



President	Barbara Duke	476-0510
V-P	Laura Brookshire	459-8125
Secretary	Rita O'Brien	345-0839
Treasurer	Gladys Ginn	441-2241
Publicity	Dorothy Samuelson	477-6873
C-R Groups	Nancy Van Beek	836-0848
Newsletter	Sue Ricket	836-9462



#### DECEMBER 1974 NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM MEETING - Wednesday, December 4, at 7:45 pm, at the Austin Women's Center, 2316 San Gabriel (corner of San Gabriel and 24th).

TOPIC: Carol Humphrey of the Gaslight Theater Workshop will give a presentation of feminist readings.

ELECTIONS will be held at this meeting. All chapter members are urged to attend. Members, please check the mailing label on this issue; if it does not list you as a member, contact Treasurer Gladys Ginn to correct chapter records before the elections. National members who wish to join the chapter at this meeting and vote, please bring your national membership card or a recent Do It NOW as identification; otherwise, you will be asked to pay national as well as local dues (one must belong to national to be a local member).

This month's BOARD/BUSINESS MEETING is tentatively set for Wednesday, December 18, at 7:45 at the Austin Women's Center. The time and place may be changed by the new Board when it meets initially after the election results are announced on the 4th.

Chapter meetings generally begin at 7:45 pm with a coffee and get-acquainted time. Programs run from 8 to 9 pm, followed by chapter business and task force meetings as needed. Visitors are always welcome at chapter meetings; however, only chapter members may vote on chapter business matters.

#### NOW's Party-of-the-Month

This month's chapter party will be at the home of Sheila Womack and Freida Werden, 1506 A Guadalupe, on Saturday, December 21st, beginning at 8 pm. The party is open to anyone interested in meeting NOW people and/or just having a good time. To avoid the need for reservations or excessive food planning, we ask that you bring your own beverage (ice and glasses provided), and also a portion of snack-type food. The party mood is casual, a chance to exchange ideas and get to know one another.

To get to the party, take 15th St. west from I. H. 35 to Guadalupe; their duplex is at the northwest corner of 15th and Guadalupe. (Guadalupe is one way southbound there, so go one block past it and circle back.)

And many thanks to the hardy souls who braved the November deluge to attend last month's chapter party at Juli Weber's. The rains couldn't dampen our good spirits that night.

#### AWPC to Hold Country Dance

The Austin Women's Political Caucus is holding a fundraising Country Dance on Friday, December 6, from 8 to 12 pm, at the Fiji Lakehouse, 3105 Westlake Dr. \$5 admission, plus 25¢ for beer or set-ups. Tickets will be available at the NOW meeting Dec. 4, from AWPC members, or at the door. Funds raised will be used in the City Council races in the spring.

Wet weather on Nov. 9 didn't keep the crowds away from Highland Mall and the NOW booth. We talked with many people about NOW, gave away lots of brochures and "ERA YES" buttons, and sold 15 NOW Guides. Many thanks to the women who helped.

An ERA coalition is in the making as the threat to introduce legislation to rescind grows stronger in Texas. Those who want rescission seem unaware that Texas passed an Equal Legal Rights Amendment to our state constitution in the fall of 1972. None of the dire consequences predicted by ERA opponents has occurred, and some good legislation for women has been passed. Unfortunately, logic does not affect the opposition. The coalition of diversified groups on the issue of equal rights for women should provide the unified effort that will be necessary to head off the backward step of rescission.

The Economy Co. of Oklahoma, a book publisher, has filed a \$30 million suit against three women whose testimony, according to the company, caused the State Board of Education to reject the adoption of their 7th and 8th grade readers. Linda Eichblatt of Houston NOW, who represented the Continuing Task Force on Education for Women, is one of the three; the CTFEW is a coalition of Texas NOW chapter education task forces. One of the other women represented the D.A.R.; the third spoke for herself. Their testimony contended that the books contained too much violence and crime. Linda agreed, and also gave testimony showing the sexist bias of these books. The company is accusing the women of "racism, bigotry, sexism, prejudice and provincialism."

I hope all the NOW membership turns out for the election meeting and entertainment on December 4.

Barbara Duke

from the Austin Women's Center Coordinator

Give the Austin Women's Center a Christmas present! We need donations of baked goods and/or money for our Bake Sale, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Potpourri in the Village Shopping Center (on Anderson Lane, one block west of Burnet), 10 am to 9 pm (or until we run out of baked goods). Proceeds will go to buy an answering device for the Center telephone.

To donate baked goods (homemade only, please), contact Gladys Ginn, 441-2241, or bring them to the booth on the morning of the 14th. Donations of money will be accepted at the NOW meeting on December 4.

Our first Workshop, on Sexuality and Alternate Lifestyles, was held in October and was an exciting success, with over sixty women attending. The Center Board will meet on Thursday, December 5, at 7 pm to discuss plans for the next Workshop. We will also make plans for our next Bake Sale, set for January 18 at Southwood Mall.

Nancy Van Beek

Self-Defense Class Offered

Joe Alvarado will be teaching a free one-month course in self-defense on Saturday mornings, 10 am to noon, beginning December 7, at the Soryu Karate Institute, 1234 S. Lamar. The course will stress how to escape from an assailant, how to prevent rape. The course is for women only; he asks that no women under 18 attend unless accompanied by their mothers each time; and that rape victims not attend, as acting out potential rape situations is likely to be difficult for them to bear. Dress comfortably, e.g. jeans. For more information, call the Soryu school, 441-3216, or the Rape Crisis Center, 472-RAPE.

State Coordinator's Column

Dear Texas NOW Members,

The Texas NOW Council met November 2nd in Huntsville, with representatives from the Huntsville, Houston, Bay Area, Temple, Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio chapters. I was elected Texas NOW ERA Coordinator. I have applied for National ERA fund money for Texas. I have asked Kathleen To, 902-D S. Weatherred, Richardson, TX 75080, to serve as State ERA Finance Coordinator. She will serve in this capacity until the Council elects her or someone else at the next Council meeting. The Council will meet on Saturday, January 11 (just before the Legislature convenes on Jan. 15), at 10 am in Austin, at the Austin Women's Center.

The State B & P W President and the State League of Women Voters are still not sure when the statewide ERA Coalition will meet. I will let each NOW chapter president know when and where this meeting will be, and also whether it will be open to all our members or only to delegates. I hope all NOW chapters in Texas have placed ERA efforts as their No. 1 priority. San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth, and Dallas have already established local ERA Coalitions.

At the November Council meeting, Kay Whyburn from the Houston chapter was elected State Communication Coordinator. She is contacting the TWPC about our commitment in principle to a state women's lobbyist for the upcoming legislative session. If your chapter would like to make a monthly financial commitment to support a lobbyist for women's issues in Austin, please contact Kay at 3602 Milam, Houston, TX 77002, or call her at (713) 667-8556.

Jane Hodge, 204 Elizabeth Drive, Del Rio, TX 78840, called last week asking Texas NOW members to contact her with cases of bank employment discrimination. The Del Rio chapter plans to file a suit against all Texas banks if they can secure enough evidence.

At the National NOW Board meeting in Denver, the Board spent several hours approving national task forces and advising and consenting to Karen DeCrow's appointments to Coordinators for Task Forces. New task forces for Women in Prison and Women in our Economic System were created; the Masculine Mystique and Insurance task forces were abolished. The Board also spent many hours discussing procurement (granting of NOW business contracts). A motion finally passed which gives our national office staff more power in letting contracts. I voted against this motion since I believe that you elected the Board to make NOW business contract decisions, not the staff which we hire.

Good news - Karen DeCrow is expected to join us for our State Convention on March 7-9, at the Sheraton Crest Hotel in Austin. If you would like to work on the convention planning committee, please contact Barbara Duke, 1907 David St., Austin, TX 78705, or call her at (512) 476-0510.

Keep up all the great NOW work,

Martha Dickey

Current Austin NOW Task Force Coordinators

Coordinator of Task Forces	Donna Walker-Ashworth	441-2528
Broadcasting and FCC	Vicki Gierspeck	447-2523
Child Care	Molly Hill	478-1581
Consciousness-Raising	Nancy Van Beek	836-0848
Criminal Justice	Rita O'Brien	345-0839
Legislation	Janet Boles	451-3443
Masculine Mystique	Chris Durden	452-3616
Rape	Laura Brookshire	459-8125
Reproduction and Population	Micheline Fountain	451-3368
Women and Religion	Rachael Wahlberg	459-0309
Women and Sports	Dorothy Samuelson	477-6873

Chapter elections will be held at our Annual Meeting on December 4. At present, there are 4 offices without candidates: Vice President, Secretary, Finance, and Task force Coordinator; and only one contested office, that of President. Vice Presidential candidate Rita O'Brien has withdrawn, as she now plans to leave town next month. The two candidates for President have agreed to run also for Vice President, so that this important office will not be vacant. Nominations will be taken from the floor for all offices before the elections. Below are statements from the current candidates.

**PRESIDENT - Barbara Duke:** I would like to be elected to a full term as president of Austin NOW. During the past seven months as president, I have gained valuable experience that would enable me to do a good job for the chapter as president.

**PRESIDENT - Donna Walker-Ashworth:** Austin NOW has recently grown to over 80 members. I believe that with the proper leadership, it can become a viable political force in the community. One of our main problems has been our lack of publicity. If elected, I shall do all that is possible to see that NOW is no longer ignored or neglected by the media. We have tremendous resources in our members and in recourse to litigation, and I shall use both to the fullest. I shall try to reach our brown and black sisters, and to broaden NOW's base in the community. I believe that with the help and enthusiasm of our membership, I can change our present image, and Austin NOW can become a voice that will be listened to in the community.

**TREASURER - Laura Brookshire:** I am currently Vice President of NOW and President of the Board of Directors of the Austin Rape Crisis Center. I have been an active member of the Austin Chapter of NOW for two years. I would like to continue to serve as an officer in the position of treasurer. I have experience in budget proposals and fund raising through the Austin Rape Crisis Center. Austin NOW is growing rapidly, and I feel it is essential for us to have good financial accountability.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS - Miki Fountain:** (unable to contact Miki for a statement - she's been working double shifts lately - but she's a dedicated and active chapter member, coordinator of the Reproduction and Population Task Force).

**NEWSLETTER - Sue Ricket:** As Newsletter Editor for the past year, I have tried to provide a forum for the activities of Austin NOW and also other feminist activities here and around the state. I would like to continue producing the newsletter; but in the coming year I hope to encourage (coerce?) more contributions from members. I would also like to find an Associate Editor, if possible.



Austin Chapter  
National Organization for Women  
2316 San Gabriel  
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