

NEWSLETTER FOR

April 2016 Volume 35 Number 4

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 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** April 6, 2016, at **1:00 PM** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Ave of the Arts (off Bell) in Surprise. *We Did It Before & We Can Do It Again* is the title of the program. Ann Timmer will discuss her early adventures in the women's movement, followed by discussion groups about what we can do in the future to further issues important to women. The public is welcome.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Apr 8 Fri 11:30 to 2:30 PM

Planned Parenthood Luncheon

Keynote Speaker: Blythe Danner

Biltmore in Phx

Tickets: \$50 (see Betty Roberts)

April 13 Wed 1:00 PM

Next NOW Board Mtg

Host: Carolyn Modeen

Apr 23 Sat 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

AZ NOW State Conference

Fifty Fabulous Feminist Years 1966 – 2016

UFCW Hall – Local 99

2401 N Central Ave, Phx

RSVP by Apr 16 (\$30) Catalina Hall, Tucson

Women Airforce Service Pilots WASPs)

On March 22, 2016, The U.S. House of Representatives passed Representative Martha McSally's (R Tucson) legislation to reinstate the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) in Arlington National Cemetery. McSally garnered over 190 bipartisan cosponsors and is her fifth bill to pass the House of Representatives. The bill, the WASP Arlington Inurnment Restoration (WASP AIR) Act,

passed with unanimous support (385 to 0) less than eleven weeks after its introduction on January 6.

In 1942, General Henry "Hap" Arnold created the WASP unit with the intention of granting them full military status. 1,102 female pilots signed up for the WASP program, which ran from 1942 to 1944. Their missions included ferrying airplanes, training combat pilots, and towing airborne targets; 38 WASPs died during their service.

In 1977, Congress passed legislation retroactively granting active duty status to WASPs for the purposes of all laws administered by the VA, and in 2009, Congress awarded the WASPs the Congressional Gold Medal. Arlington National Cemetery approved in 2002 active duty designees, including WASPs, for military honors and inurnments. However, in March 2015, then-Secretary of the Army John McHugh reversed this decision. "I look forward to continue working with our Senate colleagues to get this bill passed in the Senate" for the President to sign (McSally).

Successful Woman's History Month

Vivian Wood, WWII marine gave a history of the WWII women pilots who flew test planes, planes that towed targets to be practiced on, and shuttled planes where needed. If they died in crashes, the other pilots had to pool money to pay for their burial. They never received any recognition nor pensions. Dawn, present day pilot, spoke of all the training required to be a pilot. She is one of the few women in that field—she is now at NASA, working in research into the stratosphere and also on missions over planet earth, checking various facets of its status, you might say—its health. Marilyn Schulze's granddaughter Hattie concluded the program with singing *Over the Rainbow*. Angel food cake with various fruits was served to 72 people.

Our tradition of giving a scholarship to graduating seniors at Dysart High School continues. CModeen

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

Compassion & Choices

In January, State Sen. Barbara McGuire introduced the Arizona End of Life Decisions Act (SB 1136). Although the bill has been assigned to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee, its chair Sen. Nancy Barto has refused to schedule a legislative hearing. Dan Diaz (advocate) will be here in Phoenix as part of an informational panel discussion we are holding for legislators and the public at the state capitol on March 24th from 10:30 am to noon. The session has been arranged by Senator McGuire, who sponsored the Arizona End of Life Decisions Bill. If you can, come & show your support & call or email your Legislator to encourage them to attend the discussion & support the bill. ireneweitz

NOW Board Mtg Mar 9, 2016

NOW Member Mtg Mar 2, 2016

Program: Real Women Have Curves, a fine movie indeed—for multicultural programing. Thanks to Joan Carlson for selecting and showing this—followed by her delicious cupcakes.

Other: 1) Women's History Month flyers distributed. 2) Planned Parenthood luncheon table completed. 3) Connie Hupperts urged us all to call Rep. Franks to participate in the ERA town hall that evening. CModeen

NOW SC/WV Board

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