



President	Donna Walker-Ashworth	441-2528
V-P	Barbara Duke	476-0510
Secretary	Debbi DuBose	478-9085
Treasurer	Laura Brookshire	459-8125
Publicity	Micheline Fountain	452-9136
Finance	Chip Chipley	459-8961
Newsletter	Sue Ricket	836-9462
Membership	Charlene Bennett	459-8991
C-R	Debbi DuBose	478-9085



November 1975 Newsletter

PROGRAM MEETING - Wednesday, November 5, from 8 to 9 pm, at the new Austin Women's Center, 1403 Lavaca (across the street from Farm and Home Savings).

TOPIC: It's Our Revolution NOW! A report on the 8th National NOW Conference in Philadelphia, October 24-27, by Austin NOW members attending the Conference.

BUSINESS MEETING - Wednesday, November 19, at 8 pm at the Austin Women's Center. Business items include plans for the December elections meeting. Please turn in agenda items to Donna Walker-Ashworth before the meeting - at the program meeting, if possible.

No Party-of-the-Month This Month

Due to the holiday season rush, there will be no chapter party this month or next. The parties will resume in January, if people volunteer homes for the parties at that time.

Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee work is going slowly as we prepare for Austin NOW's 4th annual elections meeting in December. (Also, the Committ spent October preparing for, at, and recovering from the National NOW Conference.) Current candidates for office are: Micheline Fountain for President; Donna Walker-Ashworth for Secretary; and Sue Ricket for Treasurer. Several other persons have been nominated, but have not yet been contacted for consent to run or have not decided for certain. Obviously, the Committee has much work to do during November to put together a full slate. You can help - if you want to run for any office, or to nominate someone you think would make a good officer, please call Miki Fountain or me.

C-R Task Force

Sue Ricket

A Consciousness-Raising Task Force is in the making, and we need your help. We need people who can type and would be willing to type 5 or more pages of C-R literature to distribute to the C-R groups. This is the most urgent problem, and if you can help, please contact me, at 478-9085. I'd like to get the material ready by the November 12 orientation meeting. We also need people who would help with publicizing the orientation meetings, getting the news out about C-R groups and getting women together. This would not involve a lot of time, and is very much needed. Please, friends, if you have some time, even a little, help us out. Contact the Women's Center or me, and volunteer. Many people will thank you very much.

Debbi DuBose

An Apology

This month's Newsletter is somewhat abbreviated, due to the time and effort absorbed by the National Conference in October. But look forward to next month's issue: it will contain several articles on the Conference, statements by candidates for chapter office, and a new feature, "Making It in Marlborough Country," a series of ideas on how to cope with sexism in everyday life and addenda to the chapter's "NOW Guide for Austin Women."

Sue Ricket

Austin NOW Business Meeting Summary

October 15: Janna Zumbrun of ALO asked for endorsement of her for appointment to the Human Relations Commission, which handles discrimination complaints. She is seeking the appointment as an open Lesbian, and feels that it is important to have gay representation on the HRC. She is interested in seeing the Commission solicit input from community groups and citizens; she is especially interested in advocating the rights of Lesbian and non-Lesbian women. Voted to send a letter endorsing her.... Janna also asked about having a resolution introduced at the State Council meeting in Houston, in support of the rights of Lesbian mothers. An ALO member has a difficult child custody case coming up, and Janna asked if it would be possible to get donations toward her legal fund at the State Council. Sue Ricket offered to present a resolution to the State Council.... A few T-shirts remain from our August 26th fund-raising project. Most of the remaining ones are smudged or otherwise imperfect, and will be sold at reduced rates.... Discussed plans for "Alice Doesn't" Day, October 29th. We will join WEAL, AWPC, the Women's Center, and the LBJ School of Public Affairs in sponsoring a parade from the Center to the Capitol. Barbara is having leaflets printed for it; they can double as arm bands for those who must work that day.... Nancy Van Beek is now Nancy Lee and has moved to California. Austin NOW will miss her. Adios, amiga.... Details for transportation, etc., for the NOW convention were discussed. There will be a program meeting on Impressions of the convention on November 5.... As of this meeting, there are 10 Texas NOW members in Austin, just enough to entitle us to one representative on the State Council. However, if all our members joined (or at least 51), we would have two representatives on the Council. All it takes is one dollar, so please join state NOW. And remember, state dues paid now cover you through the end of 1976.

NOW National Conference Debbi DuBose

"It's Our Revolution NOW!" was the theme of NOW's Eighth National Conference last month in Philadelphia, "the City of Sisterly Love." Austin NOW members Donna Walker-Ashworth, Barbara Duke, Debbi DuBose, Micheline Fountain, Sue Ricket, and Olga De Leon attended the Conference; several of them will report on it to the chapter at the November program meeting, and the December Newsletter will contain further Conference reports.

In brief, the results of the elections held at the Conference are that the In Group is Out, and the Out Group is In. President Karen DeCrow's "Majority Caucus" (so named because, while a minority on the previous Board, they believed they represented a majority of the NOW membership) took 8 of the top 9 offices (all but Legislation V-P); included among the winners is Martha Dickey, Texas NOW State Coordinator. All offices were hotly contested by the non-Majority Caucus candidates (who did not have a slate, and so divided their vote); DeCrow defeated Mary Lynn Myers on the second ballot (held from 1 to 4 am Sunday) by only 98 votes out of nearly 2300. None of the Board candidates received a majority in the only ballot for those 25 places (held from 2 to 6 am Monday); the Conference decided that afternoon to accept the top 25 vote-getters from the first ballot as the new Board. Of the members thus appointed, 16 are from the Majority Caucus slate, including Houston's Gloria Guardiola; Houstonite Helen Cassidy and unsuccessful Presidential candidate Mary Lynn Myers were among the 9 non-MC persons.

Two very important resolutions were passed by the Convention. The first, passed by an overwhelming majority, established the accomplishment of equal rights for lesbians as a national priority for NOW; allocated at least 1% of National dues for the National Task Force on Sexuality and Lesbianism; and directed that Task Force to coordinate legislative efforts on the local, state, and national levels to secure passage of Bella Abzug's HR 5452 and similar legislation to establish full civil rights for Lesbians and remove all criminal law restrictions on sexual preference.

The second resolution was a compromise version out of the many proposed calls for revision of the National NOW structure and bylaws. The current structure was established when NOW had few members, few chapters, and no state organizations; it is no longer adequate for our large and growing organization. The resolution calls for the establishment of a National Constitutional Commission, with one representative and one alternate in each state, to hold hearings and propose alternatives for new bylaws; a National Constitutional Convention to be held within one year, open to all NOW members and located near the center of the country, to formulate new bylaws and establish a ratification procedure that would include the entire NOW membership; and the ratification process to begin within one month after the Constitutional Convention. An alternate proposal, under which a chapter delegate system would be used for the Constitutional Convention and adoption would be at the Convention (rather than by subsequent, all-member process) was narrowly defeated in a lively session ably chaired by Austin's Barbara Duke, a member of this year's Resolutions Committee.

From the Criminal Justice Task Force Coordinator

It is my regret at this time that I must resign as chairperson for the local task force on criminal justice as well as co-chair for the state task force. This has come about because of my heavy work load and my health not being up to par. We have shared some good things together in Austin as well as throughout the state. I also appreciate the cooperation I have received from my sisters. My resignation does not mean I will be completely inactive. I will be happy to lend my support in any efforts N.O.W. may undergo. Thank you and I have enjoyed coordinating efforts and working with all of you.

In Sisterhood,

Marie Terry

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill out and return this form to: Austin NOW, P. O. Box 14771, Austin, TX 78761. (Please make checks payable to Austin NOW.)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address (please include ZIP): _____

- () I want to join Austin NOW. I enclose \$_____ for dues (\$15 regular, or \$7.50 special for students, retirees, etc., who can't afford \$15; dues include national and chapter dues through December 1976).
- () I also want to join Texas NOW, and enclose \$1 for state dues. (You must be a National NOW member to join Texas NOW.)
- () I want to subscribe to the quarterly Texas NOW Newsletter (\$3/year; not included in Texas NOW membership).
- () I'm not ready to join, but would like to receive the Austin NOW Newsletter as a () 3-month trial subscriber (free, but non-renewable); () regular subscriber for which I enclose \$_____ (\$3/year).

Women

and Rights

A READ AND DISCUSS GROUP AT THE

AUSTIN WOMEN'S CENTER, 1403 LAVACA

10 SESSIONS on MONDAY'S 7:30-9:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 13 to DECEMBER 15

READINGS INCLUDE WORKS BY:

LILLIAN HELLMAN, SUSAN B. ANTHONY,
GLORIA STEINEM, VIRGINIA WOOLF, GERMAINE
GREER, SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR, ERICA JONG,
SYLVIA PLATH, BRUNO BETTELHEIM, MARGARET
MEAD, ALICE ROSSI, ANNE SEXTON, ERIK ERIKSON,
ADRIENNE RICH, ENIG BAGNOLD, ANN JELlicOE
MARY WOOLSTONECRAFT, MARGARET SANGER, RICHARD
GILMAN, MAUREEN HOWARD, DENISE LEVERTOV, ABIGAIL
and JOHN ADAMS

For enrollment information call the AUSTIN WOMEN'S
CENTER, 472-3775 or the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
DISCUSSION, 476-0510

You can enroll at the INTRODUCTORY MEETING on
October 13.

November Calendar of Events

wednesday 5 NOW program meeting, "It's Our Revolution NOW!," 8 pm, AWC
 wednesday 12 NOW Consciousness-Raising Group Orientation, 7:30 pm, AWC
 Saturday 15 Texas NOW Council Meeting, 10 am, in Houston
 wednesday 19 NOW business meeting, 8 pm, AWC

Coming Events in December

Wednesday 3 NOW program meeting and annual elections, 8 pm, AWC
 Saturday 6 Auto Mechanics short course, 9 am, AWC (enroll now)
 wednesday 10 NOW Consciousness-Raising Group Orientation, 7:30 pm, AWC
 Wednesday 17 NOW business meeting, 8 pm, AWC

On the Common Woman Bookstore

The Common Woman Bookstore and Collective, Austin's first woman's bookstore, will open on December 1st at 2004½ Guadalupe, over the haircut store on the Drag. The Common Woman will feature all types of women's books and periodicals, including Lesbian/feminist, feminist, and Third World women's literature. A community bulletin board will be on the premises, and the Collective aims eventually to have the Bookstore be a gathering place in which women can talk and read. At first, the Common Woman will be run on a volunteer basis, but later (much later) we will be a non-oppressive, non-racist, non-sexist employer of women.

Presently the Collective is busy researching all relevant business areas, but our most vital need is for funds. On Saturday and Sunday, November 22-23, the Common Woman will hold a garage sale at 400 East 41st St. Please come. Women who have junk and stuff that we can sell should bring it to Dede Spontak's house, 512 East 38½ St., 452-6120. Our major fundraising project is the sale of \$5 and \$10 coupons, solely redeemable for merchandise after a specified date. The Common Woman will be your bookstore, and we need input from you on what books and other materials should be made available. To offer suggestions and obtain information about coupons, etc., call Donna Dunklin at 472-9120 or Nancy Lee Marquis at 452-8747.

The Common Woman

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