

# SUN CITIES/WEST VALLEY

# NOW

National Organization for Women  
10015 W Royal Oak Rd #154, 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.

NOW will meet on Wed **Feb 5**, 2020, at 1 **PM** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Ave of the Arts (off Bell) in Surprise. The speaker will be Dawn Bogart, CEO of Homeless Youth Connection. The public is welcome.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Feb 12 Wed 1:30 PM  
Next NOW Board Mtg  
Host: Carolyn Modeen

April 4 Sat 9 – 3  
AZNOW State Conference  
IBEW #570 Union Hall  
75 South Tucson, Tucson, AZ  
Tickets \$20 (\$25 non-mem, \$10 students)  
[www.aznow.org](http://www.aznow.org)

April 4 Sat 8 - 4  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Women's Conference  
Rio Salado College  
Featured Speaker Gina Beyer  
[azwcl1.org](http://azwcl1.org)

### Equal Rights Amendment

On Jan 15, 2020, The Virginia State Senate ratified the Equal Rights Amendment by a vote of 28 – 12. A few minutes earlier the Virginia House had ratified the ERA 59 – 41. Thus Virginia goes down in history as the 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. Jan 15<sup>th</sup> was deliberately chosen as it is the birthday of Alice Paul who wrote the first ERA in 1923. The fact that it took 97 years to get the Amendment passed, and that it passed the same year as the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of women's right to vote (in the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment), speaks to the small but powerful minority who oppose equality when 91% of the American people support the ERA.

The amendment goes into effect two years after ratification to allow the US and states to change any laws that violate it.

Those opposed to the ERA in Virginia, all Republicans, said that women have achieved high positions without the ERA so it was unnecessary. Women have achieved much in spite of lack of equality. Because women have succeeded in spite of barriers is no reason to maintain the barriers. Though a few women have reached high positions is not sufficient reason to deny equality for all.

Virginia should be lauded for supporting equality. Arizona began as a very progressive state. Women could vote, and the state had the initiative process to ensure Citizens' voices were heard. The recall process ensured that renegade politicians could be held to account. At its inception, Arizona under Governor Hunt supported miners, workers, and women. But in the 1960's, Arizona started trending away from that early promise and reverted to principles of insularity, scarcity, and fear above principles of inclusion, prosperity, and tolerance. The leaders of Arizona's Legislature today have decided to be on the wrong side of history. Arizona legislators need to reclaim our roots and recognize that the ERA is a good idea whose time has come. Women are not going anywhere and will never give up. All fifty states need to ratify. Arizona has forfeited its opportunity to go down in history for a positive principle, but it can do the right thing and ratify the ERA this session to become #39. Article written by **Diane Post**, human rights attorney, AZ State Brd member, ERA Task Force AZ; published in Arizona Capitol Times (Thanks to **Kathleen Abernathy**)

### NOW Celebrates ERA Ratification in Virginia

Today's formal ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in Virginia is a cause for celebration. This day has been a long, long time coming, and credit for this historic victory is due to the new

leadership of the Virginia legislature—and the groundswell of feminist activists and voters who put them there.

After successfully passing the state House and Senate on Jan. 15th, today's crossover vote makes Virginia officially the 38<sup>th</sup> state needed to ratify the ERA—passing the three-fourths of the states threshold the U.S. Constitution requires for final adoption of an amendment. However, obstacles to certification remain, including an artificial timeline imposed in the preamble to the ERA in 1972. Now, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell won't let the Senate vote on a bill to remove that timeline, S.J.Res.6, even though it has two Republican co-sponsors, Lisa Murkowski and Susan Collins.

While the timeline removal bill is not necessary—legal analysts have asserted that Article V of the Constitution does not permit the imposition of deadlines on the ratification process—it would provide extra insurance as the ERA certification process goes forward. NOW calls on Congress to act on S.J.Res.6 and correct the Constitution's most glaring omission. It is simply never too late for equality.

A democracy that fails to include women in its founding document is a failed democracy. But today, Virginia women have shown how to rise up and put equality, reproductive rights and women's justice at the front of the political agenda. **NOW President Toni Van Pelt**

### **Planned Parenthood Benefit Movie**

All of the checks are now in - (drum roll) - we raised \$1425 - fantastic!

Kathleen, Doreen, and I would like to propose donating \$1225 of the money to Planned Parenthood and using the remaining \$200 to pay the following:

\$40 to the film maker, Andrea Pritchard to cover her shipping costs to get the film to us  
\$60 to the UU Church of Surprise for allowing us to use their facility  
\$15 to Doreen to cover 1/2 of the shipping costs to return the film to Andrea (Doreen will pay for the remaining half herself)  
\$40 for a small gift for Andrea as a thank you  
\$45 to Kathleen and Marilyn for the decorations

The above proposal was agreed to & Planned Parenthood will receive \$1225. **Lynne Leonard**

### **AZNOW State Conference**

will be held on Saturday, April 4th in Tucson. Location and venue details are: IBEW #570 Union Hall, 750 South Tucson, Tucson, Arizona 85716. Multiple speakers, Candidates and Panel Discussions. Cost TBD: Typically \$20 for members; \$25 for non-members and \$10 for students. Time is 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. (Registration opens at 8:30 am) (There will be a break for lunch and food truck(s) on site.) You will not want to miss this event. Details at <https://www.aznow.org>

For those who cannot travel to Tucson for the State NOW Conference, there is the 9th Annual AZ State Women's Conference Sat April 4. If interested you can request more information at <https://www.azwc1.org> **KAbernathy**

### **Women's Rally, Sunday, Jan 19th, AZ Capitol**

Members of the Sun Cities/West Valley Chapter gathered at the Capitol for the Rally. It was a great day with good weather and exciting speakers and lots of tables with petitions, buttons and opportunity to learn about a myriad of issues. After all, all issues are women's issues. **KAbernathy**

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

#### **Chapter CoCoordinators:**

Carolyn Modeen 972-6273; Emma Haring, 693-3050

**Membership Coordinator:** Lynne Leonard

**Newsletter Coordinator:** Teresa Smith

**Publicity Coordinator:** Betty Roberts

**Refreshments:** Becky Sayler

**Secretary Coordinator:** Becky Sayler

**Treasurer:** Kathleen Abernathy

**Web Mistress:** Jodie Lawrosky

**Other Board Members:** Doreen Romney, Marilyn Schulze, Tom Reemtsma, Joan Carlson

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