

Message from the Director

Having worked in non-profit organizations for the past twelve years, I often ask volunteers, board members, members and myself the following question: Why are you involved in this work and what keeps you motivated?

Although, I do not have children of my own, I am Auntie Mel to four of my close friends' children. I spend time with these curious, intuitive little ones and wonder what the world will be like in 20 years.

With global warming and resulting climate change as one of our most urgent issues, scientists predict if warming continues at its current rate by 2050 more than a million species worldwide could be driven to extinction and the Artic Ocean could become ice free.

I was struck by Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth" and how if we all do our part we can reduce our carbon foot prints and lower the warming rates.

Resource wars are currently being fought over oil and soon the next one may be over water.



Melissa and Ben

Our public health infrastructure is drastically under funded and lacks linkages with emergency systems as we keep adding billions of dollars to the defense budget to fight another war, another terrorist group, another and another.

With all those thoughts it comes back to me and it comes back you. We can make a difference. It has to start with us. Along with public policy advocacy, educating our children and youth should be top of our priority list. The decisions we make today affect the generations of tomorrow. We have a responsibility to teach them values and social norms that can in fact lead to changing the world by our actions.

What motivates me about this work? The solutions, the hope, the knowledge that we can change the course of history.

Marian Wright Edelman founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund and the first African American woman admitted to the Mississippi state bar said, "It's time for greatness—not for greed. It's time for idealism—not ideology. It is time not just for compassionate words, but compassionate action"

It is time and I welcome this opportunity.

-Melissa A. Boyd

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*Save the Date: April 13, 2007 Achieving Global Energy Security Conference
Visit us on the web www.psrmaine.org*

Physicians for Social Responsibility MAINE CHAPTER

— 2006 Fall Newsletter

Take Action! Join our efforts to change policy

Over the past few months PSR/Maine has been continuing to work toward shifting national and state policies and strengthening partnerships through our various program areas. As we expand our programming and receive more funding your input and energy are needed to help us grow and develop to a new level of effectiveness.

The following is a brief overview of recent work in our three programs areas

Security & Foreign Policy

- Hosted talks across the state with Dr. Edwin Lyman from the Union of Concerned Scientists, speaking out against the proposed Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP)
- Met with Senator Collins and key staff from Senator Snowe's office on GNEP and the US India Deal
- Launched Poems for Peace
- Testified at Maine's Homeland Security Taskforce Hearing
- Published signature ad in the Portland Press Herald opposing so-called "preemptive" war strategy
- Plans are well underway for a major spring conference on "Achieving Global Energy Security"

Environmental Public Health

- Dr. Rick Donahue has delivered ten presentations at grand rounds across the state on toxics and public health
- Helped launch "Maine Partners for Cool Communities" to address global warming in our local communities
- Planning has begun for our third major statewide Environmental Health Conference in fall of 2007

Violence Prevention

- Members of the DV Prevention Committee have given fourteen presentations at practice sites in Cumberland County
- Developed a formal partnership with the Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA) and received a joint multi-year grant from the Bingham Foundation to implement the DV Screening Project throughout all of Maine over a three year period
- Received a grant from the Maine Community Foundation for staffing our work with DV

How can you get involved? Please consider:

- Serving on one of our program committees – working on DV Prevention, Environmental Public Health, or National Security Issues
- Becoming an e-activist in one of our program areas
- Becoming a trainer for the DV Screening Project and helping to deliver this state of the art training
- Signing up your medical office to receive the DV Screening Training
- Assisting in reviewing grant proposals
- Hosting a SMART Security power-point presentation
- Helping in planning either our upcoming Global Energy Security conference or our Making the Connections III Environmental Public Health conference

To learn more visit us at
www.psrmaine.org

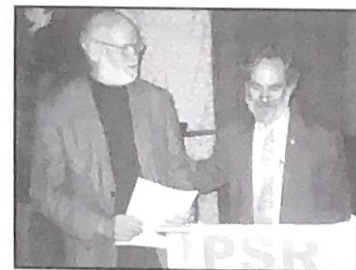
PSR Maine Annual Dinner Highlights

This year PSR/Maine's Annual Dinner was held at the Unitarian Church on Allen Ave in Portland. Thanks to the hard work and organizing of Raina Rippel we were able to complete matching the \$10,000 Paul Newman Challenge grant!

Special thanks additionally to the host committee for their generous donations that helped provide a wonderful sit down dinner of fresh salads made with Maine grown ingredients along with pasta and sauce by Paul Newman.

This year Tom Ewell was awarded the 2005 PSR/Maine Harry Bliss Activist of Year Award for his work with co-president Dr. Peter Wilk on achieving one of our greatest victories, when we successfully persuaded Senator Susan Collins to vote against further funding for research and development of the nuclear Bunker Buster.

Tom Ewell was the Director of the Maine Council of Churches and a coalition partner on many issues for close to twenty years.



Dr. Peter Wilk (right) presents award to Tom Ewell (left) at the PSR Maine Annual Dinner

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