



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

www.mnnow.org

Adopt An Activist! – A Gift of Membership Mentors Feminism

About a year and a half ago, I met an activist with the MN C.A.F.E. Coalition named Beth Johnson. From her sass, smarts, and spunk, I knew she'd be a perfect Minnesota NOW member, but she wasn't...yet. Instead of boring her to tears with my usual earnest but admittedly dry sales pitch, I purchased her membership myself, telling her that it was my gift for all of the volunteer hours she'd given to the MN C.A.F.E. Coalition.

Fast forward to 2011. Beth is an activist I know I can count on when there's a rabble in need of rousing.

A native of Detroit Lakes, Beth is my point person on a grassroots campaign to highlight the notoriously anti-woman record of Rep. Collin Peterson, including his latest co-sponsorship of HR 3, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Grateful that I sponsored her membership in 2009, Beth decided to "pay it forward" and purchase a NOW membership

Shannon Drury
FROM THE PRESIDENT

for a friend from Mankato named Michelle, who is interested in taking her own first steps towards activism.

A new membership campaign was born: ADOPT AN ACTIVIST! We're asking all current MN NOW members to consider feminists [and emerging feminists] in their communities who would welcome a gift membership — either because they cannot currently afford one themselves, or because they just might not know what NOW is all about.

Beth Johnson's activism has been re-charged through this program. "I need to

"I am feeling more empowered since I joined MN NOW than at any point in my life."
Beth Johnson Adoptee

add another birthday to my calendar, because when Shannon sponsored me and brought me into the MN NOW fold, I experienced a re-birth of feminism that I hadn't felt since I was a young idealistic college student. I remember at 20 being told that I wouldn't still be an activist 20 years from now, but I am feeling more empowered since I joined MN NOW than at any point in my life."

Interestingly enough, Beth just began a new position with the League of Women Voters Minnesota, a group born of feminism's First Wave. Without the leadership of the LWV, a Second Wave organization like NOW wouldn't exist.

Feminism has a strong tradition of connection and community as we build upon the work of earlier generations to ensure a better future for the women of tomorrow. It's possible that with the activist Michelle sponsors, she could kick off a new generation of activists herself!

Thanks To You, We Met Our Matching Challenge Goal!

A big THANK YOU to our members and supporters for your response to our recent request for funds. We asked you to help us earn a \$3,000 matching funds pledge for operating funds. *You did it!*

Though she prefers to remain anonymous, we wish to publically thank our NOW member who issued the challenge and has fulfilled *her* generous pledge of \$3,000 to Minnesota NOW.

And, let us thank each of you who gave anywhere from \$10 on up from mid-December through January 31. *You*

Beth Anderson
FUNDRAISING CHAIR

generously gave \$4,680 to Minnesota NOW or to the MN NOW Foundation.
THANK YOU!

We project this will keep our doors open and support our activists for the next 3 months, in time to have an impact on the 2011 legislative session.

Help ensure we have the funds to advocate for your rights for the entire year! If you did give, we encourage you

to turn your donation into even more: *make it a quarterly pledge.* If you have not yet given, it's not too late! While we did meet this challenge, our financial struggle is not over and we will need funds to carry us through the entire year.

Thank you again for supporting the work we all know is so critical in these challenging times!

We Make It Easy To Give!

Just go to www.mnnow.org, click the big red [GIVE NOW] button to donate online. Make your one-time donation or set-up your automatic recurring pledge. Or, mail a check!

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MN NOW At National LGBT Equality Conference

By Peg Ballentine, Equality Conference Booth Coordinator

On February 2-6, Minnesota NOW was honored to participate as exhibitors at the 23rd National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change. The event was sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force whose mission is to build the power of the grassroots LGBT community.

More than 2,500 people from across the United States descended upon the Minneapolis Hilton to attend the event. With over 250 workshops and training



President Shannon Drury Tables for MN NOW

sessions geared towards advancing pro-LGBT legislation, the 5-day conference not only offered educational enrichment, but provided grassroots advocacy tools, empowering attendees to go back home and help grow the movement. Hundreds of those attendees stopped by our booth to learn more about NOW's history of working for LGBT rights.

A big THANK YOU to the dozen members who generously volunteered many hours of personal time.



Peg Ballentine Talking About NOW.



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 MN NOW members.

Circulation: 2500

Subscriptions:

MN NOW Members = Free
Non-members = \$20.00 year

Editors: Sarah Jane Johnston
Mary Ann Gaspar

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

We Welcome Your Input

Send your articles, photos, comments, news items and other interesting items to MN NOW Times, 550 Rice St. #102, St. Paul, MN 55103.

Please include your name, address, and daytime phone number on all items. Items may also be emailed to the editor at:

mnnow@mnnow.org. Please put the words "MNT Article" in the subject line of the email.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity.

Advertise in the MN NOW Times

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

Business advertising rates:

2" x 2" = \$30.00
2" x 4" = \$54.00 (save \$6)
4" x 4" = \$98.00 (save \$22)
4" x 8" = \$176.00 (save \$64)
8" x 8" = \$316.00 (save \$164.00)

Artwork should be in .jpg, .bmp or other common picture file types. Contact Mary Ann Gaspar c/o the Minnesota NOW office at mnnow@mnnow.org or 651-222-1605 to submit an ad.

Emerging Feminist Taps Into Local Feminist Network

By Sarah Jane Johnston, MN NOW Intern



Hello! My name is Sarah Jane Johnston. I am from Braham, the Pie Capital of MN – convenient, as I love to bake. Currently, I am

interning with MN NOW as part of my graduation requirements for Hamline University where I will graduate this May with a B.A. in Women's Studies & Political Science. If you know of any jobs, I'm looking!

It's cliché, but my ultimate goal in life is to work for the common good and make a difference in people's lives. I am passionate about the many issues that affect women, especially reproductive rights, the environment, and child and maternal health care. The quote by Elizabeth Blackwell is one I particularly like as I think this really speaks to our ability

as feminists to integrate our knowledge and experience and spread it around to where most needed.

I'm really enjoying interning with MN NOW as I get to work on a variety of projects. I've worked on this newsletter, recruiting for "Adopt An Activist," fundraising, display design, and the state conference. It has been helpful for me to see the variety of hats that MN NOW members wear in order to make the organization function. I am particularly grateful to Lyn Crosby and Beth Anderson for "adopting"

"For what is done or learned by one class of women becomes, by virtue of their common womanhood, the property of all women."

Elizabeth Blackwell, First female Dr. in U.S.

me and sponsoring MN NOW and Women's Consortium memberships. As an emerging feminist, it's really great to be able to tap into a network of established feminists who can show me the ropes and further my personal feminist network — Facebook being particularly useful!

Conference Schedule

8:00-8:30	Registration/Silent Auction Opens
8:30-9:00	Welcome and Opening Plenary
9:00-10:00	Keynote Speaker: Katie Stack <i>Abortion—No Easy Decision (Video)</i>
10:00-10:30	Break/Silent Auction Bidding
10:30-12:00	Moving Equality Forward Panel of “Emerging” & “Seasoned” Feminists
12:00-1:00	Buffet Lunch, Season’s Restaurant Oak Ridge Conference Center *Time may shift due to Sen. Franken’s schedule
1:00*-2:00	Moving Equality Forward — 2011: Women Under Attack U.S. Senator Al Franken U.S. Congressman Tim Walz
2:00-2:15	Break/Silent Auction Bidding
2:15-2:30	Presentation of Awards
2:30-3:30	Closing Plenary
3:30-4:00	Silent Auction Winners Announcements
4:30-6:00	“Adopt An Activist” Happy Hour Oak Ridge Lobby Bar

Celebrating 40 Years and Moving Equality Forward

Minnesota NOW
Annual State Conference
Saturday, April 16, 2011

Oak Ridge Hotel and Conference Center
1 Oak Ridge Drive, Chaska

Conference Hotel MN NOW Discount Rate \$79!

Stay at the conference center hotel with its many amenities Fri. and/or Sat. nights. Go to www.mnnow.org to the Conference Information to find hotel link & much more! Reserve online by March 21st. Call hotel at (952) 368-1492 or (877) 874-6772. Oak Ridge will honor MN NOW rate as long as rooms are available for our group.

Call to Conference

Minnesota NOW Elections

Elections for the officers of Minnesota NOW will be held during the conference. All positions are up for election.

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 MN NOW, (651) 222-1605 or mnnow@mnnow.org.

Nominating Committee

Three members are elected for one-year terms. The committee shall not endorse candidates, but instead accepts nominations. 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 MN 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.

Resolutions

Resolutions are requested to be submitted in advance to the MN NOW office by April 8, 2011. Please submit via email. Otherwise, they should be typed. 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, the State Conference is also the time when at-large members (those members of MN 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 MN 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 Streibel Long Distance Runner Award honors a lifetime of work for women’s equality. Nominations should be sent before April 1, 2011 to MN NOW President Shannon Drury at the MN NOW office or by email c/o mnnow@mnnow.org.

Scent Free

It is a policy of all NOW units that all official meetings shall be scent free. We ask that all attendees refrain from wearing scented products, including perfume and scented lotion.

Special Needs & Requests

Please contact MN NOW by April 8 if you have special needs, wish to request a scholarship to cover all or partial registration fee, or need or can provide a ride.

2011 Conference Registration Form (And Return Form for Donation or Membership)

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mail-in registration deadline: Post by April 8.

Check enclosed payable to Minnesota NOW, or

Pay With Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover Amex

Card Number: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

(Name exactly as on Credit Card)

Expiration Date (Month/Year): _____

Billing Address (If different from above, please add address.)

Be sure to make your hotel reservation! See page 4 for details.

Registration Fee Includes Full Buffet Lunch:

\$45, Regular Registration Fee

\$60, Conference "Join NOW" Special

{For NEW or Lapsed Rejoin: \$15 dues with your \$45 registration}

\$ _____ CURRENT NOW MEMBER Sliding Scale Registration*

*NOW Policy allows current member to pay what they can afford.

{NOTE: \$15 minimum required by current member for buffet lunch}

\$ _____ DONATION Help Sponsor A Student!

\$35, ADOPT AN ACTIVIST Gift Membership*

*Please include New Member Name, Address, Phone & Email

Total Amount \$ _____ Payable to Minnesota NOW

END TO: Minnesota NOW— 550 Rice St. #102— St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone 651-222-1605—Email: mnnow@mnnow.org

Moving Equality Forward Guests



Katie Stack has 568 Facebook friends, a growing following since her participation in the program *No Easy Decision* on MTV's *16 and Pregnant* series,

where she was interviewed about her choice to have an abortion.

Katie is currently working on her Master's Degree in Gender & Women's Studies at Minnesota State University—Mankato. She has a B.A. in Political Science and English from Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She has volunteered for Obama for America and Planned Parenthood—Mankato. She is an activist working to protect access to abortion services and reproductive rights. She helped organize the February 26 Minneapolis Walk for Choice 2011.

On March 28 of this year, NARAL Pro-Choice America will present Katie with the Jan Yanehiro Speak Out for Choice Award at their 16th Anniversary San Francisco Pro Choice Luncheon.

Nancy Gruver will be one of our panelists along with 3 "emerging" & 2 other "seasoned" feminists.



U.S. Senator Al Franken was born on May 21, 1951, and grew up in St. Louis Park, MN. He graduated from Harvard in 1973, where he met his wife Franni. They've been

married for 34 years, and have two children: daughter Thomasin, 29, and son Joe, 25.

Before running for the Senate, Sen. Franken spent 37 years as a comedy writer, author, and radio talk show host and has taken part in seven USO tours, visiting our troops overseas in Germany, Bosnia, Kosovo and Uzbekistan — as well as visiting Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait four times.

In 2008, Sen. Franken was elected to the Senate as a member of the DFL (Democratic-Farmer-Labor) Party from Minnesota, and was sworn in July of 2009 following a state-wide hand recount. He currently sits on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pension Committee; the Judiciary Committee; the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Committee on Indian Affairs.



Nancy Gruver founded *New Moon Girls*, "a feminist magazine by and for girls," in 1992 with her husband, Joe Kelly, and their twin daughters Mavis and Nia. Today she is CEO of New Moon Girl Media, which includes the magazine, a safe online community for girls, and Daughters.com, a resource for parents. Gruver is also the author of the book *How to Say It to Girls: Communicating with Your Growing Daughter*.



U.S. Congressman Tim Walz is serving his 3rd term representing the 1st District which spans the southern part of MN.

Walz serves on three committees in the US

House—Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure and Veterans Affairs. He also is one of nine House Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and was the President of the Democratic Freshman Class

Walz served overseas with his battalion in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Walz is the highest ranking enlisted soldier ever to serve in Congress.

Married in 1994, Tim and wife, Gwen, have two young children, Hope and Gus. Walz completed his master's degree in educational leadership in 2001 and is nearly finished with his doctorate at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN.

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Read All About It

Minnesota NOW
Annual State Conference
Saturday, April 16, 2011
Oak Ridge Conference Center
Chaska, MN

Special Guests

Senator Al Franken
Congressman Tim Walz
Katie Stack,
MTV's *No Easy Decision*
Nancy Gruver,
New Moon for Girls

Silent Auction Cry

Dear Feminist Friends,

My name is Kriss Hakala and I am coordinating the annual silent auction at the April 16 state conference. We are currently soliciting donations from members and supporters—or those *you* ask to donate, too! In particular, we are encouraging donations of themed baskets, feminist paraphernalia or anything that you are willing to donate.

All proceeds from the silent auction will directly supplement our organization's operations as well as fund the important work of our volunteers.

If you are (or know) a business owner who would like to donate a gift certificate, please mail that to the MN NOW office address above. If you plan to attend the conference and wish to bring your basket or donated item with you, please coordinate with me ahead of time.

Please contact Kriss Hakala with information about your silent auction donation item at 651-402-9990 or email: krisshakala@frontiernet.net. You can find a blank Silent Auction Form online at www.mnnow.org.

Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Adopt An Activist!

As you read in Shannon Drury's article, Minnesota NOW has launched "Adopt An Activist", a program in which established NOW members sponsor an emerging feminist with a one-year membership in NOW.

While providing a NOW membership is a generous gift, as an "Adopt An Activist" sponsor, we also encourage you to provide some feminist mentorship throughout the adopted member's first year. Perhaps the established NOW member and the "adopted" emerging feminist can attend meetings, rallies, trainings or the Uptown NOW Book Club together.

Not able to "do" anymore? Or, perhaps you have a long distance between you? You can mentor a relationship in other ways, too. Skype or email. Meet for coffee and talk.

If you are willing to sponsor an emerging feminist activist, please call the MN NOW office at 651-222-1605 or email mnnow@mnnow.org.

We are particularly looking to bring young emerging feminists to this year's state conference. If you & your "to be adopted" member attend the conference, select the \$60 registration that includes the discount membership.

To receive MN NOW newsletters through email and help us save on printing & mailing, please [Join Our Email List](#) from our website or email mnnow@mnnow.org and indicate "SUBSCRIBE".