



**GREETINGS NOW MEMBERS**

Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW hit the decks running in 2010. Our first action was to elect new Board members who are committed to making a difference for women in AZ. Please meet the new Board by referring to their brief biographies on page 2 of this newsletter. Or better yet, come meet them in person at our monthly NOW meeting!

All of the Board members believe that action is the key to change in AZ. In the words of our Action Chair, Cindy Guerra, "Some of the laws in AZ are draconian at best. Some of the lawmakers are worse. It is time for an awakening and a change." So far in 2010, we have let our voices be heard at the following action events—

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS, JANUARY 16

Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW chapter members were forward thinking! We marched in support of immigrant rights before it became a national issue.

PRO-CHOICE DEMONSTRATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW chapter members and supporters demonstrated along the parade route of AZ Right to Life's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual March and Rally for Life. Our protest was peaceful and respectful and generated positive responses from passing motorists on Central Avenue. Our presence at this parade demonstrated to the community that NOW is committed to a woman's fundamental right to reproductive choice.



PROTEST AGAINST CBS FOR AIRING ANTI-CHOICE AD DURING SUPER BOWL, FEBRUARY 5-6

When CBS abandoned its long-held policy and decided to run a Focus on the Family's anti-choice Super Bowl ad, our chapter members responded assertively. We gathered outside the Phoenix CBS affiliate headquarters and peacefully protested CBS's unconscionable decision.



S.H.E. COUNTS RALLY WITH LILLY LEDBETTER, FEBRUARY 25

Chapter members attended a rally for the Safety, Health and Economic security of women in Arizona featuring long-time feminist Lilly Ledbetter. The rally was sponsored by the Arizona Foundation for Women and its partner organizations.

DEMONSTRATION AT THE OFFICES OF SENATORS MCCAIN AND KYL IN FAVOR OF CEDAW, MARCH 8

We gathered at our AZ senators' offices to request their support for the ratification of CEDAW, a UN Human Rights treaty dedicated to women's equality.

GAY PRIDE PARADE AND MARCH, APRIL 17

A car full of chapter members lent support to the Gay Pride Parade. Although our chapter's vehicle did not win a prize, we did win accolades and cheers from the crowds that lined the streets.





SUN CITY/WEST VALLEY NOW STATE CONFERENCE, APRIL 17

Certain members of our chapter supported our sister NOW groups at the NOW State Conference held in Sun City.

EQUAL PAY DAY CELEBRATION, APRIL 20

Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW held an “Un-happy Hour” to mark the continued wage disparity between men’s and women’s wages. Equal Pay Day marks the calendar date that women have to work in order to match the same amount of wages that men earned the previous year! As this disparity results in women struggling “in the red,” appropriately our chapter members dressed in red.

ANTI-SB1070 MARCH ON MAY 29

Chapter members marched and let their protests be heard about the discriminatory bill that has caused national outrage.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

An extremely important issue for our chapter is the plight of battered women. Three chapter members attended a one-day seminar presented by Maricopa County on all aspects of this societal problem earlier this year. As a result of networking with people during that seminar, on March 12<sup>th</sup> we were invited to visit transitional housing for battered women and others, Homeward Bound. Milon Pitts, Director of Client Services, was our distinguished host, and we received a grand tour of the facilities and learned about the ways this wonderful group is training women to be more self-sufficient. We encourage all of our members to support the work of Homeward Bound.



**LATE-BREAKING NEWS FROM THE NOW NATIONAL CONFERENCE!**

Our chapter President and Vice-President joined other NOW state members at the high-energy, issue-packed National NOW Conference in Boston, July 2 through July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Among the numerous noteworthy speakers addressing the conference was Dr. LeRoy Carhart, one of the few late-term abortion providers in the United States. Dr. Carhart was an associate physician with Dr. George Tiller from 1998 until Dr. Tiller’s murder in May of 2009. He spoke compassionately of the women who travel miles to obtain his services, his trust of these vulnerable women, and the need to keep reproductive choice safe and available.

Breakout Sessions covered current issues ranging from “Women Losing Child Custody to Documented Batters” to the “Tea Party Feminists,” and their efforts to claim and re-brand our feminism and promote Susan B. Anthony as pro-life!

The NOW Foundation bestowed its first annual Victoria J. Mastrobuono Women’s Health Award to the founding women of the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective. In 1973, Simon & Schuster first published an expanded edition of the original newsprint stapled booklet entitled Women and Their Bodies. The new title was “Our Bodies, Ourselves.” This seminal work would transform women’s relationships with their bodies and their health care providers.

This brief overview of the 2010 National NOW conference is only a glimpse of the extraordinary contributions the organizers, speakers, panel leaders and participants made to this conference. In a fitting conclusion to the conference, our Arizona feminists waited hours on the banks of the St. Charles River to view the evening 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks over the city of Boston.

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**“If you’re not part of the solution –  
you’re part of the problem”**



**HELLO TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM THE  
NEWLY ELECTED PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE  
NOW BOARD!**

**Carol Corsica, President**  
[ccorsica@cox.net](mailto:ccorsica@cox.net)

Carol is an ardent supporter of women's rights and supports the goals of the National Organization for Women. She identified with feminism early in life but was not part of NOW until she became the local action chair of the Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW chapter in January 2009, providing support for the Rape IS Rape rally, health care reform that would include coverage for the full range of reproductive services, and awareness of bills in the state legislature that dealt with women's issues. Later in October 2009, she became interim president. In January 2010, she was elected President of the Phoenix/Scottsdale Chapter and has worked tirelessly on transforming this chapter into a force for women's voices in AZ.

**Karen Kondej, VP Executive**  
[kondej@cox.net](mailto:kondej@cox.net)

Karen is a retired web developer and web-positioning specialist, one of the earliest women on the web. Client's legacy websites, developed by Karen, remain scattered across the web – still connecting owners with their targeted customers. Karen's journey with NOW began in Tucson, AZ in 1987 where, in addition to vigorous activism, she produced the monthly newsletter, before computers! Always a relentless and vocal feminist, Karen blogged before returning to activism with NOW. Karen believes that the collective voice can be stronger than the individual voice and that working together with other feminists, women can realize equality, redress discrimination and eradicate the violence that is the global condition of women.

**Cindy Guerra, Action Chair**  
[warjade26@yahoo.com](mailto:warjade26@yahoo.com)

Cindy comes to Arizona as a 28-year activist from Illinois. In Illinois, she was chapter President of Bremen NOW and South Suburban NOW for several years. She has served as Illinois NOW VP of Affirmative Action, Action VP and Chapter Development VP. She was also elected to two terms as Illinois NOW President. Cindy

was appointed to complete a term on the National Board from the Great Lakes Region and then elected to two more two-year terms on the National Board. She also served on the National Committee for Affirmative Action and the Committee for the new Constitutional Amendment for Equal Rights. She presented at several workshops regarding Women of Color. Cindy and Olga Vives were coordinating committee members of the 1994 National Conference in Chicago. Cindy also coordinated two Great Lakes Regional Conferences, and at least two State Conferences in Illinois. Cindy brings extensive organizing and chapter development skills to the chapter.

**Carolyn Lowther, Membership Chair**  
[clowther@q.com](mailto:clowther@q.com)

Carolyn started her association with NOW by marching down Fifth Avenue, NYC, in the late 60's to protest inequality in women's wages. She also went door to door in Florida to talk to people about the Equal Rights Amendment during the late 70's. She marched in every pro-choice rally in Washington DC, often bringing her immediate family and elderly aunts along. She has served as Treasurer of Philadelphia NOW, a fund-raising committee person in Morris County NJ NOW, and as Membership Chair for the Phoenix/Scottsdale chapter.

**Nicole Deopere, Secretary**  
[now.nicole9@gmail.com](mailto:now.nicole9@gmail.com)

Nicole Deopere has been a member of Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW since January of 2009. She joined NOW after being targeted by a high-risk level 3-sex offender in one of her classes at college. She has served on the board of Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW for the past two years and is also a state board member. She is currently studying early childhood education and working part time as a habilitator for special needs children. She feels greatly that NOW can have a tremendous impact in AZ by empowering women and helping more women get elected to public office.

**Eric Ehst, Treasurer**  
[ericehst@cox.net](mailto:ericehst@cox.net)

Eric became a dedicated feminist after witnessing discrimination against women in the military and corporate worlds. He first joined NOW 30 years ago to show support for the ERA and has been an active Arizona member for the past 15 years, participating in numerous demonstrations, rallies, and other actions. For



the past nine years he has been a member of the Arizona NOW state board of directors serving as Leadership Training Chair (2 years), Political Action Chair (4 years), and for the last three years he has had the honor of serving as the first male State Policy Chair and Spokesperson (President) in the organization's history. He has also served the Phoenix/Scottsdale chapter as the spokesperson and, currently, as treasurer. His passion is to ensure equal rights, opportunity, and political access for all.

**Dianne Barker, Representative to State Board**  
**[Dteam11@yahoo.com](mailto:Dteam11@yahoo.com)**

Dianne joined Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW in the fall of 2008. She successfully worked on getting union-made business cards for the chapter. She attended many meetings, both local and state. She was nominated and served as interim VP in 2009. In 2010 she was elected as Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW's State Representative.

**Olga Vives, Media Spokesperson**  
**[ovives@aol.com](mailto:ovives@aol.com)**

Olga Vives is serving as Press Liaison for the Phoenix-Scottsdale chapter. She is a recent transplant to Scottsdale from the East Coast where she lived in Washington, DC while serving as a NOW National Officer from 2001-2009. She was Action Vice-President and Executive Vice-President where she was instrumental in developing national campaigns such as "Wal-Mart – Merchant of Shame", "Equal Marriage", "Justice for the Women of Juarez", the 2004 National March for Women's Lives and many others. As Executive Vice-President, Olga was involved in expanding the NOW Foundation's work through its Global Strategies program, Justice for Immigrant Women, and organizing both the Women of Color Allies and Economic Justice Summits.

Prior to serving as a national officer, Olga was president and chapter activist at West Suburban NOW, vice-president, Action of IL NOW and served on NOW's National Board as Regional Director, NOW PAC member, chair of the Lesbian Rights Committee and served on numerous local and national NOW committees.

**CEDAW**



Our chapter is vigorously rallying for the ratification of CEDAW, the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The U.S. Senate has twice abandoned CEDAW after making it through the Foreign Relations Committee. Karen Kondej is chairperson of our chapter's CEDAW Committee. On March 10, 2010, we held a CEDAW Panel Discussion with international law expert and lifetime women's advocate Dianne Post, J.D., Olga Vives, and Karen. In addition, our chapter will utilize the CEELI CEDAW Assessment Tool to examine the persistent gaps in women's full equality in Arizona. Volunteers with a wide variety of skills are needed for this study: statisticians, legal experts, interviewers, and computer experts. Please contact the chapter if you would like to volunteer.

In 1990, the Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI) was founded to aid in the legal reform efforts in newly independent republics and emerging democracies. The CEELI Institute is an independent, not-for-profit, international provider of post-graduate, professional legal education head-quartered in Prague. Its mission is to develop an international, professional community of reformers committed to the rule of law.

Through innovative training programs and other activities, the Institute works with judges and legal reformers in countries in transition to support just and democratic legal practices. The visiting instructors at Institute events are international experts who volunteer their time and talent as a public service, without pay.

"Also, our appreciation goes to Isabel Trauggott and Sanja Milivojevic who conducted the first test of this assessment tool in Serbia, and to Dianne Post for her invaluable assistance and insights."

Dianne Post, a P-S Chapter member, was a vital collaborator on the first test of the CEELI Assessment Tool in Serbia.



**PRICES GOING UP**

Bad news for our chapter. We may have to change our meeting place because of prices going up. You can help. You can also support the Chapter by sending a donation for our causes, actions, or specifically for our meeting space. Please send a check made payable to Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW. Any amount will be greatly appreciated and will help us pay for expenses for Chapter actions and events.

Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW  
PO Box 3514  
Scottsdale, AZ 85271

**ATTEND A CHAPTER MEETING**

Phoenix Scottsdale NOW Meetings  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Downstairs at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library  
Drinkwater Boulevard and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

**WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY – August 26**

The day you got the right to vote

**A FUN EVENT FOR THE DOG DAYS  
OF AUGUST!**

We invite you to celebrate Equality Day "Straw Poll" with Phoenix/Scottsdale NOW at El Penasco Mexican Kitchen, 19 E. Broadway Rd., Tempe, AZ on August 26 from 7-9 p.m. We will be holding a "Straw Poll" i.e., vote to pass the ERA? CEDAW? Equal Pay? Vote someone out of office? Move 2011 All-Star Game from Phoenix? Alternatively, submit your own women's issue for



everyone's consideration! Come raise your voice, cast your vote on key issues and share in the revelry!

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT**

While we will take a brief break over the summer, we will storm back in the fall to represent all of you at various action events. Our goal is equality and fairness in all areas of a woman's life in AZ. Please complete and return the questionnaire enclosed with this newsletter so that we can learn what issues are most important for you. We also encourage you to join us at monthly Chapter meetings!

**WHY SHOULD YOU BE AN ACTIVIST?**

- Because you are not guaranteed reproductive freedom.
- Because you still earn less than a male for the same job.
- Because jobs women primarily work in are paid less – regardless of whether you are single or have children to raise.
- Because you are still treated like a "girl."
- Because you are not taken seriously by your male counterparts.
- Because you earn less – your social security benefits when you retire will be pitiful.
- Because you are more likely to be a victim of domestic abuse.
- Because you are more likely to be a victim of sexual discrimination.
- Because you have to engage the court system if you want equal pay or equal rights.
- Because some male legislators in this state don't think you are worthy to be "heard."

**HOW TO BE AN ACTIVIST**

- There are several ways to be an Activist.
- Join NOW (\$10 – new members)
- Join in a chapter Action (nothing to do – just be there)
- Join in a chapter Event (maybe buy a drink – or not)
- Join in a Zap Action (nothing to do - just be there)
- Write a letter to your legislator (we can help)
- Make a phone call to your legislator (we can help)
- Admit you are a Feminist and tell your family and friends!
- Tell your family and friends how you feel about equal rights for women.
- You don't need a degree.
- You don't need a bunch of \$\$ (just \$10)
- You don't need a new, fast car.
- You don't need to burn your bra.

**"Well-behaved women seldom make history!"**