

# 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 Apr 2, 2014, at 1:00 PM** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Ave of the Arts (off Bell) in Surprise. The program features Dr. Michelle Tellez of ASU speaking on transnational community formation along the U.S./Mexico border, cross-border labor organizing, gendered migration, resistance and Chicana mothering. See more info below. All are welcome.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Apr 9 Wed 1:30 PM  
Next NOW Board Mtg  
Host: Joan Carlson

April 5 Sat  
Gay Pride Parade, Phoenix

June 27 – 29  
National NOW Conference  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

### April Speaker

Dr. Michelle Téllez teaches in the School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies and the Masters in Social Justice and Human Rights program at the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University. Her writing and research projects seek to uncover the stories of transnational community formation along the U.S./Mexico border, cross-border labor organizing, gendered migration, resistance and Chicana mothering. She is a founding member of Arizona Ethnic Studies Network and is on the editorial review board for *Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social*.

Her talk will examine the gendered implications of international development. Some topics that will be addressed:

1. The movement of people, goods and media images across national boundaries in a way that asks us to revisit what we mean by national and local identities.
2. The transformation of boundaries as they relate not only to political shifts but also economic and cultural developments as well.
3. The new forms of international alliances and networks across national boundaries that are enabled by new media and technologies as well as contemporary political, economic and cultural movements.
4. The inequalities and differences that arise from new forms of globalization, as well as from older histories of colonialism and nationalism.
5. The intersections between race, class, sexuality and culture with the global political economy will be examined.

Finally, the question of women's rights, their agency and response to their life conditions will be discussed.

**Kathleen Abernathy**

### Model UN Luncheon, Sat, Apr 26

The United Nations Association of the West Valley will host students from the Model UN programs at the Sandra Day O'Connor and Shadow Mountain High Schools at a luncheon at noon on Saturday, April 26, in the Arbors Room at Royal Oaks Life Care Center, 10015 W Royal Oak Road in Sun City.

The Model UN is a conference similar to the United Nations in which students participate as delegates to

various UN committees. Participants research and formulate political positions based on the actual policies of the countries they represent, which this year will number 10. They will report on actions taken at this year's conference in Tucson.

The cost for the luncheon is \$15 and all interested parties are invited. Call Ruth Mehl at 623-977-8280 or Lee Ormsbee at 623-583-2314 for reservations and further information. Lee Ormsbee

### **Installment 3: SC NOW History**

The Sun Cities NOW Chapter's history is filled with stories of rallies, marches, protests and other group actions. The Chapter has always been very action-oriented. Beginning early in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the Chapter even had an Action Chair, a person who planned and mobilized rallies, marches and protests to support or oppose various issues. Betty Roberts held that post for several years.

The most frequent causes supported by NOW members were freedom of choice, stopping abuse of women, defeat of right-wing conservative politicians & the continuing fight for Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Some of the early Chapter members came to Arizona fresh from battles for the ERA in their home states in the Midwest, East and Northwest. In the ERA contest, only three additional states were needed to ratify in order for the Amendment to be adopted. Illinois, Oklahoma and Nebraska were thought to be the most likely to do so. Ann Timmer, the Chapter's first president, had worked very hard for ratification in Illinois. In Arizona, she and Miriam Cafferty traveled to Oklahoma City for a rally to try to push Oklahoma's Legislature to ratify. Arizona NOW members continued to work for ERA passage. Miriam Cafferty and Ann Timmer marched for the ERA in Phoenix, carrying a home-made banner. Some went to Utah to put pressure on that state's Legislature to ratify the ERA. Opposition by conservative right-wing groups such as the antifeminist movement led by Phyllis Schlafly resulted in a backlash against the ERA. Failure to get additional states to ratify the ERA eventually led NOW to set it aside and move on to other issues. The Chapter's request for space at the Bell Recreation Center in Sun City to celebrate the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of women's right to vote was rejected. Undaunted, they rallied in Viewpoint Park, Sun City. Locally, the NOW Chapter was a strong supporter of Planned Parenthood, especially after right-wing conservative politicians developed a vendetta against the organization, condemning its abortion services (although

this was a very small portion of the services it offered). The Chapter gave its Golden Apple Award to Gloria Feldt, the director who moved on to the national directorship, and to Bryan Howard, who succeeded her.

When national NOW labeled Walmart a "merchant of shame" in 2002, the Sun Cities NOW took on that issue. Walmart was accused of sex discrimination in compensation and promotions. The Chapter picketed local Walmart, a practice that was continued sporadically over several years.

The NOW Chapter has taken on political candidates at times. A very early action was a Walkathon from Metro Center to Viewpoint Park in Sun City in support of political candidates endorsed by Arizona NOW political Action Committee.

There were protests against Gov. Fife Symington, who was later impeached, against Trent Franks for a severely restrictive abortion bill, and many others whose significance has faded into history.

Two notable protests were against Republican Presidential hopeful Steve Forbes in 1999 and against Arizona Senator Scott Bundgaard in 2011. Millionaire Forbes was a staunch pro-life candidate, who went to great lengths to avoid NOW protests. A NOW Board resolution said Bundgaard should resign after he was involved in a scandal of alleged abuse of his girlfriend. He did resign eventually.

Probably the most memorable march in which Chapter members were involved was the March for Women's Lives on April 25, 2004. The March was said to be "the largest in history" but there was no official count. Many thousands marched in Washington, D.C., and thousands more marched in state capitals.

The March Against Poverty and Violence on October 15, 2000, in Washington, D.C., was large but no estimates of size was recorded. Chapter members who attended were: Ann Timmer, Betty Roberts, Helen Perkins, Lee Ormsbee, Vivian Wood, Shirley Patterson and Susan Cho.

Betty Roberts and Ann Timmer attended the Silent Witness National Initiative in Washington, D.C., in October, 1997, which dealt with domestic violence. Several Chapter members participated in the Rainbow Rally for Affirmative Action in San Francisco on April 14, 1996: Carolyn Modeen, Betty Roberts, Vivian Wood, Leona Gilman, Miriam Neiman, and Ann Timmer.

Among the many rallies, marches and demonstrations in the Phoenix area were:  
1990: pro-choice/pro-life face-off at the capitol

1992: Hands-Around-the-Capitol Rally in support of MLK Day

2003: Anti-Iraq War Rally

2006: March on AZ Legislature in support of End-of-Life Choices

2011: Demonstration against Tea Party

2012: Rally to Support Choice on Roe v. Wade Anniversary

Truly Sun Cities NOW has earned the slogan: "Have banner. Will demonstrate for good causes."

### Vivian Wood Herstorian

#### TED Talks -Vancouver

Ziauddin Yousafzai, the father, teacher and inspiration to **Malala Yousafzai** (who was nearly assassinated by the Taliban) made a surprise visit to the 2014 TED conference in Vancouver.

Malala, a human rights activist whose fight for girls' rights to education earned her a bullet to the head in 2012, could not make it to the conference.

But in her stead her father kept attendees to the technology, education and design conference spellbound, explaining how it came to be she was inspired to stand up to the Taliban in her Swat District of Pakistan and fight for girls to go to school.

"Malala used to be known as my daughter but now I'm known as her father," he said. "In patriarchal societies, fathers are known by their sons. I am known by my daughter and proud of it."

Malala remains a target of the Taliban, so much so that she now lives and goes to school in Birmingham, England, where she also underwent surgery and recovery for her near-fatal wounds.

Yousafzai said he does not regret inspiring his daughter to dream of emancipation from patriarchal Pakistani society that has for so long kept women in virtual bondage.

"People ask me, what did I do to make Malala so bold and courageous? I did not clip her wings," he said. Yousafzai, a teacher in Pakistan, said he was motivated to try and change society by teaching his girl students "to unlearn obedience." More importantly, "I taught my boy students to unlearn so-called 'honour.'" From the Vancouver Sun newspaper Mar 17, 2014

#### **NOW Board Mtg Mar 12, 2014**

**Present:** Modeen, Roberts, Ormsbee, Schulze, Wood, Lawrosky, Carlson, Erwin, Hupperts. Location: Marilyn Schulze's house. Presiding: Carolyn Modeen

**Women's History Month:** As of Mar 12, 27 people have paid. Great publicity in Daily News Sun today. We will tape off the last rows in the UU sanctuary so people will sit up front. The scholarship committee consists of

Lawrosky, Erwin, Hupperts, Abernathy. The Board unanimously decided to restrict scholarship to those girls NOT planning to attend a for-profit college. These "colleges" have a terrible record of not teaching and not placing their graduates in positions.

**Treasurer's Report:** We have \$1245.76.

**April Program:** Abernathy is arranging for Dr. Michelle Tellez of ASU to be our speaker.

**Membership** (Ormsbee): We need to follow up on new people—give email addresses to Teresa for the newsletter. Jodie will work on a sign-in form for visitors.

**Web Site:** Lawrosky has added a link to AFL-CIO.

**Legislation:** State PAC has a questionnaire to send to candidates and then answers to be available to NOW members. There will be a regional conference in Phoenix. They plan to have 2 panels and 1 keynote speaker. Plans are to get the head of the Affordable Care Act in CA as the keynote speaker. Women in prison and Women in prostitution are the subjects for the regional conference. We need to put pressure on Debbie Lesko because she will probably run for the AZ senate.

**Action:** Schulze will set up an appointment with Lesko and a group will visit with her and hand her a letter with our position in relation to her bills.

**Herstory:** Wood is up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment on our chapter history. It will appear in the newsletter.

**Board Meeting:** In April we will meet at Joan Carlson's, 16216 N. 160<sup>th</sup> Ave, Surprise, AZ; phone 623-537-9449

#### Betty Roberts Recorder

#### **NOW Member Mtg Mar 5, 2014**

Carolyn Modeen presided.

**Program** by Joan Carlson. A DVD was shown on Irena Sendler, a Senior Administrator in the Warsaw Social Welfare Department, defying the Nazis and saving 2,500 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw Ghetto; she found Catholic nuns in convents & non-Jewish families to adopt them.

**Legislative Chair,** Connie Hupperts: AZ legislature is trying to take all of our rights back—clean elections, abortion rights, etc. One can sign on to [www.governor](http://www.governor) and contact all state and federal people. You can join the "99% Union," [AFL-CIO.org](http://AFL-CIO.org) and get information. Debbie Lesko has a bill that every student would get a voucher. This is her way of getting rid of public education. We should write Amazon and request they quit selling the T-shirt that says "Keep calm and rape a tot."

**State NOW:** Connie Hupperts. They are working on a Political Action Committee and questionnaire to send to

candidates. They would like someone local to be on the pac.

Mar Board Meeting: at Marilyn Schulze's house in SCG.

**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](mailto:info@aznow-scwv.org)