

SUN CITIES/WEST VALLEY

NOW

National Organization for Women
10015 W Royal Oak Rd #256, Sun City, AZ 85351

<http://aznow-scwv.org>
www.now.org

NOW's Purpose is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men. This purpose includes, but is not limited to, equal rights and responsibilities in all aspects of citizenship, public service, employment, education and family life, and it includes freedom from discrimination because of age, marital status, sexual preference, parenthood, race, religion or ethnicity.

Membership Mtg

NOW will meet on **Wed Jan 4, 2012, at 1:00 PM** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Ave of the Arts (off Bell) behind the Art Museum, in Surprise. Our speaker will be Eddie Sissons, Executive Director of the Foundation for Behavioral Health. The Foundation funds innovative services to individuals with behavioral health needs. For further info call 623-584-9422.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 10, 2012 Sat 11:30 to 4:00 PM
Women's History Month Presentation
UU Church, Surprise, AZ

A Msg from Terry O'Neill Natl NOW Pres

Emboldened conservatives are aggressively pushing for drastic restrictions on women's access to abortion care. They also want cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. We're mobilizing to fight back.

We're also working pro-actively to press for passage of measures women need, like repeal of the Hyde Amendment so that every woman can have insurance coverage for abortion care, whether thru the government or a private company; for caregiver credits so women who drop out of the workforce to care for children and other family members can still get a decent Social Security check when they retire; and for full funding for Violence Against Women Act programs. I look forward to working with you as we continue the fight for full equality for all women.

Ann Timmer

"A letter from Diane Post reads:

We are very grateful that a new organization has been started, **Abortion Access Network of AZ (ANNA)**. They are headquartered in Tucson and operate the same way thru clinics and have the same principles as "It's Your Choice." We welcome the energy of these young women and have decided to merge with them. I encourage you to make donations to the new fund (named above) at PO Box 3474, Tucson 85722. It, too, is a 501(c)3 organization, so your donations are tax deductible"

Diane's recap of the 43 women & girls helped:

- 10 victims of domestic violence
- 6 victims of race
- 3 homeless women
- 3 fetal anomalies
- 2 disabled
- 5 failed birth control
- 8 without economic support
- 7 women with children who could not handle more
- 6 teens (one so young she didn't know she was pg)
- 4 Hispanic
- 3 Native Americans

For further info: postdlpost@aol.com OR
(602)271.9019

Thanks to Ann Timmer

Get Money Out

Here's the miserable truth about our current political system: Corporations & individuals can spend unlimited amounts of money, in total secrecy, to sway elections & buy access to politicians. The courts have given them this power (Citizens United), allowing them to manipulate, strong-arm, and essentially bribe our government.

Nearly 80% of Americans think our democracy is being bought and sold, that it's time to get the money out.

Tens of millions of people know that something needs to be done about it. Something Big. Now. Like amending the Constitution.

Past efforts to limit political contributions (like 2002 McCain Feingold reform law) were too small & were undermined by the courts. The 2012 elections are projected to cost over \$6 billion, double that of 2004, four times higher than spent in 2002.

The Supreme Court's 2010 ruling on Citizens United says that corporations are people & can contribute unlimited funds. Super PACS are pouring billions into political campaigns, anonymously. Giant corporations are controlling the President, Congress, Health "reform," the wars, Wall Street, the Banks, the Supreme Court, at the expense of the public interest. Fraud is rampant (causing our economic depression since 2007) and the Justice Dept is not prosecuting those responsible because the politicians need the campaign donations of the perpetrators (and forget the public good).

There are two ways to amend the Constitution, but only one has been used in the past. An amendment can be passed by two-thirds majority in both the Senate & House of Representatives, and then ratified by three-quarters of the 50 states. That's some heavy lifting by any count.

The second has never been done, but some believe it's the only way to fix the money-in-politics problem. Two-thirds of the state legislatures officially vote to hold a Constitutional Convention, where representatives from each state gather, and amendments are proposed. Three-quarters of the 50 states must ratify an amendment. It is a difficult process.

Thousands of amendments have been proposed over the years, but only 27 have been ratified and made into law. At the website www.unitedrepublic.org, at least 14 amendments are listed, offered by various Democrat Congresspersons and progressive organizations.

These amendments seek to reverse Citizens United, say corporations are not people, limit campaign contributions to \$100, give Congress the power to regulate political contributions, some prohibit

corporations from any campaign spending, establishes public funding for political campaigns, affirms citizens right to vote, declares election day a federal holiday. I have been following the Dylan Ratigan Show on MSNBC at 2:00 PM where he is crusading to "Get Money Out."

It is encouraging to hear of all the efforts being made toward this goal, to heed the msg of "Occupy WallStreet." I urge everyone to check out his program & the website (mentioned above) & other internet sites that are pushing the ideas of the 99%, taking back the country, away from corporate control, and curtailing money's ability to buy power. All the amendments are seeking citizens to sign their petitions to go forward. You might feel inclined to sign up. **The editor**

NOW Board Mtg Dec 14, 2011

Present: Jodie Lawrosky, Mary Knudson, Ann Timmer, Anita Erwin, Betty Roberts, Betsy Gilchrist, Carolyn Modeen scribe.

Treasure Report: \$2083.57 - \$1000 scholarship: \$1053.57 (\$30.00 expense)

Program: Ann Timmer: January Eddie Sisson, 1st CEO of AZ Foundation for Behavioral Health.

February: Cultural Diversity: Lillian Hentel. March:

Picnic. April: Anita will look into the program for women and children, Stepping Stones. Carolyn will see if Ms Power can be in town to talk about her book about the Bosnian women who have been sexually molested. May: Women's need for financial literacy. Possibly Marge's lawyer son; or Betty's accountant; or Mary's financial advisor.

Women's History Month: Publicity needs to be ready to go out. Joan Carlson has made flyers which she will send to Jodie. She will include a summary that will be useful for the media publicity. Marge will send to LWV and the AAUWs.

Action: As NOW members, we will write letters to the editor of many newspapers re Sheriff Joe dropping the 400 cases of sexual abuse against women & children, without investigations. Betsy reminded us the Sheriff is usually in every parade, so we will plan attending St Patrick's Day Parade & carry posters. Now is the time to plan for a new set of Brd Officers for next year.

Dec Speaker: Amy Kobeta of the Children's Alliance loved speaking to our group and was grateful for the \$120 we collected for her.

Next Brd Mtg: Jan 11 at Jodie's home in SCW.

Carolyn Modeen Co-Secretary

**NOW SC/WV Board
Chapter Co-Coordinators:**

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Cultural Diversity Coordinator: Lillian Hentel
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