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LWW Maine Voter (Feb 1982)

Maine League of Women Voters Staff

Maine League of Women Voters

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LWV maine voter

Penny Harris, Editor
325 Garland St., Bangor 04401

February 1982

Alice Johnson, President
Box 56, Bryant Pond, 04219

state council

april 23* 24



STATE COUNCIL '82 is going to be at China Lake Conference Center. Make plans now to attend.

Major business: LWVME Budget for 1982-83.

Let your delegates to National Convention in Houston know what directions you want the LWVUS to take for the next 2 years. Do you want a new study? Do you want the dues raised? Do you want the health care study to be continued?

Get an update on where we are in the State Program set at Convention last year.

Learn about School Finance in Maine. Hear guest speaker on Disarmament.

Meet and talk with other League Leaders around the State of Maine.

Grassroots means we each have a responsibility to League's future.

1982 STATE PUBLICATIONS CATALOG

Here it is--the current catalog of Maine League's publications. It is aimed to the non-League customer, which meant the following changes.

1. Although the ordering instructions say advance payment is required, the State Publications Chair will accept telephone orders from Local Leagues and will mail without waiting for payment.



2. Local League's pub's are now under several different headings--(1) those that might interest non-league purchasers (pamphlets on local governments, engagement calendars) and those geared to other Leagues (LWV buttons/luncheon napkins.)

3. The section on "Tools for Local Leagues" notes postage is not included in the prices shown. Reason: The Board decided we could save money for local leagues by pricing those pubs at printing costs only--and delivering them at State Board meetings. (Postage will be charged if a mailing is requested.)

AVOID POSTAGE COSTS by mailing your order to Ethel Schwalbe, Steuben, 04680 in advance of a State Board meeting. She will bring them to Augusta. Someone from your area will take them home

NEW LOOK FOR VOTER'S KIT

The former "Voter's Manual" has a new name and a new cover.

National pointed out that "manual" implies instructions on how to do something, so we now have a "Kit".

The Kit now comes in an envelope that includes a list of its contents.

(For those of you who remember the former large envelope with an outline map of Maine and information about the League--we are sorry. It was attractive--but expensive--and too short for one of the kit items.)

LWV bestsellers

A
NUCLEAR
WASTE
PRIMER

HELP!!!!!!

The State Publications Chair needs your help in getting the 1982 Catalog to potential users (purchasers) for our publications

The Catalog has been mailed to public libraries throughout the State, and we plan to have some at Teacher's Convention in the fall, as well as someone there to sell Voter's Kits.

But, the "publication's income" line of our budget would be much larger if we could get the catalogs out without paying postage.

Can anyone arrange with another organization to include the League's catalog with its newsletter?

Please contact Ethel Schwalbe.

A
Hazardous Waste
Primer
The Dollars and Sense of
Environmental Regulation

Localizing International Issues
A Community Guide
Human Needs
Unfinished Business
on the Nation's Agenda

THANK YOU, SUKEY ALLEN

The Voter's Kit is the biggest seller among our publications. We frequently get letters saying "This is the best of its kind I have ever seen."

That praise is due Sukey Allen of the Portland Area League. For years, Sukey has been writing these pamphlets, packing a tremendous amount of information into little space.

With the help of Edith Hary, head of the State House Law Library, she reviews all legislation passed each session to see which laws make revisions to the Kit necessary--then fits the changes in.

It has been a labor of love, and we love her for it!!!!!!

GETTING THEM AROUND

How does your League use State Publications?????

We know:

Portland (and others) give copies to the local libraries.

Bangor-Brewer gives the Voter's Kit to new citizens on Naturalization Day---and "How to Vote and Make your Ballot Count" when registering 18 year olds at the high school.

Share your ideas with other leagues, write to State Publications Chair telling her what you do to get local, State or National publications to non-League readers.

You
&
Your
National
Government

Knowledge Is Power!!

And League publications will give them to you--both knowledge and power.

The power comes when you USE the knowledge--in writing better letters to editors, in more secure discussions with your legislators--in informal talks on important issues with friends.

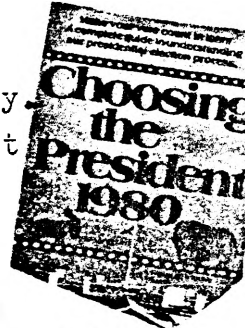
"Publications" sounds deadly dull--until you think about what the word means. It means:

- Sharing the results of hard work by some League members with all of us.
- Getting valuable information without having to work for it.
- A chance to share with non-League members--both "ordinary" voters and community or organizational leaders who are active in shaping public opinion.
- A chance to show potential non-League contributors the kind of work we do--and to encourage financial contributions that will help us do more of it!
- Data on paper and in files obviates having to re-invent the wheel.



The League's reputation has been built on its hard work in digging out facts and trends and analyzing them objectively.

The League's publications reflect that reputation. Why not resolve to read more of them???



AN EASY AND INEXPENSIVE WAY TO GET NATIONAL LWV Pubs

With a Publications Subscription, you get a selection of pamphlets, brochures, flyers on a variety of national issues--all done in inimitable League style.

They come four times a year (saves postage--so you get more information for your money.) Price--only \$10. a year, and National League office guarantees you a least \$12 worth of publications.

Why not use the following tear-off form to order one for yourself--- and for someone else, if you are looking for a gift for a friend or if your budget permits a gift (tax-deductible, we're sure) to a civic organization, local library or school.

* MAIL TO: League of Women Voters of the U.S. (\$10 for each subscription)
 1720 M St., NW
 Washington, D.C. 20036

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____. Please enter a Publication Subscription for:

NAME ADDRESS ZIP

CITIZEN'S

DAY at the Legislatu

Many, many thanks to Karen Stram and her committee from KVLWV for an interesting, informative and fun Citizen's Day at the Legislature. The weather and date change caused some substitutions but, attendance was good (about 55) with Portland, Brunswick, Kennebec Valley, Orono-Old Town-Veazie and Lewiston-Auburn Leagues represented. The Legislators were very supportive. Some attended workshops while about 10 joined us at lunch.

"How to Lobby" and "How an Idea Becomes a Bill" workshops helped us get a better understanding of the legislative process and how to make our voices heard. We found our State Legislators very encouraging-wanting our informed viewpoints and willing to teach us how to be effective. The general feeling is they do not hear enough from citizens.

At lunch Senator Richard Pierce (candidate for Governor in the Republican Primary) filled in for Senator Sewall. He told us legislation will get his closer scrutiny when brought to his attention by a citizen. Representative Georgette Berube (candidate for Governor in Democratic Primary) replaced Rep. John Martin. She reaffirmed the importance of citizen input. Both charged the League with the important task of encouraging citizens to participate in government decisions.

Eighteen people attended Rep. Judy Kany's (candidate for State Senate in Democratic Primary) and Rep. Sherry Huber's (candidate for Governor in Republican Primary) workshop in "Running for Office."

Judy was an active League leader in Arizona and New Jersey before moving to Maine-1st VP of a 450 member League. Her

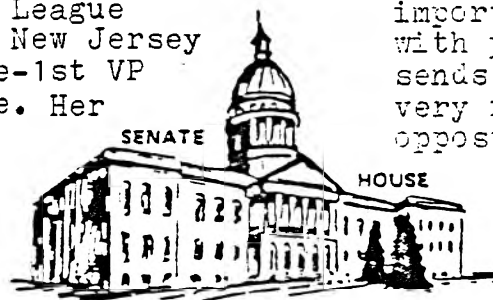
Her initial participation in government was through the LWV. Evolution is how Judy describes her career. Her volunteer work evolved into full time commitment and she felt running for office would be the next step. She says, "Even if you can't win every battle, you can point your community in a direction."

Judy listed the following questions to ask yourself if you want to "run": Is there an incumbent running? Look at the field of candidates? Can you win? Can you afford this? (It is more difficult for a woman, as they are less attractive to money-eyed interests. She says her House seat costs about \$1000 and she estimates her senate campaign to cost between \$2-3000.) What is your family's attitude? Consider the travel demands of the job.

Judy chose to withdraw from the U.S. Congressional race because the time away from her family was too great.

Sherry discussed after the decision to run--now you are a candidate! Sherry is a member of PALWV and likes government work, and just decided she wanted to be a State Representative. She stressed the importance of meeting people one to one. She says the best way to do this is to go door to door meeting people.

Her major points were: The political party is not important after the announcement of your candidacy for a House seat. Running on the local level, staff isn't necessary but a committee shows support. Participate in candidate meetings and make yourself accessible. Sherry did a survey of voters in her district to determine attitudes. She stated the importance of keeping in contact with people once in office. She sends out a newsletter. It is very important to evaluate your opposition.



ACTION

An amendment to Prevent Combining Bond Issue Items



The following is testimony given by President Alice Johnson at 1-27-82 before the Committee on State Government

Senator Ault, Representative Kany, members of the State Government Committee, my name is Alice Johnson and I am State President of the League of Women Voters of Maine. I am here today to share the concerns I have received by phone and mail, from League and non-league individuals, regarding November's voting procedures. The major complaint was over the \$33.3 million "economic development" bond question. This one question dealt with four separate items. Although all these had economic implications, it can be argued that nearly any bill has economic implications. To combine items, even those issues preceived ahead of time as like items, vitiates the voter's input. An important aspect of citizen participation is the specific nature of the exerise, one citizen, one vote. If that one vote however really means 3 for 2 against, what does that say for the quality of that imput. Certainly the outcome of such voting is not decisive and victory of the whole does not necessarily mean victory of the parts.

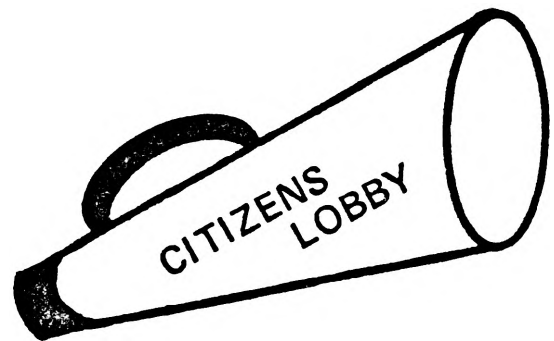
We all know that voter turnout is low. If those who do come out feel manipulated, the psychological incentive to come back next time around might well be lessened. Consequently, presenting multifaceted referenda changes the quality and could conceivably change the quantity of voting as well.

Finally, the fact that combining issues, a known political ploy used to ach2ve parochial ends, occurs regularly does not mean this practice should be utilized for the general voting public. As any

congressional leader can attest to, many painful ideological surrenders have been forced by increasingly domineering riders to main bills. We should be looking toward reform rather than proliferation of this manipulative practice.

If parochialism prevents passage, Energy and expertise should be spent on the parochialism. If bills are passed grudgingly with no feeling for the "big picture" if voters haven't been educated to view a healthy northern Maine economy as intimately likked to a healthy southern Maine economy, than parochialism deepens and voters become more apathetic.

The League has spent over 60 years enhancing citizen participation, urging people to study the issues and then go to the polls and make their vote count. It is the responsibility of all of us to vote. It is the responsibility of this committee and this legislature to defend the quality of that vote.



The STATE VOTER is a publication of the League of Women Voters of Maine and is published eight times a year. It is available through membership or throught direct subscription (\$5 per year).

President: Alice Johnson
Editor: Penny Harris

Contributors to this issue:
Ethel Schwalbe, Alice Johnson

STATE COUNCIL 1982

CALL

This is the official call to the 1982 State Council of the League of Women Voters of Maine to be held from 9:30a.m. Friday, April 23 to 2:30p.m. Saturday, April 24, 1982, at the China Lake Conference Center, China, Maine.

The state bylaws, Article iX, provide that Council shall be composed of:

- (a) Presidents of local leagues or their designate
- (b) 2 delegates chosen from each local league
- (c) Board of Directors of League of Women Voters of Maine

After each League's delegate quota is filled, each delegation may also include visitors. Visitors may participate in all Council activities except voting in plenary sessions.

Member at large units may send representatives as non-voting delegates.

Article iX, Section 3 of the bylaws charges the Council to "give guidance to the State Board on program, methods of work, and budget as submitted by the Board of Directors. The Council shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year and shall transact such other business as shall be presented by the Board."

The proposed 1982-83 LWV ME budget will be sent out in the March VOTER.

Alice Johnson, State President



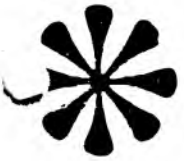
The success of State Council and the LWV ME is directly dependent on the input of all the local leagues. The State Board needs the ideas, suggestions and comments you have so we (State Board) can more effectively coordinate and direct the energies of our organization. It is also a time to give directions to the delegates who will be attending national convention in Houston.

The State Budget for 1982-83 will be passed. This is our policy and priority statement. (The league budget is a way to learn how to do budgets.) Now is the time to get involved.

The program promises to be interesting. There will be updates on State Program, membership awards, speakers on school finance in Maine and disarmament.

Our lives are busy and hectic and time is precious; but, we hope every League will be fully represented - and even some visitors- will come together for 30 hours to make important League decisions at this beautiful Maine Lake area. The LWV is dependent on your participation--we are still a grassroots organization.





TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE
 FROM: ALICE JOHNSON, STATE PRESIDENT
 RE: STATE COUNCIL VISITORS

We need to have a very accurate count of how many people will be staying overnight at the China Lake Conference Center and how many people will be taking what meals.

Council is a wonderful opportunity to see friends, share in the exchange of ideas, discover how much the LWV ME has done and what the plans and priorities are for the future. ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME!

YES, I PLAN TO JOIN OTHER LEAGUE MEMBERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE:

Name: _____

Address: _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING DAY(S)

FRIDAY _____ SATURDAY _____

I WILL BE SPENDING THE NIGHT AT THE CENTER: YES _____ NO _____

I WILL BE HAVING THE FOLLOWING MEALS:

FRIDAY: LUNCH _____, DINNER _____

SATURDAY: BREAKFAST _____ LUNCH _____

I NEED TO CARPOOL _____ I WOULD BE WILLING TO DRIVE OTHERS _____

There will be a \$10.00 registration fee which includes lodging and use of the facilities plus coffee and donuts the beginning of the session. For those not staying overnight the fee is \$5.00. Registration is payable in advance. It is not refundable. Meal prices are: breakfast \$2.50, lunch \$3.50, dinner \$5.00 (5:30 p.m.)



Registration Fee: \$ _____

Total meal charges: \$ _____

Enclosed please find TOTAL: \$ _____

PLEASE SEND THIS TO: MS. KATHARINE MEEKER, STATE TREASURER LWV ME,
 196 WINN STREET, FALMOUTH, ME 04105 (Return by April 1st)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING YOU JOIN US!

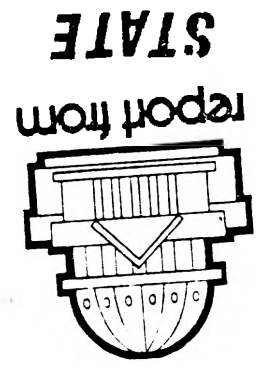
NI Passes
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close Turner
Mills
Spain
Hanson-Star

Bernard 743-8313
Leslie 743-8336
MH - 743-6649

10+2+2+30
10+2+10+8+5

Elizabeth Doble
Frank Doble
Brooklin, ME 04616

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In This Issue...

NEW State Publication Catalog
State Council
Publications Information
Citizen's Day Report
LD 1783 - LWV Testimony

- 1
- 1, 6, 7
- 2, 3
- 4
- 5

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