

# 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 Oct 1, 2014, at 1:00 PM** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Ave of the Arts (off Bell) in Surprise. Cake & coffee will be followed by a report from Ginny-lee Richardson on the June National NOW Conference in Albuquerque. After that Commemoration time for women around the world who have become martyrs just by being born a woman. The public is welcome.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct 8 Wed 1:00 PM

Next NOW Board Mtg

Host: Betty Roberts

Apt 327 Royal Oaks

Sept 27 Sat 3:30 PM

UU Church

Celebration of life for George Timmer

### In Honor of George Timmer

Our esteemed and beloved Ann Timmer lost her husband, George, in August. George was our NOW chapter treasurer for several years. He and Ann also produced many eye catching publicity pieces and documents for various NOW causes. George remained in a "cage" in their lovely home in Sun City West when we had full reign of the house during special celebration luncheons. The celebration of life will be at the UU church on Saturday September 27 at 3:30PM.

### Installment #5: SC NOW History

The "Women's Watch" column has appeared monthly in the *Daily News-Sun* for almost 20 years. This column—

written by representatives of NOW, AAUW and the League of Women Voters—was initiated by a group of NOW members discussing how NOW and what the organization did could be made better known in the community.

When the suggestion of a special newspaper column for women arose, Ann Timmer and Mildred Engleberg took the idea to Associate Editor Maryanne Leyshon at the *Daily News-Sun*. A plan evolved for a monthly column to be entitled "Women's Watch". Two local branches of AAUW and the League were asked to join and an Editorial Board with representatives from each organization was set up. The initial column in March, 1995, described the participating organizations with a membership of over 600 women.

The intent of the column was to "express our stands on issues. We believe that it is our responsibility to educate and involve the public, as well as our members, in the quest for equality and justice for all Good citizens are informed, committed, and active. Our organizations epitomize that description."

At first, the Editorial Board enlisted community members with particular expertise to write columns. This became difficult because of deadlines and other problems. Board members gradually took over the writing of columns drawing on their own experiences, academic resources, books and literature, and eventually, the Internet. One Board member would write an article and the Editorial Board would meet to go over and improve it. Over the years, each Board member wrote dozens of articles—well over 200 in 20 years.

The topics covered varied greatly but always, they were written from a woman's point of view, Women's suffrage, political participation, women's organizations

and achievements, teen-age pregnancy, famous women and little-known women of history were a few of the topics which were written about. The women never seemed to run out of ideas.

The membership of the Editorial Board changed gradually over the years as members developed ill health, died or moved away. Mary Wylie is our longest serving member with Ann Timmer a close second. Ill health forced Ann to retire from the Board recently but she is considered an honorary member to be consulted when needed. Vivian Wood was invited to join the Editorial Board a few months after it was formed, and still serves. Joyce Barrett and Bonnie Saunders are also long-serving Board members.

In addition to Mary, Vivian, Joyce and Bonnie, current Editorial Board members are: Marge Clark (NOW), Arlene Schindler (Sun City AAUW), Lois Brechner (Northwest Branch AAUW), and Valerie Ellien (League). Board members who served for a number of years are Virginia McElroy, Claire Randall, Lila Schwartz and Marge Mead.

The "Women's Watch" writers, who find this writing rewarding, are ready to continue into the twenty-first year, with hopes that the public will continue to read their column. **Vivian Wood Herstorian**

### **Women and the environment**

August 6, 2014: a "Summit on Women and Climate" in Bali. wwwNetwork of Women's Funds (INWF). Suryamani Bhagat, a 34 year old in eastern India is working with other women to safeguard the state's precious forests. During the dry season, they turn to the forests for their food. She is assisting communities to apply for land titles, so the indigenous people can own their own lands. They are planting trees and other biodiverse vegetation. Previously, the government focused only on commercial timber and other cash crops. Bhagat organized the women to protest the removal of the wood. Eventually they forced authorities to stop it. Bhagat reaches villages by walking; she braves men's hostilities. Her story is inspiration to us all. **Carolyn Modeen**

### **NOW Board Mtg Sept 10, 2014**

Present at Carolyn Modeen's: Wood, Ormsbee, Hupperts, Erwin, Roberts, Modeen presiding.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$1586.73 is the available balance. \$1,000 for scholarship has been disbursed. \$1500 is available from past WHM productions, mostly from unused scholarships. We discussed how to spend \$500 of this money. Motion: to give

\$50 to PJ who is making a DVD on women in prisons. Passed.

**Motion:** Give some money to LWV. Defeated.

**Motion:** Money should be given to local organizations i.e. Arizona. Tie

**Motion:** to table until we have more board members present. Passed

We decided to take to the membership the subject on how future WHM monies should be allocated. A tally will be handed out for members to indicate their preference--

1. Scholarship to graduating senior
2. Domestic violence shelter
3. International Malala fund
4. Disks for African children
5. Tucson funding for abortions
6. U mom

**New Business: Board Meetings** Locations: October: Roberts, Apt. 327 Royal Oaks; November: Ormsbee, Garden Home 1027, Royal Oaks.

October program: No lunch, only coffee. Ginny Lee Richardson will report on National NOW Convention. Modeen will pass out slips on women martyrs for members to read. Modeen will organize calling lists for next meeting.

Thirty-five years as a chapter next year: Wood, our historian, could write an article on our history for publication in local papers. Roberts has initiated an inter-library loan for a copy of the article on SC NOW which was published in Jan 1982 MS magazine. It was written by Kay White.

**Phoenix Metro NOW:** State NOW wants us to set up a way to communicate in state.

Diane Post runs a workshop on "Racism is a white woman's issue." We would like to invite LWV and AAUW to participate and have it at one of our meetings. Suggested title revision: "Is Racism a white woman's issue?" **Betty Roberts, Recorder**

### **NOW Member Mtg June 4, 2014**

Luncheon at Carolyn Modeen's. 8 present.

Discussion on what to do for 2015 Women's History Month--

1. Invite Janet Napolitano to speak
2. Portray Famous Women or Scandalous women—Betsy has books on this.
3. Do a famous women in history jeopardy program
4. Dialog of first ladies, famous women
5. Black story teller—have a quiche luncheon 11am and as we eat quiche, have the storyteller perform. Have piano music in background.

**Programs** for next year--

DVD "After Tiller" and in October, a luncheon.

Name of this year's scholarship person: Tania Zavala. She is going to ASU.

**Discussion** ensued on where to spend money left over

from previous Women's History Months (scholarship money that was not used/needed).

Three Motions:

1. At the next Board meeting decide what do with the left-over money collected from previous WHM events. Passed
2. Poll membership on ideas on what to do with the old money left over from previous WHM events. Defeated
3. Put before the membership their ideas on where money from next year's WHM event should go. Passed

**Betty Roberts, Recorder**

**Secretary:** Betty Roberts  
**Social Activities Coordinator:**  
**Treasurer:** Anita Erwin  
**Web Page:** Jodie Lawrosky

To contact the board, send an email to  
[info@aznow-scwv.org](mailto:info@aznow-scwv.org)

### **Membership Meeting May 7, 2014**

**Nomination Committee Report**

Co-Coordinator: Carolyn Modeen

Treas.: Anita Erwin

Secretary: Betty Roberts

Membership: Lee Ormsbee

Herstorian: Vivian Wood

Web Master: Jodie Lawrosky

Publicity: Jodie Lawrosky

Legislative Rep: Connie Hupperts

Program: Kathleen Abernathy & Betsy Gilchrest

Action: Helen Perkins, Ann Timmer and Marilyn Schulz  
Slate was accepted by acclamation

**Scholarship Committee:** Sonja Cavala (or is it Tania Zavala), Dysart H.S. was selected. Lindfors asked Board to consider raising scholarship over \$1,000. Lindfors suggested that NOW cooperate with other local women's organization on a statement about the kidnapped girls in Nigeria.

**Program:** Kathleen introduced Marily Manley who led us in a Life Cycle Celebration. We all read a short summary of "Why we became a feminist."

**Next Brd mtg at TSmith's. Betty Roberts, Recorder**

### **NOW SC/WV Board**

**Chapter Coordinator:** Carolyn Modeen 972-6273

**Action Coordinator:** Marilyn Schulze, Helen Perkin, Ann Timmer

**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:**

**Program Coordinators:** Kathleen Abernathy & Betsy Gilchrist

**Publicity Coordinator:** Jodie Lawrosky

**Scholarship:** Anita Erwin