, Westbrook



Steve Ryan, having been trained by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force on voter identification, speaks with a voter about civil rights and marriage for LGBT people.



Volunteer leader Jim Bishop (right) trains Equality Maine volunteers on how to conduct voter ID. Here, Jim speaks with a supportive voter about civil rights and marriage for LGBT people.

and Gorham, and with voter ID/volunteer recruitment at Southern Maine Pride, gay cruise on the Scotia Prince, Charlie Howard conference in Portland and other similar events, we have talked to 2,357 voters.

On Civil Rights, we've identified 2,133 supportive voters:

| | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 566 | 1's (actively support) |
| 1,567 | 2's (will vote in our favor) |
| 91 | 3's (undecided) |
| 124 | 4's (will vote against us) |
| 9 | 5's (actively oppose) |

On Marriage, we've identified 1,821 supportive voters:

| | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 545 | 1's (actively support) |
| 1,276 | 2's (will vote in our favor) |
| 198 | 3's (undecided) |
| 312 | 4's (will vote against us) |
| 26 | 5's (actively oppose) |

With a November election day goal of identifying 7,500 1's and 2's, we have our work cut out for us, and we have a busy fall of voter ID and volunteer recruitment actions scheduled:

Portland—Sept. 11, Sept. 30, Oct. 16, and Oct. 23

Hallowell—Sept. 18

Augusta—Oct. 23

Common Ground Country Fair—Sept. 24, 25, 26

On November 2, our teams will have volunteers at polling places in Portland, Augusta, Lewiston, Bangor, Camden, and Rockport.

We have much work to do, and we need your help! There are many tasks involved with this project, so even if you don't like going door-to-door and talking with voters, there's plenty to choose from. Please join us in this urgent effort. To volunteer, contact the Equality Knocks Coordinator Darlene Huntress at Equality Maine, 761-0110, or email us at mlgpa@mlgpa.org. •

Legislative and Congressional Endorsements for 2004

Each year, Equality Maine undergoes a lengthy endorsement process to gauge candidate support for LGBT issues. Every candidate is sent a questionnaire on the issues of civil rights, marriage, DP benefits, family issues such as adoption and foster care, anti-gay violence, and HIV/AIDS funding.

Endorsements are based on legislative record (if applicable), demonstrated leadership on LGBT issues, and answers to the questionnaire. This year we're endorsing 22 candidates for state senate, 79 for state representative, and are making a special note of 11 additional legislators who supported the DP bill last session.

In addition, Equality Maine is endorsing Rep. Tom Allen (District 1) and Rep. Michael Michaud (District 2) for U.S. Congress.

D=Democrat R=Republican G=Green U=Unenrolled
Bold = Incumbent

State Senate

| District # | | |
|------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 4 | D | NANCY B. SULLIVAN, BIDDEFORD |
| 6 | D | PHILIP L. BARTLETT II, GORHAM |
| 7 | D | LYNN BROMLEY, SOUTH PORTLAND |
| 8 | D | ETHAN K. STRIMLING, PORTLAND |
| 9 | D | MICHAEL F. BRENNAN, PORTLAND |
| 10 | D | BETHEDA EDMONDS, FREEPORT |
| 11 | R | KARL W. TURNER, CUMBERLAND |
| 12 | D | G. WILLIAM DIAMOND, WINDHAM |
| 15 | D | NERIA DOUGLASS, AUBURN |
| 16 | D | MARGARET R. ROTUNDO, LEWISTON |
| 17 | D | JOHN M. NUTTING, LEEDS |
| 19 | R | ARTHUR F. MAYO III, BATH |
| 20 | D | CHRISTOPHER G. HALL, BRISTOL |
| 21 | D | SCOTT COWGER, HALLOWELL |
| 24 | D | ELIZABETH H. MITCHELL, VASSALBORO |
| 25 | D | KENNEITH T. GAGNON, WATERVILLE |
| 26 | D | PAMELA H. HATCH, SKOWHEGAN |
| 30 | D | ELIZABETH M. SCHNEIDER, ORONO |
| 31 | D | EARL G. SHERWOOD, BREWER |
| 32 | D | JOSEPH CHARLES PERRY, BANGOR |
| 33 | D | JANE C. CRONK, HAMPDEN |
| 34 | D | EDWARD P. BUCKLEY, PRESQUE ISLE |

State Representative

| District # | | |
|------------|----------|---|
| 2 | D | ROSS PARADIS JR., FRENCHVILLE |
| 3 | D | WILLIAM J. SMITH, VAN BUREN |
| 5 | D | JEREMY FISCHER, PRESQUE ISLE |
| 12 | D | BRADLEY D. SAUCIER, ENFIELD |
| 15 | D | JACQUELINE R. NORTON, BANGOR |
| 16 | D | PATRICIA A. BLANCHETTE, BANGOR |
| 17 | D | SEAN F. FAIRCLOTH, BANGOR |
| 19 | D | EMILY CAIN, ORONO |
| 21 | D | CHARLES D. FISHER, BREWER |
| 27 | D | SHARON H. LIBBY JONES, GREENVILLE |
| 28 | D | JOSEPH SCOZZAFAVA, CORNVILLE |
| 35 | D | THEODORE S. KOFFMAN, BAR HARBOR |
| 36 | D | HANNAH M. PINGREE, NORTH HAVEN |
| 37 | D | JAMES M. SCHATZ, BLUE HILL |
| 38 | D | DAN N. SHAW, ELLSWORTH |
| 39 | D | MARY E. POULIN, HAMPDEN |
| 41 | D | KENT A. PRICE, ORLAND |
| 42 | D | JOSEPH E. BROOKS, WINTERPORT |
| 44 | D | BARBARA E. MERRILL, APPLETON |
| 45 | D | JOHN F. PIOTTI, UNITY |
| 47 | G | LYNNE WILLIAMS, ROCKLAND |
| 48 | D | MARY JUNE SMITH, ST. GEORGE |
| 52 | D | ELIZABETH S. MILLER, SOMERVILLE |
| 53 | D | PETER L. RINES, WISCASSET |
| 57 | D | ARTHUR L. LERMAN, AUGUSTA |
| 62 | D | THOMAS R. WATSON, BATH |
| 63 | D | JOHN G. RICHARDSON, BRUNSWICK |
| 65 | D | CAROL A. GROSE, WOOLWICH |
| 66 | D | STANLEY J. GERZOFISKY, BRUNSWICK |
| 67 | D | DEBORAH J. HUTTON, BOWDOINHAM |
| 69 | D | DEBORAH L. SIMPSON, AUBURN |
| 72 | D | WILLIAM R. WALCOTT, LEWISTON |
| 73 | D | LILLIAN LAFONTAINE O'BRIEN, LEWISTON |
| 74 | D | MARGARET M. CRAVEN, LEWISTON |
| 76 | D | MARILYN E. CANAVAN, WATERVILLE |
| 77 | D | LISA T. MARRACHE, WATERVILLE |
| 79 | D | DAVID W. BUSTIN, HALLOWELL |
| 80 | D | NANCY E. SMITH, MONMOUTH |
| 89 | D | JANET T. MILLS, FARMINGTON |

Continued on page 12

Alfred DePew, MA, CPCC

Life Coach

Call for a free sample session

(207) 775-3708

Father Tom, ULC Ordained

WEDDINGS
 CUSTOMIZED RELATIONSHIP BLESSINGS

RELAX, UNWIND & ENJOY LIFE!

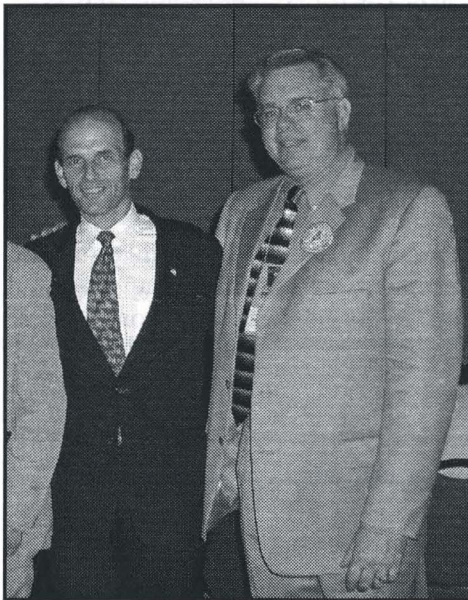
207-854-4976

John Hennessy gets tapped for Kerry Campaign

By Betsy Smith, Executive Director

Equality Maine is pleased to report that chair of our Legislative Committee, John Hennessy, has been appointed State Field Director for the Maine Coordinated Campaign. In this role John is responsible for all field activities for the Kerry/Edwards campaign, both Congressional districts and the State Senate and House races.

I spoke with John the other day and he says, "There's never been a more anti-LGBT U.S. administration than we have today. We need to elect a President who will fight with us, not against us." Having attended the Democratic National Convention in Boston in July, John was able to network with LGBT activists from all over the country. At two separate LGBT caucuses attended by the largest contingent of gay delegates, John Kerry's record was discussed in detail.



John Hennessy with Governor Baldacci at Equality Maine's legislative celebration reception at the Maine Democratic Party convention in May. John was recently named State Field Coordinator for the Maine Coordinated Campaign.

One of the more exciting moments of the convention for John was at an overflow LGBT caucus where Governor Baldacci was about to address the delegates about Maine's new domestic partner registry when a flurry of activity at the door caught everyone's attention. The secret service was clearing an entry for Teresa Heinz Kerry to come speak to the caucus. Her appearance has been widely reported in the LGBT press but being there was really special for John. "I have only seen 'Momma T' on television, so to witness her sincerity, charm and eloquence in person was a thrill. This is a woman who speaks from the heart and means every word she says." John admits that meeting Ben Affleck at the same caucus was a close second to meeting Mrs. Kerry. "Ben is a pretty down to earth guy in person. When I shook his hand and thanked him for his support, he put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'Hey man, I have the easy part, you folks out in the real world are doing the hard work.'

"While the other side likes to say it's a one-issue campaign—John Kerry's service to our country in Vietnam—the context is actually much broader," John tells us. He was reminded that as a freshman Senator from Massachusetts, John Kerry was the original sponsor of the Civil Rights Amendment Act, which would have prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Another issue very close to John was Kerry being an original co-sponsor of the Ryan White Act to fund care of people with HIV in 1990. "We also can't forget that Senator Kerry opposed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in 1993, actually testifying against the policy and was the only Senator up for re-election who voted against the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996."

"I know this is going to sound like a commercial for John Kerry," said John, "but I cannot help but be excited to support his candidacy for President and work for all Democrats in Maine this year."

The Coordinated Campaign has offices in Presque Isle, East Millinocket, Bangor, Waterville, Augusta, Lewiston and Portland with many other satellite locations around the state. "I hope that LGBT people all across the state choose to get involved in this election. At the risk of sounding cliché, this really is the most important election of our lifetime. Our field staff looks forward to putting everyone to work in the largest grassroots and most diverse campaign in Maine history."

As an openly gay man living with his partner of almost ten years, Peter Callnan, John is taking his role in this campaign very seriously. John ended our discussion with this, "It's easy to work night and day when you know your candidate was a co-sponsor of the Employment Non Discrimination Act, supports expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover domestic partners and their children, supports the right of gay men and lesbians to adopt children and received a 100 percent voting rating from the Human Rights Campaign for the last four sessions of Congress".

Anyone wishing to get involved with the campaign should call John at 671-3504 and he will get you connected with an office in your area. •

FAMILIES
FOOD
ALCOHOL
ABUSE
SEXUALITY

775-6595
Back Cove Counseling Center
535 Ocean Ave.
Portland, Maine 04103

Victoria Zavasnik, Ph.D.
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
Licensed Drug & Alcohol Counselor

Changing What's Possible in Maine: Building a Progressive Movement

By Kathleen McGee, Maine Citizen Leadership Fund

This could easily be the most important election of our lifetime. Among the issues we face is the huge threat of the Palesky Tax Cap on our communities, our economy, our democracy and how we wish to live in our society. This and other unprecedented threats could radically change Maine's political and policy landscape for the next generation, tearing at the fabric of our democratic ideals and putting all the issue and budget priorities we care about at stake.

This does not have to be our future.

The progressive community has been very successful with innovative and exciting reforms over the last 20 years, fighting for and winning groundbreaking issue campaigns, such as Clean Elections and Maine Rx, Dirigo Health, and the Maine's Domestic Partner Inheritance Rights Law. But it's not enough. We have been outflanked by anti-government conservative forces. We are at a watershed moment in our history and we must work to take our democracy back.

How do we take the steps necessary for deep and lasting progressive change?

Maine Citizen Leadership Fund, Dirigo Alliance, Maine People's Resource Center and the Maine People's Alliance are embarking on an exciting collaboration that we believe will have a real impact this year and beyond.

Over the next few months we are committed to:

- Registering over 10,000 new voters
- Providing training in voter education
- GOTV [get out the vote]
- gathering absentee ballots, and more with 150-200 people who have gone through training; and



Rep. Ben Dudley (dark shirt, holding banner) and voter ID volunteers march up Congress Street in the Southern Maine Pride parade in June. Volunteers ID'd 388 voters/volunteers at the Pride festival.

to do so with members of progressive organizations in the hope that, through organizing in our local communities, we develop closer relationships for long-term work building a progressive movement that will stretch statewide. The level of enthusiasm we're finding for this strategy is incredibly exciting!

List Enhancement

List enhancement offers progressive groups the chance to have their membership lists updated, mapped and matched to a statewide voter file and other available data such as legislative district, voting history, history of voting by absentee ballot, party registration, residence, phone number and age. The lists remain completely confidential. This information can be used by your organization to identify and engage volunteers, activists, donors and leaders from your own ranks. The information can also be used to launch voter registration, mobilization and organization drives of your members. We are offering this service to progressive organizations as a first step in developing year-round regional base building in strategic communities around the state. In exchange for our providing list enhancement, we ask that groups register their members to vote, and to get them to vote on Election Day.

Continued on page 13

SisterSpace Invites You to the 2004 Women's Sunset Cruise



On the "BAY MIST"
Friday, September 10, 2004
7:00-10:00 pm (boarding at 6:45)
Casco Bay Lines—Commercial Street
Portland, Maine

Featuring DJ - Jodi "from Main Street" in Ogunquit
Cash Bar/ Dancing - Must be 21 years or older to board
For Tickets - call Denise at 282-1221 or Karyn at 892-3135 or
Purchase Tickets at "Drop Me A Line" - 87 Market St., Portland
(Old Port Area opposite Tommy's Park)

Tel: 207-773-5547 also from
Jodi at "Maine Street" on August 7, 2004 from 4-8pm
Tickets: \$20.00 Members, \$25.00 Non Members
Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

DOWD PROPERTIES



Proudly serving Maine's Gay and Lesbian families in York, Cumberland & Kennebec Counties for the last 25 years

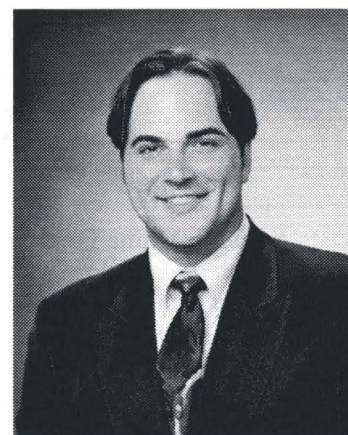


Deb Dowd
Listing Specialist

Commercial ♦ Residential ♦ Investment

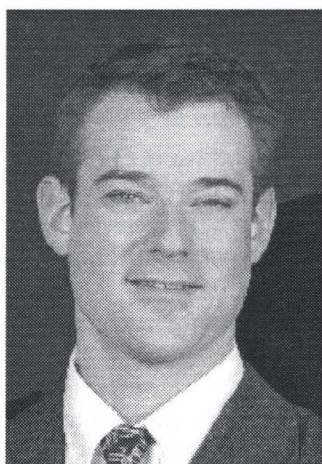
Main Office
17 Westland Avenue
Portland, Maine 04102
Phone: 207.773.6250
Fax: 207.773.0046

deb@dowdrealestate.com
eric@dowdrealestate.com

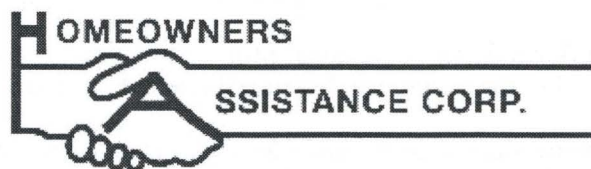


Eric Flynn
Buyer Specialist

Proudly part of and expertly serving
Maine's Gay and Lesbian community



The Mortgage Team of



Christopher J. Smith
Residential Loan Officer

9 Donald B. Dean Drive, South Portland

Office: 775-5393 ext. 205

csmith@hacmortgage.com

SAVE THE DATE!

EQUALITY MAINE FOUNDATION'S 21st Annual Awards Banquet Saturday, March 5, 2005 6:00-9:00 pm Holiday Inn By the Bay, Portland

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Equality Maine Foundation will host its 21st annual awards banquet on Saturday, March 5, 2005 at the Holiday Inn By the Bay in Portland. Each year we honor individuals and groups for their efforts in the struggle for LGBT equality. We need your help in identifying deserving nominees.

Please review the categories below and submit a nomination in any or all the categories. Feel free to make as many copies of the nomination form as necessary. Nominations are due back to us by December 1, 2004. Below are descriptions of the awards with just a few of the exceptional people and organizations who have received them:

- **Great Pioneer Award**—for an achievement that embodies bold new vision or courageous break-through in our struggle for equality. Recipients include Governor Angus King, Dale McCormick, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Jean Vermette and Rev. Susan Gilpin.
- **Larry Connolly Award**—for outstanding legislative service and leadership. Named in memory of one of the first sponsors of our anti-discrimination bill. Recipients include Gerald Talbot, Gerald Conley Jr, Tom Andrews, Susan Farnsworth, Joel Abromson, and Michael Saxl.
- **Cameron Duncan Award**—for extraordinary accomplishment, commitment and service within the AIDS community. Named after Cameron Duncan, who openly shared his life and gave AIDS a face for the people of Maine. Past recipients include Frannie Peabody, Myles Rightmire, Peter Haffenreffer, Tom Antonik, Nancy Bullett, and Client Services Committee of Eastern Maine AIDS Network.
- **F.E. Pentlarge Award**—for exceptional work that upholds and promotes family within our community. F.E. founded PFLAG in Maine and never stopped working for equal rights. Recipients include Sally & Eugene Debor, Mare & Laurie Wallace, Peter Rees, Susan Comyns and F.E. herself.
- **Media Award**—for exceptional print or broadcast reporting and commentary on LGBT and civil rights issues. Presented in the past to Bill Nemitz, Maine Public Radio, Maine Times and Tony Giampetruzzi.
- **Community Service Award**—for those who provide outstanding direct service to the community. Past recipients include Paula Stockholm, Karen Geraghty, Laura Fortman, Jim Neal & Roger Mayo, Lin Gould, Northern Lambda Nord, Mary Harney, Rev. Fred Lipp, Mitzi Lichtman, Betsy Sweet, Penny Rich, and Ralph Cusack & Butch Fenton.
- **Youth in Leadership Award**—for youth leaders in recognition of their contributions to the broader LGBT community. Presented to the Gay/Straight Alliance of Mt. Desert High School, Ellen Stewart, and Scarborough Middle School.

Equality Maine 2005 Award Nomination Form

The award you want your nominee to receive: _____

Name, address, and phone number of person/organization you are nominating:

Why your nominee should receive this award (use separate paper if necessary):

Names and phone numbers of others who support or know the work of your nominee.

Has your nominee ever received an Equality Maine award? _____ If so, when and which one?

Your name, address, phone number and email so that we can reach you with any questions.

The deadline for submitting nominations is **December 1, 2004**. Nomination forms can also be found on our website, **www.equalitymaine.org**, by clicking on Equality Events and then Annual Awards Banquet.

Mail to: Equality Maine Foundation
P.O. Box 1951
Portland ME 04104

or email to: mlgpa@mlgpa.org
or fax to: fax: 207-828-8620
ph: 207-761-3732

Big LGBT Challenges in Upcoming Legislative Session

Celebrating the passage of the domestic partner bill has been exciting and rewarding, but it is time to put that victory aside and focus on our upcoming challenges.

The next legislative session brings with it unprecedented attacks and support for LGBT people in Maine. Although Equality Maine will be 100 percent committed to the challenges we face at the State House, we will not be able to succeed alone. That's because the LGBT legislative agenda will require more human and financial resources than ever before.

The deadline for filing legislative bills is in mid-December, so a lot can still happen between now and then. Nevertheless, here's what the landscape currently looks like:

- Anti:** Rep. Brian Duprey (R-Hampden) has filed a bill to amend Maine's constitution to define marriage as one man and one woman
- Pro:** Senator Ethan Strimling (D-Portland) has filed a bill to repeal DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act
- Pro:** Governor Baldacci intends to submit an anti-discrimination bill (yes, the decades-old civil rights bill!). A governor's bill carries weight that we've never had before.

Last session the attempt to pass a constitutional amendment on marriage failed in the Senate by only one vote. The make-up of the Senate for 2005 will be unknown until election day, given that the split this session was 18 - 17 and many seats are up for grabs. If Senate leadership is

not supportive of our issues, it will take the support of nearly all senators on both sides of the aisle for us to be successful. That's a mountain to climb.

Two absolutely critical goals this legislative session are to defeat the constitutional amendment and pass the civil rights bill. Those goals are the cornerstone of our legislative agenda and the reason why we'll need more than one paid lobbyist, and several well attended citizen lobby days, at the State House next year.

To hire more than one lobbyist will require a significant increase in financial resources. Equality Maine and other political leaders have been discussing the upcoming challenges, including a nearly inevitable referendum campaign on either marriage or civil rights. If you can recall or imagine the resources raised and spent in Maine's three statewide LGBT referenda, you can begin to understand the resources needed to get us through the legislative session and part way through a referendum campaign.

We hope that our community will come together and work as a team toward the common goal of defeating any and all anti-LGBT referenda. Toward that end, our best chance of defeating a constitutional amendment on marriage is to kill it in the Legislature. We must ensure that we give ourselves the best possible chance of doing just that.

The legislative session begins in January 2005. Between now and then, many pro-LGBT candidates are working hard to get elected. The more we help them get elected, the better chance we have of reaching our legislative goals. See page 4 for candidates to support. •

COME OUT TO EAT FOR EQUALITY

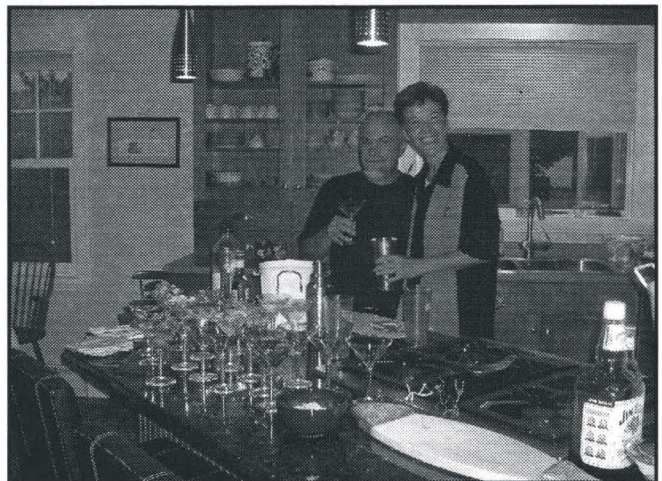
Only 12 Tickets Left!

"Cruise the Mediterranean with Equality Maine"

Hosts: David Rappoport and Howard Solomon
Saturday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.
Bowdoinham, Maine
\$25/person, limited to 20 people

A gourmet tour of Mediterranean cuisine, from hors d'oeuvres in Morocco to dessert in Greece, with stops in Spain, France, and Italy along the way.
Buffet of chicken, seafood, and vegetarian entrees;
wine and beer.
Bon voyage!

Call Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 or email quineast@mlgpa.org for more information or to purchase tickets.



"Martini's with Michelle" was one of several parties in the Equality House Party series this summer. Nancy Field and Beth Lawrence opened their beautiful home on the beach in South Portland as Michelle from Katahdin Restaurant poured martini's all evening. Michelle and Equality Maine member Michael Kahler enjoy the spread before martini lovers began piling in. Huge thanks to Nancy, Beth, Michelle and Gretchen.

Maggie Allen says Good-Bye to Equality Maine

Con't from page 2

envelopes to calling volunteers and donors. It was then that I heard the personal stories that solidified my resolve to strengthen and grow our organization. Young men attacked in broad daylight. Gay women afraid to report a workplace equity violation, because they could be fired for who they were. Families torn apart by prejudice and ignorance. Children denied the right to legal protection from both parents. In the face of such challenges, what could I do? Keep talking, keep moving, but mostly keep listening.

There are incredible people out there to listen to. As you read this letter, you may remember one of the lessons you taught me. Most likely, you don't realize how much I learned from you, merely by watching your mastery. I could never list you all.

Susan Sparaco was, by far, my greatest teacher. She spent hours counseling me on how best to proceed. From Robin Lambert, I learned a sheer respect for humanity and the importance of friendship. Betsy Sweet modeled the



Maggie, far left, stands with Governor Baldacci, Portland City Counselor Karen Geraghty, and Congressman Tom Allen at a fundraising reception for the governor in 2002.

art of public speaking—when she speaks, everyone wants to listen. David Garrity taught me how to ask for money—present a simple case and then shut up and wait. Betsy Smith, a genius of organizational development, taught me vision. Rick Galena taught me that even if you don't have all the resources just close your eyes, take a big step, and the rest will work out. Barb Wood gave me continual insight into the evolution of our organization. Karen Geraghty taught me grace under fire. Rodney Mondor showed me I wasn't the only fool in front of my computer while the sane were sleeping comfortably in their beds. Dale McCormick taught me that losing was not an option. Jane Lincoln taught me that power was something you give away. John Hennessy showed me that hard work and integrity is the surest way to achieve your goals. P.J. Mears and Marty Hagglund taught me the most difficult lesson of all, the hardest thing to be is simply yourself. And my angel, Dottie Melanson, taught me being myself is just

fine, thank you very much.

It's been a long journey from an all-volunteer organization working on a shoe string budget to where we are today. Being an extrovert, my mental scrapbook is filled with snapshots of moments with people. But there were also many quiet times alone. Nights staring at the ceiling wondering how to ever face the next day's challenge. Tears of frustration hidden in my car commuting to work. Stealing time to peck away at the computer long before the sun rose. Speaking in front of the bathroom mirror practicing a speech, an ask, or a confrontation. Composing the daily list of what needs to be done, realizing that there are only 24 hours in the day and some of that has to include sleeping. But somehow, it all happened-eventually.

It continues to amaze me how far we have come. I'm convinced our success comes from hard work, a strong organizational foundation, countless volunteers and donors, and most importantly, the fact that this is a right and just cause. My goal to help achieve a strong statewide organization with necessary staff, funding, and identified supporting voters to win equal rights in Maine is a reality. Thank you.

We have embarked on the most important election in our lives. When I attended the National Democratic Convention, I was inspired by the speakers in the GLBT caucuses, brunches and other events. I believe Barney Frank said it best. He explained why the GLBT community was being scapegoated as never before and the vital importance of this election. If we ensure that our supporters win this election, we will no longer be a major target of negative campaigning. But if we lose, we will become fair game. See the Equality Knocks article on page 3 and how you can make a difference. Equality Maine is poised and ready to work, let's finish the job.

With the greatest of respect,

Maggie



VOGEL & DUBOIS
SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE

Matthew R. Dubois
Attorney at Law

550 Forest Avenue, Suite 205
P.O. Box 3649, Portland, ME 04104
www.maine-elderlaw.com

Phone 207.761.7796
Fax 207.761.6946
mdubois@maine-elderlaw.com

Legislative and Congressional Endorsements for 2004

Con't from page 4

State Representative (con't)

District

- 92 D **JOHN L. PATRICK, RUMFORD**
- 94 D TERESEA M. HAYES, BUCKFIELD
- 95 D ROY GEDAT, NORWAY
- 97 D MARLEE TURNER, BROWNFIELD
- 98 D MARGARET R. REIMER, BRIDGTON
- 99 D GORDON A. FULLER SR., DENMARK
- 105 D GEOFFREY LEIGHTON, DURHAM
- 106 D DAVID C. WEBSTER, FREEPORT
- 108 D JANE MORIARTY, CUMBERLAND
- 109 D STEVEN D. BUNKER, GRAY
- 110 D MARK E. BRYANT, WINDHAM
- 111 D JEREMY A. PERRON, WINDHAM
- 112 G NATHAN BRIMMER, FALMOUTH
- 113 D JOHN R. BRAUTIGAM, FALMOUTH
- 114 D **BOYD P. MARLEY, PORTLAND**
- 115 D **GLENN A. CUMMINGS, PORTLAND**
- 116 D CHARLES W. HARLOW, PORTLAND
- 117 D **JOSEPH C. BRANNIGAN, PORTLAND**
- 118 DUAL ENDORSEMENT
 - D **EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC, PORTLAND**
 - G **JOHN M. EDER, PORTLAND**
- 119 D **HERBERT C. ADAMS, PORTLAND**
- 120 D **BENJAMIN F. DUDLEY, PORTLAND**
- 122 D **LAWRENCE S. BLISS, SOUTH PORTLAND**
- 123 D JANE E. EBERLE, SOUTH PORTLAND
- 124 D JASON A. CURRY, SOUTH PORTLAND
- 125 D **ROBERT W. DUPLESSIE, WESTBROOK**
- 127 D DIANA L. VINES, SCARBOROUGH
- 128 D HEIDI M. S. LEINONEN, SCARBOROUGH
- 129 D **CHRISTOPHER R. BARSTOW, GORHAM**
- 130 D DAVID W. FARRINGTON, GORHAM
- 135 D **JOANNE T. TWOMEY, BIDDEFORD**
- 137 D RICHARD E. RHAMES, BIDDEFORD
- 138 D LACEY M. SLOAN, LIMERICK
- 139 D MICHAEL J. MCALEVEY, WATERBORO
- 141 DUAL ENDORSEMENT
 - R JEFFERY E. MCCULLOH, KENNEBUNK
 - D CHRIS W. BABBIDGE, KENNEBUNK
- 144 D SALLIE CHANDLER, LEBANON
- 146 R **RICHARD B. BROWN, SOUTH BERWICK**
- 147 D SUSAN S. CALDER, WELLS
- 149 D GLEN MACWILLIAMS, YORK

The following legislators did not seek an Equality Maine endorsement this year but they voted for LD 1579, the domestic partner inheritance rights bill. If these candidates are re-elected, we expect to work with them to make continued progress toward full equality for LGBT people in Maine.

All three state Senate candidates are currently serving in the House and are running for the Senate.

State Senate

District

- 12 R REP. JOSEPH BRUNO
- 24 R REP. JULIE O'BRIEN, AUGUSTA
- 26 R REP. PETER MILLS, CORNVILLE

State Representative

District

- 1 D REP. TROY JACKSON, FORT KENT
- 25 R REP. JOSH TARDY, NEWPORT
- 31 D REP. ANNE PERRY, CALAIS
- 51 D REP. WILLIAM EARLE, DAMARISCOTTA
- 55 D REP. JUDD THOMPSON, CHINA
- 70 D REP. SONYA SAMPSON, AUBURN
- 87 D REP. RAY PINEAU, JAY
- 107 U REP. DICK WOODBURY

Rep. Donna Loring, D-Richmond, who is running for the Senate and Rep. Stephen Bowen, R-Rockport, running for re-election, both sought our endorsement. Although we are not endorsing them (remaining neutral in Rep. Bowen's race; endorsing long-time supporter Sen. Art Mayo in Rep. Loring's race), they both supported the domestic partner inheritance rights bill, support equal civil rights for LGBT people, and if (re)elected, are expected to work with us during the next legislative session. •

Southern Maine and New Hampshire



Renée Seinfeld

Realtor

(603) 431-5156 x49

31 Raynes Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

**COLDWELL
BANKER**

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Equality Maine Endorses Anti-Palesky Tax Cap Efforts

This November, Maine voters will be asked to approve a drastic referendum proposal that promises relief to property taxpayers, but will actually bring severe pain. Here's why:

- The Palesky proposal will result in the loss of more than \$530 million a year from local revenues—a 30% reduction statewide. And this is a conservative estimate. Some communities will see their local budgets slashed almost in half.
- To make up for this huge loss of funds, towns and cities will be forced to cut programs and services, including essential services like police, ambulance and fire protection—creating a serious risk to public safety—along with schools, garbage collection, libraries, code enforcement, snow removal, road maintenance and more.

- Several studies show that the Palesky plan will result in massive cuts to local town and school budgets—a 40.5% reduction to the city budget in Bangor, and a 23.6% reduction in its school budget; a \$12 million reduction in Augusta's government and school budgets, resulting in the closure of three schools and layoffs of more than 137 positions in the school department; South Portland's budget would be slashed by 40%, and its schools by 25%.
- Wealthy, summer residents who own property in Maine will receive a huge tax break (Maine ranks first nationally in seasonal and recreational homeownership, and 20% of all property taxes are paid by out-of-staters), shifting more of the tax burden from out of state property owners to Maine residents, according to a University of Maine study. •

Vote NO on the Dangerous Palesky Proposal

Building a Progressive Movement

Con't from page 6

Organizing In Local Communities

We have started by choosing several strategic communities around the state to engage progressive organizations in this new model. Through this work we can pursue deep and lasting organizing, educating and movement building, conduct year-round leadership training and development, connect more closely with local organizations, and identify constituents in key areas enabling us to hold elected officials more accountable. The goal is to develop a broad, deep and enduring infrastructure of progressive leaders throughout the state.

Developing A Progressive Worldview and Agenda

The Right has a long history of successfully crafting anti-government, anti-democracy messages that have shaped the political agenda in its favor.

Our progressive story paints a much different picture—a Government that enforces political, civil and eco-

nomical rights responsive to the needs of citizens, not campaign contributors; a tax code based on an ability to pay; health care as a right of citizenship, not a privilege of wealth; an economy, environmentally sustainable and democratically determined, not a vehicle by which corporations and the rich concentrate ever greater amounts of power and wealth, and equal rights for all of our citizens.

Building a stronger progressive movement requires clearly articulating these progressive messages and framing issues in a way that lays the basis for long term social change, as well as winning short-term victories. We believe getting back to basics through community organizing and working together in a more cohesive manner is the most effective way to build a solid foundation. We are well on our way to that end!

To get involved with building a progressive movement in your community, contact Dirigo Alliance, 874-9668 or dirigoal@maine.rr.com. •

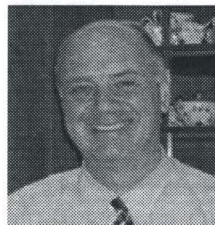
FARNSWORTH & ASSOCIATES

Susan Farnsworth, Esq.
Jennifer Bryant, Esq.



GLBT-friendly General Practice of Law

222 Water Street, Hallowell, Maine
farns@gwi.net 207-626-3312



BRIAN MAHANY, Esq.

- Professional
- Proactive
- Timely
- Innovative

Law Office of Brian Mahany
128 State Street Augusta, Maine 04330
207-242-2828 brian@mahanyl原因.com

Domestic Partner Bill Becomes Law!

Con't from page 1

struck by how their presence filled the hall with beauty and meaning, all standing together in solidarity and in celebration of LGBT lives.

Following the press conference, everyone marched together behind the Equality Maine banner, out the front door of the State House and across the street to the Department of Health and Human Services, where each couple filed their notarized registration form. One by one each couple, having been legally recognized by the state of Maine for the first time ever, walked out of DHHS to clapping, whistling, high-fives and celebration. At one point a DHHS employee came out to apologize for how long the line was and that they were working as fast as they could to process the forms. One woman replied, "Honey, we've been waitin' a long time for this....twenty minutes more ain't gonna kill us."

Sign up and Be Counted!

For some people, having a domestic partner registry which extends inheritance benefits upon the death of a partner could mean the difference between losing everything and not. Without a will, a surviving partner who is registered will be treated like a surviving spouse when determining inheritance. If you do not have a will, please take advantage of this new law and register your partnership. It's easy and inexpensive (see "To register").

Even if you and your partner already have a will, please register your partnership in the domestic partner registry. Why? Because there is strength in numbers.

As we lobby legislators on the need for full equality for our families, the registry will provide a hard statistic as to how many same-sex couples in Maine need full legal protections. If only those without a will register, the number of couples will be low and not only will it be difficult to make

our case that many LGBT people are affected by their decisions to extend, or not extend, equal rights but our opponents will use it to claim that there are not enough of us to matter.

To register:

- 1) Visit DHHS website to download registration form: <http://www.state.me.us/dhs/bohodr/domstcptnrspge.htm>. Forms are also available at Regional Department of Health and Human Services offices, Municipal Offices, Probate Courts and the Equality Maine office.
- 2) Find a notary public or attorney to witness and sign your registration form. Several LGBT-friendly notaries are listed on our website: www.equalitymaine.org. If you are a notary and would like to offer your services for this effort, please contact us at mlgpa@mlgpa.org or 761-3732.
- 3) Send notarized registration form and a check for \$35 to Office of Vital Records—address is on registration form.

Thank you!

Equality Maine thanks all the people who made our July 30th celebration a reality. First of all, thanks to Rep. Ben Dudley, legislative leadership, and all our friends in the House and Senate who worked so hard to pass this important piece of legislation. Thanks to Betsy Sweet and Moose Ridge Associates for their insight and advice, but most important, for lending us John Hennessy. Thanks to Pat Peard, Carrie Evans, and Heather Wellman who provided critical legal and legislative support throughout the entire sixteen month history of the bill. Thanks to Dottie Melanson, who was chair of Equality Maine's Legislative Committee when she submitted this bill. Thanks to so many volunteers who came to the State House to lobby legislators.

Thanks also to Dr. Dora Mills, Dr. Phil Haines, and the entire staff at DHHS/Office of Vital Records who worked with us during both the legislative session and in preparing to make this bill become law. Thanks to Martin Swinger for providing live music and to Al Nickerson of I Love Flowers for providing gorgeous flowers for our July 30th registration event. Thanks to all of our notary publics who volunteered on July 30th—Chris Warner, Trish Friant, Heather Bradstreet, Rep. John Eder, Jenson Steel, Joseph Stackpole, Arthur Hayward, Jr., Sara Jane Elliot, Lynne Williams, Jean Stickney, Diane Sherman, and Ben Chipman.

Thanks finally to volunteers Darlene Huntress and Catherine Abbondanza and to our Board of Directors, specifically to Maggie Allen, Rodney Mondor, and John Hennessy, whose contributions to the legislative process made all the difference in the world. •



The first legally recognized same-sex couples in the state of Maine overflow out the doors of the Department of Health and Human Services on July 30th. There were plenty of smiles that day.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN EQUALITY MAINE TODAY!

All Equality Maine members receive a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, membership in the email Action Alert Network, advance notice of community events and actions, voting rights at the annual meeting, opportunities to volunteer and the satisfaction of supporting equality for all. Contributions of any amount are counted toward membership—whether you can give \$1.00 or \$1,000.00, your membership makes a difference in promoting diversity and protecting the rights of LGBT people in Maine.

YES! I want to be a member of Equality Maine! Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$_____

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please charge this to my credit card. My check payable to Equality Maine is enclosed.

Sign me up as a Sustaining Partner! Please start charging my monthly gift of \$10 / \$25 / \$50 / \$_____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Name on card: _____

EQUALITY MAINE

Acting in support of people of diverse orientation and gender identity through education, legislation, and outreach in Maine.

PO Box 1951, Portland, ME 04104 • (207) 761-3732 • mlgpa@mlgpa.org • www.equalitymaine.org

You can support Equality Maine Foundation through payroll deduction!



MaineShare

Charitable Choices for Maine's Future

MaineShare funds 34 statewide organizations including Equality Maine Foundation addressing environmental, economic opportunity, peace and justice, cultural diversity, the arts, and health service issues.

Enroll your workplace for the 2003-2004 campaign online at www.mainesshare.org or contact us directly.

www.mainesshare.org

**P.O. Box 2095, Augusta, ME 04338
(207) 622-0105**

giving@mainesshare.org

**1 Pleasant Street, Portland, ME 04101
(207) 772-9824**

Join our
Action Alert Network!!
Sign up on-line at
www.equalitymaine.org

Tel: 207-761-3732
Fax: 207-828-8620
Email: migpa@mlgpa.org
Website: www.equalitymaine.org

Equality Maine Foundation
1 Pleasant Street, 4th floor
PO Box 1951
Portland, ME 04104

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

EQUALITY
MAINE

Nonprofit Org
U.S.
Postage
PAID
Portland, ME
Permit No. 740

EQUALITY MAINE ANNUAL MEETING

Members, friends, legislators & candidates are all invited to
attend Equality Maine's annual meeting on

Thursday, September 23, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

at the
First Parish Church, UCC
The Pilgrim House, 9 Cleaveland Street
in Brunswick

Agenda includes year-in-review, electing new board members and officers,
approving the FY 2004-2005 budget, and a farewell to
outgoing president Maggie Allen.