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THE VOTER



VOL. 12, NO. 2

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

JANUARY 1995

CALL TO CONVENTION '95 !

FIRST CALL TO CONVENTION '95, May 8, 9 and morning of May 10.

After reviewing many proposals and making five on-site visits, we are pleased to announce that the League's 1995 State Convention will be held at the Samoset Resort starting the morning of Monday, May 8th, and ending with a State Board meeting on the morning of Wednesday, May 10th. With off-season rates available, this very beautiful resort is within the price range of all the others and offers a central location on the water in Rockport, Maine. It is only 78 miles from Portland and 85 miles from Bar Harbor.

Look for a convention packet in late February and save the dates, May 8, 9 and 10th. Ruth Moss is working with us on program planning. If you have any suggestions for speakers, please let us hear from you. See you in May!

-- The Site Committee--Sally Bryant, Jana Lapoint, JoAnn Withington

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE CAN BE DELEGATES

Our by-laws permit Members-at-Large who are not eligible to be affiliated with a MAL Unit (e.g. Ellsworth) to be voting delegates at the State Convention.

If you are interested in this important element of League decision-making, call or write Marion Holshouser, membership chair, to learn how many delegates are permitted and how to apply. (Marion Holshouser, RR 5, Box 62, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107 or 767-2784.)

Don't hesitate because you feel you might not know anyone; you'll find that common interests make it very easy to get acquainted.



**CELEBRATE !
Tues, Feb. 14th**

Final plans for our 75th Anniversary Celebration are underway. We are looking forward to every League member joining us in Augusta on Tuesday, February 14th to join with our Governor, Angus King, and legislators in the celebration.

We are delighted to have former National President Nancy Neuman (1986-1990) and author of "The League of Women Voters in Perspective" as our Celebration speaker. She will be coming from Lewisburg, PA and has a daughter here to see as well..

Registration will be in the State House, Hall of Flags, from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. The \$10 fee includes a box lunch and the Blaine House reception.

The morning's program will begin at 9:00 a.m. with our Jane's, Sen. Jane Amero and Rep. Jane Saxl entering formal recognition of our anniversary into the day's record. Nancy Neuman's speech will follow, and at 11:00 a.m. (approximately) we'll witness the official signing of our proclamation by Governor King in his office.

Lunch will be a box lunch provided by Royal Provisioners of Yarmouth and UF Strainrite of Lewiston.

Continued on Page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hope you have had a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year!

The League of Women Voters of Maine and Alvin M. Moss have filed a "Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief" in the U.S. District Court for the purpose of requesting the Court to declare the Term Limits Law (re: Federal Officers only) unconstitutional.

We have a written agreement with our attorneys, who are representing us "pro bono", that there will be no cost or expense whatsoever to the LWV.

I'm pleased to report to you the tremendous positive feedback through 'phone calls, conversations and social and community meetings, etc. regarding the League showing some guts and backbone in defending the U.S. Constitution. Past LWVME presidents, state officials and legislators (and many former LWV members) have communicated their approval of the LWV taking "Action" in lieu of just talking about term limits.

Even those favoring term limits wanted the courts to rule on the constitutionality--one way or the other. Our National LWV Board adopted this position several years ago. On November 28, 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court heard the oral presentation of the Arkansas LWV case in the name of our national 1st Vice President, Bobbie Hill. The ruling on this case is not expected before June 1995. The LWV National Board felt so strongly about this violation of the U.S. Constitution that they appropriated \$5,000 to help defray the court costs.

As you know, the Maine 117th Legislature has now been sworn in and is working on administrative and operational housekeeping. Proposed bills have been submitted; committees have been named and have started functioning. With 71 new House members and 16 new Senators there is a great deal of "learning" to be accomplished.

This is an excellent time for LWV members to contact their representatives and senators on LWV concerns, i.e. Health Care, Campaign Finance Reform, Lobbying Disclosure, Ethics Reform, Environmental Issues, etc.

Remember the necessity of giving LWV membership "gifts" to family members, children, friends and neighbors. What a great way to accomplish several positive things at the same time! It saves shopping trips, wrong colors, wrong sizes, etc. No gift returns or exchanges required, and the gift stays alive for a whole year.

Have a Happy New Year--and see you at "Keys to the Capital" on our 75th Birthday, 14 February, '95 and at the State LWV Convention on 8 to 10 May '95.

Alvin
Alvin M. Moss

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

PROGRAM PLANNING for '95-'97

***** Do you agree with current LWV-Maine positions? *****

Yes or No --- Now is the Time to Speak Up!

***** Do you want to study a new issue in Maine? *****

Come with Your Ideas!

***** Help us choose realistic priorities! *****

"Program Planning" is the time when League members should take the opportunity to say whether they still agree with each of the positions currently held by the LWV of Maine on state issues. Members will decide whether each position should be retained, dropped, updated or reevaluated.

This is the time when new studies are proposed. Don't forget that new studies require a substantial time commitment of a study committee to do research, hold educational meetings for the public & members, plan a consensus process and follow through with an action campaign.

Priority setting is probably the most important part of these meetings. Over its 75 year history, the LWV has studied and established positions on a smorgasbord of issues. We cannot effectively work on all of them at once. The state board needs you to tell them what you think are the most important items to concentrate on for the next two years here in Maine.

Do some REALITY THINKING! Ask whether the Issue is - relevant?, timely?, manageable?, and interesting? Can the League - get results?, be visible?, and make a difference?

Look for notice of Program Planning meetings from your local leagues in the Portland Area, Brunswick Area, Mount Desert Island and Ellsworth MAL Unit. Members at large will be responding by mail. All your ideas will be combined to form a recommendation from the LWV State Board. Final decisions will be made by delegates at the LWV-Maine State Convention in May, 1995.

Program Planning is very important, even if it sounds routine. It is the "democracy" within our organization. If you don't speak up, others decide the direction of YOUR organization.

Carol Fritz
767-3737

ELLSWORTH PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

The Greater Ellsworth Area MAL Unit will conduct its state program planning meeting on Saturday, January 28, 1 p.m. at the Meadowview Apartments (Phase II) Community Room, off Maddocks Rd.

We look forward to an active discussion by all area League members, following a presentation of the major issues before the Maine Legislature by Jill Goldthwaite of Bar Harbor, the Legislature's only Independent Senator.

Our afternoon session from 1:00 to 2:00 will feature a program concerning children and families at risk, "Healthy Starts." We have asked Mary Herman, our Governor's wife, to moderate this panel, which will also include state leaders in the field of children and family advocacy.

Follow us over to the Governors' mansion for a formal reception to honor all past presidents of the League in Maine. Again, we have asked Mary Herman, as well as all the legislators, to be with us for this occasion.

The League has a wonderful history here in Maine and we want you to share this special day. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate. We are working on February 15th as the snow date, but this is not finalized. For more information, call Carolyn Murray of Cumberland at 781-2771.

You can preregister if you wish (save time on the 14th) by sending your \$10 check to:

Jana Lapoint (or call, lv message: 781-7472
13 Hemlock Lane before Feb. 2)
Falmouth, ME 04105

--Jana Lapoint, Chair



MAINE LEAGUE'S L O N G HISTORY



The Auxiliary of the Maine League of Women Voters came into existence on August 29, 1920, just three days after women received full voting rights as the law of the land--passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The League in Maine was an outgrowth of the Franklin County Equal Suffrage Association formed in 1906, organized by Isabelle Whittier Greenwood, whose husband Chester, as we all know, invented the earmuff! It was Isabelle Greenwood who assembled her Association members in Farmington, whereupon they agreed to the League of Women Voters name change.

But the women's suffrage group had been laboring for their rights in Maine since 1868, when they first formed in Rockland under the guidance of Lavinia and Mary Snow. The statewide Maine Women's Suffrage Association (MWSA) was the result of a convention of women from all parts of the state gathered in Augusta just five years later.

Suffrage clubs bloomed in Maine in the 1890's from Saco to Machias and towns in between, making the point that some 15,000 women were paying taxes on approximately \$25 million worth of property in 239 Maine cities and towns. "Taxation without representation" was what the women were struggling to overturn in the Maine legislature. In the 11th month of 1919, Maine said "yes" to the 19th Amendment, which had been passed months earlier by the U.S. Congress. As elsewhere in the nation, our state had a strong movement against women's voting rights, too.

--Ruth Moss. *Ruth credits the Maine Commission for Women for the information she found in her files, "vintage of eight years ago".*

LWME'S LEGAL CHALLENGE TO TERM LIMITS

In challenging the constitutionality of term limits for U.S. elected officials representing Maine (see "President's Message" on Page 2) our league joins four other state Leagues who have filed court challenges to their states' term limit laws. As Alvin's Message states, one of those, the Arkansas lawsuit, is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The brief excerpts below of material in the "Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief" are provided for the information of all League members, with the reminder that, should you discuss the case with non-members, (1) discuss factual information only, and (2) most important, be sure you make it clear you are speaking for yourself, not on behalf of the League. In his letter to Alvin, Marion Holshouser and Janice Carpenter, the League's attorney in the case urged them to "limit your press comments to non-controversial statements about the League and its history--and factual statements set forth in the publicly filed complaint. Improper statements about persons or personalities can expose you to libel actions."

EXCERPTS OR PARAPHRASES from a 10+ page document:

-- "Unequal Standing in Congress. Most of the states have not enacted federal term limitation laws. Due to the enactment of the Term Limits Law, the Maine congressional delegation is now unequally situated with the delegations in the Congress who are not affected by term limits. Due to the law, the members of the Maine delegation are now part of a distinct and unequally situated minority in the Congress."

Among the injuries to the League and its members from the Law:

-- "...deprivation of their fundamental rights to vote freely and effectively for the candidates of their choice."

-- "...the Law limits and damages the League's ability to promote and effectuate the civic goals and activities of its membership. The League cannot now effectively organize to effectuate its legislative agenda due to the impending denial of ballot access to such [incumbent] candidates."

-- Impairment of "The grass roots efforts of the League and its members to petition their government and representatives...." "...hindered and restrained in its ability to lobby and take action on important, long-term and complex problems...where its incumbent representatives are legislators who are barred by the Law from seeing many of such projects through to completion. The Law has damaged the scope and effectiveness of the plaintiff's participation in the political process, including its ability to educate and create sustainable political coalitions on public issues of importance."

Violations of the U.S. Constitution:

-- "The qualifications of the persons who may hold the offices of United States Senator or Representative are defined and fixed in the Constitution, and are unalterable by any state or legislature. These constitutional qualifications are exclusive and cannot be expanded or altered by the people of any state without first amending the Constitution."

-- "...Law violates the Fourteenth Amendment by denying plaintiffs the equal protection of the laws and abridging the plaintiffs' constitutional rights and privileges as citizens of the United States."

"WHEREFORE, the Plaintiffs request the following relief:

"1. That the Court enter a declaratory judgment...that the...Law impermissibly imposes qualifications on candidacy for the United States Congress beyond those fixed in the United States Constitution and is unconstitutional and invalid."

"4. That the Court permanently enjoin the operation and enforcement of the Term Limits Law as it applies to candidacy for the United States Congress;"

ABOUT OUR STATE PRESIDENT



Maine League members who have served on our State Board, have attended conventions or are active in the Ellsworth MAL Unit have known Alvin Moss and his League work for many years. But now it's time to introduce him to the entire membership.

Alvin has been associated with League since 1947 (a time when men could only be associate members, i.e., couldn't vote.) But perseverance paid off and now, many portfolios later, from taxes to campaign finance, from Pennsylvania to Maine, from 2nd VP to 1st VP to the top spot, Alvin is the first male president of our League.

Alvin attended Temple University, Hamilton College, The Citadel (*yes, that one in Charleston, S.C.*), and the Univ. of Pennsylvania and holds a B.A., B.S., M.B.A. and 90% toward a Ph.D.

Alvin is a retired school superintendent and retired member of the military (from the U.S. Army with the rank of Lieut. Colonel.) Like most League members, he's been active in other organizations, serving now or in the past as: Chair of the CETA Council of Hancock County, on the Sorrento Planning Board and Hancock County Planning Commission, and chair of Maine Common Cause, among other posts. He has been on the National Governing Board of Common Cause and is a member of the Center for Defense Information Advisory Council and Speakers Bureau.

As Maine League's president, Alvin's continued goal is to secure MORE MEN as members, to achieve campaign finance reform at both state and national levels, and to educate voters on the issues before they cast an election day ballot. Of vital importance, he stresses, is a continuum of communication with elected officials from the Town Hall to the State and National Capitols and Executive Mansions).



REPORT ON THE STUDENT MOCK ELECTION HELD NOV. 3, 1994

Secretary of State Bill Diamond reports that 228 schools reported results to the Mock Election headquarters at the Bangor Auditorium. There, some 44,000 "mock" student votes were updated regularly on a large board. The League was a co-sponsor of this pre-election "first-hand" experience and educational effort, held five days before the 1994 general election.

Students at the Bangor Auditorium that day were also able to hear and discuss issues with candidates for Governor and congressional and legislative offices. Candidates from other-than-the-major political parties also participated.

LWVME President Alvin Moss spoke to the group, emphasizing the importance of casting an informed vote. Young male students were delighted that a man is president of the League of Women Voters!

UPDATE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM IN MAINE

HEALTH CARE REFORM COMMISSION -- OBJECTIVE



An Act to Create the Maine Health Care Authority (LD 1985, effective July 20, 1994) established the Maine Health Care Reform Commission, which has the task of creating three (or more) comprehensive health care reform proposals for consideration by the 117th Legislature. The objective is to provide all Maine citizens with health care by July 1, 1997.

The Commission is also charged with developing a program of public participation and education that involves all interested citizens, parties, and groups.

The three Commissioners, appointed last summer, are: Dr. Robert Kelleher, head of the Maine Medical Assessment Foundation; Peter Hayes of Hannaford Brothers; and Neil Rolde, former legislator and author of Your Money or Your Health. Dr. Kelleher was appointed jointly by the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House; Mr. Hayes by the Governor alone; and Mr. Rolde jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

COMMISSION'S SCHEDULE

The schedule called for by LD 1985 is:

1. A program of public participation and education to January 1, 1996.
2. An interim report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Public by January 1, 1995, with the option of recommendations by that time.
3. A draft report to all three by June 1, 1995.
4. A public comment period from June 1, 1995 to September 1, 1995.
5. A final report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Public by November 1, 1995.
6. Implementing legislation for all models for health care reform contained in the final report and a proposal for a uniform data collection system by January 1, 1996.

The Commission shall participate in the legislative process from January 1, 1995 to May 1, 1996.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

There were seven advisory committees representing assorted interest groups, namely: Consumers, Data Collection, Business, Insurers, Health Professionals, Institutional Providers, and Government Agencies. The Maine LWV was represented on the Consumer Advisory Committee by Sally Bryant of Brunswick.

The task of these committees, which ended on November 22, 1994, was to develop Guiding Principles for health care reform according to their specific points of view, and they met weekly toward that end from the beginning of September until November. Sally and/or Bill Bryant, acting as LWV Observers, attended most of these meetings -- an interesting but time-consuming task since they averaged two hours each.

--Continued on Page 10

LWV of ME - BUDGET/FINANCE 1994/1995

INCOME		<i>July/August</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>Budget 94-95</i>
Category	<u>DUES</u>			
101	LOCAL LEAGUE PMP			2,200.00
102	MEMBERS at LARGE	1,312.00	240.00	2,816.00
	TOTAL DUES	1,312.00	240.00	5,016.00
	<u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u>			
111	MEMBERS	719.00	25.00	2,900.00
112	NON-MEMBER	385.00		500.00
113	IN KIND			
	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	1,104.00	25.00	3,400.00
	<u>OTHER SOURCES</u>			
121	SALE of ITEMS			100.00
122	SALE of PUBLICATIONS	636.00	3.50	650.00
123	CORPORATE GRANTS			
	Special Projects			
124	KEYS to CAPITOL			200.00
131	STATE CONVENTION			4,500.00
132	QUAD STATE COUNCIL			
141	MISCELLANEOUS INCOME			
	Past checking Acct Closing Balance		170.49	
	TOTAL OTHER SOURCES	636.00	173.99	5,450.00
	TOTAL INCOME	3,052.00	438.99	13,866.00
	LWV ED FUND BALANCE			1,110.00
	CONTRIBUTIONS TO LWV ED FUND			
	EXPENSES			
	<u>OFFICE</u>			
201	RENT (5 Quarters)		450.00	1,125.00
202	TELEPHONE		76.36	529.00
203	SUPPLIES/stamps, checks		12.37	150.00
	TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE	0.00	538.73	1,804.00
	<u>BOARD ADMINISTRATION</u>			
301	PRESIDENT, VP			500.00
302	SECRETARY			80.00
303	TREASURER			50.00
304	FINANCE/FUND RAISING EXP			250.00
305	MEMBERSHIP			
	MAL Dues Notices			75.00
	Member Directory			
306	PUBLIC RELATIONS			75.00
307	NOMINATING COMMITTEE			100.00
	TOTAL BOARD ADMINISTRATION	0.00	0.00	1,130.00
	<u>DELEGATES/LWV meeting(non-program)</u>			
401	STATE CONVENTION Delegates			200.00
402	NATIONAL CONVENTION Delegates	700.00		700.00
403	QUAD STATE COUNCIL Delegates			
404	NATIONAL COUNCIL Delegates			500.00
405	STATE CONVENTION			4,500.00
406	WORKSHOP FEES			100.00
	TOTAL DEL/LWV meeting	700.00	0.00	6,000.00

LWV of ME - BUDGET/FINANCE 1994/1995

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget 94-95</u>
<u>ASSESSMENTS</u>			
501 NATIONAL PMP	418.00	418.00	1,672.00
502 COALITIONS		50.00	150.00
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS	418.00	468.00	1,822.00
<u>PRINTING AND POSTAGE</u>			
601 BULK POSTAGE			300.00
602 PHOTO COPIES			650.00
603 THE VOTER	297.50	696.50	1,700.00
TOTAL PRINTING and POSTAGE	297.50	696.50	2,650.00
<u>EDUCATIONAL/ADVOCACY</u>			
701 PUBLICATION COSTS			650.00
702 STATE PROGRAM			
Health Care			60.00
Government Studies			60.00
Campaign/Election Reform			60.00
Reproductive Choice/Family Planning			60.00
Keys to the Capitol			200.00
703 NATIONAL PROGRAM			
Cities and Crisis			60.00
Children at Risk			60.00
Health Care		25.44	60.00
704 VOTER SERVICE	42.50	42.50	200.00
TOTAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES	42.50	67.94	1,470.00
801 LOCAL LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT			100.00
802 MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES			
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,022.43	2,735.60	14,976.00
BANK BALANCE month beginning	1,777.82	0.00	
INCOME less EXPENSES>>>	-813.43	964.39	-1,110.00
BANK BALANCE month end	964.39	964.39	Deficit

HEALTH CARE REFORM UPDATE -- Continued from Page 6

The Maine Health Care Reform Commission (MHCRC) itself met at first bi-weekly and then weekly on Tuesdays from 3 to 5 PM. All Commission and Committee meetings were public and were listed in the Legislative Calendar. Observers were welcome and could offer comments.

Phase I of the work of the MHCRC ended on Tuesday, November 22d, with an all-day public meeting at the Augusta Civic Center attended by at least 200 people. In the morning, each of the Phase I Committees presented an oral summation of its written report on the Guiding Principles that the Commissioners should follow in their planning for reform.

PHASE II -- ISSUE-ORIENTED COMMITTEES

In the afternoon of November 22d, Phase II began. The members of the Phase I Committees, which had been organized around interest groups, were then assigned to six issue-oriented committees, namely: Access, Benefits, Financing/Cost Control, Administration, Public Accountability, and Quality Assurance. The Data Committee remained unchanged. The committees are charged with preparing recommendations and guidelines for the commissioners in these areas. All six issues must be addressed in the context of three types of reform proposals: a single-payer system, a multi-payer system, and an improved version of the present system.

Sally Bryant, representing the League, was assigned to the Benefits Committee which meets every Tuesday from 9 to 12 AM in the 3rd Floor conference room at 9 Green Street in Augusta. This committee has been asked to recommend three benefit packages: a Basic Package, a Minimum Package, and a Luxury Package. It must complete its work by January 24th in order for the actuaries to complete their evaluation of the benefit packages by late February. This is not an easy task but we have a hard-working, dedicated group!

Bill Bryant was assigned to the Quality Assurance Committee which meets every Thursday from 3 to 5 PM, also at Green Street. In addition to attending these committee meetings, the Bryants try to attend as many others as possible since the work of each one impacts all the others. The Commissioners continue to meet every Tuesday from 2 to 4 PM at Green Street. All meetings are listed in the Legislative Calendar and are open to observers.

Phase II will end with another all-day meeting at the Augusta Civic Center on Tuesday, February 28, 1995. If you have any questions, call Sally at 729-1778.

--Sally Bryant,
Chair, Health Care Committee



NEW "IMPACT ON ISSUES" AVAILABLE

The very useful, even essential, LWUS publication "IMPACT ON ISSUES--1994-96" is now available. Updated every two years, this publication sets forth, in detail, all national League positions on subjects that have been studied and on which a consensus has been taken.

To order: Send your check for \$8 (\$5 for Publication No. 386--title as above--\$3 for postage and handling) to: LWUS PUBLICATIONS, 1730 M St. NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036.

Why We Oppose Votes For Men

1.

Because man's place is in the army.

2.

Because no really manly man wants to settle any question otherwise than by fighting about it.

3.

Because if men should adopt peaceable methods women will no longer look up to them.

4.

Because men will lose their charm if they step out of their natural sphere and interest themselves in other matters than feats of arms, uniforms and drums.

5.

Because men are too emotional to vote. Their conduct at baseball games and political conventions shows this, while their innate tendency to appeal to force renders them particularly unfit for the task of government.

—Alice Duer Miller, 1915

*Alice Duer Miller, the American novelist and poet,
lived from 1874 to 1942.*



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With thanks to Jana LaPoint, who found this in another State League's bulletin.

"THE DECLINE OF CIVIC-MINDEDNESS"

"Unless more Americans start working with each other on shared civic enterprises, and learning to trust each other, the formal government of this nation will probably lurch from one credibility crisis to the next.

"The evidence of that crisis can be found in the language of politics today. The coarsening of the public debate damages the dialogue that ought to be the essence of democracy." (David Broder)

"Such networks of [private] attachments breed habits of trust that are part of the 'social capital' that makes possible cooperation for mutual benefits. Such cooperation sustains a free society. Social trust and civic engagement are strongly correlated. Therefore, given the decline of engagement, the following is not surprising: The percentage of Americans saying that most people are trustworthy fell by more than a third between 1960 and 1993." (George Will)

These two quotations are from newspaper columns commenting on an article in the January issue of The Journal of Democracy. Robert Putnam's article ("Bowling Alone") offers evidence of "declining civic engagement and social connectedness" in the United States, e.g.:

--A decline of more a third since 1973 of people who reported attending a public meeting on town or school affairs.

--A decline in participation in parent-teacher associations from 12 million in 1964 to 7 million today.

--A 42% decline in membership in the League of Women Voters since 1969 and 59% decline since 1964 in Federation of Women's Clubs.

--Volunteers for the Boy Scouts and Red Cross are off 26% and 61% respectively.

--Surveys show people finding fewer friendships among their close neighbors.

--Fewer Americans take time to vote.

Although membership in some organizations is up, they are mostly national organizations whose members have a "common agenda" (e.g., environmental protection or anti-gun control) but their members do not generally meet with each other to discuss issues and plan programs or strategies. "...but writing a check is no substitute for working through a problem with fellow citizens." (Broder)

WHY ? WHY ?

Among the reasons hypothesized for these discouraging changes in our society: More women are working, both men and women work longer hours; television; people are repelled by the crudity in politics.

Yet other factors seem to favor more civic-mindedness: Home ownership and residential stability are higher than in the 1950's; higher educational levels; greater proportion of the middle-aged in the total population.

IS THERE ANY HOPE?

Neither Broder nor Will offer suggestions for stopping the decline in civic participation and the concomitant resurrection of neighborliness and trust--except by implication--but the implication is clear: Join. Work together on common problems. And if you think there is a message there for the League--and another reason for encouraging more people to work with us--you're right!

If your newspaper did not publish the Will or Broder columns and you would like a copy, ask the editor. Address is in "Deadline" box on back page. They were in the Bangor Daily News of January 2 and 5.

CHANGE NOTICE -- STATE BOARD LIST

Please make the following changes to the list of State Officers and Directors published in the October 1994 VOTER, Page 3:

--ADD TO THE LIST OF DIRECTORS:

--Ruth Irwin 729-1413
RR 2, Box 200, S. Harpswell, Me 04079

Add the following Local League Presidents:

--Jana Lapoint (Portland Area League) 781-7472
32 Atlantic Drive, Scarborough, ME 04074
--Phyllis Charpentier (Mt. Desert Island League) 244-5212
Box 22, Mt. Desert, ME 04660
--Alvin Moss (Ellsworth MAL Unit) 422-3627
P.O. Box 305, Sorrento, ME 04677
--Co-Presidents, Brunswick Area League:
--JoAnn Withington 729-1351
13 Boody St., Brunswick ME 04011
--Sally W. Bryant 729-1778
18 Birch Meadow Road, Brunswick, ME 04011

--CHANGE Director for Publications Portfolio to: Alice Conkey
(Alice will continue to be Representative to WLAC, as listed)

MAINE'S BIRTHDAY, TOO

The State of Maine is "almost exactly" 100 years older than the League. Maine's birthdate is March 15, 1820--previously it was a part of Massachusetts. And, like "votes for women", its independence was not universally welcomed at the time!

BALLOT DECISIONS TO COME

Our November 1995 (or subsequent) ballots may contain several citizen initiative questions that are not receiving the attention of the anti-gay rights question which will be on this year's ballot:

-- 100% State Funding of Education

"Do you want to change Maine law to stop using local property taxes to fund education and, instead, pay 100 percent of the cost through other State taxes and fees?"

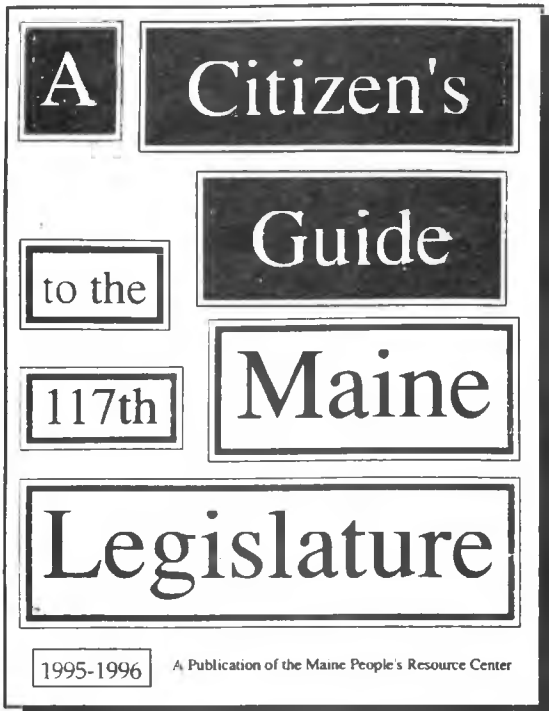
-- Wildlife Lottery

"Do you want to provide additional funding for wildlife and natural resources by creating a new State lottery game?"

-- 1% Property Tax Cap

"Do you want to change Maine law to limit property taxes to 1% of the full cash value of the property?"

(Editor's Note: This must have been proposed before the problems resulting from California's tax cap enacted by popular vote some years ago (the famous "Proposition 137 (or was it 187?) became national knowledge. The bankruptcy of Orange County and its satellite communities and governmental bodies is only the most highly publicized result of the taxpayer attitude: "Don't tell me what will happen 'if'--just keep a cap on my taxes.")



The Maine People's Resource Center (MPRC) has published **A Citizen's Guide to the Maine Legislature** every two years since 1985. The purpose of the **Guide** is to demystify Maine's legislative process and help citizen's participate more effectively in their own governance. By providing clear and accurate information about state government, how it works and how to work with it, the **Guide** helps citizen's keep their elected representatives accountable and in touch with the needs of the public.

The prominent features of the **Citizen's Guide** are detailed, objective profiles of Maine's governor, state senators, representatives and constitutional officers. These profiles provide employment and educational backgrounds, past political experience and accomplishments, ratings from seven diverse organizations, the amount of money spent on campaigns, and a general sense of who these people are and where they stand on issues. The **Guide** also includes extensive information about the structure and workings of state government itself.

This 120 page Citizen's Guide is an invaluable tool for anyone interested in or involved with Maine's legislative process.

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- ratings from seven diverse organizations
- endorsements
- election results
- campaign expenditures
- legislative addresses and phone numbers
- committee assignments
- how the legislature is organized
- how an idea becomes law
- tips for the citizen lobbyist
- a listing of citizen groups from all across Maine

Order Yours Today!

The Maine People's Resource Center is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1984 and dedicated to providing systematic research and educational services to the people of Maine. **For more information about MPRC, call (207) 761-1881 or write: 65 West Commercial Street, Portland, ME 04101**

Thank you for purchasing our **Guide**. We think this edition is our best yet. We hope you agree. We encourage you to use the **Guide** and share it with your friends, neighbors and co-workers. You may fax your order to us at (207) 761-1863. If you have any questions or comments, please call us at (207) 761-1881 or write to us at 65 West Commercial Street, Portland, ME 04101.

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**YOUR SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED
FOR
1995-97 STATE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

At our state convention in early May a slate of State Board officers and directors will be presented for election to two-year terms. To expedite matters, your Nominating Committee would appreciate suggestions. Please contact Nellik Doble (359-4433) or any other Nominating Committee member--sooner rather than later.

Alice Conkey	(729-5289)	Jane Saxl	(945-5786)
Ruth Irwin	(729-1413)	Marlee Turner	(655-7624)
Ruth Moss	(422-3627)	Nellik Doble,	(359-4433)
		CHAIR	



MEMBERSHIP -- WAY TO GROW

Would you be surprised to learn that many people who are aware of the League but who are not members often say that no one has asked them to join! So you can help the League increase its membership simply by reaching out and inviting friends, neighbors and spouses to join.

We hope to show that during our 75th Anniversary in 1995 our membership will increase substantially and more Mainers will recognize the important role of the League in educating and advocating on issues that truly are a public service. As an organization we recognize that "DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT."

We are pleased to welcome the following members who joined as Members-at-Large (MALs) in 1994:

Jean Chalmers - Rockland
Peter Enggass - Spruce Head
Elaine Fuller - Manchester
Eleanor Graf - Machias
Heather Jacobson - Bangor
Robert Lynn - Leeds/Portland
Rachel Mathews - Unity
Rowena Parent - Leeds
Neil & Carla Rolde - York
Caroll Pearson - Surry
Susan Scholz - Kennebunk

Tom Schroth - Sedgwick
Mary Stevens - Kennebunk

and those who joined via the
League of Women Voters U.S.

Evelyn Johnson - Camden
Henrietta Moore - East Orland
Marcia Rust - Pembroke
Henry Thacher - Hallowell
Carol Wall - Orono

-- MARION HOLSHOUSER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

(NOTE: This list is positioned on the reverse of the address block so that you can clip it for insertion in your State Membership Directory without losing any of the substantive material in this VOTER.)

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