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Summer 2006

Equality News (Summer 2006)

Matthew R. Dubois

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Summer 2006

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Journey for Full Equality Begins Now

For the past 28 years, EqualityMaine invested heavily in securing non-discrimination protections for LGBT people. Maine voters finally delivered those protections at the ballot box on November 8, 2005.

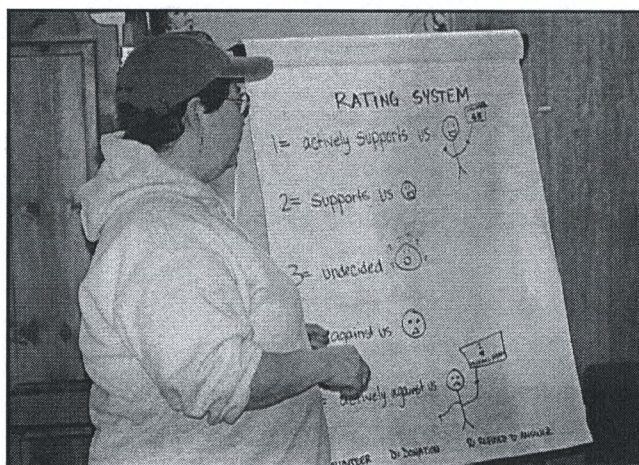
On November 9, EqualityMaine went back to work to begin investing heavily in full equality. With no LGBT legislation or referenda in 2006, we have had a unique opportunity to think critically about how to invest our time and resources over the next 3-5 years. We determined that a long-term effort to achieve full equality begins with a short-term plan of building a strong and solid foundation.

Looking ahead, the conservative right will undoubtedly continue their attacks on the LGBT community. While they may have been stung by their defeat in 2005 our opponents, both locally *and* nationally, are energized like never before. The pendulum is swinging our way and our opponents are well aware that time is not on their side. To turn back the clocks on LGBT equality, they know they must do it now.

It is almost certain that in the 07-08 legislative session we will see another attempt to amend Maine's constitution to deny marriage equality to same-sex couples. We've defeated this amendment twice before, but this time may be different. With the non-discrimination law now safely on the books and out of their reach, our opponents will ratchet up their efforts to pass this anti-family, anti-equality amendment. They'll undoubtedly find friends where on non-discrimination legislation they found foes. That is, unless we out-organize and out-educate them on the importance of full equality. We need to become as energized about full equality as our opponents are about denying us full equality.

In order to secure full equality, including the right to marry, we'll have to

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EqualityMaine volunteer leader Niki Norman leads a training on door-to-door canvassing. Volunteers recently canvassed in South Portland on full equality for LGBT families. Over 53% of voters they spoke with support full marriage rights for lesbian and gay couples.

EqualityMaine

EqualityMaine works to secure full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Maine through political action, education, and collaboration.

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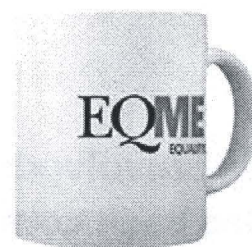
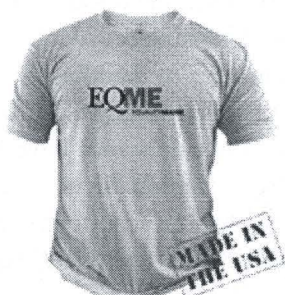
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EqualityMaine Board Approves Strategic Plan



EqualityMaine's Board of Directors approved an updated strategic plan for the organization at their quarterly board meeting in April. Chair of the strategic planning committee, Shannon Banks (R in photo to left), presents the plan to the board, while board member Vickey Zavasnik looks on.

The plan generated lively discussion about the organization's strategic objectives in working for full equality.

In photo below, board member Dan Crewe gives his feedback on the plan, while program director Darlene Huntress (L) and vice-president Barb Wood listen. Every board member weighed in and the plan received unanimous approval. •



Enforcing Maine's Non-Discrimination Law

Maine has torn down two of three barriers in providing non-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The first was getting a non-discrimination bill passed through the Maine Legislature, which we did with strong margins in both chambers. Governor Baldacci signed the bill on March 31, 2005.

The second barrier was upholding the law when it went to voters as a People's Veto referendum question on November 8, 2005. By a margin of 55 to 45 percent, Mainers voted to keep the law on the books. (After 28 years, the law finally went into effect on December 28.)

Having passed and upheld a non-discrimination law should guarantee that LGBT people are now secure in their workplaces, housing, educational settings and in public accommodations. However, there is a third barrier that must be addressed before LGBT people are truly secure—ensuring that the law is enforced and if it isn't, that LGBT people have appropriate recourse.

EqualityMaine, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), and the Maine Civil Liberties Union are teaming up to monitor the enforcement of the new law. The first step in enforcing the law is ensuring that employers, property and public accommodation managers, bankers, educational administrators and others affected understand the law, what it requires, and their responsibility to abide by it. This is being done through training. Pat Peard, in her position as employment law attorney for Bernstein, Shur in Portland, has developed training materials on the new law and has conducted training for many of their clients. Other law firms are doing the same.

One of the challenges for employers has been understanding the terms "gender identity and gender expression" and what will be required of them to abide by this part of the law. Gender identity and gender expression are terms that people, some in our own community, are only slowly coming to understand. Therefore, trainers must be

especially knowledgeable in this area in order to clarify the information.

Employers, as an example, are not required to provide separate bathrooms for transitioning employees, but rather should allow employees to use the bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity (gender identity refers to one's self-identification as a man or woman, as opposed to one's anatomical sex at birth, whereas gender expression refers to how society views and interprets one's gender identity). This policy is easier to enforce when all bathrooms have stalls that lock, allowing employees privacy. Employers can also provide gender-neutral bathrooms as long as they are not in isolated places in the company, for safety reasons, and are within a comfortable walking distance from working areas.

The second step in enforcing the law is to ensure that the Maine Human Rights Commission is equipped to deal with complaints about LGBT discrimination. Patricia Ryan, executive director of the Maine Human Rights Commission, is a long-time supporter of the non-discrimination law and her staff is trained on the new law and specifically on gender identity and gender expression. Last December, they were preparing to issue regulations and guidelines on the new law. Provided they are not understaffed, LGBT people can be assured that when filing a complaint of discrimination at the Maine Human Rights Commission, they will receive the best of care.

Another step we will take is ensuring that LGBT people ourselves understand the law and that we know what to do if we are discriminated against. There are two general scenarios and each scenario requires a different process. Regardless of the scenario, please contact EqualityMaine to share your circumstances. It is essential that we continue collecting information about discrimination. We can be contacted at 207-761-3732, or info@equality-maine.org.

The first scenario is if the discrimination has already

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Massachusetts Supreme Court: No to Out-of-State Couples

On March 30, 2006, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts (SJC) issued a complex decision in its ruling on the antiquated 1913 law that prevented out-of-state same-sex couples from marrying in Massachusetts. In *Cote-Whitacre v. Department of Public Health, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)* challenged the state's restrictions on marriages of out-of-state same-sex couples.

Despite agreeing with GLAD that the 1913 law was being used in a blatantly discriminatory fashion, the SJC ruled that it was constitutional. They further stated that if the law in the couple's home state is silent on the issue of same-sex couples marrying, then the issue will go to state Superior Court. This applies to the states of Rhode Island and New York. If at Superior Court it is determined that marriage between same-sex couples is not expressly prohibited in the couple's home state by a constitutional amendment, statute, or controlling appellate opinion, they will then be able to marry in Massachusetts. If a state limits marriage, the couple may not marry in Massachusetts.

GLAD now has the opportunity to show that couples from some states may legally marry in Massachusetts. To meet the SJC's eligibility test for an out-of-state couple, GLAD must prove that there is nothing in the couple's home state's statutes, constitution, or controlling appellate decisions that expressly forbids the marriages of same-sex couples entered there. If these sources of law in the home state do not expressly ban the marriage of same-sex couples there, then Massachusetts must allow otherwise qualified same-sex couples from that state to marry in Massachusetts.

The SJC singled out New York and Rhode Island as two states whose couples may be able to meet the court's new test. GLAD will be going back to court on

behalf of couples from those two states to prove that they are fully qualified to marry in Massachusetts. The ongoing court proceedings will ultimately clarify whether New York and Rhode Island same-sex couples may marry in Massachusetts (as well as the status of any already-entered Massachusetts marriage by a same-sex couples from those states). GLAD is continuing to evaluate the decision to determine whether couples from some other states will be able to meet that eligibility test as well.

It is still the case that out-of-state couples who can truthfully state that they have a present intent to reside in Massachusetts may marry in Massachusetts. (See GLAD's Publication, "How to Marry in Massachusetts," for a more detailed discussion of this intent requirement and the dangers associated with making a false statement on a marriage license application). Unfortunately, until the Commonwealth changes its rules or a Massachusetts court makes a final ruling on the matter, all out-of-state same-sex couples who do not intend to move to Massachusetts will continue to be denied marriage licenses in Massachusetts.

GLAD is still reviewing the SJC's decision to determine what it means for out-of-state couples who have already married in Massachusetts (and did not indicate an intent to reside in Massachusetts). It is likely that the ultimate status of an already-completed marriage will depend on the laws of the couples' respective home states. GLAD will continue to work to bring greater clarity to the questions surrounding the status of already-entered marriages of out-of-state same-sex couples, and we recommend that you revisit GLAD's website for regular updates, or call GLAD's Legal Information Hotline at (800) 455-GLAD. •

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Journey for Full Equality Begins Now

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change a lot of hearts and minds. The most effective way to change hearts and minds is by having honest conversations about our lives as LGBT people and families. These conversations begin with our extended families and our friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

EqualityMaine and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) have begun a series of trainings on how to facilitate conversations on why LGBT families are harmed by not having the right to marry. EqualityMaine volunteers will facilitate these conversations at house parties, progressive events, and places where like-minded people gather, as well as with our coalition partners. We will use these conversations to educate, identify supporters, grow our base, and increase our political power in Maine.

Beginning in June, EqualityMaine kicks off a series of summer and fall house parties across the state, as a way to educate our own community and build broader support for marriage equality among our allies. We are seeking volunteers now to host these parties. To make hosting a house party fun and easy, we will provide staff support and a packet of instructions.



Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry and author of "Why Marriage Matters" and Mary Bonauto, GLAD's civil rights project director, co-facilitated a training for EqualityMaine and other coalition partners on talking about marriage.

House parties, in addition to being an excellent vehicle to educate and build support for LGBT issues, also provide opportunities for people to get involved. So many people want to be part of our community's movement for full equality—especially as they see state after state providing more rights to LGBT families—but they don't have an entry point. EqualityMaine will provide a speaker for every house party across the state and will encourage people to get involved now, so we'll be ready for whatever comes our way on this journey.

Coalition partners have been an integral part of our community's journey to secure non-discrimination protections. There is no reason to believe that their participation will be any less integral, nor their commitment any less solid, in our journey to achieve full equality for our families. Conversations and collaboration with progressive coalition partners is a major priority for us this year and into the future, and are currently underway.

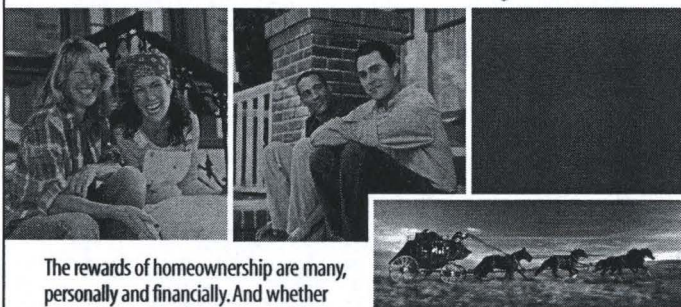
Another way to change hearts and minds is through public education, which is a major part of our work in 2006. EqualityMaine and GLAD have already begun a public education campaign defining the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage as a problem, and this campaign will build over the next 3-5 years. Among other things, this involves training key allies, developing and disseminating information and talking points, and making our families more visible in the media. A feature story about a lesbian couple and their daughter, which ran on

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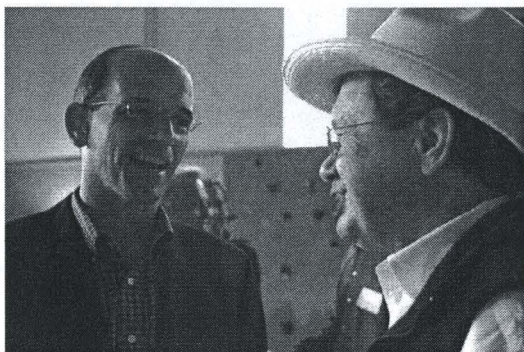


EqualityMaine PAC hosts fundraiser for Governor Baldacci

On May 14, EqualityMaine Political Action Committee hosted a fundraiser to support the re-election campaign of Governor John Baldacci. Headlining the event was author and syndicated columnist Jim Hightower, a “popular populist” from Texas.

Special thanks to the Host Committee for their gen-

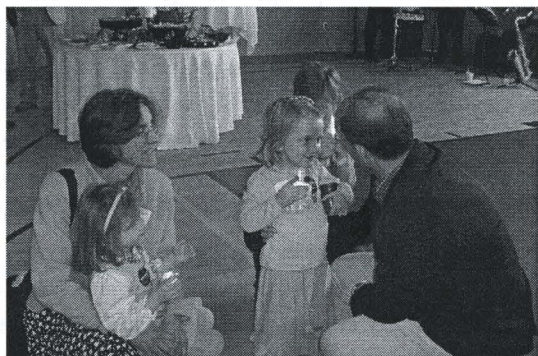
erous donations to the governor’s campaign, to Black Tie Catering for the outstanding food, and to the planning committee for all their hard work—Matt Dubois, Dan Crewe, Ellis Woodward, Cele Burnett, John Hennessy, Rodney Mondor, Beth Dobson, Phoebe Newman, and Jesse Connolly.



Governor Baldacci (L) and Jim Hightower



Host committee member Beth Dobson and her daughter (who filled in for her host committee father Paul Driscoll)

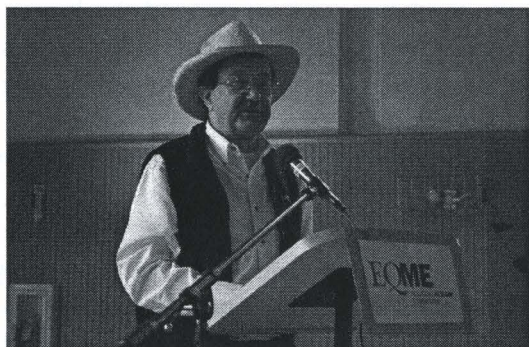


Sarah Bonauto-Wriggins (center) talks with Governor Baldacci as sister Jean and mothers Jenny Wriggins (L) and Mary Bonauto (behind) look on.

**Photos by
Michael Barriault**



Debbie Elliot, candidate for state representative from Falmouth and host committee member Dan Crewe



“America’s #1 populist” Jim Hightower



Host committee and EqualityMaine board member Ellis Woodward talks with Mercedes Marino (L) from the governor’s campaign.

Enforcing Maine's Non-Discrimination Law

Continued from page 3

taken place and you are no longer associated with the institution that discriminated against you. For example, you are fired from your job, evicted from your apartment, or denied a bank loan. In this scenario, first contact EqualityMaine so that we can archive this very important information. Then contact Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), who will give you legal information about your options and available resources. Then contact the Maine Human Rights Commission to file a formal complaint of discrimination.

GLAD is the leading legal rights organization in New England and their legal information hotline is open every weekday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. GLAD provides legal information (not legal advice) and will consider whether your discrimination claim is a good case to litigate. This determination takes about 2-4 weeks. Not all cases go to court and GLAD chooses its cases strategically to bring about changes in the law. If GLAD does not take on your case, they have an extensive network of lawyers in Maine to whom they refer people. A lawyer in Maine could very well take your case to court.

The second scenario is if you are being discriminated against and you are still associated with the institution

that is doing the discrimination. For example, you are being harassed or threatened in your workplace. This kind of discrimination may require crisis intervention. In this scenario, first contact EqualityMaine and then contact GLAD and ask for a referral of a Maine lawyer. These lawyers understand LGBT issues and have agreed to work with LGBT Mainers. These are the lawyers from whom you will receive legal advice, including how to navigate through a case of harassment. GLAD does not do crisis intervention but they are a wealth of information and can steer you in the best direction.

Contact information:

EqualityMaine:

207-761-3732, info@equalitymaine.org
www.equalitymaine.org

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders:

800-455-4523
http://me.glad.org/Hotline/contact_the_hotline.php

Maine Human Rights Commission:

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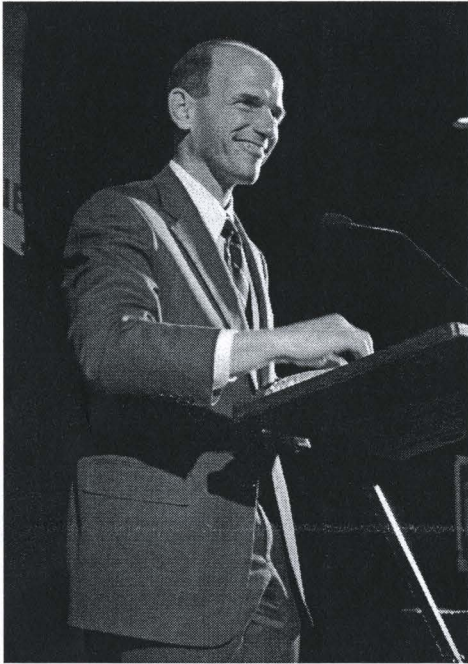
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EqualityMaine Foundation 22nd Annual Awards Banquet

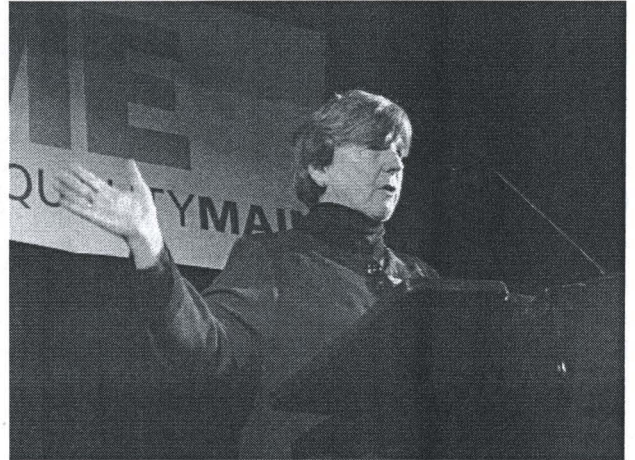
On March 18, nearly 600 people gathered at Equality Maine Foundation's annual banquet to celebrate Maine's 28-year journey to pass and uphold non-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The program, titled "From the State House to the Ballot Box," included recognition of the many people instrumental in this successful journey.

In addition, awards were presented: The Great Pioneer Award (*for achievement that embodies bold new vision*) to Gover-

nor John Baldacci, the Larry Connolly Award (*for legislative leadership*) to Senator Karl Turner, the Bayard Rustin Award (*for collaborative movement building*) to Rachel Talbot-Ross, the Lifetime Achievement Award to Pat Peard, the Cameron Duncan Award (*for service in HIV/AIDS community*) to Jensen Steel, and Out Front Awards (*for outstanding volunteer leadership*) to Jim Bishop, Jenn Curran, Sarah Demarest, Kevin Gilgin, Pam McCann, Gerald Michaud, Niki Norman, and Steve Ryan. •

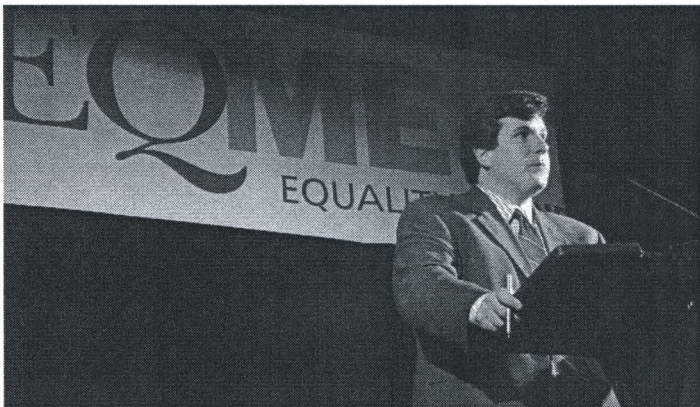


It was a happy night as Governor John Baldacci delivers his acceptance speech for the Great Pioneer Award. He is the only governor of Maine to ever introduce a non-discrimination bill protecting LGBT people.



Pat Peard, recipient of EqualityMaine's Lifetime Achievement Award, will go down in history for the announcement she made at the podium on election night 2005: "After 28 years, it's over you guys, we won!!"

**Photos by
Mea Tavares**



Jesse Connolly, son of the late Larry Connolly and manager of the 2005 Maine Won't Discriminate campaign, presented the Larry Connolly Award for legislative leadership to Senator Karl Turner (R-Cumberland).



EqualityMaine presented the Bayard Rustin Award for collaborative movement building to Rachel Talbot-Ross, president of NAACP-Portland branch.

EqualityMaine Foundation 22nd Annual Awards Banquet

Thanks to everyone for an incredibly successful celebration on March 18. With your support, we raised \$25,000 at the banquet and almost \$5,000 at the silent auction to benefit EqualityMaine Foundation! **Special thanks to our banquet sponsors and everyone who donated to the silent auction.**

Thanks also to our super banquet and auction volunteers: Cecelia Burnett (banquet chair), Sarah Demarest (auction chair), Karen D'Andrea, Jeanie Bourke, Matt Dubois, Sylvia Edwards, Deniz Egilmez, Sherry Flagg, Meg Helming, Rodney Mondor, Alice Morris, Kate Quin-East-er, and Paige Shepard.

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EqualityMaine Annual Report – 2005

The Non-Discrimination Law:

After 28 years, we finally secured non-discrimination protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Maine in the areas of jobs, housing, education, credit and public accommodations. The journey that began with Representative Larry Connolly and Representative Gerald Talbot in 1977 in the Maine Legislature finally came to closure on November 8, 2005 when voters solidly rejected an attempt to veto a non-discrimination bill passed earlier in the year.

Governor John Baldacci introduced LD 1196, the non-discrimination bill, in February 2005 and Senator Karl Turner (R-Cumberland) sponsored it. With the combined efforts of the governor, Senator Turner, legislative leaders, our lobbyists, and EqualityMaine staff and volunteers, we passed the bill by strong margins in both chambers. The final vote in the House was 91-58 and in the Senate was 25-10.

It was EqualityMaine's Legislative Action 05 committee—made up of Pat Peard, Mary Bonauto, Brenda Buchanan, Matthew Dubois, and Betsy Smith—that proposed the non-discrimination bill do two very important things. 1) It banned discrimination in every area cited in the Maine Human Rights Act. That meant that “education” was part of this bill, whereas in the past it had not been, and 2) it included gender identity and expression as a protected class. Of the 16 states that have a non-discrimination law, Maine is one of seven to make gender identity and gender expression a protected class.



Some of EqualityMaine's long-time legislative friends enjoy a moment at the signing of LD 1196 in March 2005. From L to R: Honorable Dale McCormick, Sen. Scott Cowger, Rep. Nancy Sullivan, House Majority Leader Glenn Cummings, Senate President Beth Edmunds, Sen. Dana Dow (partially hidden), sponsor of the bill Senator Karl Turner, and Rep. Ross Paradis.

EqualityMaine volunteers were instrumental in passing LD 1196. Volunteers generated over 1,000 letters to legislators, spoke face-to-face with over 100 legislators during two days of citizen lobbying, made dozens of phone calls in the final hours leading up to a vote on whether to send the bill to referendum, and spent hours discussing the issue of discrimination with their own legislators.

No sooner had the governor signed the non-discrimination bill into law than Michael Heath and Paul Madore of the newly formed Coalition for Marriage announced they would gather signatures for a People's Veto. This came as no surprise. It's why EqualityMaine and other LGBT political leaders had begun planning a campaign several months earlier.

EqualityMaine played a major role in designing Maine Won't Discriminate's structure and forming its Steering Committee. On the day the People's Veto was announced, Maine Won't Discriminate began implementing what it hoped would be its final campaign to uphold the non-discrimination law. The Steering Committee hired Jesse Connolly (a Maine Democratic Party activist and son of the late Representative Larry Connolly) to be the campaign manager and retained Ted O'Meara (former chair of the Maine Republican Party) as a campaign consultant.

No matter how hard they tried, our opponents could not convince a majority of voters that the law was about marriage or that marriage would be a bad thing for Maine. Credit goes to Maine Won't Discriminate for keeping the focus on what the law was really about—discrimination in jobs, housing, education, and credit. Some people in our own ranks felt that if we could simply convince voters that the law was not about marriage, then we would get their vote. As difficult as it was to not engage in discussions about the merits of marriage, the campaign's message had to be *what the law did* and not *what the law did not do*. By election day, 55 percent of voters knew what the non-discrimination law did and voted to provide these protections to LGBT people.

Another significant element of the campaign was the massive amount of voter contact. Maine Won't Discriminate mounted an aggressive voter identification and Get-Out-The-Vote effort in nearly every county across the state. In a campaign where very few voters did not know how they would vote on this question, it was

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EqualityMaine Annual Report — 2005

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Maine Won't Discriminate's job to find its supporters and get them out to vote. This was done through neighborhood events, phonebanking, and walking door-to-door. On election day alone, there were over 1,000 volunteers getting voters out to vote NO on 1.

Many campaign volunteer leaders had been recruited and trained through EqualityMaine's voter ID project, which identified 10,000 pro-equality voters in the year leading up to the campaign. Our voter ID project was funded by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Maine Initiatives, and the Gill Foundation and was created specifically to build political support in preparation for this referendum campaign. EqualityMaine is proud that as a coalition member of Maine Won't Discriminate, we ran a 4-night-a-week field phonebank out of the EqualityMaine office from mid-summer to election day. Hundreds of volunteers cycled through EqualityMaine as first-time callers, ongoing callers, and then phonebank leaders.

Other Legislative Priorities:

LD 1294, which was soundly defeated, was an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to define marriage, sponsored by Rep. Brian Duprey (R-Hampden). The bill would have amended Maine's constitution to define marriage as one man and one woman, but would have had far reaching consequences for domestic partners. It is assumed that it would have voided all domestic partner benefits, including inheritance and funeral/burial rights now provided through Maine's domestic partner registry and domestic partner health insurance policies.

LD 908, "An Act to Protect Homosexuals from Discrimination," sponsored by Rep. Brian Duprey (R-Hampden), would have done no such thing. This was an anti-choice abortion bill designed to drive a wedge between groups that have always worked together to protect and defend a woman's right to choose and eliminate discrimination against LGBT people. The bill stated that if a fetus was determined to have a "gay gene" (which doesn't even exist), then it would be illegal to abort it. EqualityMaine supports a woman's right to make her own reproductive decisions. The bill was reported out of Judiciary Committee with a unanimous Ought Not to Pass. It never even made to the floor for debate.

Both bills were soundly defeated.

EqualityMaine Board of Directors:

In the fall of 2005, Rodney Mondor stepped down as president of the Board of Directors and Matthew Dubois was elected president. Matt is a partner in the law firm of Vogel and Dubois and brings extensive board and political experience with him to the position of president. During the effort to pass the non-discrimination bill in the legislature, Matt was a member of EqualityMaine Legislative Action 05. Matt lives in Scarborough with his partner David.

Long-time LGBT activist Barb Wood was elected to her second year as vice-president of EqualityMaine. CPA Fay Brodell, who recently moved to Maine from Virginia, was elected treasurer and Shannon Banks, vice-president of medical affairs at Central Maine Medical Center was elected secretary. Shannon also chairs the strategic planning committee.

Kimm Collins was elected chair of the legislative committee and Ellis Woodward was elected chair of the newly formed governance committee. Board members Dan Crewe and Barb Wood were EqualityMaine's representatives on the Maine Won't Discriminate Steering Committee. Also on the board in 2005 were Rodney Mondor, former president and banquet multi-media extraordinaire, and Vickey Zavasnik, Licensed Counselor and founder of Rainbow Business and Professional Association. Elected to the board in 2006 were Dottie Melanson, former chair of the Maine Democratic Party and former chair of EqualityMaine's legislative committee and Cecelia Burnett, chair of EqualityMaine's event committee.

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Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarship:

In 2005, EqualityMaine named Tracie Towe from Mt. Ararat High School and Colin Stone from Camden Hills Regional High School winners of the Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarship competition. The scholarship is named in honor of the late Senator Joel Abromson, a long-time advocate for equality in Maine.

Tracie and Colin each received \$1,000 from EqualityMaine to further their education and recognize their commitment to equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. To read Tracie's and Colin's essays, go to www.equalitymaine.org and click on scholarships. You'll also find previous years' winning essays.

Since 1992, EqualityMaine has given more than \$19,000 in scholarships to young champions of equality. The scholarship contest is open to all high school seniors in the state of Maine who have been accepted to an institution of higher learning. For more information or to make a contribution to the Senator Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact EqualityMaine at (207) 761-3732 or email info@equalitymaine.org. •

Show Your Colors

Advertise in the EqualityMaine newsletter and reach more than 1,400 supporters across the state. Your business matters to our members—support equality and show your commitment to our community!

\$250 Full page (vertical) 7.5" w x 10" h
\$150 Half page (horizontal)..... 7.5" w x 4.75" h
\$150 Half page (vertical) 3.5" w x 10" h
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\$ 40 Business card (horizontal)..... 3.5" w x 2.125" h

Advertise annually (4 issues per year) and receive a 20% discount (full payment required with first publication).

For more information or to reserve a space in the next newsletter, contact Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 or quineast@equalitymaine.org.

...Put Your Ad Here!

Annual Financial Report

Fiscal Year:

October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005

Note: During the Maine Won't Discriminate campaign in 2005, we ceased fundraising for EqualityMaine for several months.

EqualityMaine Foundation

Income

	Amount	Percent
Donations	\$ 21,578	14%
Event Revenue	\$ 32,658	20%
Grants	\$ 73,519	46%
Other Revenue	\$ 32,880	20%

Total Income **\$160,635** 100%

Expenses

Program	\$123,566	75%
Operating	\$ 32,879	20%
Development	\$ 8,216	5%

Total expenses **\$164,661** 100%

Net Income \$ (4,026)

EqualityMaine

Income

Donations	\$24,265	65%
Event Revenue	\$12,050	32%
Other Revenue	\$ 1,000	3%

Total Income **\$37,315** 100%

Expenses

Program	\$29,388	78%
Operating	\$ 7,269	19%
Development	\$ 1,081	3%

Total expenses **\$37,738** 100%

Net Income \$ (423)

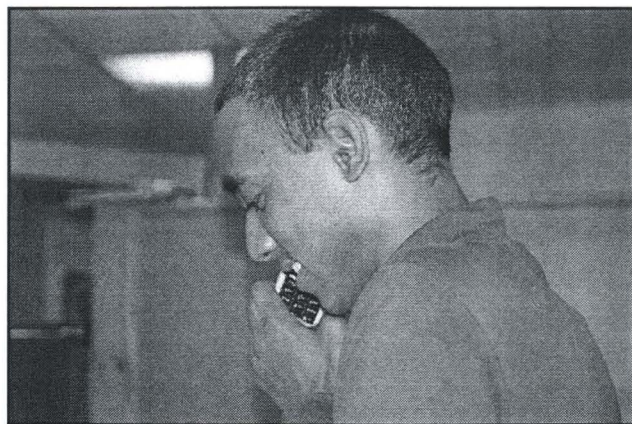
Journey for Full Equality Begins Now

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Mother's Day in the Maine Sunday Telegram, is the kind of story about LGBT families that we will run in many Maine newspapers over the next several years. If you are interested in telling your story to Maine people, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are actively seeking the stories of LGBT couples and families in Maine because we know that featuring these stories in public venues is a successful strategy for changing hearts and minds.

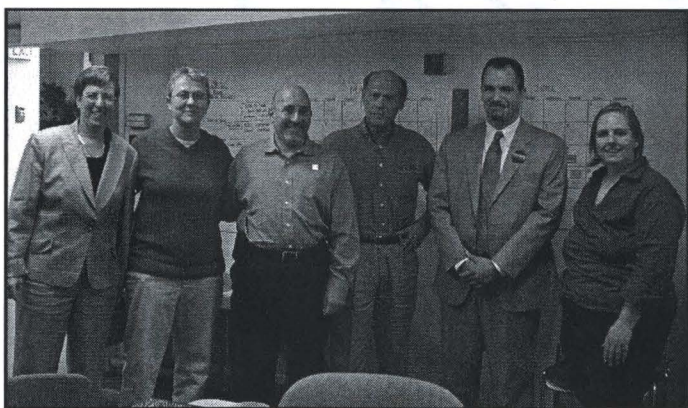
Finally, as we look toward the 2006 elections in November, we know that Maine's pro-equality majority hangs in the balance. Some anticipate an uphill battle for Governor Baldacci in his campaign for re-election, and a shift of just one seat in the Maine House or two seats in the Maine Senate could reverse our pro-equality majority. It is essential then, that we all work to elect leaders to the Maine Legislature who are not afraid to stand up and fight for full equality, including the right to marry. EqualityMaine is organizing in several targeted legislative districts, through on-the-ground campaign tactics such as voter ID and voter GOTV, in order to elect/re-elect pro-equality candidates and legislators.

With the NO on 1 campaign proudly behind us and everyone well rested, please join us as we embark on this exhilarating new journey. Volunteering now for Equality



Andrew Jones, director of the new Proud Rainbow Youth of Southern Maine (provides some of the services of former Outright Portland), phonebanks to recruit volunteers for EqualityMaine's 2006 field campaign.

Maine ensures you are involved at the most exciting time in our movement's history as we take the next critical steps toward full equality. To volunteer, please contact Darlene Huntress at 207-761-0110, or email her at dhuntress@equalitymaine.org. Or join our action alert network at www.equalitymaine.org and click on Action Alerts. •



Evan Wolfson (center L) from Freedom to Marry and Chuck Shuford (center R) from the Proteus Fund met with Equality Maine in May to explore a potential partnership through the Civil Marriage Collaborative. From left, EqualityMaine executive director Betsy Smith, program director Darlene Huntress, Evan Wolfson, Chuck Shuford, board president Matt Dubois, and development director Erica Quin-Easter.

Leave a Legacy of Equality

When you make or update your will, consider including EqualityMaine Foundation in your planning.

We'll carry on your commitment to equality for years to come.

For more information on making a bequest or other planned gift to EqualityMaine Foundation, contact Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 or quineast@equalitymaine.org.

If you've included EqualityMaine Foundation in your will, we'd like to know so we can say thanks.



☐ YES! I have included EqualityMaine in my will.

Name _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Southern Maine Pride 2006 “...reaching new horizons”

Celebrating 20 years of PRIDE!

June 11th - June 18th

Calendar At A Glance:

Sunday - June 11th

“Walk With The Ones You Love”

Monday - June 12th

Comedy Night and King & Queen
Competition

Wednesday - June 14th

Open House For The LGBT Collection
6th Floor, Glickman Library, USM

Wednesday - June 14th

Karaoke And The Casablanca Sunset Cruise

Thursday - June 15th

Twenty Years Of Trivia & Scavenger Hunt

Friday - June 16th

Southern Maine Pride Night at the
Maine Gay Men's Chorus Concert

Saturday - June 17th

Parade, Festival, Pier Dance

Sunday - June 18th

Interfaith Service at First Parish UCC, Portland

Sunday - June 18th

“Pride On The Bay Mist”
Harbour Cruise/T-Dance

For more information, go to:

www.southernmainepride.org



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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN EQUALITYMAINE TODAY!

All EqualityMaine members receive a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, voting rights at the annual meeting, advance notice of community events, membership in the email Action Alert Network, opportunities to volunteer and the satisfaction of supporting equality for all. Contributions of any amount are counted towards 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 EqualityMaine! 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 EqualityMaine 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: _____

☐ I'd like to volunteer

☐ I have included EqualityMaine in my will

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MaineShare funds 36 statewide organizations including EqualityMaine Foundation addressing environmental, economic opportunity, peace and justice, cultural diversity, the arts, and health service issues.

***Enroll your workplace for the 2006 campaign online at
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EqualityMaine Volunteer Opportunities

Looking to get involved in LGBT organizing in Maine? Are you excited about full equality for LGBT families? Then EqualityMaine is the place for you!

Upcoming opportunities:

Door-to-Door Canvass: Thursday, June 29th, 5:30-9:00pm, South Portland

Get outside on a warm summer's evening with an incredible team of activists as we talk to voters about full equality for LGBT families. We'll train you, pair you with a friend or a pro (or both!) and feed you upon your return. We're changing hearts and minds when we talk to voters about LGBT families.

Volunteer Recruiting Phone Banks

Don't like to canvass? No problem. We need phone bankers to help recruit volunteers for our many actions. All phone banks are from 5:30-8:30 pm at the EqualityMaine office in Portland.

Monday, June 5th — Wednesday, June 7th — Tuesday, June 21st — Thursday, June 22nd

Southern Maine Pride: Saturday, June 17, Portland

This is one of the best volunteer opportunities of the year. We'll be reaching out to our own community to talk about upcoming EqualityMaine events and how they can get involved. Many shifts are available.

For more information, contact Darlene Huntress at 207-761-0110 or dhuntress@equalitymaine.org.