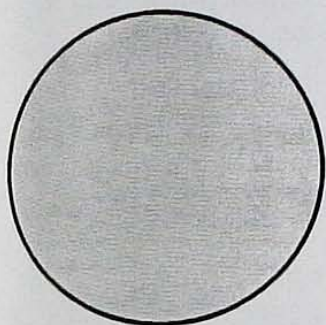
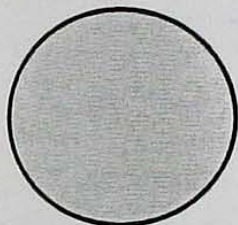


Lump size and screening efficiency



Average size lump found by women untrained in Breast Self Examination (BSE).



Average size lump found by women practicing occasional BSE.



Average size lump found by women practicing regular BSE.



Average size lump found by first mammogram.



Average size lump found by regular mammograms.

Source: Milner-Fenwick Inc., Timonium, MD.

The anatomy of a resolution

By Ruth Hunt

"It's just too much trouble!"

"Of course, our members feel strongly about that issue; somebody has to do something."

"Who wants to work at a resolution and see it shot down in flames at Area Convention?"

"It all takes up too much time at Convention, while people go on nit-picking over wording."

Have you heard it all before? But, you can't tell the Northgate Women's Institute Branch in Mount Forest that resolutions are not worthwhile. This Branch is pleased that their resolution calling for the legalization of the living will has gone on to influence Ontario law.

Take heart Women's Institute members. You can do it too. Our experience may give you some how-to-go-about-it hints.

First, you must choose an issue that affects your members closely. For us it was the legalization of the living will. Every human being has to face death, and rural women are all too familiar with the birth and death cycle on their farms. They are realistic. No one would prolong the act of dying for an animal.

Nor do they want to see loved ones kept alive by medical genius past the time when there is any reasonable hope of recovery. For far too long this subject has been taboo. But we had a ready-made document - the living will - originating with the Dying with Dignity organization.

Secondly, seek allies for your resolution. In our case, the Dying with Dignity group gave us literature, expert advice, and help in framing the resolution, appearing on television, undertaking phone-in interviews, and enlisting support in the legislature.

Also, if you can, get endorsements for your resolution. The Bruce Presbytery of the United Church voted to support our resolution. Our local newspaper, the Mount Forest Confederate, gave us invaluable support. And, we must thank all the Women's Institute members who

wrote letters to the Attorney-General, Minister of Health, and their local MPPs.

Thirdly, keep it simple. Present your resolution to your Area Convention with lots of newspaper or magazine articles, news reports, and letters, which will all be forwarded to the FWIO Resolutions Convenor and Committee, and eventually to the FWIO Executive and Board of Directors.

Be prepared for criticism; and, if possible, answer to the criticisms at your first presentation of the resolution.

What made the difference for the Northgate Women's Institute was a strong Chairman. Our Area Resolutions Convenor, Dianne Orr, simply wouldn't let the discussion get out of hand. And especially on such a sensitive issue, there were some who wanted to go off on a tangent. But when a questioner mentioned "euthanasia" or "assisted suicide," the Chairman firmly stated that those issues were not under discussion, and held the questioning to the matter at hand.

Hats off to the mechanics of the Women's Institute resolutions process. It ensures that every Branch has a chance to debate the resolution before it is presented at Area Convention. And it ensures that every voting delegate comes to the Convention knowing what her Branch wants. However, we have found that it is best to keep checking.

Lastly, if the Provincial Executive and Board adopts your resolution, they take it from there. Joan Law, our Provincial Resolutions Convenor, kept on working through a change of government, and on the re-wording of the Bill and her statement to the Justice Committee. Remember, don't give up.

Two years ago when the Bill went to the Committee of the Whole, we were ready to accept defeat. But now, it looks as if the Living Will is to become law under a larger Health Act.

As for Northgate Women's Institute, they are busy preparing their next resolution on changes to the Young Offenders Act.

Ruth Hunt is the Resolutions Convenor for the Northgate Women's Institute.