

MLF NEWSLETTER - 5/10/77 - Bangor

ATTENTION! * * * IMPORTANT! * * * ATTENTION! * * * IMPORTANT! * * * ATTENTION!

The legislative hearing for LD 1419--the bill to amend the MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT to extend legal protection against discrimination in the areas of employment, credit, housing, and public accomodation to people regardless of sexual or affectional preference--is scheduled for:

TUESDAY, MAY 17

1:30 P. M.

ROOM 114

STATE OFFICE BUILDING, AUGUSTA

It is VITAL that as many of us as possible are there. Organized church groups are expected to show up full force to oppose the bill, and WE MUST OUT-NUMBER THEM! So call your friends, arrange car pools, call in sick, and head for Augusta.

At the last MLF gathering, the group decided not to have an official MLF statement read at the hearing, but rather for several of us to give personal statements and to identify ourselves as members of MLF. So--if YOU can possibly testify, please do. The kind of testimony that is needed is personal statements of specific ways people have been discriminated against because of being gay or ways in which one's life is restricted because she can't be open about being gay. However, a simple statement, "I believe gay people should have full equal rights," is helpful testimony, too. Those who won't be able to verbally testify can submit a written statement. The more statements, the better. Also, phone, and/or write your legislator, NOW, if you have not yet done so.

If you are planning to attend the hearing, it is important to arrive no later than noon--we must pack the room before the homophobes do. Connie Huntley is coordinating speakers, so please notify her as early as possible if you plan to speak. She may also be able to help with arranging rides from various areas. Connie may be reached days at 622-3181 by calling and leaving a message for a return call or evenings at 582-1618. If you need help preparing a statement, call the Maine Gay Task Force, 773-5530. One last note: come prepared to stay awhile; it is possible for the hearings to go on into the evening.

Because we no longer have free mailing services, THIS WILL BE THE LAST FREE MAILING OF THE MLF NEWSLETTER. The subscription fee will be \$5.00/ year for those who can afford it. We hope donations will cover the cost for those who can't. Please fill out the form below and mail it to Diana Fish, Rt. 1, Box 18, Orrington, Maine, 04474. Change of address requests can also be sent to that address. Please DO NOT send mail to "MLF c/o Student Government Office. . .", etc., because such mail is opened by the secretary and is difficult to explain to the new UMO administration.

International Women's Year that are being held in Maine. We must make sure there is a strong lesbian presence. If you don't know when the meetings are in your area, contact the Maine Commission on Women, State House, Augusta, 289-3417. Meetings are being held on May 7, 14 and 21.

On August 26th, Willie Tyson's new album will be released by Wise Women Enterprises at the laundromat in Upstate New York, the site of the Seneca Falls Conference. (Gee, Maybe the MLF can rent a bus and we can all go.)

Communications Committee Meeting-Sunday, May 22nd at 1 pm at Nan's house in Topsham. 17 Perkins St. 225-2519 for directions.

We hope everyone managed to watch our very own Marjorie Meyer on Channel 10's Maine Medical Call-Thursdays, April 28th. She and Peter Pitzer tieded call-in questions and did a fine job of explaining the gay world to a vast television audience.

Many thanks Marjorie - you looked great.

The Portland Evening Express will be running a feature story on the Maine Lesbian Feminists in its Living Section this week (probably Friday, May 13th) Watch for it on the newstand. Speaking of papers, look at the Maine Land Advocate-May/June 1977. It is a special issue on women on the land. It features an article about Pat and Kathy, Ellie and Barbara and what they have done on their lands.

Meeting to organize a women's center in Waldo County will be held at Paullette Dodge's apt in Belfast. Call Lise at 589-4159 for information - Tuesday May 17th at 6 pm.

Don't miss Women's Night at Flo's (Route 3) in Augusta. It feels really good to have a women's bar in Maine, if only for one nite a month. Next one is Wednesday, June 8th. See you there.

White Roots of Peace, a traditional Native American group touring the country to educate people about Native American culture and politics, will be at University of Maine at Portland-Gorham on May 13 and 14. Women from this group and from the Penobscot Nation will be speaking on Native American women's culture, including her role in the family, as healer and as respected decision maker. Come hear these Native American Women speak - Friday - May 13th at 2:30 pm - Payson Smith Hall-Rm. 206 Univ. of Maine Portland-Gorham

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minutes of MLF Meeting-April 16th, 1977

Communications Committee Report

Lise gave a report on the CC meeting of March 13th. A discussion on leadership took place-how it does exist, how it happens, etc. There was talk of holding a workshop at some time in the future on developing and being spokeswomen and on leadership. Communication is a class issue.

The Newsletter was discussed. The CC outlined the three aspects of the newsletter: 1) gather material. 2) printing; and 3) mailing. Ideas were set forth as to how to get the newsletter out. It was decided that there would be a committee that would rotate geographically and the first would make up an instruction booklet. The Bangor area would be the first group in the rotation. Each group will do the newsletter for four months (i.e., two statewide meetings and 4 newsletters.) We decided to have a subscription fee for the newsletter since we no longer have free mailing services. The subscription fee will be \$5/yr for those who can afford it.

ATTENTION

Next MLF meeting: June 19th at Bar Harbor. Many of us will be attending the statewide IWY (International Women's Year) meeting on June 18th at Husson College in Bangor. If you would like to attend both meetings, try to make plans to stay over in the Bangor-Bar Harbor area. Those of us around there will do our best to put you all up.