

NEWSLETTER FOR

February 2014 Volume 33 Number 2

SUN CITIES/WEST VALLEY NOW

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

<http://aznow-scwv.org>
<http://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 Feb 5, 2014, at 1:00 PM** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Ave of the Arts (off Bell) in Surprise. The program is a 60 minute film called Smarter Brains and covers intelligence. How can we increase it & maintain it. Dr. Michael Merzenich, a famous neuroscientist, is responsible for producing this film. He has conducted tons of research on the brain & brain plasticity & produced a brain training program. See more info below. All are welcome.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Feb 11 Tues 6:00 PM

Dysart School District, 15802 N Parkview, Surprise
4th Program on Women; LWV & NOW

Feb 12 Wed 1:30 PM

Next NOW Board Mtg
Carolyn Modeen's RO's #321

Feb 14 Friday

Natl NOW – One Million Rising
Violence Against Women

Feb 27 Thursday 7 pm

Dysart Education Center, 15802 N Parkview, Surprise
Achievement Gap in AZ Education & Richard Gilman
Sponsored by LWV & NOW

March 22 Sat

UU Church in Surprise
Women's History Month Presentation

April 5 Sat

Gay Pride Parade, Phoenix

Smarter Brains

Dr. Michael Merzenich is a neuroscientist & professor emeritus at the University of California. His contributions to the field of brain research are numerous. Presently his second company, Posit Science, is working on a broad range of behavior therapies. Their lead product is a brain-training application called Brain IQ. Merzenich, Chief Scientific Officer, is also on the Board at Posit Science. He is known for his research on brain plasticity & for this has been honored by election into the National Academy of Sciences. In 2008 he was elected to the National Academy's Institute of Medicine. For our program, his film will explore *What is Intelligence? Can we increase it?* Dr Merzenich shows how actions in our daily lives impact just how smart we are & what we can do about it. **Joan Carlson Prog Coord**

Tea and Crumpets and Stories

Mark the 41st Anniversary of Roe vs Wade

Hello to each of you as we approach this Anniversary. Let's gather at my house in February and sip tea as you tell your stories of all the gatherings you have attended through the years, as you worked together for reproductive rights. Please bring your fresh ideas on going forward in this challenging climate. The day and time to be announced. **Marilyn Schulze. 623 975 7411**

Mfschulze@cox.net

The Beginning of NOW

The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in 1966. It grew out of women leaders' frustration with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which had been established to enforce Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Originally Title VII prohibited discrimination in employment on

the basis of race, color, religion or national origin. Sex was added as a kind of joke and to amend the Title to death.

Although most Congressmen thought banning discrimination against women was a laughing matter, the Title VII that was passed included sex. This was due largely to the efforts of Representative Martha Griffiths and women's organizations.

The EEOC concentrated on race discrimination cases. The Commissioners continued to ridicule the idea of sex discrimination and to ignore sex discrimination cases. One Commissioner, sympathetic to the women's cause, suggested to women leaders that they needed an organization like the NAACP.

Frustrated by the inaction of the EEOC, state leaders from the Commission on the Status of Women, who were meeting in Washington at the time, drew up plans for a new organization to be called the National Organization for Women (NOW). (The Commission on the Status of Women was appointed by President Kennedy as a sop to women leaders who complained that he had not named any women to his Cabinet.) The new mass-membership organization, known simply as NOW, marked the beginning of the second wave of the women's movement.

Betty Friedan, author of the best-seller, *The Feminine Mystique*, was elected president and Kay Clarenbach, University of Wisconsin professor and head of the Wisconsin Status of Women Commission, was named Chairman of the Board.

Local Chapters were more-or-less independent and each set its own program. A vast array of task forces tackled issues of sex discrimination in the work place, in education, in financial institutions, etc. Groups examined marriage and divorce laws, credit ratings, newspaper ads and so on. Eventually there were national efforts to coordinate these activities. The establishment of a Newsletter aided communication among the units.

At first NOW concentrated on sex discrimination in employment, helping the women airline stewardesses to win their case against the airlines. It soon took on the campaign to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and to repeal anti-abortion laws.

The 50th anniversary of NOW is coming up in 2016. In these 50 years, the landscape of America changed radically. It can be safely said that NOW and the women's liberation movement of which it is a part made large contributions to that change. **Vivian Wood**

Herstorian

Remembering Karen Kondej

Karen Kondej passed early this morning (1/7/2014). She had a very important role in revitalizing feminism in Phoenix and influenced many women's lives. Carol Corsica has been working on a photographic collage poster that is still a work in progress. She was remembering all of the events we had that honored women or protests that continued to fight for women like Equality Day, the Tempe Slutwalk, "In Her Shoes" about domestic violence, V-Day, marching against the war on women at the AZ State Capitol, Phoenix Pride Festival, protest against CBS running an ad against choice during the Super Bowl, the anniversary of Roe v Wade, Power of Women's Words, Flush Rush, and Rape is Rape protest concerning Roman Polanski way back in 2009 when we started to take action. At the time, it was a fight to be able to do actions.

Some of the protests or events became annual ones and others were done for current issues at the time. **Karen Kondej** was president of the Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW Chapter and later worked with the Central Phoenix NOW Chapter. Being an effective and engaged president of a NOW chapter is one of the hardest jobs and she volunteered many long hours to it. She encouraged young feminists to be interested in NOW and also served on the Arizona NOW Board. Karen used to make it to most of our Women's History Month events and served in multiple roles on the AZ NOW Board. She will be missed greatly. **Jodie Lawrosky**

Take Action

Our legislative chair, Connie Hupperts, reports that H.R. 1179 and S. 569 Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act of 2013 speaks to admittance to hospitals. It would prevent being admitted to a hospital, but calling it Observation, so that you foot the bill--not your health insurance. Contact your Congressional Legislators in Wash DC to support these bills. For further information go to **NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams. CModeen**

How to Contact Our Representatives

Tis the 2014-2015 legislative season and for NOW to uphold our woman power, we need proper access to our elected officials to give our input. The tools for doing this are on our website, aznow-scwv.org. Find the addresses for state & national representatives by clicking on Resources, then scroll down to Government (to contact your representatives). The governor's email can be accessed at azgovernor.gov. **CModeen**

Giving Birth While Incarcerated

The case of shackling incarcerated women is currently in the news. A woman in detention for being in this country illegally gave birth but was shackled immediately before and after the birth. The first court ruled there was no law against doing this. It is to be appealed to a higher court.

Thanks to Kathy Abernathy who brought the Arizona statutes to light, we know that Arizona now has statutes that speak to this: women are not to be shackled during the birthing process, unless they become unruly. Because the case now before the courts involves illegal entry into this country, maybe this is being tried under Federal laws. ???? CModeen

NOW Board Mtg Jan 8, 2014

Present: Modeen, presiding; Carlson, Hupperts, Lawrosky, Ormsbee, Timmer, Smith, Erwin, Wood, Roberts

WHM: Jodie Lawrosky will do publicity. Refreshments: Anita Erwin called for volunteers. We plan to charge \$15. Program will be done by Elanna Donovan of SC Players.

Feb Program: PBS film "Smarter Brains" by Dr Michael Merzenich, UCLA. We will pay outside speakers \$75. Amy Kobeta of Children's Action Alliance will be here today. After the 14 Feb program we will 1) go to SCW Library to see the spy exhibit, 2) go to Walmart with signs that say "Pay a Living Wage" 3) go to supper. The Walmart we may go to is Thunderbird and Dysart.

Legislative: Call Senators to extend unemployment payments.

Treasurer: Balance of \$1765.

Events: 1) Monday 13 Jan 10-12 Rally for Women's Health. 2) National NOW Friday 14 Feb One million rising Violence Against Women. 3) LWV wants SC/WV NOW to join them in sponsoring a program on education—Richard Gilman, Thursday, Feb 27, 7 pm Dysart Education Center "Achievement Gap in AZ Education." We agreed to do so. 4) The book is *Reign of Error* by Diane Ravitch and we could have a program to discuss the book.

East Valley NOW is concerned that Phoenix/Scottsdale Chapter wants to change their name to Phoenix/Metro. Our Chapter did not take a position on the name change.

Betty Roberts Recorder

NOW Member Mtg Feb 8, 2014

Chair Carolyn Modeen presided.

Vivian Wood, Herstorian, read the 2nd Installment of our **chapter's history**, which is being printed in our

Newsletter. She highlighted the Women's Watch column, Women's History Month, Eve's Place, the Golden Apple Award, and Silent Witness program.

WHM: March 22 at the UU Church. Elanna Donovan, SC Players, is presenting a program titled, "In Praise of Ordinary Women." Charge will be \$15 and proceeds will go to a graduating high school senior and a domestic violence shelter.

Announcements: 1) Gay Pride Parade is 5 April. 2) State Board wants a copy of our newsletter. 3) There may be a regional conference at the Phx Public Library. **Speaker:** Amy Kobeta of the Children's Action Alliance. She discussed the sad state of the AZ Child Protective Services, where 6000 calls for help have gone uninvestigated. She stressed that we need to put pressure on the Governor and not blame the case workers. The CAA has called for the resignation of the head of CPS.

Betty Roberts, Recorder

NOW SC/WV Board

Chapter Coordinator: Carolyn Modeen 972-6273

Action Coordinator: Marilyn Schulze

Cultural Diversity Coordinator: Joan Carlson

Herstorian: Vivian Wood

Legislative Coordinator: Connie Hupperts

Liaison to State NOW: Connie Hupperts

Membership Coordinator: Lee Ormsbee

Newsletter Coordinator: Teresa Smith

Networking: Marge Mead

Program Coordinators: Kathleen Abernathy & Joan Carlson

Publicity Coordinator: Claudia Sherrill, Jodie Lawrosky

Scholarship: Anita Erwin

Secretary: Ann Timmer & Betty Roberts

Social Activities Coordinator: Mary Knudson

Treasurer: Anita Erwin

Web Page: Jodie Lawrosky

To contact the board, send an email to info@aznow-scwv.org