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Northern Lambda Nord

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COMMUNITY CENTER

NEW RAFFLE PLANNED TO AID BUILDING FUND

A second raffle has been organized to raise additional funds for the establishment of a gay-lesbian community center for this region. The prize will be a $100 shopping spree at the store of the winner’s choice. The first raffle, which was for a portable CD player, was won by a woman from Bangor who purchased her ticket at the Maine Lesbian and Gaymen’s Symposium XVIII in Portland. Tickets were sold from mid-winter ‘91 through October. This next raffle will begin December 31, 1991 at the New Year’s Eve party, and the winning ticket will be drawn Sunday, May 24, 1992 at the barbeque dinner at Symposium XIX in Presque Isle. As with the first raffle, tickets are $2 each or 3 for $5; Canadian and US funds are accepted at par. If the winning ticket is purchased with Canadian funds, the $100 shopping spree will be awarded in Canadian; if the ticket is purchased in US funds, the prize is in US funds.

The building fund, which began in January of this year, aims to hit the $1000 (US) mark before New Year’s Eve. Only $129.00 needs to be raised to reach that goal. All monies donated to Northern Lambda Nord are tax-deductible in the US; make sure you get a receipt. The 5¢ deposits on empty beverage containers have made a significant contribution to the fund; everyone is encouraged to save their empty soda, beer, wine, juice, water, and liquor bottles and cans and donate the refunds to the building fund.

BUILDING FUND

The NLN Building Fund is designed to raise money for a community center for this region. The center would house the phoneline, library, office, meeting space, and party space. Since NLN is a 501(c)3 group, all donations are tax-deductible on federal U.S. income tax; merely ask for a receipt. Donations of any amount - U.S. or Canadian funds - are appreciated.

LAMBDA INTERVENES IN CHRISTIAN CIVIC LEAGUE SUIT

Northern Lambda Nord has signed on as an “intervener” in a suit by the Maine Christian Civic League’s Executive Director, Jasper S. Wyman, Plaintiff, against the Maine Secretary of State, G. William Diamond, Defendant. The suit was initiated when Attorney General Michael Carpenter advised the Secretary of State that an initiative petition presented by the Civic League is unconstitutional because it would bind subsequent legislatures by requiring them to add a referendum provision to any legislation relating to “homo-
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sexual rights."

Intervener status means that if the court rules in favor of Wyman and permits his petition, intereners may appeal the ruling. This is different from a "friend of the court" or amicus curiae, who merely advises the court. As intervener, NLN's role is to present additional "affirmative defenses" which are not raised by either Diamond or Wyman, those being: (1) the petition seeks to do by initiative petition what must be done instead through a constitutional amendment; (2) the petition is ambiguous, vague, and overbroad; (3) the petition violates guarantees of equal protection and due process by designating a class of persons who are not on equal footing before the Maine legislature with other Maine citizens and groups protected by the Maine Human Rights Act, and whose protections, if any, are singled out for referendum without rational basis.

Lambda joins nine other organizations and eight individuals as interveners in this case. The groups are: Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA), Maine chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), Maine AIDS Alliance, The Matlovich Society (holds educational forums on gay-lesbian and related issues), Am Chofsi (Maine's lesbian-gay Jewish group), Integrity/Kennebec (Augusta-area Episcopal group), Maine Chapter of National Organization of Women, Maine Women's Lobby, Southern Maine chapter National Council of Jewish Women. The Maine Civil Liberties Union and the Boston-based firm GLAD, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, are representing the interveners at no cost. Lambda, along with the other interveners, may be asked to contribute to the legal expenses, not legal fees, incurred in this case. ▼