



MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE

September 1995

PO BOX 232
HALLOWELL ME 04347
TOLL FREE: 1-800-55-MLGPA

Action Alert! Contact Sen. Snowe

Last fall, Olympia Snowe said she was opposed to the anti-gay rights referendum because it would limit local control and repeal part of the hate crimes act. This year, she has not publicly stated anything. It's time she did. Please call her explaining why she needs to take a stand NOW. Here are just a few good reasons:

****This referendum targets gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people for discrimination****

****It would embroil our state in a costly legal disaster****

****It would repeal the portion of the hate crimes act that protects people based on their sexual orientation****

****It was written by and is supported by outsiders who don't know Maine****

****Maine is better than this****

You can call Senator Snowe at 1-202-224-5344, or call her at one of her offices in Maine. Please call today.

MLGPA Loans Staff to MWD Effort

and members present voted to loan Karen Geraghty to the Maine Won't

On Sat., August 19, the MLGPA Board of Directors

Discriminate Campaign. As Coalition Coordinator for the fall campaign, Karen will be reaching out to the many allies MLGPA has worked with over the years, as well as reaching out to some new supporters.

Part of Karen's job will also be reaching out to the many facets of the g/l/b/t community in Maine. Managing the needs of a community as diverse as ours during this campaign is a job that Karen looks forward to and feels "that it fits nicely into the work that I currently do with MLGPA. Also, I feel that it is important to look at winning this referendum in the context of a much larger, long term battle for the g/l/b/t community in Maine. If I can help bring some of that longer term focus to the fall campaign - I will feel as though I am serving my community."

Karen will begin her two month assignment right after Labor Day. Half of her salary will be paid by MWD, with the rest continuing to be paid by MLGPA.

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP! YOU ARE THE ONLY WAY WE CAN DO WHAT WE DO!

Attacks on Gay Men Rise

Hate crimes against gay men are increasing dramatically.

In the last two months attacks against gay men around the state have skyrocketed. The number of reported assaults is thought to be at just over ten. MLGPA is working with gay men who have been victimized in Portland, Brunswick, Augusta, Rockland,

Southwest Harbor and places in between.

Our task is to make sure that the victims are dealt with properly by their local police departments (which has been a real challenge in some town's) and to see that the Attorney General's office is notified promptly.

If you or someone you know has been targeted for a hate crime, please contact MLGPA at 1-800-55-MLGPA (556-5472) and the Attorney General's Office at 1-207-626-8844.

MLGPA is closely monitoring this problem and will be taking the necessary steps to not only inform voters of these events, but be demanding of some action at the local and state level. If you would like to participate in this planning, please call Karen Geraghty at 1-800-556-5472.

MLPGA Annual Meeting

On Saturday,
Sept. 16th,
MLPGA will
hold it's
Annual

Meeting and Election of Officers for the upcoming year. The slate is not complete yet, and due to people's concentration and work on the anti-gay referendum campaign, the Board has decided not to try to elect a full slate in September. Many people have expressed an interest in being on the Board after their work with MWD to defeat the referendum is complete in November. Our by-laws enable us to deal with this situation because the President can appoint individual board members during the year (to be ratified by the Board). A partial slate is noted below:

*President: Karen Geraghty
*Vice Pres.: Anne Bertram
*Treasurer: Del Wilson
*Rec. Sec'y: Celeste Gosselin
Mem. Sec'y: Lauraine Bernier

Regional Board Members include Jim Fotter of Northern Lambda Nord, Diane Campbell, and Betsy Smith. At Large Board Members include Barb Wood, Brian Kaufman, Paula Stockholm, Jayson Hunt and others who are still unconfirmed.

If you are interested in running for a seat on the Board, we are interested in hearing from you. Please call Karen Geraghty at the MLGPA office.

Guests at Annual Mtg.

We have a few
invited guests
at the annual
meeting.

Among them
are Steve Wessler of the Attorney General's office and George Christie of the Dirigo Alliance. Both speakers will talk briefly about their organization's involvement with MLGPA and the projects they are working on that affect MLGPA members.

Please plan to attend this very important meeting of the MLPGA. We will meet on Saturday, September 16th, at 12:00 noon at the Unitarian Church in Augusta. For directions, please call the MLGPA office.

Maine Gets ready for Nat'l Coming Out Day: October 11th

MLGPA,
along with
assistance
(and great
ideas) from
Mary
Dorazio, the
Events

Coordinator for the Cumberland County MWD Group, are busy planning some events for National Coming Out Day (which we are stretching into a week!). If you are interested in this fun and important planning, please call the MLGPA office. We are thinking of story telling groups as well as some more public events. Candace Gingrich, (out lesbian) and half-sister of Speaker Newt Gingrich will be in Maine for a

few days that week (courtesy of HRCF and Mary's quick thinking). We are busy trying to work her into some events.

If you would like to host a story telling party (a private event) in your area, please contact us. All you have to do is offer your home or apartment. We will help you do the rest. This is a great, fun and safe way for g/l/b/t people in Maine to celebrate Coming Out Day. If you are interested in helping us do some public events, we could really use you and your ideas! Call the MLGPA office today.

**Pride
March in
October??
You Bet!!**

Columbus Day weekend marks the beginning of a month long

relay march - - north from Kittery and south from Fort Kent. A mile at a time, a day at a time, we will walk, sing, dance and campaign our way to the Augusta Statehouse. This march is being billed as the "Mother of All Pride Marches" and is being organized by Deb Cooper of Mount Desert Island.

Deb is looking for people to coordinate different stretches of the March, and she says the part you coordinate can look like whatever you want. Invite local celebrities! Stage media events! Make it as big a production or as low-key as you like! Just Do It, she says!

To contact Deb and help her with this project - contact her by phone at 1-207-276-5916, or by e-mail at (dmc@aretha.jax.org)

**Dirigo
Dinner**

The Dirigo Alliance will hold it's Fifth Annual Dinner

and Awards Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 30th at 5:30 P.M. at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. Tickets for this event are \$25.

MLGPA was a founding Member of the Dirigo Alliance, formed in 1987. We continue to be represented on the Dirigo Board by Ellie Goldberg, Richard Steinman and Betsy Sweet. Among other issues, Dirigo seeks to elect progressive candidates who support civil rights for gay and lesbian people. *If you are going to be in the Portland area on September 30th, please do yourself a favor and attend the Dirigo Dinner - you will meet some fascinating friends of MLGPA's!!*

To reserve a ticket for the dinner, please call the Dirigo Alliance office at 1-207-621-2838.

**G/L/B/T
Community
Center in
Caribou Needs
Your Help!**

Maine's one and only G/L/B/T center needs help with rent

money for the next year. Northern Lambda Nord operates the center in Caribou and is currently raising money to pay the rent for the coming year. Before you decide how much to make your check out for, here are some of the programs you will be helping to support:

- *G/L/B/T Phoneline of Maine
- *1,000+ volume lending library
- *office and meeting space for NLN
- *weekly AA meeting
- *monthly women's night
- *First Friday Fabulous Film Festival
- *weekly drop-in hours

The Center has been featured in both newspaper and television news stories, yet has been the object of absolutely no vandalism, harassment, or any hassle at all - a comment of the acceptance of the Center in that region. To support this valuable work - please make your contributions (no matter how big or small) to "NLN - Center Rent" and mail to P.O. Box 990, Caribou, Maine, 04736-0990. Thanks!!."

In August, State Sen. Dale McCormick

**Sen. Dale
McCormick
runs for
Congress**

announced
she will
seek the
Democratic
nomination
for the 1st
Congressio

nal District. If she wins in the primary
in June of 1996 she will challenge
Republican Jim Longley in the general
election, to be held in Nov. 1996.

Sen. McCormick was one of the
founding members of MLGPA and it's
president for the first four years, from
1984 to 1988. For information on
Dale's campaign, please contact her
campaign: "A Whole Lot of People for
Dale McCormick", P.O. Box 5139,
Augusta, ME 04332.

**Other Important Dates and Events
to Put on Your Calendar this Fall**

**Sat., Sept. 9th, York County, The
Ride**

A bike ride to benefit Maine Won't
Discriminate beginning and ending in
Wells or Biddeford. Choose from a 40,
25 or 15 mile loop.

FMI: MWD at 1-800-761-1788.

**Sun., Sept. 10th, Portland,
GLAD/MCLU Fundraiser**

On this date, the Katahdin Restaurant
will once again host a benefit for
GLAD and MCLU for the work they
each do in Maine to support civil rights
for the g/l/b/t community.

FMI: 1-207-774-5444 (MCLU)

**Thurs., Sept. 21, 6-9 P.M., Bangor,
MCLU Annual Mtg./Celebration**

Please join the Maine Civil Liberties
Union at a celebration at the home of
Juliet and Robert Kellogg in Bangor.
The Mabel Wadsworth Women's
Health Center will be presented an
award, in recognition of all abortion
providers in the State of Maine.

FMI: 1-207-774-5444 (MCLU)

**Fri. Sept. 22, 6-9 P.M., Portland,
MCLU Awards Ceremony/Reception**

See listing for 9/21

FMI: 1-207-774-5444 (MCLU)

**Weds., Oct. 11th, Statewide on the
ITV, College Plus Offers "Faces of
Gays and Lesbians: The Folks Next
Door:**

The Univ. of Maine System offers a
series of workshops this fall that will be
broadcast live on the ITV. The
workshop noted above coincides with
National Coming Out Day and will be
of interest to MLGPA members and
their families.

You can go to Augusta where the
workshop originates, or you can go to a
wide variety of centers around the state
and participate thru the ITV.

The workshops are FREE.

FMI: 1-800-696-6000 (UMA)

**Sat., Oct. 14th, Augusta, "Changing
Maine: A Gathering of Grassroots
Organizers and Educators"**

An exciting opportunity for activists in
Maine working for social change to
gain mutual support and discover new
ideas and strategies to help organize and
educate more effectively.

FMI: 1-207-525-7776 (Larry
Dansinger)