

# MLGPA News

Politics, Education, Outreach

P.O. Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347-0232

February 1998

## CAUTION MAINE CITIZENS:

### Failure To Vote NO on February 10 May Be Hazardous To Your Health!!!

#### Two weeks remain until February 10!

- ▼ *Do you speak with at least 5 people a day about the vote?*
- ▼ *How many friends and co-workers know about the issue and will vote NO on February 10?*
- ▼ *If you are unable to vote on February 10, have you voted by absentee ballot yet?*
- ▼ *How many people have you reminded to vote NO?*
- ▼ *With how many family members have you discussed the issue?*
- ▼ *Have you volunteered to phone bank yet?*
- ▼ *Have you contributed financially to the efforts of this campaign?*

#### THE CAMPAIGN TO DEFEAT THE REFERENDUM NEEDS YOUR HELP. WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO DO THE WORK NECESSARY TO WIN.

- ▼ phone banking
- ▼ literature drops
- ▼ hosting a house party

Call the Maine Won't Discriminate office at 772-7740 or e-mail them at [vote-no@maine.com](mailto:vote-no@maine.com) and they will connect you with your local chapter. Send contributions to: MWD, PO Box 11061, Portland, ME 04104.

Chapters are up and running in the following counties and they need your help:

Androscoggin  
Cumberland  
Hancock  
Kennebec  
Lincoln

Midcoast Maine  
Oxford  
Penobscot  
Waldo  
York

## His Boots Are Made for Walking:

### Paul Fuller Walks from Canada to Kittery

Paul Fuller is a man with a mission and then some. On January 15, while the rest of us were still coming out of shock from the Ice Storm of 1998, Paul started off at 7 am to walk from the most northern tip of Maine all the way to the New Hampshire border.

Paul is marching against discrimination, going from town to town to raise voters' consciousness about the need to defeat the referendum in the upcoming special election. After covering his expenses, he plans to donate any money raised to Maine Won't Discriminate for the campaign.

You wouldn't think a three-week, 395-mile trek on foot in the middle of a hard Maine winter is the kind of thing a 58-year-old man should be undertaking. But this Waldo-boro man is determined and has spent the last 8 weeks training for this walk. In fact, Paul Fuller has hiked up and down much of this country already.

He hiked the length of the Pacific Crest Trail (2,750 miles!!) just a few years ago to raise money for Maine AIDS organizations and back in 1990 he trekked the length of the Appalachian Trail. Paul raised \$25,000 between the two of them.

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# MLGPA

Politics, Education,  
Outreach

## Executive Committee:

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Erik Richard  
Mark Sullivan

## Executive Volunteers:

Maggie Allen  
Kate McLaughlin  
Sam Sherman

## Mailing Address:

PO Box 232  
Hallowell, ME 04347-0232

## e-mail:

mlgpa@javanet.com

## Office Telephone:

1-800-556-5472  
761-3732 (in Portland)

## How Do You Say Thanks to an Angel? (Especially if you don't know his or her name.)

It really isn't easy to thank someone who has contributed so much to MLGPA—particularly since it came in the year we finally got the anti-discrimination bill passed and signed. This special benefactor matched one-to-one every new membership MLGPA received in 1997. We'd like to say a special thank you to this angel for such an extraordinary commitment to the LGBT community.

## Check it Out. Check it Off!!

### Champion Campaign Reform... on your Maine State Income Tax Form

What does it take to get big money out of elections? For a start, it takes putting clean money in. Thanks to the Clean Election Act, Maine's comprehensive new campaign reform initiative, we now have an easy way to do just that.

Starting with the 1997 Maine return, taxpayers can contribute \$3 to the Clean Election Fund without increasing their tax bill. Unlike other voluntary contributions, this is not an add-on. Checking "Yes" simply sends \$3 to the Clean Election Fund.

The Fund will start paying for campaigns for state offices in the year 2000, but only candidates who demonstrate substantial grassroots support in their districts and agree to strict spending limits will be eligible. These candidates won't be raising any private money or spending any of their own.

"Maine-style" reform is catching on all over the nation—and for good reason. People everywhere are concerned about the amount of money raised in campaigns, the time spent raising it, who's giving and what they're buying. We've established a new system—one in which politicians are accountable to voters, not donors.

As a partner in Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, MLGPA worked with many other organizations to pass the Clean Election Act. Now we are all working together to encourage everyone to "Check it Out. Check it Off!"

## Interested in Running for Office?!

In November we once again elect a new Legislature. Regardless of how we fare on the referendum vote on February 10, we want the Legislature to be filled with supportive allies. If you've ever had the desire to be an elected official, now is the time. If you feel too inexperienced for this challenge, remember that everyone started somewhere. And some start in the House of Representatives!

If you are interested, there is support and training available for you. MLGPA and Dirigo Alliance will teach you how to run a campaign and support you along the way. This is a great opportunity—please taking advantage of it. Call the MLGPA office (761-3732) or Dirigo Alliance (874-9668) for more information.

## MLGPA Meeting Dates and Times

MLGPA Board Meetings are the third Thursday of each month, from 6–9pm, at the Maine Education Association building on Civic Center Drive in Augusta. Everyone is welcome to attend and all members have voting power. For more information call MLGPA at 1-800-55-MLGPA (or 761-3732 in greater Portland).



# When This Battle Is Over

Doesn't it feel as if we've been under constant attack all through the nineties? Yes, it does, and one reason is that we have been defending ourselves since the Portland referendum in 1992. We've made great progress, though—not just in passing legislation, but in educating the people of Maine. MLGPA has been, is now and will be dedicated to doing both in the future. The future begins on February 11, and we need you to make it happen.

## Paul Fuller's Canada to Kittery Walk Schedule

Day	Date	Time	Location
Thursday	Jan. 15	7 AM	Van Buren (Canadian Border)
Friday	Jan. 16	9 AM	Caribou
		4 PM	Presque Isle
Saturday	Jan. 17	1 PM	Mars Hill
Sunday	Jan. 18	5 PM	Houlton
Thursday	Jan. 22	12 PM	Lincoln
Saturday	Jan. 24	9 AM	Old Town (Rt. 2, North End)
		10 AM	Orono
		4 PM	Bangor (Rt. 2, EMMC)
		5 PM	Bangor (Bass Park)
Sunday	Jan. 25	11 AM	Hampden
Monday	Jan. 26	11 AM	Searsport
		2 PM	Belfast Center
Tuesday	Jan. 27	10 AM	Lincolnville Beach
		1 PM	Camden
		5 PM	Rockland (North End)
Wednesday	Jan. 28	3 PM	Waldoboro (Moody's Diner)
Thursday	Jan. 29	10 AM	Damariscotta Village
Friday	Jan. 30	10 AM	Bath (Center)
		2 PM	Brunswick
Saturday	Jan. 31	9 AM	Freeport
		12 PM	Yarmouth
		4:15 PM	Portland (Washington Ave. Exit)
		5 PM	Portland (City Hall)
Sunday	Feb. 1	8 AM	South Portland (Rt. 1)
		2 PM	Saco
		3 PM	Biddeford (Center)
Monday	Feb. 2	10 AM	Kennebunk
		1 PM	Wells
		4 PM	Ogunquit
Tuesday	Feb. 3	3 PM	Kittery (Rt. 1 at NH Bridge)

We will soon be announcing the new non-profit arm of MLGPA, dedicated to community service and education on LGBT issues. Unlike donations to MLGPA, all contributions to this new organization will be tax deductible. We will also seek funding through private and public foundations.

In fact, we have already been awarded a grant from the Maine Community Foundation to begin a statewide effort to combat and reduce hate crimes. We will be setting up a hotline to assist victims of hate crimes, something we've needed in Maine for a long time. We will work with victims to make sure they get the support they need whether it be attention to physical or emotional injuries or assistance from law enforcement. At the same time we will be documenting the problem and educating the public about this ugly reality.

And for the legislative committee, the work will never end. Now that we've finally passed "the bill," we have a chance to work with legislators on a much broader set of issues, from universal healthcare to workers' rights to protection from bias violence in our schools. Through our candidate endorsement program, we will help to elect progressive candidates this year.

We've been given a great deal of help from coalition partners over the many years that we struggled to pass our bill. The AFL-CIO, RCAD and the Council of Churches; N.O.W. and the Maine Women's Lobby; and Dirigo Alliance, G.L.A.D. and the MCLU. They all have goals in common with us and we will continue our partnerships with them in the years to come.

As you can see there is a lot of work in front of us. Let us know what you can do. Drop us a line (PO Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347), make a call (1-800-55-MLGPA) or send some e-mail (MLGPA@javanet.com)

## Paul Fuller's Walk

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A great many people have volunteered to help in his effort and there is lots to do arranging meals, lodging and media alone. He travels with one van ahead of him and one behind, but it is still lonely and cold out there on the pavement. Please, get out there and greet him if you can. We've printed his tour schedule for your convenience. If you want to bring him some extra rations, he is on a "nuts, candy, peanut butter and bottled water" diet. Why not walk with him for a mile or two yourself?

If you want to support Paul Fuller's Canada to Kittery Walk and the February 10 No Vote, please make checks payable to: Paul Fuller, P.O. Box 100, Newcastle, ME 04553. Donations are not tax deductible.

For up-dated information on Paul's Walk:

e-mail: canada-kitterywalk-voteno-feb10@yahoo.com

phone: 207-273-3989



# Volunteer Corner

## Let's Get Out the Vote!!

Calling Maine voters and reminding them to vote NO on February 10 is probably the most effective way for us to win this campaign. MLGPA, as a coalition member of Maine Won't Discriminate, has established a phone bank at the Peace and Justice Center in Portland. Volunteers, members and board members will be calling targeted voters 6 days per week until the election, asking them to PLEASE go to the polls on February 10 and vote NO. Phone banking is happening during the following shifts:

Monday-Thursday 6-9 pm

Saturday 10-1 pm and 3-6 pm

Sunday 2-5 pm and 5-8 pm.

If you can volunteer at any of those times, PLEASE do so!! Either e-mail Julie Rothrock, MLGPA's volunteer coordinator, at [jarothrock@juno.com](mailto:jarothrock@juno.com), or call the MLGPA office at 761-3732 and leave a message for Julie. If we have extra volunteers, we will be sending you to MWD phone banks in the area. THANK YOU!!! If each of us can give our all for the next four weeks, we can win this campaign! Please do your part!

## Let's Party!!!

House parties raised a substantial amount of money for Maine Won't Discriminate in the last campaign. On January 23, MWD is sponsoring the "Night of 100 House Parties" to raise funds again. If you can get together with some friends and throw a house party sometime before the election, please do! Ask your friends to make checks out to MWD and send all contributions, ASAP, to the MWD office at PO Box 11061, Portland, ME 04104. For more specific instructions on giving house parties, please call the MWD office at 772-7740.

If you have any social, educational or political events in your area and would like a hand organizing, please call us!  
We can help!

# MLGPA Awards Banquet Saturday, February 7, 1998

The MLGPA Annual Awards Banquet is Saturday, February 7 at the Augusta Civic Center. Invitations have been sent and reservations are requested by January 30. Please return your reply card as soon as possible. No one should be left out in the cold for this event! If you have not received an invitation or would like one for someone else, please call the MLGPA office at 761-3732 and one will be sent. Tickets are \$30 per person.

Numerous nominations were received on behalf of many outstanding individuals. The process of choosing award recipients was extremely arduous. We spent many hours reviewing each and every nomination, discussing at length the accomplishments of these tremendous individuals. What we learned is that there are an enormous amount of giving, talented, selfless individuals in our state. There is no question that our community is the better for it. Although we would love to honor all of the nominees, it is not possible at one awards ceremony. The following are the individuals and organizations we will be honoring this year:

### Great Pioneer Award

(For Being on the Forefront of Major Change for the GLBT Community):

- ▼ Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center

### Cameron Duncan Award

(For Outstanding AIDS Community Service):

- ▼ Tom Antonick

### FE Pentlarge Award

(For Outstanding Demonstration of Family Values):

- ▼ Mare and Laurie Wallace

### Media Award:

- ▼ Bill Nemitz (Portland Press Herald)

### Community Service Awards:

- ▼ Reverend Fred Lipp,  
former pastor, First Parish Church, Portland
- ▼ Mary Harney,  
Organizer and AIDS worker in Hancock County
- ▼ Catherine Kidman,  
Director of Outright, Portland

We invite you to join us for a wonderful evening of celebration and fun. Following the awards ceremony will be a swing dance. Come learn the moves and dance to the sounds of big band, with DJ Lisa Vaccaro at the helm. This is not a night to miss!!!! For those not interested in the dinner and awards, doors open for the dance at 9pm and tickets will be sold for \$5.00.