



A Publication of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Organization for Women

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We couldn't have done it without you

There is very little in the world that can overwhelm me so profoundly that I find myself at my keyboard, totally blocked. Me, a professional writer!

How can I adequately express how grateful I am for the outpouring of support since December's anguished fundraising appeal? Members and friends of Minnesota NOW responded with donations and kind words that have touched all of us who serve on our State Board. We heard from folks all over the state—and across the country.

We received messages like these:

"Think you're handling this crisis in a really good way. We all need to pitch in to keep our organization going. We must keep NOW working!"

"I am proud of MN NOW and proud to spend this money. Consider it my holiday gift for feminism." (From a MN NOW Facebook fan in California.)

"Money right NOW."

"This donation is intended to help keep the doors open."

*"This is an **extra** contribution." (From a*

Shannon Drury
FROM THE PRESIDENT

thank you!

quarterly FAN donor.)

"Help to keep the doors open."

"Keep St. Paul [office] open!"

"Keep the office open!"

"Dear Friends At NOW, Here's hoping you'll be feeling better financially real soon!"

"Thanks for the essential work you do!"

"In Memory of my mother... life-long defender of women."

We heard from people hit hard by the recession who contributed what they could, because they felt Minnesota NOW's future was that important to them.

These two words feel small in the face of such generosity, but they'll have to do:

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support, for your membership, for your time. Thank you for hearing our plea for help at a time when finances are rough for everyone. I wish all our budgetary woes were over, but I'm afraid there may be more to come. Know that all of us on the State Board are taking appropriate action to ensure that your donations are directed towards streamlining our operations so that we can weather this downturn and come out even stronger.

Can we thank you in person? Inside this newsletter you'll find information on our 2010 State Conference this spring in Fergus Falls. The conference theme is our ERA campaign, but the real focus will be on making the personal connections that have sustained this amazing organization since its inception in 1971.

Thank you for your support of and commitment to Minnesota NOW. Thank you. THANK YOU!

Minnesota NOW members accept challenge!

Our members have once again proven how much Minnesota NOW means to them. Donations from the last newsletter along with the matching funds provided by the MN NOW State Board will keep our doors open through the end of March. The Fundraising Committee and State Board thank you for your generous donations.

In addition, as of this writing, two rebate checks have come from National NOW. The checks are for small dollar amounts, but they are a good indication that National is trying to reinstate the rebate checks as money becomes available.

Our concern now is for the rest of 2010. In order to stay solvent through the end of the year, our organization needs to collect an average of \$23.08 from each MN NOW member. You can help by responding to this newsletter with either a one-time donation, becoming a MN NOW FAN (Feminist Action Network) to donate quarterly to MN NOW, or doing both!

How did we come up with \$23.08? By dividing MN NOW's annual budget of approximately \$30,000.00 by our current membership of 1,300. Included in this budget are office expenses, part-time office staff, two printed and mailed

beth anderson
FUNDRAISING CHAIR

**Sign up to become a
Minnesota NOW FAN**

Go to our website at www.mnnow.org
or use the form on the back page.

newsletters per year, and upgrades to our data management system and our website for more efficient and less expensive communication with members.

In an effort to streamline our efforts and reduce costs, MN NOW is combining the annual all-member fundraising mail appeal with this newsletter. If you normally respond to our spring appeal with an annual contribution, this is your request to do so again. We need your contributions now more than ever, and sending the request via this newsletter saves postage and printing costs. As an additional cost-saving measure there is no return envelope included

with this mailing.

As rebate checks from National NOW failed to materialize, the MN NOW FANS became the foundation of our financial house. To become a FAN, just fill out the form located on the back page of this newsletter and send it in with your first quarter contribution. You will be added to our mailing list and get quarterly reminders in the mail. Or, you can save us even more time and money by signing up online at www.mnnow.org and have your FAN donation automatically paid by credit card once a quarter.

Despite the financial difficulties at MN NOW, our activists are busier than ever. Our work in leading the effort to get a Constitutional Amendment for Equality on the ballot in Minnesota in 2010, our participation in Pro-Choice Lobby Day and leadership in the Pro-Choice Coalition, and our efforts to continually upgrade our services and communication to our members are just a few of the projects we are currently working on. You can read about these activities and many more in the pages of this newsletter.

Thank you again for your generous support. For more information on activism and fundraising, please join us at the State Conference in Fergus Falls.

Achieving equality one Minnesotan at a time

beth johnson

**MN C.A.F.E.
COALITION
BOARD CHAIR**

If you haven't heard of the Minnesota C.A.F.E. (Constitutional Amendment for Equality) Coalition yet, let me bring you up to speed. Shortly after Representative Carolyn Maloney reintroduced the federal Equal Rights Amendment to U.S. House of Representatives on July 21, 2009, a small group of phenomenal women formed the MN C.A.F.E. Coalition to spearhead the effort to obtain a state amendment for Minnesota.

Since then, the Coalition has grown in leaps and bounds as you might expect from a successful grassroots campaign. You can find MN C.A.F.E. Coalition members everywhere. Our website is at www.mnCAFecoalition.org and we're on Facebook along with our 768 fans. You can find us at Senate District meetings and caucuses insisting that the C.A.F.E. be placed on each political party's platform. You can find us at Minnesota Rollergirl bouts, painting at the Black Eye Booth to raise money for our efforts. You can find us in coffee shops, restaurants and bars sharing our message of the need for equality in Minnesota, and as our message continues to spread you can find us all over the state of Minnesota.

On January 27, 2010, the MN C.A.F.E. Coalition officially launched its campaign to pass Minnesota's equal rights amendment, which states, "Equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied on account of sex." The campaign kick-off at the Sheraton

Bloomington Hotel, prior to the Multi-Party Gubernatorial Debate, featured the debut of the stylish MN C.A.F.E. Coalition t-shirts, speakers from four different generations of women sharing their experiences with sex discrimination, and several candidates for governor stopped in to share their support for the C.A.F.E.

The Bloomington kick-off event was also the launch of MN C.A.F.E.'s nine-city Northern Minnesota Equality Awareness Tour. In just four days, members of the coalition traveled by minivan to Duluth, Eveleth, Grand Rapids, Park Rapids, Bemidji, Red Lake, Detroit Lakes and Fergus Falls. The goal of the tour was to educate and energize individuals and organizations in northern Minnesota to join the Coalition, so that they in turn will recruit, educate and activate members of their community to join the campaign for a MN C.A.F.E.

Along the way, we gained insight on the issues that matter to the people in these northern communities and learned about the specific struggles they face on a regular basis. Their input was invaluable and as we traveled from



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Coalition members in Park Rapids with historical feminists, back row from left: Coya Knutson, Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, Clara Ueland, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Coalition members, front row from left: Amy Kenzie, Beth Johnson, Barbra Peterson, Kathleen Murphy, and Gordy Gustafson.

city to city, we honed our message, incorporating their wisdom and voices along the way. The hospitality of our event hosts and the amazing folks who gave us a place to lay our heads at night overwhelmed us with gratitude, and we were fortunate enough to wrap up

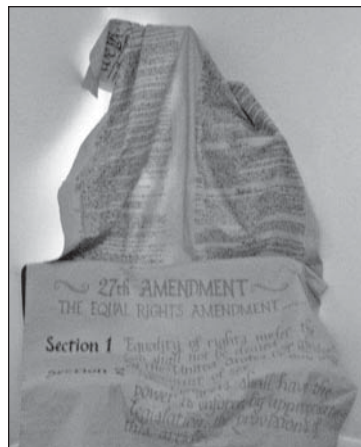
our tour in Fergus Falls and join in the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Fergus Falls Chapter of NOW.

We plan to continue our tours of Minnesota throughout the spring and summer, including a visit to Winona State University on February 24, and a return visit to Duluth on March 3 on the University of Minnesota Duluth campus along with another gathering in Duluth with the site and time yet to be determined. We encourage everyone to contact us if they would like members of our speakers bureau to engage their community. Please send everyone you know to our website and Facebook page. We need the active and vocal support of every Minnesotan to gain equality for **all** Minnesotans.



Coalition members with the giant otter in Fergus Falls.

Here's a special note from MN NOW Vice President Barbra Peterson: To my NOW Sisters in Fergus Falls, who so graciously hosted our MN C.A.F.E. Coalition event in January. It was a great way to end our Northern Tour. Getting to meet you all and being so welcomed to share in your 30th anniversary as a MN NOW chapter, which was also my 30th anniversary of being a NOW member, made my day. As Vice President, I feel so very proud to be part of this great organization, knowing that there are so many phenomenal feminists all over the state. Hearing the herstory of Fergus Falls Area NOW was so inspiring and I look forward to getting to know you better in April for the State Conference.



MN C.A.F.E.'s traveling 27th Amendment display.



MN NOW board member Kriss Hakala strikes a "We Can Do It" pose at the campaign kick-off in Bloomington on Jan. 27.



MN NOW member Solome Tibebu speaks for young feminists fighting for a Constitutional Amendment for Equality.

Fergus Falls Area NOW news

Chapter celebrates 30 years of feminist activism

elizabeth merz
**FERGUS FALLS
 AREA NOW**

Fergus Fall Area NOW's 30th Anniversary Celebration was held on Jan 31, 2010, and was a great success! About 30 members and friends of NOW came together to reminisce and look over documents from the early years. Founding members Sigridlinda Rivington and Dianne Long attended and spoke on the atmosphere in the 1970s. MN NOW Vice President Barbra Peterson offered congratulations. Katy Olson gave a history of chapter highlights.

Fergus Falls Area NOW was founded in May 1979 and its members were instrumental in establishing the Women's Crisis Center, now called Someplace Safe, which serves an 8-county region.

A January email from Diane Gunvalson describes her reaction to discovering the new Chapter, "I found myself involved with NOW, meeting some of the smartest, most caring, dedicated, involved, stubborn, independent and enjoyable people I've had the privilege



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chapter members and friends shared a special anniversary cake.

to know. The [FF] NOW chapter helped me find myself as a feminist and gave me a refuge in a place where concepts such as equal rights,

freedom of choice, equal pay, female leadership and other 'radical' ideas were not often welcome."

And now for the next 30 years.

Seeking scholarship applicants

The Fergus Falls Area Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) is offering its sixteenth annual scholarship opportunity for women of Otter Tail County.

Women who plan to attend a post-secondary institution during the 2010-2011 academic year are eligible if they graduate from an Otter Tail County high school in 2010 or earlier; or if they are current residents of Otter Tail County, even if they attended high school elsewhere and/or will attend a post-secondary institution elsewhere; or if they will attend a post-secondary institution in Otter Tail County.

To receive an application, contact your high school counseling office or contact Elizabeth Merz at 111 W. Lincoln Ave. #305, Fergus Falls, MN, 56537, call 218-998.3145, or e-mail fergusfallsar-eanow@yahoo.com.

All information must be postmarked by April 17, 2010, to be considered. Scholarships will be announced in May.

The Minnesota Legislature returned to work on February 4. Governor Pawlenty released his State Budget Proposal February 15. Bonding bills; budgets; jobs; education; health care; EQUALITY; and the mass of 2010 elections and referenda. What are your resources? What might you have missed? We need all our MN NOW members informed and engaged!

Read the MN NOW Blog at <http://mnnowblog.wordpress.com/> and watch for Legislative e-Blasts as this second biennium of the 86th Legislative Session progresses and throughout the wild campaigning to follow.

Advertise in the 2010 State Conference Book

The 2010 Minnesota NOW State Conference will be held Saturday, April 17, in Fergus Falls (see page 7 for the Call to Conference). The design and layout of the Conference Book is being generously donated by Fergus Falls Area NOW member Jane Geisinger, owner of JLG Type & Design.

Ad Sizes & Rates

- Full page, 7.500"w x 9.500"h, \$130
- Half page vertical, 3.625"w x 9.500"h, \$70
- Half page horizontal, 7.500"w x 4.625"h, \$70
- Quarter page, 3.625"w x 4.625"h, \$40
- Business card, 3.500"w x 2.000"h, \$25

Design services: We would be happy to design your ad, to be used exclusively in the MN NOW State Convention Book, at no charge. You will need to provide any logos or specific graphics or photos you would like included.

Electronic format: High resolution PDFs or JPGs are preferred for the submission of logos, photos, and "camera-ready" ads.

Color: The book will be in black and white, but you may submit color ads, graphics and/or pho-

tos and we can convert them to black and white.

Ad proofs: A proof will be provided for all ads. Please include an e-mail address when submitting ads so that the proof can be sent electronically as PDF. If you do not have e-mail, provide a mailing address and the proof will be mailed. Ad proofs will be sent by Tuesday, April 6, and must be approved by Friday, April 9, at 5 p.m.

Ad payment: Payments can be mailed to the address below, payable to MN NOW, or you can pay online at www.mnnow.org and click on DONATE NOW just under the logo at the top left, then scroll down to the Ad Payment section. Ad payment deadline is Monday, April 12, 2010. Any ads not paid by this time will be pulled unless other arrangements are made in advance.

Ad copy deadline: Friday, April 2 at 5 p.m.

Contact: Jane Geisinger
 Owner, JLG Type & Design,
 602 W Cavour Ave, Fergus Falls MN 56537
 218-739-5201 (home) / 218-205-1151 (cell)
janegeisinger@charter.net

To see a copy of last year's book, go to mnnow.org and click on the Conference link.

TYPE
JLG & Design

My legal internship at the NOW National Action Center

gordy gustafson
UPTOWN NOW

I had the best four months of my life working as a NOW legal intern in Washington, DC from September through most of December 2009. I worked long hours because the excellent but small staff at National NOW needs all the help they can get, especially in times that are becoming more and more hostile to women's rights.

While I was at NOW's National Action Center, NOW had to deal with the toxic work environment that women still face in the entertainment industry and throughout the employment sector as evident by the David Letterman scandal. NOW fought against the Stupak Amendment and for the public option in healthcare legislation going through Congress. NOW continued to work to protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits. NOW marched for equal marriage.

I learned how Washington



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On Capitol Hill at the Sept. 15, 2009, introduction of DOMA-repeal legislation are (from left) NOW legal intern Gordy Gustafson, NOW Executive Vice President Bonnie Grabenhofer, and equal marriage plaintiffs Dawn and Jen BarbouRoske with their two daughters.

works by gathering information for NOW while attending congressional committee hearings, interest group forums, Capitol Hill briefings, and

feminist coalition meetings.

I worked on keeping National NOW's charitable registrations valid in 40 states that require non-profits

to register in order to legally solicit for contributions. Each of these states has different forms, fees and requirements. Before I did this internship I disliked federalism, but now I hate federalism!

I even got a chance to lobby the offices of Sen. Franken, Sen. Klobuchar, Rep. McCollum, Rep. Ellison, and Rep. Oberstar on December 2, 2009, in order to stop the greatest restrictions on women's right to abortion since the Roe v. Wade decision—the Stupak Amendment to the healthcare legislation.

The most important lesson I learned is that NOW's six core issues—abortion and reproductive rights, economic justice, ending sex discrimination, lesbian rights, promoting diversity and ending racism, and stopping violence against women—are all equally important and that NOW will not sacrifice some women's rights to benefit the rights of other women. It was the best feminist/political science/activist training that anyone could get anywhere!

I am Minnesota NOW: April Guillaume

It was a few years ago, as I brought in my favorite homemade blueberry pie to work when a female coworker remarked, not for the first time, "You should be home barefoot and pregnant the way you like to bake." I was a single woman with no kids and I did not like eating pie alone, hence the bringing of baked goods to work.

When I recently read *Tripping the Prom Queen, The Truth About Women and Rivalry* by Susan Shaprio Barash, I recalled how that remark made me feel—small and confused. Why the heck can't a sales professional, and good one if I may add, make pies?

Competition is a common theme among working women because—speaking of pie—there is only so much of it to go around, and if there is only one top spot for a woman, you better out all others from getting it.

Tripping the Prom Queen states that women too often focus on each other, and not their male work peers, as rivals. If we want to bring people down it can be in those small, biting remarks, most especially in the land of Minnesota nice, brimming with passive aggression. Often, in an office environment women confide in each other; therefore we can hurt each other in multiple, calculated ways. The comment made to me personally may or may not have had nefarious underpinnings, but it made me ponder.

We feminists cannot imagine trying to tear each other down, right? We

are about bringing us all up in equality with men! According to the new best-selling book, *Superfreakanomics* by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner, women still make less than men in the same position when comparing apples to apples, that is, female and male MBA graduates.

In other words, we women need to stick together! We do not have time, and should not waste our energy fighting with each other. (I say this time after time whenever Sarah Palin is on television.) So why do the stories in the workplace resemble my new venture: motherhood? There is a club out there, in case you were not invited, "mean mommies." And they do not serve cheese and wine.

So where are we to go, us women, to find a place in this world where we stand on solid ground, knowing exactly what we are doing and how do we treat each other as consort, not enemy? Feminist and cofounder of the National Organization for Women Betty Friedan knew what she did not want in her time. If you are reading this article you are well aware of her groundbreaking book, *The Feminine Mystique*, which argues against the role women played in 1960s society. She saw women drinking in the afternoon, depressed at the little opportunities they possessed, unequal to men. Then, you knew your place and all it entailed. I was born not long after and at a time when women

still had their own "female only" job listings in the newspaper. Now, in my adulthood, Hillary Clinton is the U.S. Secretary of State.

We've come a long way, baby. We can bring home the bacon and fry it up, but do we do so at the ridicule of our peers? As a Facebook connoisseur, often when I write about whatever it is I am cooking, undoubtedly a friend will write some comment about me being "so domestic" or "a good wife." All of these remarks are still making me confused (an easy task), but nevertheless, why am I feeling insulted for my cooking?

It seems to me in 2010 the definition of a woman's role is still under heavy construction. There are those of us women fighting our way in corporate America—still not CEOs in any real numbers, though women are increasing in seats in state and national legislatures. We are leaving a mobile fast track in corporate America and staying at home raising children. Many of the newly founded businesses are created by women, allowing paths for both family and work. What will the new defined woman's role be? And can we still bake in it?

A dream for my five-month-old daughter is that she will not hesitate to ponder that if by baking pies she will be less of a feminist. Indeed I hope she throws the pie in anyone's face who dares insult her—and then never worries if it makes her look



FILE PHOTO

like less of a "good girl." (And if that is how I raise her, I ought to save for bail money now.)

In the meantime, the National Organization for Women is as relevant as ever for those struggling with identity crisis and otherwise. We all need NOW to continue picking fights at Capitol Hill when women's healthcare is at risk and protesting CBS for allowing a controversial and medically inaccurate television advertisement during the Superbowl.

There will be a day when women are equal to men and NOW will cease to be, but until then I am enjoying this ride. I hope you are too. Mostly, I hope you will help me continue creating what it is to be today's modern woman: empathetic, wise, courageous, happy, and oh-so-powerful in the kitchen, boardroom and especially at play dates.

Remembering Cindy Mark, Jan. 5, 1948—Dec. 13, 2009

Longtime MN Valley NOW member, Cindy Mark, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this fall and died from complications on December 13, 2009. Cindy was an extremely passionate activist, feminist and advocate for women and girls. The following are just a few of her accomplishments and contributions.

In March 2001, Cindy coordinated a Women's History Month program with a local Girl Scout troop. The troop and chapter together presented a drama entitled: *American Women Making History*, to an audience of family members and the community. This production proved so popular that the chapter and Girl Scout Troop collaborated again in 2002 on another dramatic interpretation.

Cindy was also a talented artist and president of the Prior Lake Arts Society for many years. Cindy brought her artistic talent to Minnesota NOW in June 2002, when she organized an art show as part of the National NOW conference in St. Paul. This was the first time an adjudicated art show was displayed during a National NOW conference. It was a great success; both the artists and the conference goers enjoyed this opportunity to bring activism and art together.

Cindy lived in rural Prior Lake, raising chickens and selling organic eggs. Cindy was eco-friendly in her lifestyle and shared her knowledge

beth anderson MN VALLEY NOW

of home remedies with any who were interested. Over the years, Cindy opened her home to our members for annual gatherings such as holiday parties, pool parties, and retreats. In January 2004, she hosted a retreat featuring Ruth Nested, who spoke about staying healthy and centered in a diverse world. We met again at her home a year later for a retreat featuring belly-dancing lessons for all participants.

Cindy attended many of our informational pickets and marches. She was part of the Minnesota Valley NOW contingent that went to Washington D.C. in April 2004 to March for Choice. She often staffed our table at the International Women's Day event at the University of Minnesota and was a frequent speaker at the Women and Spirituality Conference in Mankato.

In 2007, Cindy graduated from the University of Minnesota, Mankato with a Master's degree in Women's Studies. She used her education and experiences to the benefit of our membership. In October 2006, Cindy presented a program entitled *Disposable Women*, discussing her research on the Maquiladoras in the Mexico borderlands and the murders of hundreds of women in Juarez.

In March 2007, Cindy led a Feminist Forum during MN Valley NOW's annual Women's History Month celebration. Forum members presented topics from their own personal feminist perspective. Topics ranged from health freedom, to women's suffrage, to reproductive choice. A feature story and photograph from the event appeared in a local newspaper.

In February 2008, Cindy performed in *The Vagina Monologues*, produced by Minnesota Valley NOW in collaboration with The Chameleon Theatre Circle. Her delivery of "My Angry Vagina" was heartfelt and powerful. The production raised over \$4,500 for V-Day Prior Lake 2008, a part of Eve Ensler's V-Day Campaign. Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women in Belle Plaine received the majority of the funds, with a small portion going towards the V-Day Spotlight Campaign for 2008 - Hurricane Katrina relief efforts for women in New Orleans.

After completing her Master's degree, Cindy was an adjunct professor of Feminist Studies at Rasmusen College and a professor of Feminist Studies and Philosophy at the Minnesota Women's Correctional Facility-Shakopee through Augsburg College. She often said that she enjoyed bringing feminist ideas and teachings into places where she wasn't "preaching to the choir." She cherished her opportunity to foster



PHOTO BY BETH ANDERSON

Production photo of Cindy Mark from V-Day Prior Lake in February 2008.

change in individual lives

At the time of her death, Cindy was pursuing a Ph.D. in Women's Studies with an emphasis on spirituality with the California Institute of Integral Studies of San Francisco.

Cindy was tenaciously dedicated to living her life to the fullest and was generous with her time and resources. She served as an inspiration to many of us in the Minnesota Valley Chapter and we will miss her greatly.

Cindy is survived by her husband, Stephen; daughter, Kaitie; sister, Sandy Bowles; and niece, Jennifer Moran.

Calling all members! We need your voices for Choice!

Editor's note: As of press time, we've done our best to get this newsletter to our members before the Pro-Choice Lobby Day event.

MN NOW is once again partnering with MN NARAL for the 2010 Pro-Choice Lobby Day on March 4 (very apropos as we March Forth for Choice).

This year we'll be lobbying and rallying for passage of the Comprehensive Sex Education bill. Thanks to the abstinence-only crowd and the folks at MCCL (Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life or as I like to refer to them, Morons Challenging our Civil Liberties), Minnesota has seen an alarming upswing of teen pregnancies, 1 in 4 teens contracting an STD, and a 13% rise in HIV cases, all because we're not teaching our students what they need to learn to keep them safe and healthy. Our students deserve better, and it's up to all of us to make sure they have access to age appropriate, comprehensive sex education.

I've been attending Pro-Choice Lobby Day since the late 70's, first

barbra peterson VICE PRESIDENT

in Illinois, and now in my new home state of Minnesota, and I can tell you it's one of the best experiences of the year for me. To be surrounded by so many great feminist activists, and to be able to advocate for reproductive justice with my legislators face-to-face is very empowering. The speeches at the noon rally are great, especially this year when one of our own, new Board member Kriss Hakala, will be speaking on her fight with the Forest Lake school board to make sure her sons get the best education. Who's better than a mother of teens and NOW activist to speak on this subject? I'm in awe of her tenacity and passion and you will be too.

Break-Out sessions include: Community of Faith, Greater Minnesota, Women of Color, and this will be my second year presenting Multi-Generational Voices For Choice, a topic near and dear to me. For my first few Pro-Choice Lobby

Days in Minnesota, I was surprised to see that I was one of the very few gray-haired activists in attendance. Where was that pre-Roe generation of mine? The people who stood on the front lines in the battle for reproductive rights in the 1960s and 70s. Our presence, and our voices for choice, are needed NOW more than ever. We remember what life was like before Roe - we've lost mothers, daughters, sisters and aunts due to back-alley, coat-hanger, knitting-needle, do-it-yourself illegal, unsafe abortions. We have to realize that those rights that were so hard fought and won by us are being eroded step by step, state by state. NOW is the time for us to get back on those front lines.

We of the pre-Roe, Menopausal Militia generation need to stand with our younger sisters and brothers to let them know that we're right there at their side. We need to be there to remind our legislators what it was like before Roe and to say, "HELL NO, we won't go back to that!" We need to show the state



When: March 4, 8:45 a.m.

Where: The People's House, aka the State Capitol

For more information and to register for the event, go to prochoicelobbyday.org On Facebook? Check out the Pro-Choice Lobby Day event page.

that feminists of all generations stand together in this seemingly never-ending battle for Reproductive Justice. We will NOT back down, We will NOT go backwards. We WILL march forth together.

I hope to see you all at this year's Pro-Choice Lobby Day, so look for me. Hopefully, I'll be just one of the many gray-haired activists in attendance.

Peg's Pen: Let's all go to the movies!

But first... Trivia Question of the Day – Which heroine lead the final fight to the 1920 passage of the 19th amendment? (Cue the Jeopardy music...)

Kudos if you knew it was Alice Paul. Sadly, many Americans aren't aware of this chapter in history or of the immense struggle and suf-



peg ballentine
COLUMNIST

fering that Paul and her contemporaries experienced during the last battle to secure voting rights for women. "Iron Jawed Angels", a 2006 HBO TV movie, recounts this pivotal event and the experiences of suffragists Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor).

If you are picturing women in banners and bonnets quietly marching along to the applause of the public (a la Mary Poppins), think again. These activists put their lives at risk and faced a barrage of opposition including being attacked, arrested, imprisoned, and force-fed.

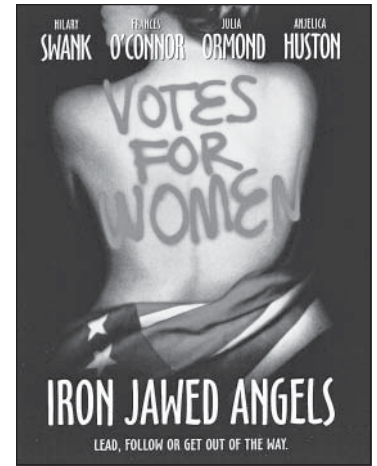
This is a beautifully crafted movie; a period piece with a bit of contemporary music to jazz things

up. Hilary Swank does a phenomenal job portraying the brilliant, defiant Paul and Anjelica Huston is formidable in the role of feminist Carrie Chapman Catt.

My only wish is that the film had been released on the big screen so that a broader audience could appreciate this significant moment in history.

I'm issuing an informal challenge for you to pop some popcorn, gather some friends and screen "Iron Jawed Angels". It's a great story to share with the younger women in your life, but be aware that a couple of scenes are graphically disturbing. The film is available from Netflix and through the public library system.

And now a word from Alice Paul... "I always feel the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end". If you'd like to learn more about the



Images © HBO Films

amazing Alice Stokes Paul, check out the Alice Paul Institute website at alicepaul.org.

That's all for NOW.

Peg Ballentine can be contacted at pegwrites@comcast.net. For more information about the film, go to <http://iron-jawed-angels.com/>.

Don't miss MN NOW news And help us save money at the same time

Do we have your email address? Minnesota NOW sends occasional updates via e-mail, which is more timely than the printed newsletter. We want to be sure you get all our updates, including announcements of events, legislative updates, and more. We also want to expand our e-mail network as a cost-saving measure, by sending future newsletters electronically to those who agree to get them that way—saving our money and yours!

It's easy to subscribe – just go to mnnow.org and click on "Join Our Email Activist Network" at the top of the home page. Or use the form on the back page of this newsletter to send in your e-mail address.

Please be assured we do NOT share e-mail addresses outside of the organization and you can change your subscription preferences at any time.

Conference directions and lodging

AmericInn, 526 Western Avenue, Fergus Falls, 218-739-3900 or 866-736-5452 (toll-free)

Weekend rate: \$89.90 for 2 queen beds, 1 or 2 people.

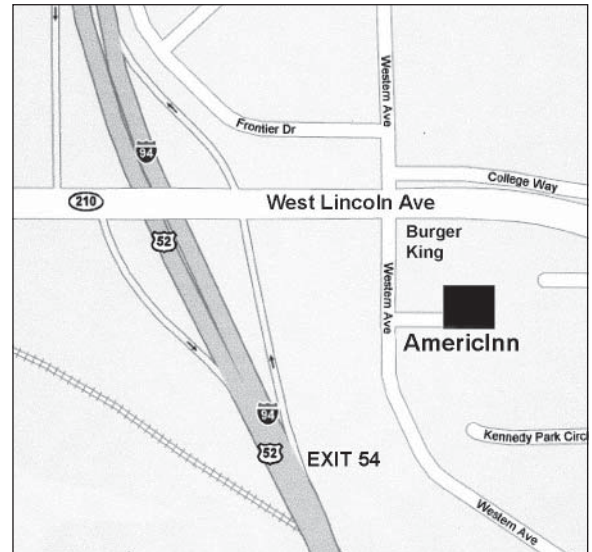
Be sure to mention you're attending the NOW conference when you make your reservation.

From the Twin Cities: Take I-94 west about 160 miles. There are 5 Fergus exits (although the highway sign says 4 — it's wrong). Take the 4th exit. It is Exit 54 for Hwy 210 WEST and Lincoln Avenue. (Do NOT take the exit 57 for Hwy 210 East.) At the top of the ramp, turn right. Go one short block to the light at Western Avenue.

From Fargo/Moorhead: Take I-94 east about 55 miles. Take the 2nd Fergus exit. It is Exit 54 by Wal-Mart for Hwy 210 West and Lincoln Avenue. At the top of the ramp, turn left, go over the freeway and one short block to the light at Western Avenue.

Turn right onto Western Avenue. AmericInn is on the left just past Burger King. Call Jane at 218-205-1151 if you get lost.

Other lodging: Many Fergus Falls members have spare rooms and would love to host NOW members who will be attending the Conference but cannot or do not want to stay at the hotel. If you would like to stay at a member's home instead of at the hotel, contact Tanya Sundberg at 218-736-2606 or tdsundberg@yahoo.com



The Minnesota NOW Times is the official journal of the Minnesota chapter of the National Organization for Women. The purpose of the MN NOW Times is to report on Minnesota NOW policy, events, actions, chapter news, to educate, to report on issues impacting women's lives, and to provide a forum for Minnesota NOW members.

Editor: Shannon Kranzler Burdsal Circulation: 2,500

Subscriptions: Free with paid membership or \$20/year for non-members.



The opinions expressed on these pages are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of Minnesota NOW.

Advertising: Having a yard sale or selling an old car? All active Minnesota NOW members may submit a personal notice up to 35 words to be printed once a year as space allows in the classified section for free.

For business advertising rates, contact: editor@mnnow.org or (651) 222-1605.

Equality: Promise vs. Reality

2010 Minnesota NOW State Conference

Saturday, April 17, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., AmericInn, 526 Western Avenue, Fergus Falls

Register online at www.mnnow.org or send in this form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Do not mail your registration after April 1. If you cannot pre-register, please come anyway and register at the door. Please note that you can still reserve a lunch by April 12 by contacting Tanya Sundberg at 218-736-2606 or tdsundberg@yahoo.com. After April 12, lunch cannot be guaranteed. Call MN NOW at (651) 222-1605 by April 9 if you need special arrangements due to hearing, sight, or mobility, have special dietary needs, need a conference scholarship, or need transportation to the conference. Call MN NOW at (651) 222-1605 if you would like to provide transportation for others in your area.

DUE TO ALLERGIES, WE REQUEST THAT YOU REFRAIN FROM WEARING PERFUME OR SCENTED LOTION AT THE CONFERENCE.

**Mail completed registration form and payment to:
Minnesota NOW, 550 Rice Street #102, St. Paul, MN 55103**

Conference Registration Fees:

- \$35, Current NOW members
 \$50, Non-member or lapsed (includes 1-year membership)
 \$15, Pre-registered non-member students & senior citizens
 \$15, Speakers only program 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (bring your own lunch or order lunch below)
 Limited income - pay what you can: \$ _____
 Sponsor another participant: \$ _____
 Box lunch, \$10. Check here for vegetarian option:

\$ _____ Total enclosed

Check enclosed (payable to Minnesota NOW), or
 Credit card: Visa Mastercard Discover Amex

Card number: _____

CVV from back of card: _____ Exp. date: _____

Cardholder name (exactly as it appears on card): _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

8:30-1:45	Registration
8:30-1:45	Silent Auction Bidding
9:00-10:00	Welcome and Opening Plenary
10:00-11:15	Keynote Address: <i>Beth Johnson, Board Chair, MN C.A.F.E. (Constitutional Amendment for Equality) Coalition.</i>
11:15-11:30	Break / Silent Auction Bidding
11:30-11:45	Presentation of Awards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 Feminist of the Year • Charlotte Striebel Long Distance Runner
11:45-1:00	Lunch

1:00-2:30 Keynote Address: *Dr. Sue Wika, Sociology Professor at MN State Community & Technical College-Fergus Falls, and Victoria McWane-Creek, Sexual Assault Victim Advocate at Someplace Safe, will speak on equality issues in education.*

2:30-2:45 Break / Silent Auction Bidding
 At-Large Delegate Meeting

2:45 Last chance for Silent Auction Bidding!

2:45-3:45 Afternoon Plenary

3:45 Announcements / Silent Auction Winners

4:00 Adjourn

Minnesota NOW Elections

Elections for the officers of Minnesota NOW will be held during the conference. All positions are up for election, including President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Legislative Coordinator. All officers are elected to one-year terms. Only members in good standing in National NOW for not less than one year and in Minnesota NOW for not less than three months prior to the conference are eligible to hold these offices. Those interested in running for any of the positions may contact President Shannon Drury at the Minnesota NOW office at 550 Rice St. #102, St. Paul, MN 55103, by calling 651-222-1605, or sending an email to mnnow@mnnow.org.

Nominating Committee

The committee shall not endorse candidates, but instead accepts nominations for officers (see above). Three members are elected for one-year terms. Officers and the members of the nominating committee are to be elected by the entire State Conference. Nominations shall be made from the floor.

Voting/Credentials

Any NOW member who lives in Minnesota and who has been a member for at least 30 days before the conference is allowed to vote at the State Conference. To vote, a NOW member must be credentialed, which requires either a NOW membership card, listing of your name and membership expiration date on a National NOW membership record, a canceled check payable to NOW, or written verification by a chapter or state treasurer.

Silent Auction

Minnesota NOW needs your products, services, or any other items—large or small—for its annual silent auction fund raiser! Silent Auction Item Forms are available on the state web site at www.mnnow.org. Please download and fill out a form for each item you are donating to bring or send to the conference with the item. Please contact our office at 651-222-1605 or mnnow@mnnow.org with information about your donations or if you have any questions.

Resolutions

Resolutions are requested to be submitted in advance to the Minnesota NOW office by April 1. They should be typed and include the name and telephone number of the author. Resolutions may also be submitted from the floor during the Plenary session. (Please bring copies for everyone present to read.)

At-Large State Board Members

In addition to the election of officers voted on by all Minnesota NOW members, the State Conference is also the time when at-large members (those members of Minnesota NOW not affiliated with a chapter) elect their representatives. The following at-large elections will be held:

- At-large state board members
- At-large delegates and alternates to the National Conference Members may be nominated and/or elected as a delegate representing the at-large members of Minnesota NOW. The number of delegates is determined by the number of at-large members attending this election.

Awards Nominations

Minnesota NOW is seeking nominations for our annual awards. The Feminist of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding NOW member. The Charlotte Striebel Long Distance Runner Award honors a lifetime of work for women's equality. Nominations should be sent before April 1 to Minnesota NOW President Shannon Drury at the Minnesota NOW office at 550 Rice St. #102, St. Paul, MN 55103, or by email to mnnow@mnnow.org. For full descriptions of both awards and award criteria, go to mnnow.org.

Conference Book Advertising

Ad rates are as follows: \$25 Business Card (3.5" x 2"); \$40 Quarter Page (3.5" x 4.375"); \$70 Half Page (3.5" x 9.375" or 7.5" x 4.375"); \$130 Full Page (7.5" x 9.5"). Ad copy deadline is April 2 at 5 p.m.. See page 3 of the Spring 2010 *Minnesota NOW Times* or contact Jane Geisinger at 218-739-5201 or janegeisinger@charter.net for full details.

MN National Organization for Women, Inc.
550 Rice Street, Suite 102
St. Paul, MN. 55103-2116

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If there is a red stamped message near your address label, your membership has lapsed! We are mailing this newsletter to you FREE, but we really need your renewal. Please send in your dues soon—just use the form below or renew online at www.mnnow.org.

Please help keep MN NOW's doors open

Donate online anytime at mnnow.org and click on the big red [GIVE NOW] button. Use the same link to join, renew, become a FAN, or sponsor a gift membership!

Donate:

Enclosed is my \$23.08 to help keep MN NOW going through 2010.

- \$10—send in 10 bucks because you can!
- \$25—sponsor our website hosting for 1 month
- \$50—sponsor our phone service for one month
- \$200—sponsor the cost of our rent for one month
- \$600—sponsor our staff for 1/2 month, or...
- \$1200—sponsor our staff for one whole month!
- Other amount: \$ _____

Become a MN NOW FAN member:

Specify your quarterly pledge: \$ _____

If you choose to pay by check, a reminder will be sent to you quarterly. If you'd prefer to pay by credit card, the specified amount will be charged to your account automatically each quarter.

- I prefer to pay by personal check.
- I prefer to pay by credit card. I authorize Minnesota NOW to automatically charge the account listed below the specified amount above on a quarterly basis until further notice.

Join/Renew/Give a membership:

- Regular annual dues—\$35
- Reduced dues—sliding scale of \$15-34 available
- Lifetime membership—\$1000

This is:

- a renewal (please include the upper half of this page containing your address label)
- a new membership
- a gift membership (be sure to complete all the information requested below)

Total amount enclosed or authorized to be charged to the credit card account below: \$ _____

Your name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Sign me up for the Minnesota NOW Email Activist Network and future e-newsletters—my e-mail address is: _____
(Please be assured we do NOT share email addresses outside of the organization and you can change your subscription preferences at any time.)

Gift membership name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Message to recipient: _____

Check enclosed (payable to Minnesota NOW) Credit card: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card number: _____ Verification number (CVV) from back of card: _____ Exp. date: _____

Cardholder name (exactly as it appears on card): _____

Billing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail completed form and payment to: Minnesota NOW, 550 Rice Street #102, St. Paul, MN 55103

Due to our public policy work for women's rights, donations & dues to Minnesota NOW 501(c)(4) are not tax-deductible.
Donations to the 501(c)(3) MN NOW Foundation are tax-deductible per IRS rules and are used primarily for non-political issue education.