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## **LG MS 039 Maine Frontrunners Archives Finding Aid**

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**MAINE FRONTRUNNERS ARCHIVES  
LG MS 39**

**Total Boxes: 2  
Linear Feet: 1.25**

**By  
Katharine Renolds Thomas**

**Portland, Maine  
January 2015**

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## **Administrative Information**

**Provenance:** The Executive Committee of the Rainbow Business & Professional Association donated the Maine Frontrunners Archives in the early 2000s with longtime Maine Frontrunners member Jim Estes listed as a contact.

**Ownership and Literary Rights:** The Maine Frontrunners Archives is the physical property of the University of Southern Maine Libraries. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the creator or his/her legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Head of Special Collections.

**Cite as:** Maine Frontrunners Archives, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

**Restrictions on Access:** The Archives is open for research.

## **Biographical Sketch:**

Maine Frontrunners was founded April 1, 1995, under the leadership of runner John Bean, who noted that the 1994 Gay Games in New York City served as inspiration. This LGBT running/walking group met Saturday mornings for a run around Portland's Back Cove, afterwards breakfasting together at various Portland locations as the "Front Brunchers". The Maine group, which disbanded in 2007, was part of International Front Runners, an affiliation of LGBT running/walking clubs that have organized in many of the larger cities around the world. Inspired by Patricia Nell Warren's novel *The Front Runner*, the first Front Runner club began in San Francisco in 1974, and other FR clubs quickly began forming in the United States and then in Canada and abroad.

## **Description of the Collection:**

The Archives is divided into 2 series:

Series 1. Maine Frontrunners Materials (1994-2003, undated)

This series contains materials directly relating to the Maine Frontrunners group, including a note from founder John Bean describing the group, two newspaper clippings, flyers, attendance records, two pins, t-shirt order forms, and a separately boxed collection of t-shirts, further described in the Appendix.

Series 2. Non-Maine Frontrunners Materials (1996-2003, undated)

This series contains materials relating to other Frontrunners groups, both domestic and international, including club directories, an array of newsletters, and a few items concerning events.

**Keywords:** Maine Frontrunners, International Front Runners, John Bean, Portland, Maine, Jim Estes, Maine Won't Discriminate, South Portland Citizens for Justice, Gay Games, Human Rights Campaign, Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA)

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
<b>Series 1. Maine Frontrunners Materials (1994-2002, undated)</b>			
1	1	Organizational Information	1998, 2000, undated
1	2	Member Information	1994-2002, undated
1	3	UNE pins, 2	2003
2		T-shirts, 23 (See Appendix)	1994-2001, undated
<b>Series 2. Non-Maine Frontrunners Materials (1996-2003, undated)</b>			
1	4	Publications: newsletters	1996-2003
1	5	Publications: other	1996-2002, undated
1	6	Member Information	1996-2000, undated
1	7	Events	1996-1998, 2000, undated
<b>Appendix</b>			
1 white t-shirt "Maine AIDS Walk, October 2, 1994"			1994
1 gray t-shirt "Team Maine – 94 Gay Games"			1994
1 white t-shirt "Amsterdam '98 Gay Games – Maine USA"			1998
1 white t-shirt "The Ride, Saturday, September 9, 1995 – Vote no! Maine Won't Discriminate"			1995
1 white t-shirt with green block and white type "Vote No – Maine Won't Discriminate"			undated
1 cream/off-white t-shirt "Maine Still Won't Discriminate – Vote No"			undated
1 white t-shirt "Vote Yes! For Human Rights, November '98 – South			1998

Portland Citizens for Justice”

1 white t-shirt “Youth Summit ’98” 1998

1 white t-shirt “Maine Marathon 2000 – Maine Front Runners – Jerry Phair” 2000

**Appendix**

1 gray t-shirt “Maine Frontrunners – Gay & Lesbian Running Club” undated

2 black t-shirts with white collars and barcode on left breast “Pride 2001” 2001

1 white t-shirt with black collar and barcode in center “Southern Maine Pride – Pride 2001” 2001

1 slate blue t-shirt “The Canada to Kittery Walk – Vote NO, a step in the right direction, Feb. 10 – don’t discriminate” undated

1 black t-shirt “Cycles – Portland, Maine” undated

1 white t-shirt “EPL – Equal Protection Lewiston” undated

1 pink t-shirt “Human Rights Campaign Fund’s Speak Out” undated

1 white t-shirt “Maine Speak Out – Understanding Diversity” undated

1 white t-shirt “MLGPA – Equality for Maine” undated

2 black t-shirts “Vote NO! to End Discrimination in Portland” undated

1 black t-shirt with pink triangles undated

1 light gray tank top with pink triangles undated