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## Maine Women's Lobby News Letter (1993 - January) No. 1

Maine Women's Lobby Staff

*Maine Women's Lobby*

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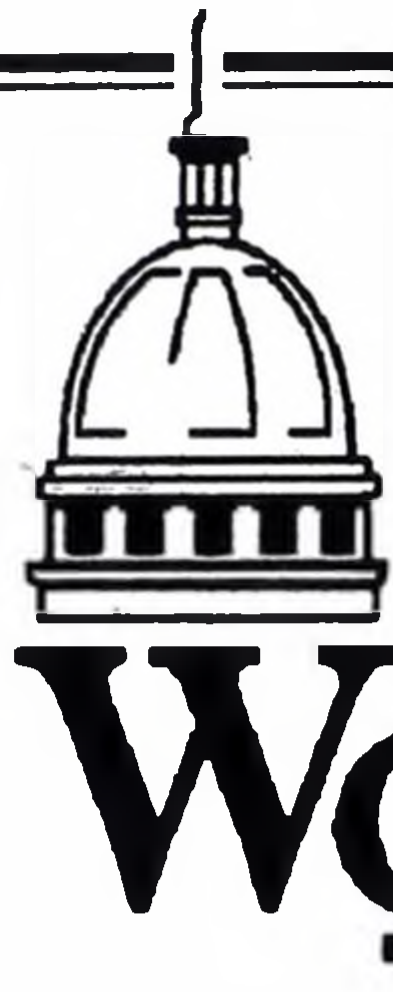
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# Maine Women's Lobby

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

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January 1993

NEWSLETTER

Number 1

## New Year — New Faces

### Goodbye to Mary . . .

Mary McPherson, our lobbyist extraordinaire, left in December to pursue several careers including coordinating fund-raising activities for Bay Chamber Concerts, working in the corporate sales program for classical radio station WAVX in Rockland, and participating in a sex equity project at Camden-Rockport High School. In her "spare time" she is coordinating the public hearing for the Civil Rights bill and serving on the advisory board to the Family Law Project. The Lobby benefitted greatly from Mary's commitment to women's issues, her negotiating skills, and her ability to communicate our mission to women from all walks of life.

### . . . Hello to Laura

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Laura Fortman as lobbyist. Before joining the Lobby in December, Laura was executive director of the Augusta Area Rape Crisis Center. She has had extensive experience in community organizing, advocacy, and coalition building. As chair and legislative chair of the Maine Coalition Against Rape, Laura has been actively involved in drafting legislation, testifying before legislative committees, and monitoring the progress of bills through the legislature. She has represented the Coalition Against Rape on the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition.

### . . . and Marty

We are also pleased to announce that Marty McIntyre is joining the Lobby and the Women's Development Institute as the Director of Program Development. This new position was established to strengthen our membership, fund raising, and outreach activities. Marty has been executive director of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center in Androscoggin County for the past eight years. She has been responsible for volunteer coordination, program development, and fiscal management. She has had extensive public speaking and training experience, most recently in sexual harassment in the workplace.

## INSIDE:

State budget takes  
yet another whack  
at women — Page 6

COMING: Operation  
PhoneTree — Page 5

Lewiston Forums — Page 3

## Breakfast of Champions

Sign Up Now for Celebration of 20th Anniversary of ROE!

by BARBARA REINERTSEN

The Maine Women's Lobby will hold its third annual "Breakfast of Champions" on the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision which guaranteed women freedom of choice on abortion. Speakers will bring us up to date on our exciting effort to enact a Freedom of Choice law in Maine, and on the national prospects given the new administration in Wash-

ington.

The event will be held at the Holiday Inn, 88 Spring Street, Portland, on Friday, January 22 from 7:30-9 a.m.

Speakers will include our new Lobbyist Director Laura Fortman, Maine Choice Coalition Chair (and former MWL executive director) Joanne D'Arcangelo, and MWL board mem-

see **BREAKFAST** on page 3



*From the Chair*

# What Makes the Lobby Different?

by LINDA WILCOX  
MWL Chair

I am often asked how the Maine Women's Lobby differs from other women's organizations with similar missions. The answer I give is that we alone support a lobbyist who works full time on women's issues when the legislature is in session. And increasingly, lobbying is a way that legislative work gets done.

As an example of that increase, fifteen years ago, when the Lobby was formed, there were 95 businesses, associations, and organizations that paid lobbyists to promote their interests in the Legislature. Collectively, that year, these organizations paid their lobbyists over \$377,000. By 1991 the number of organizations had grown to 360 (an almost four-fold increase) and their lobbying budgets approached three million dollars (an almost eight-fold increase).

In the face of current publicity about abuses of political influence, we must not forget that lobbying is an important part of our democratic process. A democratic form of government relies on the involvement of its citizens in the governing process. In its purest form, lobbying is the communication of in-

formation through exercising our constitutional rights to free association and free expression. The premise is that through collective action we have a stronger voice than we do as individuals. For members of minority groups and those who are disenfranchised, such collective empowerment is of particular importance.

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*"Through collective  
action we have a  
stronger voice than we  
do as individuals"*

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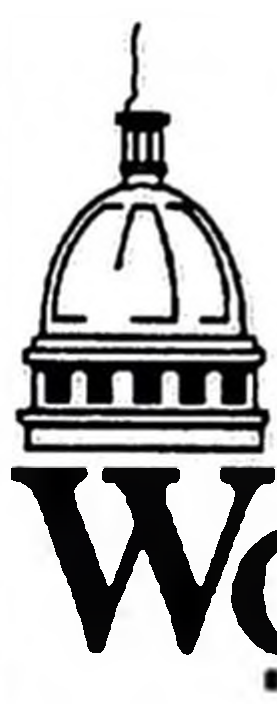
Vigilance and presence are critical to successful lobbying. Lobbying includes everything from developing relationships and providing well-researched data to legislators to understanding the position of others, drafting legislation, and mastering the intricacies of the legislative process.

Given the complexity of issues, today's legislators rely heavily on the information and indicators of popular support they receive from lobbyists. For this reason, we must have a presence — a voice in the legislative process. This presence is proactive when

we initiate new legislation such as the breast cancer screening and sexual harassment bills. It can also serve as a "watchdog" by monitoring the flow of legislation and, in particular, negotiations over budget cuts. Legislative decisions are made at all times and often need to be made instantly, particularly when amendments are introduced. Many bills that have come up for a vote in the "eleventh hour" would not have passed but for the vigilance of our lobbyist.

The Maine Women's Lobby is the only full-time voice for the wide range of issues affecting women and their families. As an organization, we work closely with other groups on common concerns and issues. Our list of concerns is long and our resources slim, but we do make a difference. Our presence is critical to ensuring that a voice is present in the policy discussion, both at formal hearings and behind the scenes when negotiation occurs. Often the Lobby takes on the "big guys" — businesses and associations like the health insurance industry and the anti-choice movement — that have the money and resources to present their views. These resources enable companies to hire a stable of lobbyists, to offer non-session social opportunities to elected officials, and to contract for high-priced professional "experts" to make their arguments.

The Maine Women's Lobby has neither the resources nor the desire to employ these methods of lobbying. We rely on your membership to hire our lobbyist and to provide grassroots support on key legislative issues. Only through your continued support can we prevent further erosions in Maine's social and economic safety net, preserve reproductive freedom, and promote equity for women.



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

Linda Wilcox, Chair  
Laura Fortman, Lobbyist  
Marty McIntyre, Program  
Development Director

Telephone: 622-0851

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## Forums in Lewiston air problems and build support

The Maine Women's Lobby and the Women's Development Institute jointly sponsored two public forums in Lewiston on October 26. The afternoon and evening sessions provided staff and Board members with a chance to hear firsthand from Lewiston/Auburn women about the issues that affect their lives. Approximately 35 women came and spoke eloquently about the problems and inadequacies of AFDC and job training opportunities. A theme running through both meetings was the huge number of roadblocks and disincentives placed in the way of women

who are trying to get off welfare (the high cost of work-related expenses including child care and transportation, lack of child care options, loss of medical benefits, low wage jobs.)

Suggestions for improving the bureaucracy were made, including the idea that women receiving AFDC who provide child care for other women (also on AFDC) who are working or are in training program should have that income excluded for purposes of calculating their AFDC grant, thus offering an incentive for women to provide much-needed child care. Several women indicated they would be interested in testifying in Augusta during the next legislative session, and a number joined the Lobby on the spot.

Lynne Wescott, a WDI fall intern from the University of Southern Maine, did a terrific job coordinating the meetings. We are currently exploring options for future forums or local outreach events. If you have ideas, please contact Marty McIntyre at 622-0851.

## BREAKFAST

(continued from page 1)

ber Karen Heck.

We have also invited as potential speakers a member of the incoming Clinton/Gore administration, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, and Center for Reproductive Law and Policy President Janet Benshoof. The Center has been at the forefront of Supreme Court abortion cases.

Last year some 80 informed, committed people attended the breakfast to share in the celebration and to learn more about upcoming legislative activity on the choice issue. This year, be one of them!

To register, please send a check for \$25 per person made out to the Maine Women's Lobby to: Eleanor Goldberg, 146 Whitney Avenue, Portland, ME 04102. Registrations must be received by January 20. Please let us know if you would like financial assistance to attend this event, or if you have special dietary requests. Call 773-0321 or 622-0851 for further information or help.

Hope to see you on the 22nd!

## COMING SOON . . .

. . . to a wall near you?

The second annual Maine Women's Lobby Women In History poster is currently in production and will be available in time for Women's History Month in March.

This year's poster celebrates women's successes in the 1992 election, both in Congress and in the Maine legislature. Orders are now being taken for the poster, whose theme is "Changing the Face of History." 1993 posters are \$10 each, and you can get the complete MWL Women in History series (1992 and 1993) for a total of \$15.

We have to charge \$3 for packaging and postage, but that charge is the same regardless of the number of posters (or sets) ordered.

Get a set for yourself, or make an even greater impact by buying them for a school or library. For information call the Lobby office at 622-0851 or send a check (including the shipping) to MWL, PO Box 15, Hallowell, ME 04347.

## MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY Board of Directors

### OFFICERS:

<b>Linda Wilcox</b>	Monmouth	Chair
<b>Ellen Golden</b>	Woolwich	Vice Chair
<b>Emily Searle</b>	Readfield	Secretary
<b>Barbara Tribou</b>	Gardiner	Treasurer

### BOARD MEMBERS:

<b>Catherine Charette • Portland</b>	<b>Jane Gilbert • Augusta</b>
<b>Eleanor Goldberg • Portland</b>	<b>Chris Hastedt • Freeport</b>
<b>Karen Heck • Waterville</b>	<b>Linda Kley • Winthrop</b>
<b>Lee Longnecker • Portland</b>	<b>Dorcas Miller • Chelsea</b>
<b>Barbara Reinertsen • Bath</b>	<b>Valerie Mitchell • Waterville</b>
<b>Laura Ronan • Augusta</b>	<b>Libbey Seigers • Coopers Mills</b>
<b>Betsy Sweet • Monmouth</b>	<b>Janet Waldron • Vassalboro</b>



# Budget seeks more sacrifices from women

by CHRIS HASTEDT

As we go to press, the Governor has not yet finalized his plans for meeting the projected billion-dollar shortfall facing the State over the next two years. However, while the details of the budget package that he will present to the Legislature's Appropriations Committee in early January are still unknown, the Governor has made clear that he expects even greater sacrifices from women and children already living well below the poverty level.

Proposals being seriously considered by the administration include:

- **Elimination of a number of Medicaid services including prescription drugs, mental health clinic services, private duty nursing services, physical therapy, and prosthetic devices and other durable medical equipment.**
- **No assistance for additional children born to AFDC parents.**

- **Elimination of the so-called "gap" which provides incentive for AFDC families to work by allowing them to keep more of their earnings.**
- **Elimination of the municipal general assistance program.**
- **Reduction of \$1.2 million over the biennium in funding for Family Planning services.**

In addition to the problems of the biennial budget, the Appropriations Committee will have to resolve a deficit that may be as much as one hundred million dollars in the current fiscal year.

Much of the budget debate will focus on the question of how much of a role, if any, additional revenues should play in solving the budget crisis. The \$320 million tax package enacted in 1991 as a temporary measure to help balance the budget in the last biennium (including a penny on the sales tax and surcharges on the corporate and per-

sonal income tax) is due to expire over the next six months. Given the very slow progress of the economic recovery and our continuing budget difficulties, many, including the Lobby, argue that additional revenues are needed in order to prevent painful cuts to those who can least afford them.

We can expect a difficult next six months. It will be a time when we must argue many times in many places for a fair and common sense solution to the budget shortfall.

Taking income from poor women and children who do not now have enough to pay the rent or to provide an adequate diet is not fair. Cutting family planning or maintenance drugs for Medicaid recipients has significant future costs and does not make sense.

This message must be given over and over again in the next six months. We will count on your help in delivering it.

## Choice Coalition needs help with Reproductive Privacy Act

by KAREN HECK

Remember that flyer you received in November from the **Maine Choice Coalition** asking if you wanted to help pass the Reproductive Privacy Act this legislative session? Well, if it's still sitting on your desk waiting for some action, now's the time to take it.

The Reproductive Privacy Act will guarantee the status quo in Maine concerning abortion rights by codifying Roe and repealing the 48-hour waiting period that is on the books.

The Lobby, along with other members of the Choice Coalition, will be working hard to pass this bill early in the session so that we can move on the

myriad other issues that will demand our attention this year. To do that we all need to work together. Lobby members are needed to be part of our phone tree, to write letters to the editors of local papers, and to hold neighborhood meetings with legislators.

If you are willing to help, please either return the Choice Coalition's form or call the Lobby office.

This is the year we can make reproductive freedom a reality for all Maine women. In addition to the RPA, Maine NOW will be working on Medicaid funding for abortions. What an incredible Roe v. Wade Breakfast of Champions we could have next year! Volunteer today!

## WANTED:

**MWL Representative  
for the Child Care  
Advisory Committee**

The Department of Human Services' Office of Child Care Coordination has invited a representative of the Lobby to sit on its Child Care Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to advise the department on developing child care services in order to maximize the self-sufficiency and to minimize jeopardy of Maine's children and families.

The committee meets several times a year on weekdays. If you are interested in serving as the Lobby's representative to the committee, call the Lobby office at 622-0851.





# Legislative Update

When the Legislature convenes in early January the primary "women's issue" to be addressed will be, once again.... THE BUDGET. Though, as this goes to press, we do not know the final budget proposal, we do know that it will include drastic reduction in essential services and the elimination of entire programs. At the top of the list of anticipated changes will be radical revision to the AFDC program: enforced work programs for all participants, regardless of their personal situations; "make-work" jobs that will not lead to meaningful employment; and a cut-back in job training and support services that currently help AFDC recipients, to be replaced by short term training programs that will not provide a secure employment future.

Other priority areas of concern include:

- the elimination of the Maine Health Program;
- the elimination of state funding for the General Assistance program;
- the elimination of state funding for community family planning; and
- reduced funding for the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services and the Child Abuse and Neglect Councils.

The Maine Women's Lobby will be taking the lead on a bill to provide funding for the Maine Human Rights Commission. In recent years the Maine Human Rights Commission has experienced reductions in staffing at the

same time the number of people filing charges of discrimination has increased. These two factors have resulted in long delays in resolving charges (with individuals waiting a month to file a charge and six months or a year for a fact-finding conference.) Requested funding will provide the Commission with an additional attorney, an investigator, and a clerical support person, and will make it possible for individuals to resolve acts of discrimination quickly.

The Lobby will also be working with legislators and coalitions on a number of other issues, including:

- amending the Code of Fair Practice to require that, if there has been a reasonable grounds finding in a sexual harassment case brought to the Maine Human Rights Commission in the past two years against any business or corporation contracting with the state, that business must provide at least four hours of sexual harassment training for every employee before being granted a state contract;
- protecting women's right to reproductive privacy (with the Maine Choice Coalition);
- universal health care legislation (with Consumers for Affordable Health Care);
- an amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act to protect lesbians and gay men from discrimination;
- a bill to broaden the definition of gross sexual assault to include digital penetration; and
- clarification of the protection from harassment law to include "stalking."

## Women's Issues Leadership Council initiative announced

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Maine Women's Lobby and the birth of the Women's Development Institute, we are undertaking a founders' campaign. The Women's Issues Leadership Council will be kicked off in February, and efforts are now underway to solicit contributions.

We will publish a yearly brochure acknowledging the founders and three levels of contributions. The publication will also include the yearly accomplishments of the Development Institute. The original founders will continue to be recognized in each succeeding year they contribute. So get in on the ground floor now! For as little as \$240, \$500 or \$1,000 (or any amount in between) you will be remembered as a

pioneer woman.

For more information, please get in touch with us at 622-0851.

## Sister, Can You Spare a Bed?

*Maine Women's Lobby members in the Augusta area are being asked to help out by volunteering a spare bed once a month. New directors from northern Maine need a place to stay when they attend board meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. If you can help out by hosting these courageous travellers on a regular basis or from time to time, please call the Lobby office (622-0851) to volunteer.*



# — Items From Our Catalog —



## NOTE CARDS

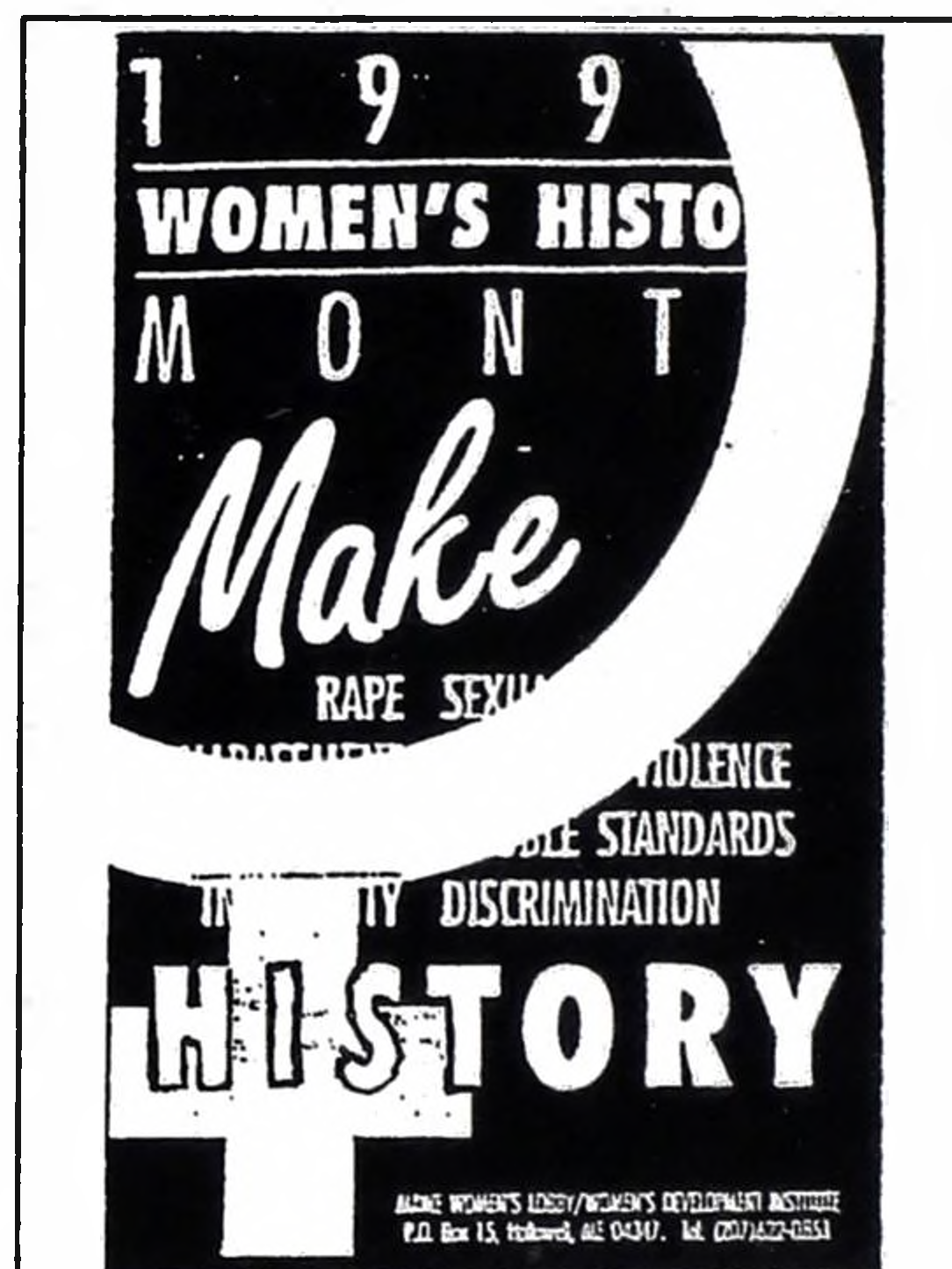
Striking and colorful "Many Strong and Beautiful Women" design by Kiki. 5x7-inch greeting card printed on recycled gloss stock using vegetable-based inks.

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



## POSTERS

Women's History posters from MWL. Last year's is pictured. 1993 edition will roll off the press next month.

1993 poster — \$10

1992 + 1993 — \$15

## BUMPER STICKERS • \$1 EACH



## MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY 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

## ATTENTION: All Maine Women's Lobby members

The drawing for prizes in the Lobby's annual raffle will take place at the Breakfast of Champions on Jan. 22 in Portland. All ticket stubs and proceeds must

be returned to be included in the drawing. Please send tickets and money to:

The Maine Women's Lobby  
146 Whitney Avenue  
Portland, ME 04102

Please use order form on next page



# MWL Phone Tree organized

by **BARBARA REINERTSEN**

You may be called soon to take part in a Maine Women's Lobby phone tree to contact legislators.

It has been a challenge to organize a system that will include more than 900 of us, but we are close to completion. I want to thank Linda Wilcox, Lee Longnecker, Catherine Charette, and Lizzy Poole for helping to set up the phone tree, as well as every Lobby member who agreed to head up a Senate or House division.

When you are called, please: A) call your own legislator (or the Governor you will be told who needs to be called); B) make any calls you agreed to make to other Lobby members promptly, passing along the brief message and names of others who need to be con-

tacted; and C) if you can't reach someone who is responsible for calling other people, please take that responsibility upon yourself or recruit another member to help you so the tree doesn't break down.

Be prepared with the names and numbers of your legislators. If you don't know them, you can call your town hall, the Clerk of the House, or the Senate Clerk at the Statehouse. Here is the general information:

Representative  
State House Station #3  
Augusta, ME 04333  
1(800) 423-2900 or 289-1440

Senator  
State House Station #3  
Augusta, ME 04333  
1(800) 423-6900 or 289-1540

Governor John McKernan  
State House Station #1  
Augusta, ME 04333  
289-3531

Unless you feel strongly about talking personally to your representative, which can be difficult during a busy session, you can leave a brief message at the above numbers. Leave the name of the legislator, your name and town (if you're a constituent), and how strongly you feel about a certain issue. A letter can also be powerful, but when we activate the phone tree we need you to call too, since there will usually be a tight deadline.

Thank you. Together we can have a powerful voice.

## Maine Women's Lobby Order Form:

Item	Quantity	Size	Amount
<div><b>For T-Shirts:</b> 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME & ADDRESS for GIFT MEMBERSHIP**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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



# 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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