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P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Maine 04347
Telephone 622-0851

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November 1992

NEWSLETTER

Number 4

FROM THE CHAIR

Women can make the difference

AT THE POLLS, IN CONGRESS, AT THE STATE HOUSE

by **LINDA WILCOX**
Chair, MWL Board

The November 3rd general election may be a defining moment in American politics. Angered by the all-male Judiciary Committee's treatment of Anita Hill, women are running for national, state, and local office in unprecedented numbers. And for the first time, women are major financial supporters of women candidates. Yet we are still far from approaching gender equity in our elected officials.

One hundred twenty-four women are running for Congress this year -- up

from 78 in 1990. The 113 women running for the House represent an increase of 61 percent and the 11 candidates for the Senate an increase of 38 percent over the number of women running for each body in 1990. By electing Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, California voters alone will double the number of women in the Senate. Just as exciting is the prospect of Afro-American Carol Moseley Brown and Native American Ida Deer joining the club. More women are giving more money to candidates of their choice. For example, women constitute 62 percent of the contributors to

Feinstein's Senate campaign.

Many women vote for women who support women's issues like choice, family medical leave, and a peacetime economy. A study of recent congressional races showed that women were more likely than men to vote for Democratic women candidates in 16 of 19 races, while women were more likely than men to vote for Republican women in only three of 16 races. The explanation for this phenomenon was that Democratic women candidates were more likely to espouse a women's

see **FROM the CHAIR** on page 2

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Wilcox chairs MWL Board

Linda Wilcox of North Monmouth is the new chair of the Maine Women's Lobby's board of directors. She is the Assistant Director of Women Unlimited, a training program in non-traditional occupations based at Central Maine Technical College in Lewiston-Auburn.

Wilcox succeeds Eleanor Goldberg who chaired the MWL board from June 1990 through June 1992. Goldberg, Director of Finance for the Sandy River Group in Portland, remains a member of the Lobby's board and is now chair of the Lobby's Development Committee.

Other officers installed at the annual meeting in June include:

Ellen Golden, vice-chair — Project Developer for Coastal Enterprises

see **LEADERSHIP** on page 2

Forums for women planned Oct. 26 in Lewiston-Auburn

Two public forums are scheduled on October 26 at the Multi-Purpose Center on Birch Street in Lewiston.

From noon to 2 p.m., Lewiston-Auburn women are invited to attend a brown-bag lunch and open discussion about the problems and issues that concern women in the area.

A second meeting will be held

that night from 7-9 p.m. Dessert and coffee will be provided at both events, and child care will be available at the evening session. For more information, contact Mary McPherson at the Lobby office (622-0851).

These forums are a continuation of the series of forums begun in early October in Arundel County (see story page 6.)

From the Chair (continued)

agenda than their Republican counterparts.

Maine has a higher proportion of female state legislators than any state in the country but Arizona: 34 percent of senators and 32 percent of house members are women. If Congress mirrored Maine's gender distribution there would be 140 (compared to 29) in the House and 34 (compared to 2) in the Senate. To show how far the country has to go to achieve gender equity in Congress, the National Women's Political Caucus predicts that women will win only 15 more House seats and five more Senate seats.

Eighty-four women are running for the Maine State Legislature as are 276 men. If a higher proportion of women than men are elected on November 3rd, it will be due to their positions on women's issues. Two organizations in Maine have endorsed legislative candidates. The Maine chapter of the National Organization for Women (MNOW) based their endorsements on candidate positions on choice, welfare, child care, and health care among other issues. The Dirigo Alliance, a coalition of 13 progressive organizations, surveyed all candidates and interviewed those who scored high on the questionnaire. MNOW has endorsed 43 percent of all female candidates and 18 percent of all male candidates running for the state legislature. The Dirigo Alliance has endorsed 25 percent of the women and 7 percent of the men.

Women are 54 percent of the registered voters in this country. It is time we speak out on the issues we care about and elect representatives who will support them. Find out how your candidates -- whether female or male -- stand on the issues important to you. And vote on November 3rd. A gender edge of just a few percentage points can mean victory. We can make the difference.

LEADERSHIP (CONTINUED)

Inc., a community development corporation financing small Maine businesses;

Emily Searle, secretary — a graduate student in the University of Maine's master's degree in social work program; and

Barbara Tribou, treasurer — an auditor with the Maine Department of Audit.

And finally a big THANKS to retiring MWL board members:

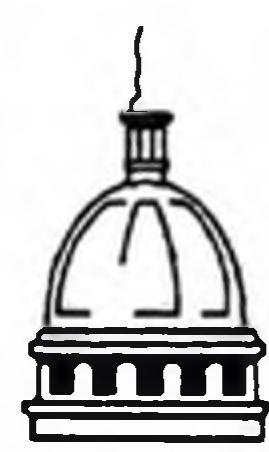
Leone Donovan,

Jill Duson,

Lisa Miller, and

Marguerite Ridgeway

for their hard work and support! We'll miss you.



The Maine Women's Lobby Newsletter is the official publication of the Maine Women's Lobby.

**Maine
Women's
Lobby**

P.O. Box 15, Hallowell Maine 04347

Linda Wilcox, Chair
Mary McPherson, Executive
Director/Lobbyist

Telephone: 622-0851

Printed on
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VOTE —

Pro Family, Pro Child, Pro Choice in November

by KAREN HECK

Lobby Board member

People who believe the government has no place in the decision how to handle an unplanned pregnancy must vote for candidates who will preserve a woman's right to decide.

Even if Roe is not ultimately overturned, the legacy of 12 years of Reagan and Bush is that 20% of the women in this country who want an abortion can't get one. It's not a matter of whether a constitutional right exists, it's a matter of access to services.

Eighty-three percent of the counties in this country have no abortion services. Women in the military and women who live on reservations are unable to get abortions in the hospitals that serve them. Only 13% of the ob/gyn residency programs in the nation require training in first-trimester terminations; only 7% require second trimester training.

There are doctors in this country who have bullet holes in their office walls. There are doctors who have their pictures displayed on mock "wanted" posters which list their phone numbers, license plate numbers, and family members. There are doctors who have death threats delivered on a regular basis by members of a group that calls itself pro-life.

Lest you think this kind of thing doesn't happen in Maine, you should know that the president of the Maine Pro-Life Education League has been picketing a Waterville hospital that doesn't even do abortions. His target is the one doctor in the area who is willing to do abortions, even though that doctor has to go to Pittsfield to do them because no hospital in Waterville will provide abortion services.

The hospital being picketed is one in which this doctor provides pre-natal care to low-income women. He has

provided that care to hundreds of low-income women and, as medical director of the local family planning center, he has helped to prevent thousands of unwanted pregnancies.

It is appalling that these protesters are allowed to attack personally the very people who are providing us with services for whatever choice we make.

We need to elect leaders who will speak out strongly in favor of protecting a woman's right to choose and who will denounce the terrorist tactics used by the anti-choice minority.

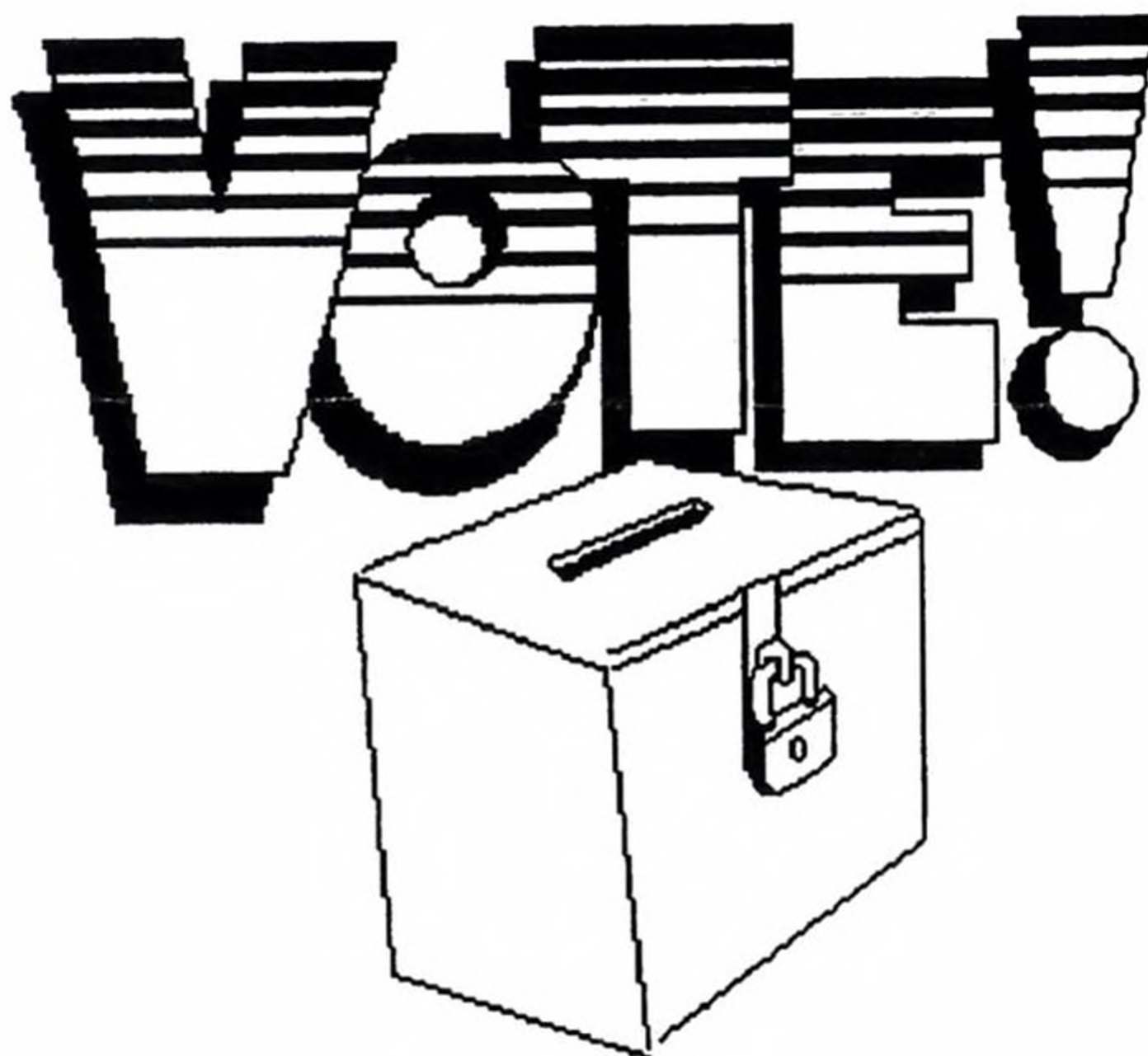
We need to elect a strong pro-choice legislature to pass the Reproductive Privacy Act which will be introduced by the Maine Choice Coalition next January. If we don't, we will continue to spend valuable time and resources on the fight to preserve our reproductive rights instead of spending time and resources to move ahead on issues affecting our quality of life.

We need to continue to fight for increased funding for family planning... for pre-natal care... for Medicaid funded abortions... for residential treatment centers for pregnant women... for increased job training and education for AFDC mothers... for a decent standard of living for the children in Maine. It is a travesty that the defense of our right to choose saps the limited resources which could be applied to these causes.

We can and must make a difference this November. Find out where candidates seeking your vote stand. Tell them where you stand.

Volunteer. Donate money. Vote, and get your friends to vote, for those candidates you determine are truly...

... Pro child ... pro family ... pro choice.



— Items From Our Catalog —



NOTE CARDS

Striking and colorful "Many Strong and Beautiful Women" design by Kiki. 5x7-inch greeting card printed on recycled gloss stock using vegetable-based inks.

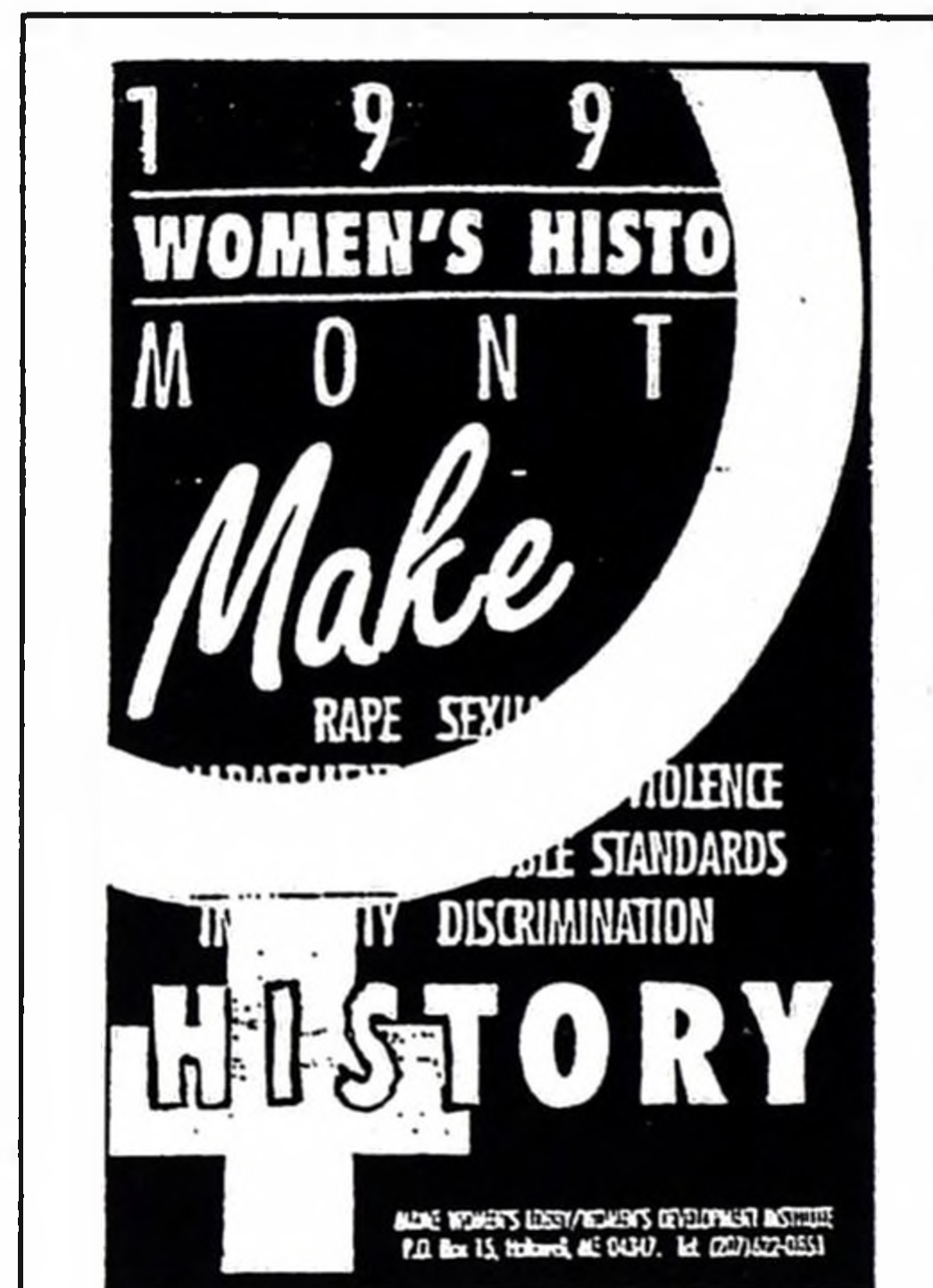
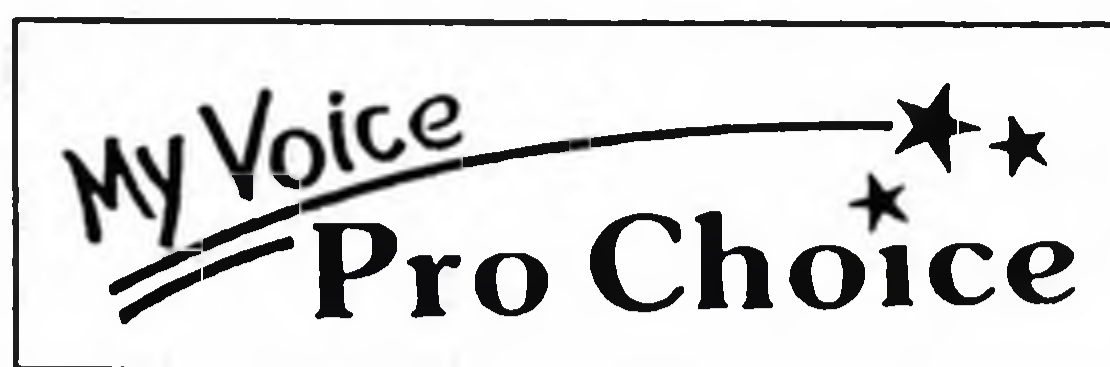
MWL price: \$1 ea.; 6 for \$5

T-SHIRTS

Heavy 100% pre-shrunk cotton featuring the colorful, multi-cultural designs "Many Strong and Beautiful Women" (pictured) or "Women Help Women" (not shown.) Sizes M, L, XL

\$15 each

BUMPER STICKERS • \$1 EACH



POSTERS — now \$5.00

Help spread the word: Oppression is wrong. Buy one for your office, a local library, the YWCA, YMCA, etc. Black, fuchsia, & silver.

MWL GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Membership in the Maine Women's Lobby—the perfect gift for a forward-thinking friend who doesn't need anything else.

- ☐ \$500 Life
- ☐ \$250 Sustaining
- ☐ \$100 Sponsoring
- ☐ \$ 50 Supporting
- ☐ \$ 25 Individual
- ☐ \$1-24 Other

The Maine Women's Lobby is committed to representing women of all economic means. Any contribution you are able to make will entitle you to membership.

RAFFLE TICKETS

One chance for \$1 • six for \$5

PRIZES —

- Two nights for two plus breakfasts at The Inn on South Street in Kennebunkport
- Two nights for two including breakfasts at The Pointed Fir B&B in Tenants Harbor
- One night for two including breakfast at Maine Back Roads B&B in Wells
- Two tickets to a Boston Celtics game at Boston Garden
- The book, "The Worst Years of Our Lives" by Barbara Ehrenreich from the Iron Horse Bookstore in Waterville
- A "Bug Baffler" shirt -- a long-sleeved, hooded mesh shirt made and donated by Bug Baffler Co. in Goffston, N.H.

Date of the drawing is January 22

PLEASE USE ORDER FORM ON NEXT PAGE

Help organize for the Reproductive Privacy Act

The Lobby is looking for grass-roots organizers and volunteers to help get the Reproductive Privacy Act passed.

We need four volunteers from 5-9 p.m. on Nov. 9 at the Family Planning Association office in Augusta to help put out a mailing. We are also assembling a list of organizers to help get this important legislation enacted.

For information, or to volunteer, please call the Lobby office at 622-0851

Maine Breast Cancer Coalition seeks support of members

The Maine Breast Cancer Coalition works in a variety of ways to fight breast cancer, to educate the public and to lend support to survivors and women in recovery. Meetings are open to survivors, their allies, and to interested health-care providers.

The next meeting of the Breast Cancer Coalition will be held on October 26 from 1-3 p.m. at the Maine Hospital Association office, 150 Capitol Street, Augusta (located across from the Department of Human Services.) A Breast Cancer Support Group is also held every first Tuesday of the month at St. Bartholomew's Church in Yarmouth. (Contact: Anne Palmer — 846-1516)

For more information about the Breast Cancer Coalition, contact Fran Mullen (1-800-3102) or Sara Walbridge (773-3553). A list of breast cancer support groups around the state can be obtained through Fran Mullen at the American Cancer Society.

Maine Women's Lobby Order Form:

Item	Quantity	Size	Amount
<div>For T-Shirts: Make check payable to the Women's Development Institute and you may deduct \$6 of the purchase price of each shirt for income tax purposes.</div>			
Shipping/Handling (From \$1-\$14.99, add \$1.50; Add \$3 to orders \$15 and up)			
Total			

SHIP TO:	NAME & ADDRESS for GIFT MEMBERSHIP
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
Town/ST/Zip: _____	Town/ST/Zip: _____

RETURN TO MWL, PO BOX 15, HALLOWELL, ME 04347 • IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CALL 622-0851

Lobby initiates public forum series in Aroostook County

In early October, the Maine Women's Lobby and the Women's Development Institute (WDI) sponsored public forums in Aroostook County to meet women from the County, to learn what issues are most important to them, to discuss recent legislation, and to talk about getting involved in the legislative process. Approximately 50 women attended the meetings, held in Fort Kent, Madawaska, and Presque Isle.

Several themes emerged. First, that women in the County would like to be more active in public policy: supporting legislation that affects women; preserving current state funding for programs such as AFDC, Medicaid, and job training; working to enforce laws already enacted; and educating the public issues of sex equity.

One specific suggestion was that women work with local schools, particularly vocational schools, to make



sure that female students are encouraged to consider non-traditional occupation (NTO) training and careers. To assist in this effort, the Women's Development Institute has plans to participate in Career Day at the University of Maine, Fort Kent, in March next year. Working with local women currently employed in NTOs, Women Unlimited (a training program for women which will offer courses in Presque Isle this spring), and the Maine Department of Transportation,

we plan to have a program there on non-traditional occupations.

The women we met were also clear that the women in Aroostook County want to be represented on the Lobby Board. The participants agreed to call another meeting in November to discuss future legislative efforts and select a County representative to the Board. This will be a major commitment of time and money on the part of the person selected and the group. We are delighted that the women we met want to participate in the work of the Lobby as active members.

Another idea, which we're following up on, is for the Lobby or Development Institute to use the University of Maine ITV (interactive television link-up) to provide information and to hold "public meetings" on a state-wide basis. (Other suggestions on innovative ways for us to communicate with our members and allies are always welcome.)

WLAC conference set for Nov. 14 in Augusta

"NO GOING BACK! Moving Forward a Women's Agenda in Maine," is a conference no Maine women will want to miss. Sponsored by the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition (WLAC), the conference will be held from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 14 in Jewett Hall at the University of Maine at Augusta.

Participants will have a chance to learn more about the issues, to participate in strategy sessions, and to

help formulate the WLAC agenda before the end of the day. Morning workshops will cover issues that will be addressed in the next legislative session: budget cuts, reproductive freedom, health care, the economy and jobs, civil rights, violence against women. Workshops are also planned on how to translate our ideas and issues into legislation.

Legislators will be invited to join us for a catered lunch. In the afternoon everyone will have a chance to

look at the results of the morning workshops and work together to set an agenda which will assure that women and children's issues are addressed in the next legislative session.

Registration is \$15 for individuals who belong to any of WLAC's 22 member organizations, including the Maine Women's Lobby; \$25 for others. Lunch is included in the fee. For further information, contact the Maine Women's Lobby, 622-0851.

Annual drawing promises great prizes, great fund-raising opportunity

Spend a night or two at a Maine bed & breakfast or an inn; see a Celtics game at the Garden; win a book; or baffle the bugs next spring.

All it takes is a buck and a little luck in the Maine Women's Lobby's annual drawing.

Tickets for the drawing — one of the Lobby's biggest fund raisers — were mailed to Lobby members in mid-October. The drawing is scheduled for January 22.

Purchased individually chances cost \$1, or in books of six they are \$5.

The list of prizes this year includes:

- Two nights for two plus breakfasts at The Inn on South Street in Kennebunkport
- Two nights for two including breakfasts at The Pointed Fir B&B in Tenants Harbor
- One night for two including breakfast at Maine Back Roads B&B in Wells
- Two tickets to a Boston Celtics game at Boston Garden
- The book, "The Worst Years of Our Lives" by Barbara Ehrenreich from the Iron Horse Bookstore in

Waterville

- A "Bug Baffler" shirt -- a long-sleeved, hooded mesh shirt made and donated by Bug Baffler Co. in Goffston, N.H.

The Lobby appreciates the generosity of those who donated the prizes, and members are encouraged to show our gratitude by selling as many tickets as possible between now and the drawing. Proceeds from the drawing go directly into lobbying efforts. MWL Board member Dorcas Miller is in charge of the annual drawing this year.

Membership Form

**I want to help improve the lives of
Maine women and their families!**

- ☐ Here's my \$25 for an individual membership
- ☐ I prefer to join at the level below:

REGULAR

- ☐ \$500 Life
- ☐ \$250 Sustaining
- ☐ \$100 Sponsoring
- ☐ \$ 50 Supporting
- ☐ \$ 25 Individual
- ☐ \$1-24 Other

PLEDGE

- ☐ Total annual pledge \$ _____
- I prefer to pay:
- \$ _____ monthly
- \$ _____ every other month
- \$ _____ quarterly
- \$ _____ twice per year



P.O. Box 15, Hallowell Maine 04347

Name _____ Phone _____ Business _____

Address _____ Town _____ Zip _____

- ☐ I do not want my name given to other groups.

- ☐ I am already a member. Please use the enclosed contribution of \$ _____ to advocate on behalf of Maine women and their families.

The Maine Women's Lobby is committed to representing women of all economic means. Any contribution you are able to make will entitle you to membership. Please make your check payable to: Maine Women's Lobby and return it with this card

THANK YOU and WELCOME!



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