



Maine Women's Lobby

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Event Lauds Three Decades of Advancement for Maine Women

Hundreds Celebrate the Maine Women's Lobby's 30th

(South Portland) In commemoration of its 30th year of advocacy on behalf of Maine women and girls, members, supporters, policymakers, and community leaders gathered at the Portland Marriott at Sable Oaks to celebrate the Maine Women's Lobby's pioneering achievements for women and girls.

Two of the organizations' founders, Representative Janet Mills and Lois Reckitt, reminded the audience that they formed the group so women would have an enduring voice at the State House. Charging dues of \$2, they built a statewide membership of supporters, launched the organization in 1978, and hired the first lobbyist. Early achievements included work to allow married women to get credit in their own name and a bill making it illegal for a husband to sexually assault his wife.

The Maine Women's Lobby continues to promote an agenda for women's rights, including championing reproductive privacy and working to narrow the wage gap between women and men. Unveiled at the event was the Maine Women's Lobby new DVD, "The Voice of Maine Women," which captures the mission of the organization for audiences unaware of the Maine Women's Lobby and introduces viewers to the concept of lobbying for the social interest.

The group announced plans for the future and encouraged new supporters to help chart the course of the women's movement in Maine. "As we celebrate this milestone, we are also recommitting to our work to make sure women and girls are inspired, educated, and motivated to be involved in shaping policy that creates their vision for the future," said Kimm Collins, Chair of the Maine Women's Lobby Board of Directors. "We will move beyond defending our basic rights – to enacting bold initiatives that reach true equality for Maine women."

Bringing levity to the evening's celebration was comedienne Karen Morgan. Hailed as "Maine's Funniest Mom," Karen was one of the seven finalists in Nick at Nite's first search for the Funniest Mom in America. With her troupe of funny moms, Mama's Night Out, Karen has been selling out comedy clubs and theatres nationwide. Karen brought her experience as a parent and as an attorney to light for the audience of nearly 400 advocates and policymakers.

The event was made possible through the leadership sponsorship support of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, Norway Savings Asset Management Group, and Maine Education Association, as well as nearly 100 additional sponsors.

The Maine Women's Lobby is a non-partisan, non-profit membership organization working since 1978 to increase opportunities for women and girls through advocacy and legislative action.

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