

# SUN CITIES/WEST VALLEY

# NOW

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

<http://aznow-scwv.org>  
<http://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 Nov 5, 2014, at 1:00 PM** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Ave of the Arts (off Bell) in Surprise. We will discuss Tuesday's election over cookies & coffee. Then we will watch the documentary, *After Tiller*, depicting the lives of abortion providers following the shooting of Dr. Tiller. The movie (88 minutes) paints a complex, compassionate portrait of these physicians who have become the new number-one targets of the anti-abortion movement. The public is welcome.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Nov 8 Wed 1:00 PM  
Next NOW Board Mtg  
Host: Lee Ormsbee  
Royal Oaks GH 1027

Nov 22 Sat 10 AM – 1:00 PM  
Harkins Valley Art Theatre  
5<sup>th</sup> Street & Mill Ave, Tempe  
*Justice is a Black Woman* movie

April 10, 2015 Fri 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM  
Sheraton Hotel in Phoenix  
Planned Parenthood Luncheon

### Movie

The Phoenix Metropolitan Chapter of Now is presenting the movie, *Justice is a Black Woman*, at the Harkins Valley Art Theatre, 5<sup>th</sup> Street & Mill Ave in Tempe on Sat Nov 22, 10 AM to 1:00 PM. It is the life of Constance Baker Motley, in celebration of 50 years of the Civil Rights Act. **CModeen**

### Installment #6 – SC NOW History

Chapter members—always very active—engaged in numerous other projects throughout the years. A few of them are described below:

**NOW Parade Float**—Thanks to the work of Alice Dockrell and her husband, NOW had a float in Sun City's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade in 1985. It was appropriately dubbed the NOW Equality Float. Chapter members were proud to be represented in the community parade.

**Silent Witness Figures**—Life-sized wooden figures, representing the 28 Arizona women murdered by abusive husbands or boyfriends in 1994, were the brain child of NOW member Mary Warren. When she heard about the Silent Witness Project in Minneapolis, she spearheaded the effort for a similar Arizona project. NOW had help in creating and displaying the figures. The Women's Build Team of the local Habitat for Humanity used their jigsaws, sanders, and other tools to carve the figures from plywood. A sister chapter painted the figures bright red. A plaque was attached to each figure identifying her and her killer. A meaningful silence always greeted the figures when their significance was realized. The Silent Witness figures have been displayed in numerous locations including the Arizona State Capitol and the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.

**Martin Luther King Jr Day as a National Holiday**—Arizona did not join most other states in designating Martin Luther King Jr Day an official national holiday. Responding to a story in the *Phoenix Gazette* depicting anti-King sentiment in the Sun Cities, NOW member Miriam Cafferty maintained there was support for a King National Holiday in the Sun Cities.

Mary Warren picked up the ball. Mead Realty provided one of its offices with phone banks and Mary rallied a huge band of volunteers. Many NOW members and others worked the phone banks in the successful effort to change public opinion. Arizona declared Martin Luther King Jr Day a national holiday. This effort was a community-wide effort.

**Eve's Place**—The idea for a refuge on the West Side for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse grew out of a justice committee at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Surprise. A member of the committee, NOW member Marge Clark, took the lead in establishing Eve's Place in a neighborhood on the West Side.

**Letters to the Editor**—From its very beginning, NOW leaders urged members to write letters to the editors of local newspapers on behalf of the issues they supported. Sometimes parts of a regular membership meeting would be devoted to members all writing on behalf of a current issue. Some of the earliest efforts were for the ERA.

The Scrapbooks contain many of the Letters to the Editor written over the years. There are letters against domestic abuse, for a woman's right to choose, against particular political leaders and for others, for particular legislation and against others. Letter writing is sporadic. When members feel strongly about an issue, they write letters. Over the years, NOW members wrote hundreds of letters to the editors of the *Daily News-Sun* and the *Independent*. **Vivian Wood Herstorian**

### **Liberia**

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has suspended October's election for 15 new senators. Citing the declaration of the Ebola state of emergency and the constitution, and with the support of National Elections Commission chair Jerome Korkoya who cites a free, fair and credible election not possible during the Ebola crisis, the president has nevertheless been challenged in this assessment. Tokpa Muylbah, a member of the House of Representatives has drafted a resolution for a vote in both Houses authorizing the Elections Commission to begin preparations to hold the special elections before December 30 this year. "The Chief Executive, Madam Sirleaf, does not have that constitutional authority to make such a pronouncement," he says. **The agony of that country goes on. CModeen**

### **Women & the Environment in India**

On August 6, 2014 at the "Summit on Women and Climate" held in Bali (www.Network of Women's Funds INWF), Suryamani Bhagat, gave a presentation. She is a 34 year old in eastern India working with other women to safeguard the state's precious forests. During

the dry season, the women turn to the forests for their food. Bhagat is assisting communities to apply for land titles so the indigenous people can own their own land. 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 an inspiration to us all. **CModeen**

### **NOW Board Mtg Oct 8, 2014**

**Present:** Modeen, Wood, Ormsbee, Erwin, Roberts. Meeting place: Roberts' apartment.

**Discussion** ensued about the last month's minutes regarding funds left over from unclaimed scholarship monies. No resolution was reached, no motions made.

**Survey:** A survey will be conducted with the membership, as defined by the newsletter mailing list, to ascertain how we should allocate the money collected from next year's Women's History Month.

**Treasurer's Report:** Same as last month.

**Membership:** We should wear badges at every meeting.

**Women's History Month:** Barbara Arnold, a black storyteller at Modeen's church was mentioned.

**Items Needed:** U-Mom, a domestic violence shelter, will give us a list of products needed.

**Next Membership meeting:** We will have coffee and refreshments; Roberts will supply about 20 cookies.

**Herstorian:** Our chapter was formed in 1980. Our 35<sup>th</sup> year is in 2015. **Betty Roberts, Recorder**

### **NOW Member Mtg Oct 1, 2014**

**Program:** Ginny-Lee Richardson spoke on her experiences at the National NOW Conference in Albuquerque. The theme of the conference was "Strength and Diversity." She has a list of the feminist films shown at the conference and will email it to anyone who is interested.

**Discussion** ensued on Hobby Lobby and their plan to withhold support for contraception in their health plan.

**Survey:** Modeen passed out a survey on where we would prefer the funds to go from proceeds of Women's History Month.

We closed with a ceremony to commemorate women martyrs. **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

**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)