ERA supporters strive for deadlines

By Kathryn E. Haughstatter

Ten people in the United States are holding up a law that 72 percent of the population favors according to a Missouri woman who is working for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Ann Boyce, a community organizer for the Missouri Equal Rights Coalition, was in Omaha Saturday to speak at a luncheon during Equality Day activities at the Hilton Hotel.

Boyce said six legislators in Missouri, two in Florida, and two in Illinois are all that prevent passage of the ERA.

"We have 583 days to move women into legal personhood," Boyce said. "We have a plan. We can do it, but we need money."

Three more states must ratify the amendment by March 22, 1981 in order for it to become a part of the U.S. Constitution.

She asked Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas to help Missouri by sending money to help the fight for ratification. These states have ratified the amendment, although Nebraska voted to rescind ratification.

After Boyce's speech, Sen. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln said, "As one of the three woman senators from Nebraska, I want to be the first to add my Susan B. Anthony dollar."

Day also for men

A UNL political science major was one of only three men at the Equality Day celebration held at the Hilton Hotel in Omaha Saturday.

Dan Walsh, 1136 S. 11th St., is a nephew of Ann Boyce, the keynote speaker, and the son of Virginia Walsh, the moderator of the afternoon forum and vice chairwoman of the Nebraska Coalition of Women, the group that sponsored the event.

He said he was at the event to show his support of his mother's activities. He also said Equality Day is a very important political event.

"One of the benefits of this meeting is that I've learned some of the problems women are confronted with when they try to become political."

He said he is politically active and the meeting was a learning experience.

He said he was surprised because he expected

more men at the meeting.

"It is an equality day for all people," he said.
"I've set a goal for myself to bring a few friends next year."

Boyce later said she collected \$289 from the 112 people at the luncheon, and she planned to donate her speakers fee of \$100.

Events included forums entitled "Self Esteem and Mental Health," "What are women's organizations doing for women?," a play based on readings and songs from the 19th century women's movement, and "Up From Ribbery."

The author and director of "Up From Ribbery" is Elaine Franco, an assistant professor at UNL.

Women's Equality Day celebrates the anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.



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