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MLGPA News (November 1998)

Betsy Smith

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MLGPA News

Politics, Education, Outreach

P.O. Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347-0232

November 1998

Special Campaign '98 Issue

Election Day is November 3!! There is still a lot of work to be done and supportive legislators need your help! Remember... many legislators supported LD 1116 (the civil rights bill) and their constituents then voted to repeal it on February 10. Those legislators need to know they did the right thing by voting for the bill. By supporting their campaign, we can demonstrate the LGBT community's strong voice in the electoral arena.

This newsletter is devoted to races that MLGPA has deemed most urgent — races where either supportive incumbents are in tight races or new candidates are trying to unseat non-supportive incumbents. All supportive candidates in this issue have been endorsed by MLGPA. (A full endorsement list was included in the August newsletter).

Please take the time to find out who's running in your district. Find out where they stand on the issue of civil rights. Ask them whether they would vote for a civil rights bill in the upcoming session. If they say they will, then go work for their campaign. Some candidates need volunteers, some need sites for signs, and ALL need financial support. If you live in the following districts, or anywhere in the state for that matter, please contact the candidates and offer your services.

Senate District 7 — Orono, Old Town and surrounding towns — SEN. MARY CATHCART, Democrat, incumbent, has been a very supportive legislator in both the Senate and House. She is being challenged by Robert Fiske, Republican. Contact

information: Sen. Mary Cathcart, 120 Main St, Orono, 04473, 866-3054.

Senate District 8 — Greenville and surrounding towns — REP. SHARON LIBBYJONES, Democrat, is running against Paul Davis, Republican. Rep. Jones is currently serving her first term in the House and voted for LD 1116. She is running for the senate seat which is currently being held by Stephen Hall. Rep. Jones is in a tight race and needs all the support we can give her. Keeping a progressive seat in Greenville is vital. Contact information: Rep. Sharon Libby Jones, PO Box 1191, Greenville, 04441, 695-2604.

Senate District 11 — Searsport, Winterport, Liberty and surrounding towns — SEN. SUSAN LONGLEY, Democrat, incumbent, is a strong advocate for LGBT civil rights. She chaired the Judiciary Committee when LD 1116 and LD 1017 (ban on gay marriage bill) were being debated. She has not only advocated for us in the legislature, but has attended all meetings since February 10 to determine how to best reach civil rights. She also participated in the Civil Rights March and Rally on October 10. Her opponent is Thomas Crandall, Republican. Contact information: Sen Susan Longley, RR 1 Box 1108, Liberty, 04949, 589-4353.

Senate District 17 — Farmington, Rangeley and surrounding towns — CHRISTINE KRAUSS, Democrat, is trying to unseat Sen. John Benoit. Benoit has voted against the civil rights bill twice. We would love to see him replaced by Chris Krauss, who is a very strong advocate for LGBT civil

rights. If you live anywhere near that area, please give Chris a call and offer your help. Contact information: Chris Krauss, PO Box 265, E. Wilton, 04234, 645-2241.

Senate District 22 — Auburn and part of Lewiston — NERIA DOUGLASS, Democrat, is running for an open seat being vacated by Sen. John Cleveland. Her opponent is Robert Winglass, Republican. Neria is very supportive of civil rights and will be a tremendous advocate if elected. She is in a tough race and needs help. Contact information: Neria Douglass, 465 W. Auburn Rd, Auburn, 782-1518.

Senate District 26 — Gray, Cumberland, Windham and surrounding towns — REP. CAROL KONTOS, Democrat, is running for an open senate seat being vacated by Sen. Jeffrey Butland. (Butland was a supportive legislator in his years in the House and Senate). Her opponent is E. Stephen Murray, Republican. Rep. Kontos, currently serving in the House, is very supportive — she voted for the civil rights bill each time it came up. She is trying to keep this seat a progressive one. Contact information: Rep. Carol Kontos, PO Box 1785, Windham, 04062, 892-3474

Senate District 29 — Gorham, Standish, Westbrook — SEN. BILL O'GARA, Democrat, incumbent, has been a very supportive legislator for all the years he has been in both the Senate and House. His opponent is Lyle Cramer, Republican. Sen. O'Gara is in a tight race this year and needs our support. Contact information:

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MLGPA

Politics, Education, Outreach

Executive Committee:

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Vice President

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Executive Volunteers:

Rich Couch

Honorary Board Members:

Judy Edgerly

Richard Steinman

Del Wilson

Mailing Address:

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Hallowell, ME 04347-0232

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mlgpa@javanet.com

Office Telephone:

1-800-556-5472
761-3732 (in Portland)



Calendar of Events

October 28 — MLGPA Legislative Committee Meeting, 6–8pm, Maine Education Association, Community Drive, Augusta

October 31 — MLGPA 2nd Annual Halloween Ball, 7:30–midnight, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, tickets available at the door for \$12.

November 3 — **ELECTION DAY!!!**
Please vote!

November 6–7 — Gill Foundation Fundraising Conference, Augusta, call David Becker at 772-3670 for more information.

November 11 — MLGPA Legislative Committee Meeting, 6–8pm, Maine Education Association, Community Drive, Augusta

November 13–15 — NGLTF's Creating Change Conference, Pittsburgh, Penn., Westin William Penn Hotel. For more information contact NGLTF at 202-332-6483.

November 15 — 3rd statewide meeting to discuss civil rights, 1–4pm, UU Church, 120 Park St, Bangor (please contact MLGPA at 1-800-556-5472 for possible location change).

November 19 — MLGPA Board Meeting, 6–9pm, Maine Education Association, Community Drive, Augusta

November 25 — MLGPA Legislative Committee Meeting, 6–8pm, Maine Education Association, Community Drive, Augusta

Third statewide meeting to discuss civil rights in Maine.

Sunday, November 15, 1–4pm,
UU Church (120 Park St), Bangor.

For more information contact MLGPA at:
1-800-556-5472

The Second Annual MLGPA HALLOWEEN BALL

Saturday, October 31

Holiday Inn By The Bay
Portland

MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

10am - 1pm

SEPTEMBER 19, 1998

UU CHURCH, AUGUSTA

PRESENT: B. Smith, H. Booth, D. Garrity, E. Hobler, R. Lambert, R. Gowen, R. Steinman, M. Sullivan, PJ Mears, J. Edgerly, M. Allen, S. Sparaco, E. Richard, P. Holbrook, M. Quint.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fundraiser for Dolly Lymburner, at Rick Gowen's house in Standish, Sunday, September 20, 12-3pm. Kind words were shared around candidate races and understanding of the LGBT community's needs.

Fundraiser for Joel Abromson, Monday, October 19, 5:30-7:30, Natasha's restaurant in Portland, \$25.

Peace and Justice Center Vision meeting, scheduled for October 17, 11-3pm. Erik Richard is organizing this meeting, which was originally scheduled for September 12 (1st coalition meeting date).

MLGPA to vote on more endorsements, including legislative, gubernatorial, and congressional, at the next Board meeting, October 15, 7pm, at MEA. Information to be put in newsletter to serve as notice to members.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Betsy Smith gave the president's report, which included an overview of our accomplishments and progress of the past year. Conversation was held on our achievements, including an in-depth discussion of Dirigo Alliance, our relationship to it, our responsibility to it, and its importance as a progressive organization.

Finances and membership were discussed at length, highlighting our progress and areas for improvement. PJ Mears has agreed to take on membership chair, and by instituting a new systematic membership program, membership should serve as a strong basis for our financial support.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Maggie Allen reported on upcoming events: Common Ground Fair, Halloween Ball (October 31, at Holiday Inn By Bay in Portland), and '99 Banquet (set for March 6, 1999). Proposed (and motioned) for Banquet was new Youth in Leadership Award, by Erik Richard. Wording reflects that the award will be for youth 24 and under. Motion passed.

DIRECTION AND GOALS FOR UPCOMING YEAR:

Legislative presence (for pro & con legislation), support coalition for civil rights, be well prepared for referendum campaign, growth of financial base due to 501c3, and part or full time staff by 9/99. Also suggested as direction or goal was attainment of domestic-partnership benefits, at least in Portland, to make civil rights easier to attain.

TRANSGENDER EDUCATION:

PJ Mears advocated for us to continue to educate ourselves and eventually decide whether to move forward on the "T" issue. Several people proposed that we hold another retreat that is open to our membership and anyone else who wants to attend, including legislators.

NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:

Maggie Allen, Bath, Special Events Committee
Robin Lambert, Portland, Membership Committee
Paul Holbrook, Portland, Communications Committee

THE 1998-99 MLGPA BOARD:

Betsy Smith (president)
David Garrity (vice-president)
Dan Stevens (recording secretary and legislative co-chair)
PJ Mears (membership chair)
Maggie Allen (special events co-chair)
Jennifer Goldman (special events co-chair)
Sue Sparaco (finance and executive committees)
Harold Booth (membership database)
Celeste Gosselin (legislative committee)
Rick Gowen (fundraising and membership)
Mark Sullivan (fundraising and communications)
Erik Richard (finance and Peace & Justice rep)
Robin Lambert (membership committee)
Paul Holbrook (communications committee)
*Rich Couch (legislative co-chair but not a Board member)
*Dan Kelley (newsletter layout and database, but not a Board member)
*Richard Steinman (Dirigo representative and legislative committee, but not a Board member)

Adjourned at 1pm.

MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 20, 1998

MAINE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION BUILDING, AUGUSTA

PRESENT: Betsy Smith, Susan Sparaco, Erik Richard, Jen Goldman, Dan Stevens, Celeste Gosselin, David Garrity, Harold Booth, Richard Steinman, Maggie Allen

Guest: Deborah Shields

Minutes were accepted: Garrity/Allen

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: ENDORSEMENTS

Dan presented the proposed endorsements from the Legislative Committee. There was a brief discussion about candidates and levels of support being offered. Garrity moved and Booth seconded that the Board accept the Legislative Committee recommendations for endorsement. Endorsements to be enclosed in August newsletter.

Carried.

SOUTH PORTLAND CIVIL RIGHTS ORDINANCE

Deborah Shields gave a presentation regarding the South Portland Civil Rights Ordinance. The Ordinance will be on the ballot for the November 3rd election. Deborah gave a list of events that are occurring for fundraising and visibility. She asked if we would endorse the campaign and provide our volunteer and donor lists. Garrity moved and Allen seconded that MLGPA endorse the campaign and provide other assistance as needed.

Carried.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Maggie and Jen reported on the progress of the 2nd Annual Halloween Ball. They are looking for sponsors for the Ball. The tickets go on sale September 15th. There will be four judges and Mark Persky has already agreed to be one.

The Common Ground Fair is being held on September 26th, 27th, and 28th. Volunteers are needed to person the booth.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sue Sparaco presented the financial and treasurer's report. Steinman moved and Garrity seconded that the report be accepted.
Carried.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Betsy reported that the '98 renewals were still trickling in. There are currently 320+ paid units.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

David reported that the committee has been working on coalition materials in advance of the September 12th civil rights meeting.

PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER

Erik reported on the office space at the Center. There will be an increase in rent which will be divided by all the tenants. There will be a vision meeting in October.

DIRIGO ALLIANCE

Richard announced that the Alliance's Annual Banquet will be held September 18th in Portland. F.E. Pentlarge will be honored with an award. Her family has been invited to accept the award for her.

MAINE DIVERSITY ALLIANCE

Betsy spoke briefly about the most recent MDA board meeting and updated the proposed programs.

Adjourned at 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Stevens

Campaign '98 Information

Continued from Page 1

Sen. Bill O'Gara, 29 Cardinal St, Westbrook, 04092, 774-9467.

House District 8 — Kennebunk — JOHN WADE, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. Thomas Murphy, Republican. Murphy voted against LD 1116 and against the bill three times when he served several years ago. John has worked in the LGBT civil rights movement for many years and will be a true advocate if elected. He needs all of our support. Contact information: John Wade, 1 Portland Rd, Kennebunk, 04043, 985-2972.

House District 14 — Buxton, Hollis — WILLIAM SAVAGE, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. John Vedral, Republican. Vedral voted against LD 1116. William has expressed strong support for civil rights and would advocate for LGBT issues in the legislature. He needs help unseating Vedral. Contact information: William Savage, PO Box 12, Buxton, 04093, 727-3506.

House District 17 — Biddeford, part of Kennebunk — NANCY SULLIVAN, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. Steven Joyce, Republican. Joyce voted against the civil rights bill twice. Nancy has demonstrated strong support for civil rights and we are encouraging everyone to support her campaign. Contact information: Nancy Sullivan, 20 Westwood Dr, Biddeford, 04005, 282-5594.

House District 24 — Cape Elizabeth, South Portland — NOLAN MCCOY, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. Peter Cianchette, Republican. Cianchette is serving his first year in the House and voted for LD 1116, but has not demonstrated strong support for civil rights or other LGBT concerns. Nolan has worked in the LGBT civil rights movement for many years and will be a true advocate if elected. He needs all of our support. Contact information: Nolan McCoy, 504 Cottage Rd, S. Portland, 04106, 799-8229.

House District 38 — Raymond, Windham — DENIS MORSE, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. Joseph Bruno, Republican. Bruno voted against the civil rights bill twice. Denis has expressed strong support for civil rights and would advocate for LGBT issues in the legislature. He needs help unseating Bruno. Contact information: Denis Morse, 55 Anderson Rd, Raymond, 04071, 655-2725.

House District 39 — Windham — ELDEN MCKEEN, Democrat, is running for an open seat being vacated by Rep. Carol Kontos. His opponent is David Tobin, Republican. Elden is a very strong advocate for civil rights and needs our help getting elected. Contact information: Elden McKeen, 17 Montgomery Rd, Windham, 04062, 892-8017.

House District 43 — Limington, Standish — DOLLY LYMBURNER, Democrat, is trying to unseat first term Rep. Adam Mack, Republican. Mack is a right wing conservative who is vehemently opposed to LGBT civil rights. Dolly is a strong advocate for LGBT civil rights. She can win this seat if she can get more support — volunteers and money, mostly. Please contact her campaign and offer to help, regardless of where you live. Contact information: Dolly Lymburner, 10 Smith Ave, Standish, 04085, 675-3239.

House District 44 — Yarmouth — DEBORAH ANNE GOODRICH, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. John Buck, Republican. Buck voted against the civil rights bill twice. Deborah will advocate for LGBT issues if elected. Contact information: Deborah Anne Goodrich, 4 Amesbury Court, Yarmouth, 04096, 846-7929.

House District 49 — Brunswick — JOHN RICHARDSON, Democrat, is trying to unseat first term Rep. Reginald Pinkham, Republican. Pinkham voted against LD 1116. John has demonstrated strong support for LGBT civil rights and would be an

advocate for us. Contact information: John Richardson, 19 Juniper Rd, Brunswick, 04011, 729-1834.

House District 63 — Camden, Rockport — REP. JUDY POWERS, Democrat, incumbent, is a strong advocate for LGBT civil rights. She sat on the Judiciary Committee when LD 1116 and LD 1017 (ban on gay marriage bill) were being debated. She has not only advocated for us in the legislature, but has attended most meetings since February 10 to determine how we best reachieve civil rights. She also participated in the Civil Rights March and Rally on October 10. Her opponent is William Maddox, Republican. Contact information: Sen. Judy Powers, 50 Spring Lane, Rockport, 04856, 594-4169.

House District 68 — Norway and surrounding towns — DUNDEE EMMERTON-BUEHL, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. Tom Winsor, Republican. Winsor voted against the civil rights bill twice. Dundee will advocate for LGBT issues if elected. Contact information: Dundee Emmerton-Buehl, 430 Main St, Norway, 04268, 744-0226.

House District 71 — Minot, New Gloucester, Poland — CHAD HUDNUT, Democrat, is trying to unseat first term Rep. Lois Snowe-Mello, Republican. Snowe-Mello voted against LD 1116. Chad will advocate for LGBT issues if elected. Contact information: Chad Nudnut, 136 Verrill Rd, Poland, 04274, 998-5129.

House District 73 — Auburn — ARNOLD WOOLF, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. Belinda Gerry, Republican. Gerry voted against the civil rights bill twice. Arnold has demonstrated strong support for LGBT and other progressive issues. Contact information: Arnold Woolf, 15 Plummer St, Apt 149, Auburn, 04210, 777-1928.

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Campaign '98 Information

Continued from Page 3

House District 79 — Fayette, Wayne, Winthrop — REP. LINDA MCKEE, Democrat, incumbent, supported LD 1116 in her first term as a legislator. We expect that she will maintain her support when the bill comes up again. Her opponent is Paul Rheume, Republican. Contact information: Rep. Linda McKee, RR 1 Box 280, Wayne, 04284, 685-4385.

House District 82 — Farmingdale, Litchfield, West Gardiner — REP. ELIZABETH WATSON, Democrat, incumbent, has been one of our strongest supporters for LGBT civil rights. She has not only advocated for us in the legislature, but has attended all meetings since February 10 to determine how we best reachieve civil rights. She also participated in the Civil Rights March and Rally on October 10. Her opponent is Gabrielle Carbonneau, Republican. Rep. Watson needs all the help and support that we can give her. Contact information: Rep. Elizabeth Watson, 406 Maine St, Farmingdale, 04344, 621-2871.

House District 86 — Lewiston — REP. RICHARD MAILHOT, Democrat, incumbent, supported LD 1116 in his first term as a legislator and states he will vote for it again. Rep. Mailhot won a tough primary race, thanks in part to help from his progressive support system. His opponent is Gary Adams, Republican. Contact information: Rep. Richard Mailhot, 34 Scribner Circle, Lewiston, 04240, 783-0841.

House District 92 — Hallowell and surrounding towns — REP. SCOTT COWGER, Democrat, incumbent, has worked in the LGBT civil rights movement for several years and was a strong advocate in his first term as legislator. His opponent is Joni Grant, Republican. Rep. Cowger is in a tough race and needs our support. Contact information: Rep. Scott Cowger, RR 1 Box 1145, Hallowell, 04347, 622-2708.

House District 94 — Augusta, Vassalboro — CHARLES MITCHELL, Democrat, is running for an open seat being vacated by Rep. Libby Mitchell. (Charles is Libby's son). His opponent is Donald Roberts, Republican. Charles will advocate for LGBT issues if elected. Contact information: Charles Mitchell, RR 3 Box 6520, Vassalboro, 04989, 626-2760.

House District 104 — Clinton, Detroit, Pittsfield — RICHARD BRADLEY, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. Sumner Jones, Jr, Republican. Jones voted against the civil rights bill twice. Richard has expressed strong support for LGBT civil rights. Contact information: Richard Bradley, 25 Basford Rd, Detroit, 04929, 257-4955.

House District 110 — Liberty, Unity and surrounding towns — ALICE CHEESEMAN, Democrat, is running for an open seat being vacated by Rep. Rodney McElroy, Republican. Her opponent is Carol Weston, Republican. Alice has expressed strong support for LGBT civil rights and will advocate for us in the legis-

lature. She needs help in her campaign. Contact information: Alice Cheeseman, PO Box 317, Unity, 04988, 948-2469.

House District 114 — Dixmont, Hampden, Newburgh — CARL PEASE, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. Debra Plowman, Republican. Plowman has voted against the civil rights bill three times and is one of our harshest opponents. Carl has expressed strong support for LGBT civil rights and is fighting hard to unseat Plowman. Please give him all the help you can. Contact information: Carl Pease, 6 Elm St, W. Hampden, 04444, 862-4340.

House District 116 — Brewer and surrounding towns — KENNETH HAYES, Democrat, is trying to unseat Rep. Richard Campbell, Republican. Campbell voted against the civil rights bill three times. Ken is a former legislator who demonstrated outstanding progressive advocacy. He will continue that advocacy if elected. More than anything, Ken needs volunteers for his campaign. Please offer to volunteer for him. Contact information: Kenneth Hayes, 1011 Olive St, Veazie, 04401, 945-3811.

House District 117 — Bangor — REP. CHRISTINA BAKER, Democrat, incumbent, supported LD 1116 in her first term as a legislator and we expect her to vote for it again. Her opponent is Willard Farnham, Republican. Rep. Baker is in a tough race and needs all the help she can get. Contact information: Rep. Christina Baker, 42 Grant St, Bangor, 04401, 947-8564.

Vote on November 3