

N.O.W. Bay Area Chapter

NEWS

National Organization for Women

Volume IV, Number 8 - August, 1976



Program Meeting: 8 p.m.

Thursday, August 5, 1976

Uniting Church - El Camino & Reseda

Clear Lake City, Texas

Chaired by Rachel Reed and Betty Yancey, the August program is titled "Quality Education Equals Parents Plus School." Panelists are Dr. Richard Griffin, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Clear Creek School District; Dorothy Steele, President of the Clear Creek Classroom Teachers Association; Edie Whitsett and Camilla Randal, Clear Lake High School students. Speakers will direct their opening remarks to "What the School Needs From Parents and the Community," followed by specific questions directed to the panelists. Questions from the audience will be welcomed.

The public is invited to attend.

NOW CALENDAR

- August 4 "High School" Fred Wiseman's fine film on American education. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston - 8 pm. \$1.50.
- August 5 Bay Area NOW Meeting: "Quality Education" - Uniting Church, CLC - 8 pm.
- August 16-18 Textbook Hearing, Texas Education Agency, Austin.(See story p. 3.)
- August 19 Bay Area NOW Business Meeting. refreshments. Uniting Church, CLC - 8 pm.
- August 22 Commemorates the day in 1920 when women began to learn that the right to vote does not ratify the right to equal treatment under the law.
- August 28 WEAL Cocktail Party to benefit North Carolina ERA Coalition. Home of Kay and Clif Whyburn, 2234 Goldsmith, Houston (667-8556).

Presiding in September: Rema Lou Brown (488-1896) (527-9108)

Bay Area NOW July Meeting: Summary

The film, "Men's Lives" was shown to a very large audience of men, women, and children on July 1 at the program meeting chaired by Nora Mertz. Craig Roberts of Houston NOW and the Male Awareness Center in Houston led the adult discussion afterward, while the youngsters had their own discussion in an adjoining room. Reactions to the film varied in both groups and discussion was lively.

As usual, the business meeting began late and ended later. Despite the advantages of keeping the discussion/decision-making opportunity available to those attending a once-a-month program meeting, it proves to be difficult to bring stimulating programs to a close early enough to get much business done. Therefore, a MOTION was passed to return to two meetings a month, one program and one business. The first meeting day remains the same (first Thursday); the second meeting will be on the third Wednesday, same place and time. However, due to conflicts with the textbook hearings in Austin (which, it is expected, many members will be attending as witnesses and observers)for this month only, we're meeting on Thursday, August 19. Confusing? Come have a glass of wine with us on August 19 and we'll talk about it.

Results of other late-night voting: Jeanne Saletan elected to represent BANOW at the NOW State Council.

Many thanks to Marie Stimson of Paperback Swap & Shop in Dickinson for the 2 ads she placed (News Citizen and Spaceland News) announcing the July meeting. Judging from attendance, that was effective advertising.

BATFOR Meeting Scheduled

Bay Area Task Force on Rape met July 28 at the Family Service Center, 16915 El Camino Real, CLC to design a curriculum for the training of rape victims' advocates in this area. People interested in participating in planning and/or training for this essential service should call Evie Whitsett (488-1777) for information on upcoming meetings.

HAFFCU: You Gotta Have It To Lend It!

Deposits are extremely important to the growth of our Credit Union. Members are urged to continue making regular deposits to their accounts and those eligible for membership are reminded to open their accounts as soon as possible. The HAFFCU office is located at 2418 Travis (527-9108). It's a nice place to visit before you want a loan.

See important news on Equal Credit Opportunity Act on p. 5.

Education Task Force Report

Kay Whyburn, Antoinette d'Oronzio, and Marjorie Randal filed 227 Bills of Particulars at the Texas Education Agency in Austin on July 9, deadline date for filing protests to this year's textbooks. Eighteen chapters of NOW in Texas participated in this action, with about five bills arriving too late to be filed. Numbers of Bills and Bill-writers were:

NOW CHAPTER	WRITERS, REVIEWERS	BILLS	COORDINATOR/S
Austin-----	23 -----	36 -----	Barbara Duke
Bay Area -----	28 -----	49 -----	Butler & Randal
Beaumont -----	3 -----	3 -----	
Brazoria County -----	7 -----	8 -----	Terri Wicke
Brazos County -----	3 -----	9 -----	
Dallas -----	7 -----	13 -----	Ruth Thornton
El Paso -----	2 -----	10 -----	
Ft. Worth -----	6 -----	8 -----	Berlyn Bock
Galveston -----	3 -----	3 -----	Marlene Hardin
Houston Area -----	8 -----	14 -----	Betty Barnes
Huntsville -----	2 -----	8 -----	Micki Treadwell
Gregg County -----	3 -----	4 -----	
Lubbock -----	3 -----	6 -----	Ruth Lauer
Metropolis North -----	5 -----	8 -----	Winnie Wackwits
Northwest Houston -----	4 -----	3 -----	
San Antonio -----	12 -----	21 -----	Antoinette d'Oronzio
Southwest Houston -----	9 -----	23 -----	Marjorie Parmely
N.E.T. -----	5 -----	6 -----	Lisa Epstein

Considering size of chapter, three chapters deserve special commendation for high participation: Bay Area, Austin, and Southwest Houston.

As to quality, we can only report that it was variable (about 10 skimpy Bills were not filed), but sometimes very high. In general, the Bills were good and will furnish very good evidence of sexism for the hearings at TEA on August 16, 17, or 18. We still have not heard when this task force is scheduled for these hearings. Letters will be sent to each chapter participating as soon as we are able to make plans.

Only persons who had Bills submitted to TEA on time are eligible to testify. We intend to mail a list of all such persons to each chapter in the above letters. Anyone else is welcome to come and observe. We plan as usual to have a meeting of testifiers in Austin the night before our Hearing, in order to assign publishers and books to our people and arrange our own schedule. We do our own timing of witnesses. Thanks to you all for your efforts for feminism in this important area of the struggle.

Bill writer/reviewers from Bay Area were: Judy Blanchard, Rema Lou Brown, Marilyn Burgess, Twiss Butler, Mary Buxton, Sonia Carmean, Rebecca Christman, Linda Eichblatt, Betty Finley, Frances Hicks, Parrish Hirasaki, Margaret Kemp, Shirley McFaul, Mary Fae McKay, Nora Mertz, Dorothy Pearson, Jeannene Ramon, Marjorie Randal, Jeanne Saletan, Rebecca Saletan, Judy Sekavec, Ann Smith, Margaret Snodgrass, Sally Stewart, Nellie Wegmann, and Betty Yancey.
---Marjorie Randal

"It does little good to abolish medical school quotas for women students," says the group (Emma Willard Task Force on Education, Minneapolis, Minn.), "if kindergarteners laugh at the idea of a 'girl doctor' and if female high school students interested in medicine are counseled into nurses' training."

"Study after study has exposed sex discrimination at all levels of our educational system," Senator Charles Percy of Illinois said in introducing into the Senate the Women's Equal Educational Opportunity Act. "Barriers that confront women on the educational ladder range from female stereotyping in grade school, to the exclusion of girls and women from classes and programs designed for men, to the relegation of women to low-paying, low-level positions in schools, colleges, and universities."

--From "Woman's Changing Place: A Look at Sexism" by Nancy Doyle

Texas NOW State Council

With Barbara Duke presiding as State Coordinator, the first State Council meeting since Abilene was held in Austin on July 17. There were 46 NOW members in attendance as officers, delegates and participant observers. Frances Hicks and Jeanne Salatan were there from Bay Area.

The council meeting place was a gracious room just off the beautiful and light Chamber of the House of Representatives where, you may recall from ERA hearings, hangs the picture of Susan B. Anthony. Austin chapter supplied us with good food and drink so that we could work through lunchtime and adjourn almost on schedule.

Only about \$800 remain in the state treasury. We will need more money to spend on ERA both at home and abroad and money to fund our task forces. An easy way to raise funds is through the NOW magazine fundraiser. When chapter members renew or make new subscriptions through a privately owned business set up for the purpose, rebates of about \$4 on a \$10 subscription are obtained and mailed directly to NOW. Beats' garage sales, doesn't it? Addressed envelopes will soon be available to you along with detailed instructions. Meanwhile, get your subscription forms and renewal notices ready.

San Antonio was selected to be the site of our next state convention in October, 1977. The chapter there numbers 125, mostly active, and they promise us good hospitality with an emphasis on feminist music. The council chose San Antonio over El Paso and Galveston because it wanted a central location which would draw more people. Only 124 members out of a total Texas NOW membership of 686 went to Abilene whereas 300 had gone to Austin the previous year.

Louise Yerby of El Paso chapter has asked to head a Task Force on Older Women at the state level, and several chapters expressed a wish to start activity on this issue as we were urged to do by Laurie Shields at Abilene.

Do we want a Task Force on Women in Religion? We are scouting out interests in local chapters to report back to state. Education and Criminal Justice Task Forces gave reports on their current activities.

We directed Tommy Brent, Communications Coordinator, to send a mailgram to President Ford stating why we don't like his off-the-cuff decision to reinstate father-son and mother-daughter functions in our school buildings. A similar message will go to Jimmy Carter and a commendation to HEW Secretary for stopping the President's directive.

Two important meetings coming up are: the National By-Laws Conference in Kansas City on October 8, and the National Conference in Detroit in April, 1977.

The next three council meeting dates are: September 18, November 20, and January 15 (all Saturdays) in Austin.

We were told that about 60-65% of the national population is in favor of ERA, according to a recent poll. Yet it is anticipated that ~~that~~ the anti-ERA forces in Texas will be mobilizing their strength. To get the jump on them and to show our strength we will plan a pro-ERA rally in Austin early in the legislative session which begins in January. We will also urge individual contacts with legislators. We want to support ERA effort in the unratified states and at the same time hold the fort in Texas.

---Jeanne Salatan

"Shoulder to Shoulder," a fascinating, beautifully produced TV series on the British Suffragettes' courageous struggle for the vote, is repeating on Masterpiece Theater, Channel 8, Sunday, 8 pm. The series is built around the story of the Pankhurst women, a remarkable mother and her two equally remarkable daughters. Don't miss it!"

Individual Credit Files According to the "Washington Kiplinger Letter" (6/4/76), "an idea to split credit files for marrieds is losing its steam. Government isn't so sure now that it wants separate files for each spouse..."

The provision splitting the files from family units (indexed under the husband's name) is included in the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Public Law 93-495) passed in 1974. A portion of the Act went into effect in October, 1975; however, the section regarding individual credit files will not become effective until October, 1976.

In order to avoid delay or the possible rescission of this provision (credit bureaus prefer the male-biased status quo), it is necessary to send comments in favor of splitting the files from family units to the Secretary, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve Board, Washington, D. C. 20551. Be sure to cite Docket R-0038 in your letter.

Right to Choose Threatened by Constitutional Amendments After extensive debate, the Senate narrowly voted (47-40) to table Senator Helm's constitutional amendment to prohibit abortions. Now it appears that Senator Bartlett is preparing to bring up another constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion with the exception of saving the life of the mother when medically necessary. An enormous amount of anti-abortion mail has been received by many senators - some of whom are committed to having a full debate of the issue on the senate floor and therefore will vote against any tabling motion. It is important for members of congress to hear individually from their constituents on this issue. (At the Beaumont area NOW meeting, we learned that secretaries rate the mail received by their congressional bosses on a 10-point scale, with a handwritten letter getting top score, handwritten postcard fewer points but still more than a typewritten letter. Kinda sad news for the millions of American women who believed typing was a female skill that men respected.)

Discriminatory Insurance Regulations The State of Texas will hold hearings in November on Insurance Regulations that discriminate by sex or marital status. Testimony is needed. If you can testify or know someone who can, contact Rep. Sarah Weddington in Austin.

From Equal Rights Monitor States Charged with Title IX Violations

Forty-one states are risking some \$3.4 billion in federal education aid, by violating basic requirements of federal law barring sex discrimination in education, according to formal charges filed with the government recently.

Federal civil rights officials have been asked by the Project on Equal Education Rights (PEER) to investigate the infractions under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

PEER filed complaints against the 41 state agencies after a survey showed that all but 10 states have neglected to take several initial steps to comply with the 1972 rights law.

Title IX, which guarantees equality of the sexes in schools and colleges, also applies to the state agencies responsible for public education in each state. Failure to obey the law can lead to the loss of federal funds. A large portion of federal education aid goes to the states for distribution to local school districts and colleges.



These steps, spelled out in a regulation issued last summer, include: checking agency practices to see that they are consistent with the law, letting agency employees and others know about their rights under the law, setting up a formal process to resolve sex bias charges, and appointing a staff person to head up an effort to assure equal treatment for both sexes.

"They sound like technicalities" commented PEER Director Holly Knox, "but if an agency takes these requirements seriously, it can tackle its own sex bias problems without risking interference from federal enforcement officials."

"State education agencies work quietly outside the public spotlight," said Knox. "but they have a powerful impact on public education. When state officials break the law guaranteeing equal opportunities for girls and women, it affects students and teachers in every school district in the state."

State agencies' own violations, Knox maintained, undercut state efforts to help local school districts meet their obligations under Title IX. "The states seem to be saying Do as I say, not do as I do," she noted.

From Equal Rights Monitor

Sex Bills Die: No ERA

Although numerous proposals to eliminate sex discriminatory laws were made in the Nevada legislature last session, State Senator Norman Hilbrecht (Democrat-Las Vegas) says that over 40% of them were killed in Committee.

Speaking before a group of Parents Without Partners recently, Hilbrecht stated that many of the bills bogged down in extensive debates regarding community property, probate, tenancy, and domestic relations laws.

"States can, of course, enact legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex," declared Hilbrecht, who favors adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment. "But an analysis of what the Nevada legislature did in the last session, when for the first time it addressed itself to discrimination on the basis of sex, would illustrate this is not a satisfactory solution."

"If freedom from sex discrimination is a right which should be guaranteed throughout the United States," the Senator added, "then the only way it can be effected is through a Constitutional Amendment."

Women On The Job - Excerpts from Civil Service Journal, Apr/June, 1976

Janice Mendenhall of F.E.W.: "In 1970, women carefully avoided being called 'women's libbers' (a put-down term), and most felt that they had never been discriminated against. Years of social conditioning, lack of career counseling, and few successful upward mobility examples kept them from comparing their careers with those of similarly trained males. Today women are beginning to question why male trainees hired at the same time and at the same grade are now GS-13's while they are only GS-9's."

Barbara Felton of N.O.W.: "The Federal Government is the largest single employer in this country. Although women constitute 39% of this country's total work force, they represent only 28.6% of the Federal Government's work force. According to statistics compiled in 1973, 85.8% of all full-time women civilian workers were classified in GS 1-8 positions in direct comparison with 52.6% of civilian men at this same level. And 13.7% of the women employed by the Federal Government were in the GS 9-13 positions, while 40.2% of the men populated this GS level. The disparity widens as one climbs the GS ladder. Six-tenths of 1% of the women were at GS-14 and above, while 7.2% of federally employed men held positions at this grade. There has been no significant change in these figures in the last 2 years. Women are relegated to the low-paying, dead-end positions.

Helene Markoff (Civil Service Commission's Federal Women's Program Director) and Florence Perman (Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare's FWP Director) question Raymond J. Sumser, NASA's Personnel Director: (Report extensively cut)

Sumser: "We need to worry ...about where the women candidates are coming from, and particularly in the sciences you have this problem. Maybe because of discriminatory actions by employers or maybe because women were not willing to go into certain of the hard sciences.."

Markoff: "Or maybe because they were not counseled into it, or maybe because the doors were shut in colleges, or maybe because they were counseled out."

Sumser: "...Now in the softer areas - social sciences - there were always women...but in the hard sciences the numbers are astoundingly small."

Perman: "...but what discourages me is the very small number of women who have significant positions in administration. Now you've just said there are plenty of women in social sciences, but where are they? I was in a meeting this morning with the management staff of an administrative office and all the administrators were there; there wasn't one woman. Not one of the staff is in charge of a program that requires knowledge of mathematics, physics, or chemistry, or law, and so even where there is an adequate supply, beyond a certain point they have not been sought."

Markoff: "...Personnel administration is over 50% female, but...I think you can count on one hand the directors of personnel who are women."

Sumser: "I've made that observation many times myself, yes...I believe that you have to set the goal to have some female directors of personnel, otherwise you're not going to get any...and you have to decide you're going to do something. You can't just make an observation about it."

Hall (Dir. FWP, NASA): "How can women get into managerial positions...?"

Sumser: "That's a tough question...(lengthy response)...What I mean is, it's new to a lot of people to have women running things."

COM's Contemporary Women's Series Stresses Upward Mobility

Interested in programs and workshops in the areas of self-assertion, exploration of self-potential, development of managerial skills, communication skills? Fall offerings will focus on these topics at College of the Mainland's Continuing Education Contemporary Women's Series. Put yourself on the mailing list for announcements by calling Robert Handy, Dir. of General Adult Education, 8001 Palmer Hwy., Texas City 77590 (938-1211 x225).

Persons wanting to serve in an advisory capacity are urged to contact Ann Miller, Learning Resources Center, COM (phone 928-1211 x 201, 202).

Unsung Heroines in American History

To all appearances, women have trod lightly through the pages of American history, and it is almost impossible at times to pick up traces of their nearly invisible footsteps. In most classroom texts women have been either banished to footnotes or omitted entirely. As we celebrate our Bicentennial, therefore, we should take time to question this treatment, to look again at our heritage and see who the women were and why they have been ignored for so long.

Even a cursory reexamination reveals extraordinary female figures, women who often ironically demonstrated many of the characteristics for which the historical male figures are acclaimed. A few examples will illustrate this fact.

- Volumes have been written on the Puritans and their struggle for freedom of religion, yet few of us have heard of Anne Hutchinson. ANNE HUTCHINSON? In 1631, this courageous woman was brought to trial for practicing her religious beliefs by the very same Massachusetts Puritans who had insisted on their own right to worship as they pleased. Anne Hutchinson was found guilty of Antinomianism and banished from Boston. She went to live in Rhode Island where she continued to champion the twin causes of freedom of speech and religion until she died in 1653.
- Every schoolchild can tell the story of Paul Revere's ride, but nobody has ever heard of Sybil Ludington. SYBIL LUDINGTON? This sixteen-year old girl volunteered to ride through the countryside on the night of April 26, 1777, to rally the neighboring militiamen in support

of the troops in Danbury, Connecticut. 2,000 British soldiers were raiding the supply center but, through the efforts of Ludington, the American forces were able to arrive in time to turn away the attack and drive the British back to their ships on Long Island Sound. Ludington rode 40 miles through darkened countryside to spread the alert.

- All of us are familiar with the military talents of William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant, but who of has ever heard of Anna Ella Carroll. ANNA ELLA CARROLL? This woman was perhaps the military genius of the Civil War. She was the unrecognized and unacknowledged member of Lincoln's cabinet who planned the Tennessee campaign. This campaign, based on Carroll's maps and written plans and faithfully executed by U.S. Grant, is considered the turning point of the war, giving the Northern troops its first important victory and effectively marking the beginning of the end for the Southern forces. Not unexpectedly, Anna Ella Carroll was neither paid nor recognized for her achievement.

There are countless other women who excelled, women who achieved in the face of almost universal discrimination.

- DR. MARY WALKER became the first and only woman to win the Congressional Medal of Honor, in 1866, for her courage and medical care during the Civil War. When she later became active in the Suffrage Movement, however, the Medal was recalled and never again given to a woman.

- IDA WELLS carried on a solitary campaign after the Civil War against the practice of lynching. As co-owner of the *Memphis Free Speech*, she wrote dramatic columns about racial discrimination in the South. In 1892, she published an attack on the white community of Memphis for the lynching of three black men who had committed no crime. Because of her exposé, her newspaper offices were destroyed and her life threatened. Wells continued her efforts, however, traveling the U.S. and Europe publicly speaking on the issue.
- In 1896, DR. MARY HUNTLEY was graduated at the top of her class from the Department of Medicine at the University of Buffalo, but she couldn't get a hospital appointment because of her sex.
- EMILY BALCH was a World War I pacifist who taught sociology and economics at Wellesley College until she was fired for her political views. In 1946, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In every period of our history, in every field of endeavor, individual women have realized their potential, yet they remain largely unknown.

In the world of ART:

- MARY CASSATT was the only American ever considered talented enough to exhibit with the French Impressionists. Her work was acclaimed across Europe, yet Degas, the leading male Impressionist, said "I do not admit that a woman can paint like that."
- VINNIE REAM, aged 18, sculpted the full-scale marble statue of Lincoln for the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC.

JOIN N.O.W.: Clip and mail with your check to: Marjorie Randal, 1922 Redway, Houston 77062.

_____ I would like to become a member of Bay Area N.O.W. and National N.O.W. (\$15)

_____ I want to join, but can only afford \$ _____.

_____ I am not a member, but would like to receive the NEWSLETTER for a year. (\$4)

_____ I would like to make a contribution of \$ _____ to N.O.W.

_____ As a N.O.W. member, I authorize my name and address to be published on chapter roster.

NAME _____ Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

ADDRESS _____ City and Zip _____

Occupation and Employer _____

Interests and/or skills which I can contribute to Bay Area N.O.W. projects:

Criticism of Bay Area N.O.W.'s program, organization, goals:

More from this Equal Rights Monitor feature next month.

