

NEWSLETTER FOR

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SUN CITIES/WEST VALLEY NOW

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

<http://aznow-scvv.org>
<http://www.now.org>

NOW's Purpose is to take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life.

Membership Mtg

NOW will meet on **Wed Feb 3, 2016, at 1:00 PM** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Ave of the Arts (off Bell) in Surprise. Nancy Ash of Mercies New will speak on human sex trafficking. Topics to be discussed are: what is sex trafficking; where is it globally, nationally, locally, on Indian reservations? What organizations are involved; how to help end human trafficking. The public is welcome.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Feb 10 Wed 1:00 PM
Next NOW Board Mtg
Host: Carolyn Modeen

About our Speaker

Nancy Ash has been involved in the fight against sex trafficking since 2012. She has participated in anti-human trafficking efforts in Houston, India, and now in Phoenix. Through awareness presentations, Nancy hopes to prevent more victimization and slavery. She is an advocate to those already trapped in it. Nancy and her partner, Kerry Ploeser, formed Mercies New in 2014 to bring awareness of human sex trafficking through presentation and van tours. Mercies New builds relationships with women in brothels in hopes of assisting them to become free. Nancy also volunteers with Fountain of Hope reaching out to help women walking the streets caught in prostitution. Nancy firmly believes there is hope for rescuing victims to restore lives. She is grateful for this opportunity to bring awareness of these issues to our Chapter of NOW.

Opening Day at the Capitol

Anita Erwin and Connie Hupperts joined the assembly at Wesley Bolin Plaza by the State Capitol on opening day (Jan 11) of the AZ Legislature. The State NOW

President, Sheila Ogea, and also Diane Post, lobbyist for NOW, were there. There was an open MIC so that anyone could speak. A bongo drummer of great talent was delivering the message of governing for all, including help for those with various needs—and extending a hand up to them through governmental services. Planned Parenthood and the various trade unions were prominent there. **CModeen**

Legislative Bills

NINE bills by Dems, having to do with abortion or paid sick leave. HB 2327 and SB 1138 Cash assistance doubles time from 12 to 23 months. Bills from Democrats don't see the light of day, but if there is enough public outcry for doubling emergency cash assistance, maybe it will have a chance. Representative Bennally mentioned the great need on the reservation, and the callous one year law from last year. **CModeen**

NOW Board Mtg Jan 13, 2016

The Board met Wednesday January 13 at noon at the chair's apartment, starting with lunch. Kathleen Abernathy reports she is in contact with Karen Van Hooft, and they will work together on a communication technology that will be of benefit. She will be absent at our next general meeting—Betty Roberts will step in as “membership” for that date.

Betty reported the ongoing **publicity** that she is achieving—by networking at her church, AAUW, and LWV, several people came to hear Rivko Knox of ACLU at our Jan meeting. Discussion with Anita about educating the public through posting of large posters of people in AZ government and laws they are making—following the inspiration from the Pay for Play DVD. From this segment of the meeting, we heard Chef Florio demonstrate some basic cooking techniques for Italian cooking (in the nearby auditorium).

Meeting resumed with Marilyn's report on **Women's History Month**. Everything is in place, ready to go—we just don't have a meeting date that is possible with the schedule of the church. Surely, at the last minute, our speaker, Dawn, and the church calendar, will be in sync. CModeen

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

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

NOW Member Mtg Jan 6, 2016

Speaker: Rivko Knox, from ACLU. This diminutive speaker traced the roots of ACLU from 1920 to the present day. The ACLU has evolved from an exclusive white male board in NYC to chapters across the nation with diverse boards. The AZ chapter was started by a woman. The focus in this state is detention centers for the undocumented that use inhuman practices, such as no heat and terrible food; they also help with legal procedures. Prison practices are another focus. For instance, 3 or 4 years ago women had to give birth in shackles, and a law has now stopped that. Sheriff Arpaio created obstacles to women who choose to have an abortion. Because the courts have become so conservative and do not champion the rights of women, the ACLU now focus in the legislature, mostly stopping bad laws.

Jeanne Lunn spoke on behalf of electing Hillary Clinton for President. She said that her campaign is now focused on the primaries in early February. If Clinton is to come to Arizona to campaign, we must demonstrate that money for the campaign is being raised and that a working ground crew to help with elections is up and running.

The AZ legislative session begins Monday, Jan 11. A network of women's organizations is meeting at the capitol from 11:30 to 1:00PM at the Wesley Bolin Plaza. Let Connie Hupperts know if you want to join in the car pool. CModeen

NOW SC/WV Board

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