



Maine Consumer

Winter 2006

OUR THANKS

Ed Steltzer is a long-time supporter of Northeast COMBAT. For the last three years, he has served as Board President. He offers these thoughts:

2005 has seen many significant changes at Northeast COMBAT. Sadly, we unexpectedly lost our founder and leader, John Supranovich, this past June. John was widely known and respected in the community, and we will miss not only his friendship, but also his vision for our organization, his tireless energy over the past 33 years, and John's boundless wit and wisdom. We will all cherish his memory and wish his family well during this difficult time.

Our offices at 109 State Street continue to hum with casework volunteers meeting the needs of Maine consumers and businesses. In a volunteer organization, casework staff will come and go, and we have been fortunate to gain some great new folks to help us. We have also found a very generous benefactor to take over ownership of our office building which will free us up from landlord duties so we can provide even more service to our nearly 700 individual members and over 100 business members.

We had a wonderful new golf tournament fundraiser in August which raised nearly \$5000 for COMBAT. Russ Van Arsdale (our incoming Board President for 2006) chaired this new event and went all out to provide an excellent event at Hermon Meadow Golf Course. Everyone had a great day, with good food, great friends, and terrific weather. Thanks to all who helped make this event a big success.



**Ed Steltzer, President
2002-2005**

Inside this issue:

- ✓ **Executive Director's report** p. 2
- ✓ **Board members elected** p. 2
- ✓ **Benefit drawing** p. 3
- ✓ **MARVEL: Virtual Library** p. 3
- ✓ **Golf Classic details** p. 4

Report of the Executive Director, Gerry Palmer

It is a pleasure to serve this organization as Executive Director, and I am flattered to have been selected in July by the Board of Directors. I have a long history with Northeast COMBAT, both personally and professionally, and I look forward to helping the organization reach its fortieth and fiftieth years. Marian Parent, the volunteers, and the board members have been very supportive, and my success can be directly attributed to their efforts and our combined love of the agency. We are continuing the mission of Northeast COMBAT that John Supranovich envisioned and fought for almost all of his adult life. He will never be forgotten.

Some of my goals for 2006 are to develop four major fundraisers (one each season, the golf tournament and the winter drawing are two of these). Northeast COMBAT's capital campaign will also officially kick off later this winter. *Consumer Forum*, our weekly column in the *Bangor Daily News*, has been spruced up and is receiving very favorable comments and has been a source of memberships and volunteers. Please remember, we are financially driven by the generosity of our members, without whom we could not operate. We receive no federal or state funding, and memberships by businesses and individuals are our bread and butter. Our solicitation to every municipality in the state for support also helps COMBAT continue its work.

We are planning to get our website up and running soon; try <http://www.nc4betterbiz.org> (hopefully our new internet address) in early February and let us know what you think of it. Many thanks to James Clifton, former board member and current chair of the website committee, who has given freely of his time and knowledge to make this site a reality. Kudos also to volunteer Jane Van Arsdale who is our onsite "computer wrangler."

2006 will most likely see a name change for our organization. While we all love what "COMBAT" does, the name does thwart our efforts in some quarters. Potential donors and members often have trouble with our "militaristic" logo. Stay tuned for future announcements and give us your ideas. We plan to keep this Maine Consumer newsletter published on a more regular basis so members stay active and informed. We will also post it online at our website.

New Board Leaders Elected for 2006

At the January 11th annual Northeast COMBAT board meeting, the following were elected to office for the coming year. We at Northeast COMBAT congratulate them !

Chairman	Ed Steltzer
President	Russ Van Arsdale
Vice-President	Edwina Barber
Treasurer	Chris Hinds, CPA
Clerk	Alexandra Turallo

Archives since July, 1993 of *Consumer Forum*, our weekly column in the *Bangor Daily News*, are available online through *MARVEL*, Maine's Virtual Library, *Maine Newsstand database* (see page 3).

Gerry Palmer, Jr



I was born at 292 State Street (the old Bangor Osteopathic Hospital) 58 years ago and work here at 109 State Street. I grew up in Bangor and in several other states. I am readily approachable and have an open door policy towards our members and volunteers.

Please don't hesitate to call, write, or email me with your ideas and concerns for Northeast COMBAT. Reach me at 944-8000 (cell) or Bangorgp@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

We continue to struggle with computer needs, given our antiquated system, and other office equipment needs. But the agency has strengthened both financially and with our new Executive Director, Gerry Palmer, who came on board in July. Gerry has been a former board member and President going back to the 1970s and 80s. Gerry has been a positive force for our agency over the past five months and is looking for further agency growth and success in 2006. Marian Parent continues as Assistant Director, and this remarkable lady is the backbone of service to our members and has been for many, many years.

While I am pleased with my years of service as your President, I look forward to serving the board and assisting the new President in my new role as Chairman of the Board. 2006 will surely be a banner year for Northeast COMBAT !



MARVEL! provides every resident of Maine with access to a collection of full text and abstracts from magazines, newspapers and reference books that are credible, reputable resources. MARVEL! also provides students, business people, public library patrons, and higher education students and educators the ability to search a number of resources at one time for needed information. The print value of the resources provided in these databases would be in excess of \$500,000 per library!

Thousands of magazines, newspapers and reference books are now available online in all libraries and schools, and from any Internet-connected computer anywhere in the state of Maine.

Remote users (from home or other non-library sites) can access MARVEL! by entering the following web address:
<http://www.maine.gov/marvel>.

Source: <http://libraries.maine.edu/mainedatabases/about>.



Drawing Tickets Enclosed

We have enclosed 12 Northeast COMBAT Winter Drawing tickets for you to buy or sell. We will hold our drawing on Wednesday, February 15th and have some terrific prizes (you do not have to be present to win):

First Prize – 100 gallons of fuel oil, compliments of R H Foster

Second Prize – \$100 food gift card, redeemable at Hannaford Grocery Stores

Third Prize – \$50 food gift card, redeemable at Hannaford Grocery Stores

Fourth Prize – Dinner for two with the Executive Director (your choice of any Bangor area restaurant; Gerry Palmer pays, including tip !)

Fifth Prize – Entry fee for two players to the Annual Northeast COMBAT Golf Classic benefit tournament (see back page for more details on this event)

Sixth thru 15th Prizes – Northeast COMBAT golf cap

Tickets for the drawing are only \$1.00 each or all twelve in the packet for \$10. More tickets are available at the COMBAT office. Call us on the member phone line if you need more. Winners will be listed in our next issue of the Maine Consumer.

Please mail your check and any leftover tickets no later than March 3rd to: Tickets, Northeast COMBAT, 109 State Street, Bangor, ME 04401. Please help us make our Winter Drawing a big success.

When you think GOLF, think COMBAT

Enjoy golf, good food, and fun at this year's charity golf classic that will benefit Northeast COMBAT, America's oldest, grassroots, non-profit consumer advocacy program, based right here in Bangor. COMBAT has helped thousands of consumers find marketplace justice over the past 34 years.

This year's tournament is planned for Hermon Meadow Golf Course Friday, August 25th, with an 8 AM shotgun start.

This benefit golf classic also is to honor the memory of John Supranovich, Northeast COMBAT's visionary founder and leader for over three decades. John was an inspiration to us all and very excited and involved in the early planning of this event, which has become an annual fundraiser for Northeast COMBAT.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the many organizations that sponsored individual holes, donated prizes and food, and otherwise made last year's inaugural tournament the huge success it was. Special thanks go to the folks at Golf Country at the Airport Mall in Bangor for their encouragement and support.

We need your help to sponsor a golf hole at a donation level that meets your or your organization's budget. We also need players for 36 teams (four players each) at \$75 per player. The scheduling of some women's events last year prevented many fine players from taking part in the Classic; we hope to see many of them at Hermon Meadow this year.

We encourage you to sign up early, as space is limited for this great summer golf event. For more information, call the COMBAT member phone line.

Hermon Meadow Golf Course is the site again of the Northeast COMBAT Golf Classic. Save the date: Friday, August 25th, for a great time to benefit a great cause.



Golfers plan strategy prior to teeing off at last year's inaugural Classic.

