

# MLGPA News

Advocacy for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Communities since 1984

PO Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347-0232

October 2000

## New Board Members Elected at Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting had a very full agenda and was extremely productive.

We heard an end-of-year report from Susan Farnsworth, who is stepping down after serving as our lobbyist in the legislature for the past two years. She described an active second session and impressed upon us the need to continue to provide fulltime representation for the LGBT community.

Kevin Rubenstein, a member of the YES on 6 Executive Committee, offered an update on the campaign. While our prospects for a victory are still good and a great deal of hard work is being done in the field by volunteers and staff, we have a very urgent need to raise a lot more money for media.

Vice President Maggie Allen provided a summary of arrangements and plans for this year's Great Pumpkin Ball to be held on Friday, October 27, from 8pm to midnight at the Holiday Inn by-the-Bay in Portland. She reported excellent success in securing business sponsors and offered Board members a number of opportunities to help.

Members of the Legislative Committee presented to the Board their recommendations of legislative candidates to receive our endorsement. On hearing the committee's choices, we reviewed our endorsement policy and a lively discussion of our criteria followed.

We automatically gave first preference to those incumbents who voted for LD 2239 (the civil rights bill), and we did consider incumbents who did not. Incumbent was strictly defined as someone running in the same district for the same chamber. Because the

single issue of the bill carried so much weight, there were some unexpected results.

While we were loyal to incumbent supporters, some of their challengers may actually be more committed our issues. This conflict came up in a handful of cases, and after some debate the Board agreed to adhere to our original criteria and make no exceptions. As we have in the past, we included as much information as possible about all the candidates. Our endorsements have been enclosed with this issue.

Board elections were held, and last year's officers were reelected. We welcome the following new members: Denise Arsenault (South Portland), J.P. Fecteau (Camden), Jane Lincoln (Hallowell), Kevin Rubenstein (Gorham), Jann Yankauskas and Cindy Stewart (Scarborough), Charles Veilleux (Canaan), Lynn Walkiewicz (West

Gardiner), Kathy Wilson (Pownal), and Victoria Zavasnick (Portland). Brief biographies follow this story.

Leaving the Board with MLGPA's sincerest thanks for their service are Harold Booth, Ron Hersom, Paul Holbrook, and Jeff L'Heureux.

President Dave Garrity concluded the meeting by reviewing some of the objectives and challenges we face in the coming year. He outlined a legislative program and listed a number of specific objectives the organization needs to meet, including developing a new database, designing and maintaining a website, increasing membership and its financial base and hiring its first staff person. Unfortunately, these goals are not new. Over the last year our efforts have once again been diverted to work on passage of a statewide anti-discrimination bill and another referendum campaign.

## Meet the New Board Members

**DENISE ARSENAULT** brings to the board strong organizational skills, leadership qualities and a passion for her beliefs. Now an office manager for a video production company in Portland, she formerly planned social events such as cruises, dances and dinners for Hannaford Brothers. Co-coordinator of Sister Space, a Lesbian social group in the Saco area and member of the Rainbow Business & Professional Association, Denise lives in South Portland with her two children (11 and 9).

Although **J.P. (Jean Pierre) FECTEAU** is from Long Island (NY), he has French Canadian roots in Waterville where his father was raised. J.P. moved to Maine in 1988 to work for the Maine Photographic Workshops. Currently, J.P. lives in Camden and works for Ducktrap River Fish Farm. An advisor for Coastal Outright, J.P. has also served on the Coastal Aids Network board and recently joined the Maine Community Fund's Board for Waldo

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# MLGPA

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Bisexual, and Transgendered  
Communities since 1984

## Executive Committee:

David Garrity  
*President*

Maggie Allen  
*Vice President*

Paul Alpert  
*Treasurer*

Susan Sparaco  
*Secretary*

## Board Members:

Denise Arsenault

Ken Bartuka

J.P. Fecteau

Marti Hagglund

Scott Hawkins

Robin Lambert

Jane Lincoln

Kevin Rubenstein

Virginia Slawson

Cindy Stewart

Mark Sullivan

Chuck Veilleux

Lynn Walkiewicz

Kathy Wilson

Jann Yankauskas

Victoria Zavasnick

## Board Associates:

Dal Maxwell

Richard Steinman

Harold Booth

## Mailing Address:

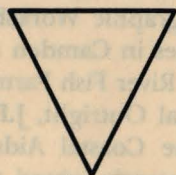
PO Box 232  
Hallowell, ME 04347-0232

## e-mail:

mlgpa@javanet.com

## Office Telephone:

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



# Some YES ON 6! Events

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 7:30 PM

Artists for Equality Concert for YES on 6! Singer/songwriter Lucie Blue Tremblay with the Munjoy Hill Society, Erica Monko, Kay Hamlin, the Dusty Springfields and the Flamboyant One. Your hosts: WMGX morning djs Tim and Liz. First Parish Church 425 Congress St, Portland. Tickets: Patron \$100, Supporter \$50, General \$35, Student/Senior \$20 at Amadeus, Amore, Drop Me A Line & Epiphany (all in Portland) or charge (MC/ VISA) by calling (207) 761-8040. FMI: Sive Neilan, (207) 774-4219, siveneilan@hotmail.com

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 4:00 PM

Folk Concert Benefit at First UU Church, Rockland. Suggested donation: \$10. Info: Lucie Bauer, 236-4734

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 5:00-8:00 PM

Benefit Concert for Yes on 6! Boneheads, Lynn Deeves, Kate Schrock, Martin Swinger, and Shambhala. Hall-Dale Middle School, Maple St, Hallowell. Suggested donation: \$20 adults, \$12 Seniors/ students. FMI: Lynn at DrLynnWz@aol.com or call 724-2269.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 8:00 PM

INANNA & REFERENDUM IN CONCERT at First Parish Church, Portland. Suggested donation: \$15/ \$5 children under 10. Info: Mary Jayne Gould, 775-7185

## REGULAR MEETINGS

The MLGPA Board meets 6:00-8:00 pm on the third Thursday of every month, downstairs at the Lithgow Library, at State and Winthrop Streets, Augusta. New members are always welcome. We are actively seeking new members and volunteers from all parts of Maine to help pass our civil rights bill NOW in the Legislature and in November's referendum. FMI: snail mail (PO

Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347), e-mail (mlgpa@javanet.com) or voicemail (761-3732 or 800/55-MLGPA).

The MLGPA Legislative Committee meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For directions and for further information, please contact Harold Booth at 623-8383 (halbooth1@cs.com) or Susan Farnsworth, MLGPA Lobbyist, at 626-3312 (farns@gwi.net). You may also use our toll-free voicemail at 1-800-55-MLGPA or send us e-mail at mlgpa@javanet.com.



# Meet the New Board Members

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**J.P.** is an active member of Midcoast for Human Rights and a county coordinator for the YES on 6 campaign. He attended Dave Fleischer's 3½ day campaign leadership training here in Maine last January, cosponsored by our educational wing, the Maine Diversity Alliance. An outdoor enthusiast and Maine Guide, J.P. likes to tour in his sea kayak or on his bicycle. Completing the 1997 Boston to New York Aids Ride was a life changing experience for him. He can often be spotted on his motorcycle commuting between Camden and Belfast where he works.

**JANE LINCOLN** is a lifelong Mainer. Born and raised in Kittery Point, she now lives in Hallowell. Jane graduated from the University of Maine at Orono and recently completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at Harvard University. She has worked in state government for 23 years and is currently Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. Jane most recently served on the Board of Directors of and held the office of Treasurer for the Maine Women's Lobby. She is a longtime supporter of economic equity for women and civil rights for all.

**KEVIN RUBENSTEIN** is a graduate student, Resident Hall Director and co-adviser to two lgbt student groups, all at the University of Southern Maine in Gorham. Even before he attended our campaign leadership training this year, Kevin, at age 22, already had substantial political experience. He managed several successful legislative campaigns and was employed for two years by the Republican Caucus in the Illinois House of Representatives. He was one of our most active and dedicated volunteer lobbyists for LD 2239, and he is an original member of the executive committee of the "YES on 6 for Equal Rights" Campaign. Kevin knows the effects of discrimination firsthand, having counseled and assisted in a number of anti-gay incidents on campus, including two in which he was himself a target.

**CINDY STEWART** grew up in Bar Harbor, graduated from Husson College in Bangor, and completed advanced studies at the Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College. She has been a loan officer, first for 18 years in commercial banking; then, for the past 2½ years, for Coastal Enterprises, a non-profit economic development company. Now a trustee at Williston West Church, Cindy has extensive volunteer experience. She was a founding trustee of the Maine Community Loan Fund, and has served on the boards of Riding to the Top, a therapeutic horseback riding program, and Sexual Assault Response Services. Cindy lives in Scarborough with 2 children and her partner of 5 years.

**CHARLES VEILLEUX** (a.k.a. Chuck) was born and educated in Jackman; graduated from Waterville High; served in the Air Force; and received a degree from UMO. He moved to Los Angeles—and "became an out of statah!"—where he earned his JD from Loyola Law School. Chuck returned to Skowhegan in 1971, and opened a law office that continues today. Chuck has considerable political experience: elected and served one term as District Attorney; lobbied successfully for new "no fault" divorce law in early 70s; and fostered important changes in Maine's Workers' Compensation Law. After burning his (Roman Catholic) catechism at age 7 and some experience with the Unitarian Universalist Church, Chuck has "taken the hard road of spiritual self determination." He is fluent in French, English and German, and a mixture of Spanish, Italian and some Latin. Married 17 years and divorced in 1976, Chuck has two wonderful adult sons.

**LYNN WALKIEWICZ** holds a Ph.D. in Applied Philosophy. She has taught at colleges in and outside of Maine and has been active in many college councils and committees, leading major efforts like developing college admissions standards. She currently managing a Rural Intimate Partner Violence project. While living in upstate New York, Lynn was active in the Syracuse Gay and

Lesbian Chorus; she also served on its Board and helped to reorganize the group during her tenure. Lynn resides on the banks of Cobbossee Stream with her partner, their two dogs and four cats.

**KATHY WILSON** was born in Brunswick and for the last 30 years she has lived in a house she built herself in Pownal. Kathy managed the family industrial catering business for 24 years, then operated her own successful pet care and products for 7 years—until physical problems made it too difficult for her. Kathy is now rebuilding, reorganizing and developing new programs for the Coastal Humane Society as its new Executive Director. Long interested in politics, she attended a Gay & Lesbian Victory Foundation Training led by Dave Fleischer 2½ years ago. Kathy led SOLO (Single Older Lesbians Organization) for its first three years, and has been active in the Maine SpeakOut Project. A good communicator and realistic person, Kathy has identified as butch since birth. She started coming out in the 6th grade and hasn't stopped yet. She is committed mind and soul to the queer community and to working for our equal rights.

**JANN YANKAUSKAS** grew up in a small Connecticut town and has lived in rural New Hampshire, Kentucky and Ohio. She earned undergraduate and

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MAKE  
A  
DIFFERENCE,  
GET  
INVOLVED



## A word from the president...

We're heading down the home stretch; the election is only a couple of weeks away. There has probably never been a more important election for LGBT folks in Maine.

I don't know about you, but when money gets tight, I sit down and figure out a budget. I start with how much money I have and divide it between all of my responsibilities. That's what I'd like you to do right now, but instead of budgeting money, budget your time.

Look at your calendar right now. How many evenings or weekend hours from now until November 7 can you contribute to our future? An hour or two every night? Two or three evenings at 3 hours each? A couple of four-hour Saturday afternoons? If you haven't come up with at least 6 hours, take a minute to remember how you felt when we lost in February 1998.

Please don't forget, who we elect as President is equally important. By now you should know the candidates' positions and what kind of impact their presidencies could have on us. Please ask all your friends if they're registered to vote. Make sure they know the issues and get them to the polls.

I hope I have nothing but victories to write about next month.

It's up to all of us,

Dave Garrity

## Time Budget WORKSHEET

How many hours are you willing to give for your rights? \_\_\_\_\_

Now please divide your time between the following:

**First, YES on 6. We need civil rights, once and for all.**

How many hours will you spend calling everyone you know for their votes and/ or their money? \_\_\_\_\_

How many evenings can you phonebank? \_\_\_\_\_

How many weekend afternoons can you help with lit drops? \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact your County Coordinator for details, they're waiting to hear from you now.

**Second, we need to elect state legislators who support our issues:**

How many weekend afternoons can you help with lit drops? \_\_\_\_\_

How many evenings can you phonebank? \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS** \_\_\_\_\_

You'll find our endorsements and information on your local candidates in the enclosed flyer. To volunteer for a candidate, just contact her or him directly. You can also volunteer through Dirigo Alliance, the statewide progressive coalition MLGPA helped to found; contact Carol Kelly at carolkelly12@msn.com or 828-0810. Leave a message on MLGPA's voice-mail: 1-800-55MLGPA or contact me at heydave@maine.rr.com or 774-5412.

## YES on 6 County Coordinators

### ANDROSCOGGIN

Lauren Breault 266-6762 laurenbreault@hotmail.com

### AROOSTOOK

Kathrina Hilinski 834-2299 kahilins@hotmail.com

Nicole Tremblay 492-1490 ntremblay@aimop.com

### CUMBERLAND

Sarah Holmes 774-5524 Sholmes@usm.maine.edu

Jim Estes 761-2059 jestes@fairchildsemi.com

### FRANKLIN

Sharon Parker 778-6397 sharoane@megalink.net

Brian Kaufman 626-0165 bjka@ime.net

### HANCOCK

Peter Rees 667-7828 rees@midmaine.com

### KNOX

JP Fecteau 236-0810 jfecteau@mint.net

### LINCOLN

Virginia Slawson 832-7373 vslawson@midcoast.com

### SO. KENNEBEC

Ingrid Vancil 622-6123 ingridhope@aol.com  
or 458-5533

### NO. KENNEBEC/SOMERSET

Diane Campbell 465-7574 camjam@mint.net

### OXFORD

Janice Campbell 625-3689 jaye39@cybertours.com

### PENOBSCOT

Jim Martin 942-7681 jim@maineguide.com

### PISCATAQUIS

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### SAGadahoc

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Melanie Race 443-1573 mrace@bowdoin.edu

### WALDO

Mitzi Lichtman 338-5889 mitzijoy@mint.net

### WASHINGTON

Ken Hoffman 255-1252 kenneisatlas33@excite.com

### YORK

Deb Dimmick 646-1049 zoz@cybertours.com

Ken Bartuka 646-1195 kbartuka@cybertours.com

Barbara McAllister 282-1024 dlridley@ime.net

Susan Kinkelaar 490-1390 susank@s-way.com



# Work to Begin on Safer Schools

At the request of MLGPA's Legislative Committee, Tami Eldridge, Executive Director of Outright Portland, invited safer schools advocates to an informal meeting earlier this month to discuss where we are and how to go forward on this important topic. MLGPA wanted to make people aware of recent legislative efforts and the basic timelines for submitting new legislation.

To give you a little background, there has been a statewide Safer Schools Coalition for a number of years. Originally founded by Eric Richard, in past years Jonathan Lee has been a driving force behind its efforts, including the production and distribution of its excellent "Maine Safe Schools Resource Guide" in 1999. In the last Legislature Jonathan Lee investigated a number of options with legislative leaders for new programs and legal protections. Most recently the safer schools coalition has devoted a good deal of time and energy to redefining itself, seeking to find consensus on expansion, its structure and goals.

At the same time a number of dedicated legislators have been working on this issue, setting up task forces to recommend solutions and introducing new legislation to address these urgent problems. In the forefront of these efforts have been supporters like Rep. Elizabeth Watson, Senators Susan Longley and Mary Cathcart, as well as Rep. Michael Brennan and other members of the Education Committee.

We had a very good turnout for our first meeting. Attendees included: State Representatives Michael Quint and Ben Dudley; Nancy Bullett and Erica Rand, Outright Lewiston/Auburn; Naomi Winterfalcon, Maine Rural Network; Kate Neale, Maine Speakout; Mary Kay Kaspar and Sarah Holmes, USM; Rick Galena; Kevin Rubenstein and Dave Garrity, MLGPA; and, Sage Hayes and Tami Eldridge, Portland Outright.

Our first meeting was very productive. We discussed our various visions of what a true safer schools program would look like. We also developed

some preliminary ideas for how to proceed. We concluded that we need to invite a much broader group of communities to participate in this process. It was also agreed that we need to insure that LGBT youth are included in this process and participate fully in our decision-making.

We identified two immediate goals and set a time and place for the next meeting. First, we need to draw up a comprehensive list of all those groups and individuals whose input on safer schools we should seek. Second, we need to develop the materials for a mailing to solicit their ideas and participation. If you're ready to work, we'd like you to attend.

**WHO:** Anyone interested in working for safer schools

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 25  
6:30-8:30 pm

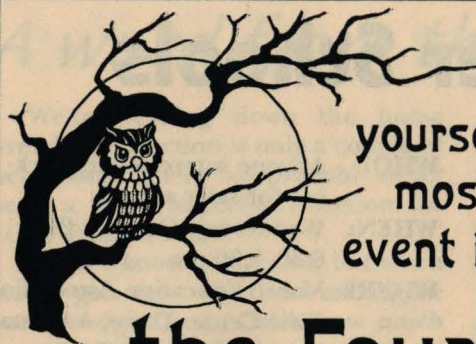
**WHERE:** Maine Education Association  
Civic Center Drive, Augusta

We are pleased that MLGPA can offer its expertise and provide information about the legislative process. MLGPA is committed to seeing the LGBT, human rights and social justice communities move forward together on this important issue. We are confident that with a broad, new coalition to set the direction, and MLGPA to advocate in the State House, we will make real progress in the next Legislature.

## GAY LIFE Under Bush & Gore

Gore/Lieberman	Issue	Bush/Cheney
SUPPORTS	Pass ENDA to protect lesbians, gay men & bisexuals from workplace discrimination	OPPOSES
SUPPORTS	Pass a federal hate crimes law that includes sexual orientation	OPPOSES
YES	Will fight anti-gay harassment in public schools against students and teachers	NO
YES	Will continue to staff the White House Office of Liaison to the LGBT community	NO
SUPPORTS	Equal treatment for Gays in the military and repeal of "don't ask, don't tell"	OPPOSES
LIKELY	Will appoint up to four new Supreme Court Justices who are pro-choice, pro-gay	UNLIKELY
SUPPORTS	Decriminalizing sodomy laws, especially those that target only gay people	OPPOSES
SUPPORTS	Supports "civic unions" to give gay couples the legal rights of marriage	NO (BUSH) ? (CHENEY)
YES	Can we expect leadership, awareness or action on gay issues?	?





This Halloween treat  
yourself to a ticket to the  
most incredible costume  
event in Southern Maine

# the Fourth Annual Great Pumpkin Ball!

Did you miss it last year?  
Heard about it from your friends?  
Read about it in the newspapers?  
WELL, DON'T BE LEFT OUT AGAIN

DATE: Friday, October 27

TIME: 8pm to the Witching Hour

PLACE: Holiday Inn by-the-Bay  
Spring Street, Portland

PRICE: \$10 in advance  
\$16 at the door

Tickets are available now at Drop Me A Line in Portland  
or Bread And Roses in Ogunquit.



Get your costumes ready, Girls and Boyz, for the 4th Annual Great Pumpkin Ball, brought to you by the Maine Diversity Alliance, the educational wing of MLGPA. If you've never attended one before, you'll understand arrive why so many people call it "the best party of the year."

Diversity is the right word for this very mixed party crew. Everyone is welcome, but what could be more GAY than celebrating this high holiday with friends in wild costumes and music you can really dance to! Yes, Aimsel Ponti will be back—a DJ who knows how to keep the floor hoppin' with tunes everybody knows!!

Mistress of Ceremonies Lori Voornas will kick off the highlight of

the evening—the costume parade. We award prizes in lots of categories and this year we have more prizes than ever, including a cash prize for Best of the Ball. How will our celebrity judges Mark Dion, Dale McCormick, Bill Norbert, Bill Nemitz, Mark Persky, Barb Wood, Anne Rand, and Michael Quint ever decide?

So save the date, mark your calendar, and come, with or even without a costume to the biggest Halloween Ball in the state and a very important fund-raiser for the Diversity Alliance and MLGPA. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$16 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at Drop Me A line in Portland or Bread And Roses in Ogunquit.

## Meet the New Board Members

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graduate degrees from New Hampshire College. With over 15 years experience in community and economic development, Jann is now the Project Coordinator for StartSmart, a program of nonprofit Coastal Enterprises, assisting refugees and immigrants in starting and growing small businesses and advocating for microenterprise. Jann made two trips to Nicaragua as a volunteer for Partners for Peace and she has devoted many hours to Habitat for Humanity in both rural and inner-city efforts. She is committed to working for social justice, economic opportunities, and youth.

**VICTORIA ZAVASNICK** was born in Brooklyn. In her youth, she served as a teaching nun for eight years. She left the convent in the mid-1960s, married, had three children and continued in teaching. In 1975 Vickey divorced and moved to Maine with her children, where she designed and directed the Focus Program for troubled youth. After a few years Vickey began to move from education into counseling, first concentrating on alcohol and drug abuse. She was even appointed by Gov. Brennan to the state's Alcohol & Drug Council. Vickey started in private practice in 1985. She now holds a Master of Arts in Therapy and a Doctorate in Counseling Psychology. Social justice has been a core value for Vickey most of her life and she believes very strongly in working for our community. More recently Vickey founded the Rainbow Business and Professional Association and served as its first president for five years.

