

# 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 4, 2015, at 1:00 PM** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Ave of the Arts (off Bell) in Surprise. Joan Carlson will present the documentary play, SEVEN. The play is about the lives of 7 women who experienced horrific violence in their countries and, through the help and sponsorship of the non-profit organization, Vital Voices, have become leaders in their countries where they work to help protect women from violence. Their personal documentaries have been transformed into the play, SEVEN. It is our hope that by presenting this play we will encourage women who have or are experiencing domestic violence to come forward and seek help. **The public is welcome.**

### SC/West Valley NOW Chapter Hosts

Save Saturday March 14 for a double header: State NOW annual meeting from 10:00 to 12:00. Break for lunch in one of the restaurants on Bell and Avenue of the Arts. 2:00 PM Women's History Month. Barbara Arnold, story teller, will tell Stories of Interesting Women of Color. Barbara came from the Detroit Black Story Tellers and National Black Story Tellers Assoc, teaching and telling black stories for over 25 years. She continues teaching and telling stories in the West Valley. Reservations: \$15.00. Betty Roberts 623-972-6273

### Action Urged

The Voters Rights Act is before Congress, because of the Supreme Court's decision to remove the Preclearance law that pertained to states that had had discrimination laws. Following the decision, states once again enacted voting restrictions. To join the movement to redress voting restrictions, you may print (copy) this letter and send it to your elected Senator and Representative to your district. Trent Franks represents our district.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Feb 11 Wed 1:00 PM

Next NOW Board Mtg

Host:

March 14 Sat 10:00 to 12:00

AZ NOW State Conference

UU Church (Tkt \$10) See Betty Roberts

March 14 Sat 2:00

NOW's Women's History Month Program

UU Church (Tkt \$15 or \$20 for both)

March 26 Th 9:30 AM

Voter Suppression, UU Church

April 9, 2015 Th 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Sheraton Hotel in Phoenix

Planned Parenthood Luncheon (tk \$100)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State, Zip Code

Date

Re: HR 3899\S1945 Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 (VRAA)

Dear Representative\Senator

I urge Congress to re-enact Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act. I support VRAA because it contains several components that respond directly to the Court's directive that preclearance be linked to recent acts of discrimination while seeking to provide victims of voting discrimination to obtain a preliminary injunction before any harmful changes can go into effect. The VRAA will allow a court to use preclearance as a remedy when a jurisdiction commits a federal voting rights violation. Changes to voter qualifications, the locations of polling places, methods of election and redistricting hold potential harm for voters of color and the elderly. It expands the federal observer program that should target states and jurisdictions with long and sordid histories of voting discrimination, including discriminatory photo ID requirements. As of November 4, 2014, seven preclearance states have announced restrictions since the Supreme Court decision took effect.

CModeen

### **#8 PREFACE for the book, *Those Feisty Ol' Gals: History of a NOW Chapter in a Retirement Community* (tentative title)**

There are over 550 NOW chapters in the United States. Why would anyone be interested in one lone chapter in Arizona?

For one thing, it was one of the first, if not *the* first NOW chapter to be established in a retirement community. And it's a unique retirement community. It was the first of the Del Webb retirement communities, opened in 1960. A community of all old people was an unusual concept at the time. Many people were skeptical that it would really work. They thought the residents would stagnate, die of boredom, or just couldn't manage on their own. And why, one wonders, would old women be interested in pay equity, abortion rights or education? Why would they start a NOW chapter in a retirement community?

IT'S ALL PART OF HISTORY NOW! Thirty-five years later, the Del Webb retirement village of Sun City is still a thriving community. No doubt about it, the age-segregated community is a great success! So is the NOW Chapter.

Sun City was twenty years old and going strong when the NOW Chapter was formed in 1980. In fact, Sun City West had just been established. The feisty ol' gals of

NOW soon became a part of the life of the Sun Cities known for their rallies, marches, letters to the editor, and other protest activities.

They became known as well for their Women's History Month productions, designed to entertain as well as educate the public about women's past history and their roles in society. Their Golden Apple Award honored a girl or woman each year for her contribution to the advancement of women. They made their opinions known in the monthly column, *Women's Watch*, in a local newspaper.

NOW's radical reputation (largely undeserved) made some people a little skeptical. NOW members were often approached with "so...you're one of those NOW women." In fact, an early member wrote a wonderful satirical piece about the invasion of Sun City by "this radical group with its outrageous gongs-on."

Chapter members soon became known in NOW circles for their get-up-and-go attitudes. When there was a rally in Oklahoma or a march on Washington to support some cause or protest some action, the ol' gals were there.

There were usually cheers when they appeared. They had the time and, as it turned out, they had the enthusiasm, too!

Vivian Wood, Herstorian

### **NOW presence at the State Capitol**

Monday, January 12 at the AZ State Capitol, NOW was one of the organizations present to assert being "one of the people". Anita Erwin, Connie Hupperts, and Ginny-Lee Richardson represented our west valley NOW, joining with other NOW members, including some Tucson members. Breakfast was served, courtesy of NOW, both in the Senate and the House. Sheila Ogea from the East Valley NOW did a brisk business selling NOW buttons and tees.

CModeen

### **Women to Women**

It costs only \$25 per woman per year to save millions of lives, according to a recent UN-backed report by the Guttmacher Institute on reproductive health service, pregnancy and newborn care, and HIV care to prevent mother-to-child transmission which would significantly reduce maternal and newborn deaths. Unfortunately, current funding levels for these service—\$18 billion annually—cover less than half of the amount needed to make that a reality. Quote from Katie Drasse & Vanessa Valenti for Stanford Social Innovation Review.

All the women's and girls' rights organization around the world had a combined income of \$106 million, while Greenpeace made \$309 million. SO the goal is to create accelerators for women to develop promising social

enterprises. Embrace makes infant warmers for premature infants that cost less than 1 percent of the average incubator; Jayashree Industries distributes affordable sanitary pads via 1,500 plus women-led franchises across India. Each company provides different services, but all improve the lives of women and girls. **CModeen**

### **NOW Board Mtg Jan 14, 2014**

**Present:** Anita Erwin, Jodie Lawrosky, Marilyn Schulze, Carolyn Modeen (hostess and presiding), Betty Roberts, Recorder.

Bank balance: \$1055.88

Modeen announced that we received a \$100 memorial for Jackie Lindfors.

**State Conference:** Will be in the morning before WHM on 14 March. Possible speakers: Paul Denial of New Life, Chad Campbell, former AZ house member and Sam Wercinski.

**WHM:** Speaker is Barbara Arnold, from the Detroit Black Story Tellers and National Black Story Tellers Association. Her talk, "Stories of Interesting Women of Color." We will have brownies, cookies and fruit for refreshments. Marilyn Schulze will do the fruit and others will bring cookies and brownies. There will be a budget of \$50 for decorations. Fees will be: \$15 for WHM; \$10 for NOW State Conference or \$20 for both. We will give both speakers an honorarium of \$50. Roberts will ask Ken Saunders to help with the sound. Ken will receive \$25, and \$100 will be donated to the UU church. We will have bagels and cream cheese when people arrive for the State Conference and check in.

NOW will endorse the LWV program on Voter Suppression on March 26, 9:30 at UU church.

Anita told of her and Connie Hupperts trip to the AZ Capital on opening day of the Legislature. This was a State NOW effort and breakfast was in Senator Katie Hobbs' office. **Betty Roberts, Recorder**

### **NOW Member Mtg Jan 7, 2014**

Kathleen Abernathy introduced the speaker, Eve-Reyes-Aguirre, Representative at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous People. Her family was from Vera Cruz, Mexico, but she grew up in L.A.

Planned Parenthood announced that members of SC/WV NOW were wanted at their fund raising luncheon on Thursday, 9 April at the downtown Sheraton. They

agreed to reduce the \$100 price and suggested that last year we paid \$75. We are anxious to fill out a table of 10. A sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting.

Nils Lindfors brought books that belonged to Jackie, former Chair of NOW, and invited us all to help ourselves. An announcement was made that we would have a memorial service for Jackie at Royal Oaks at 2pm Saturday.

Connie Hupperts suggested we all thank the Mayor of Glendale for supporting non-discrimination.

**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)