

The Maine Women's Lobby



2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Triumphs Mark First Half of 122nd Legislative Session

Anti-Discrimination Measure Upheld at the Ballot Box

In 2005, Maine women and girls won critical protections against violence, poverty, and intrusion on their right to privacy. The Maine Women's Lobby team successfully advocated for more than 11 measures benefiting women and girls and defended against 18 bills restricting equal rights and equal opportunity. We lobbied from the halls of the State House to the offices of our Washington delegation, from the streets of Ellsworth to Portland's Monument Square to mobilize decision makers to support public policies that would improve our lives.



Maine Women's Lobby activists brave the elements on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

When the law granting **unemployment insurance protection** for part-time workers was due to sunset, we successfully fought to extend the provision until 2007. In championing the **Family Care Act**, we won critical protections empowering workers in businesses of 25 or more employees to use accrued sick or vacation time for care of a child, parent, or spouse, making Maine the only state in the nation to win such expansions in 2005. Said Executive Director Sarah Standiford in testimony before the Labor Committee, "When workers can take time off to care for themselves or their families in times of crisis, everyone benefits. Families benefit when they can provide adequate care for

their children or parents. Children get better faster when they are cared for at home. And businesses benefit from decreased turnover and a more productive workforce." We also **expanded eligibility for overtime pay** to more low-wage women workers and protected the 40-hour work week by helping to defeat legislation that would repeal Maine's overtime laws.

When victims of domestic violence were threatened by attempts to weaken **Maine's effective protection from abuse system**, the Maine Women's Lobby fought to preserve it. We helped make it possible for victims of violence to **exercise their right to vote** by improving Maine's address confidentiality program. Reproductive rights were again threatened in 2005; with the Maine Choice Coalition, we led the effort in **defeating a host of anti-choice bills** including attempts to impose state-scripted and biased counseling, mandated parental notification, 24-hour waiting periods, and legislation that would grant rights to a fetus in criminal law. Pro-choice advocates had cause for concern when a fetal rights bill passed the House. It was only the second anti-choice measure to win support in one of the chambers in two decades. Ultimately, however, a compromise was reached that withdrew the troubling fetal rights language from the final bill.

We also rebuffed efforts to weaken Maine's **comprehensive family life education program**. In January, we took the pro-choice message to the streets with demonstrations commemorating the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Understanding that Maine's **Dirigo Health Plan** provides critical access to health care for women and for small businesses, we opposed bills that would have de-funded the program.



Legislative Coordinator Lauralee Raymond (left) celebrates the victory against discrimination with NO on 1 campaign volunteers.

Once more, we promoted legislation that would **prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and identity**. Because policy decisions aren't simply made at the State House, we put our resources to work defending these critical protections at the ballot box. We pounded the pavement and kept the phones buzzing as part of the NO on 1 field campaign. Finally, in a campaign of national significance, the Maine Women's Lobby worked to protect our state victories by lobbying Maine's Senate delegation to **vote against extreme judicial nominees** John Roberts and Samuel Alito. Despite our efforts and that of national and state allies, both nominees were ultimately confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court. However, the Maine Women's Lobby was proud, once again, to have played a critical role in fighting for the rights and liberties Maine women hold dear -- in Washington, in Augusta, and in our communities.



MWL members speak out during a media event to oppose the confirmation of Justice Samuel Alito.

Financial Report

Fiscal Year: January 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005

Income

Membership Contributions	21,525
Grants	38,552
Sponsorships	1,160
Total Income	61,237

Expenses

Program	51,989
Operating	12,842
Fundraising	4,211
Total Expenses	69,042

Total Surplus (Deficit) (7,805)

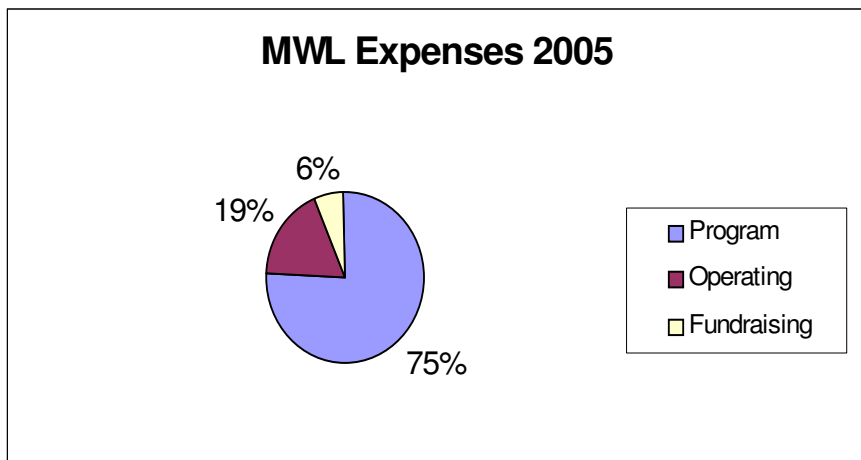
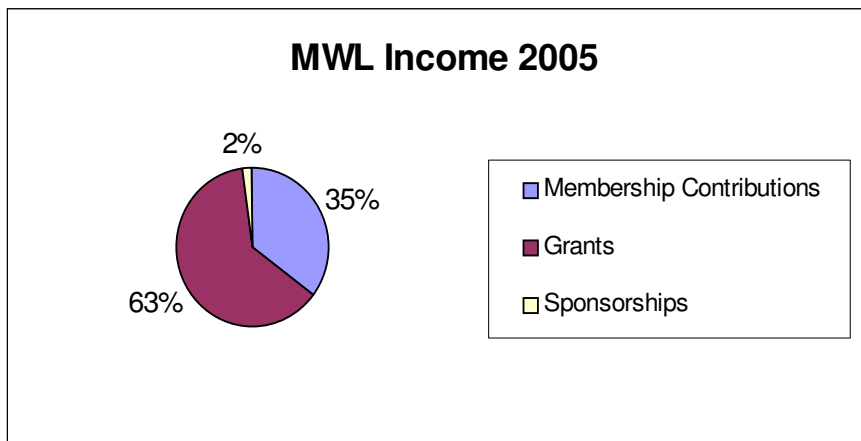
Current Assets/Total Assets 3,369

Current Liabilities 6,936

Unrestricted Fund Balances (3,567)

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 3,369

We are grateful to all of our donors, staff, volunteers, and community partners for their generous support of our mission.



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Maine Women's Lobby

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