

N.O.W. NEWS

BAY AREA CHAPTER

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Volume XII, Number 10
October, 1984

Bay Area NOW presents a reception in honor of all the feminist candidates. And for those who don't believe there is such a thing as a "gender gap" you will have the chance to see....

"Women's Voices: The Gender Gap Movie"

Starring Nicole Hollander's "Sylvia"

BE THERE!!!!

October 4, 1984 7:30PM

A Uniting Church
El Camino Real & Reseda



(I know that each and every one of you reading this newsletter are tired. You are working in the home, outside the home, going to school, volunteering in political campaigns, volunteering in community programs, and still trying to maintain you. At times the frustration and the anger seems too much. How much easier it would be just to give up. BUT, you are not alone. There are over a million women and men who believe as you do. Over one million women and men who are as tired as you are. Over one million women and men who still believe that equality is the right and privilege of all people. When society is getting you down take this out. Read it and believe. This is the ANSWER)

We are in for a very, very long haul...
I am asking for EVERYTHING YOU HAVE TO GIVE

We will never give up...
You will lose your YOUTH, your SLEEP,
your PATIENCE, your Sense of HUMOR
and occasionally...the understanding and support
of people that you LOVE very much.

IN RETURN, I have nothing to offer you but...
your PRIDE in being a woman, and
all your DREAMS you've ever had for your daughters,
and nieces, and granddaughters...
your FUTURE
and the certain KNOWLEDGE that
at the end of your days
you will be able to look back and say that

ONCE in your life
you gave EVERTHING you had
FOR JUSTICE

(from a speech by Jill Ruckelshaus at the National Women's Political Caucus Convention California 1977)

Editors note.....

Fair warning is given to any person or persons who complain about the spelling, punctuation or grammer in this newsletter. Anyone who complains is more than welcome to publish the newsletter with the editors heartfelt thanks. Don't everyone come running at once.

Dear Sisters:

I sat at the Texas NOW convention painfully aware that there were less than 200 members there. "Where is everybody?", I thought, "our chapter alone has more than 100 members so, what happened?" Have we forgotten our basic cause? Aren't women's rights issues popular any more? Have we lost our enthusiasm and our momentum? Why did we not have 3,000 people there? Surely there must be more than 200 feminists in this big state of Texas! So where was everybody?

I asked myself these same questions at our chapters general meetings. I am aware that we are all very busy, but I am also aware that we "find" time to do other things not nearly as important as the pursuit of our equal rights. We seem to find time for our children, for our bosses, for our churches, for our clients, for our schools, and for housework, but we don't have time to come to NOW meetings to share with other feminist women, like ourselves, our frustrations, our anger, our fears and our triumphs. We seem to have forgotten the strength and the energy that we get out of meetings with our feminist sisters.

I have always heard that strength is in numbers and now, more than ever, we need numbers. Much of what we have worked to accomplish in the past is in jeopardy today. Our credibility as a force in this society is at stake. We need to get together and take action in numbers. We need to have a high profile as a reminder to all of those out there that want to believe that we are not really serious about our equal rights. We can not afford to go backwards, we must move forward! This will entail commitment and sacrifice from all of us.

Phyllis Tucker has "ruled" that I must run for President of the chapter and I have agreed to do so, but like most of you, I don't have time. I have a successful career; six teenage children (five still at home) and a very good (therefore energy consuming) relationship with my husband. So you see, I am in the same predicament as the rest of our membership. So here comes the committment and the sacrifice. I am willing but I need your help. I just can't do it without you. No one can.

If we are to have an impact in our society and have our voice heard, we must begin by attending business meetings to vote in crucial issues and general meetings to share and learn about ourselves and our society.

We need to join an active task force because those are the backbone of our organization. We need to raise money to pay for expenses such as the newsletter, brochures and space in newspapers and other publications. We need to have a membership drive to bring more active members to our chapter. We need to register voters, follow up in affirmative action programs and

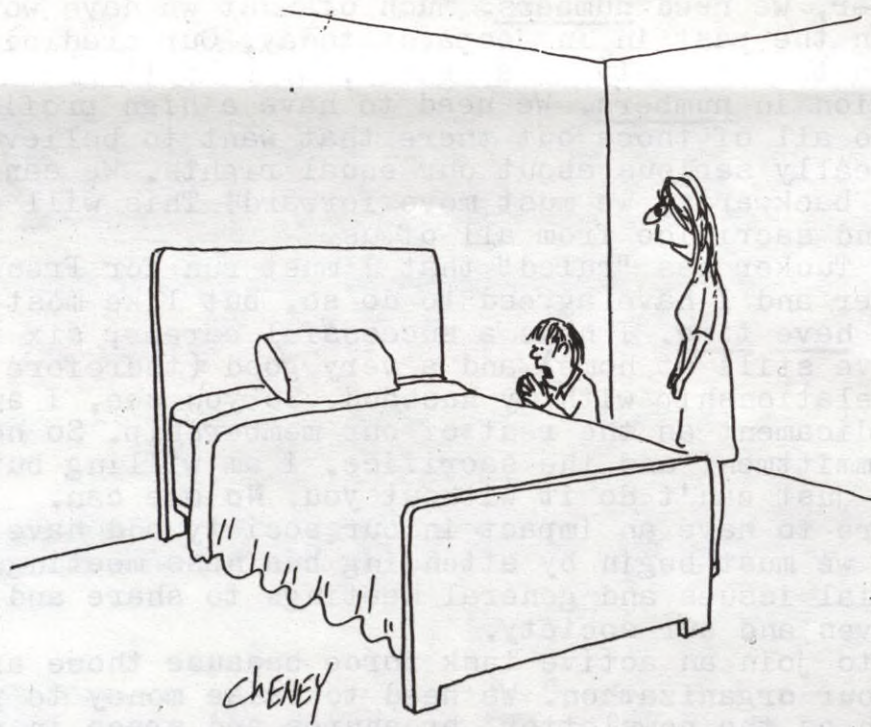
start new consciousness raising groups. So you see, your help is desperately needed.

We don't ask for much, only one hour per week, and two hours per month for meetings. That hour per week can be given all at once or at 10 minutes intervals, or whatever way you choose. It may mean getting up a little early one day to write letters, or giving up a T.V. show or a tennis match once a week, but if we really make it a priority, we can do it. It is important. It means our future free from discrimination. It means a better world for our children.

All of us that consider ourselves feminist have a mission and a obligation to the future generations to come. AND if we don't do it, who will???????

See you at our next meeting!!!!!!

In Sisterhood,
Anita Marcus



"God bless Mommy, God bless Daddy, and God bless all the other fanatical lunatics who are subverting my religious freedom with their archaic jargon."

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Four birth control clinics have been fire-bombed within the past month here in Houston. We have read about the problems in other parts of the country, but finally this atrocious action has come home to us. What are you, the NOW members planning to do?

We must first, re-activate our reproductive rights task force. Do you care enough to work on this issue and protect the rights of all your sisters?

Secondly, A.C.L.U. is having a meeting Wednesday, Oct. 3, to announce an organizational meeting of a coalition whose goal will be to denounce such acts of violence. This will be held at the Houston Area Women's Center, 4 Chelsea, at 7:30PM.

Thirdly, be aware that some of your local officials are a part of this atrocious action. Randy Pennington, state rep. dist. 130, spoke to a seminar held on Sunday, Sept 16, on abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. He called Planned Parenthood a government funded organization encouraging abortions. This same seminar featured speakers telling how to picket, sidewalk counsel, and how to do advertising to bring their points across to the public.

Fourth, be aware that the far right has begun telephoning persons in our area. These people identify themselves as a part of Birthright, proceed to ask questions about the issue of reproductive rights, and when the interview is over, use a threatening tone of voice to let you know they have your name and address.

If this doesn't frighten you into action, then I don't know what will. We must stop this. We must be the people who are willing to stand up and fight this type action. Everyone in this country has the right of freedom. Don't let these freedoms be lost by your silence.

One of the chants at the religious affair shonsored by Jerry Falwell at the Republican convention...

"Mommy, mommy, don't be commies
Stay at home and fold pajamies"

6 Some of you may remember that in last month's newsletter we printed a copy of the flyer that Bay Area NOW put out in referance to Sakowitz sponsoring a fashion show at the Republican for the Eagle Forum, the Phyllis Schafley far right group. I received a phone call from Bob Sakowitz and explained to him that we would be glad to print his reply since we are a very fair organization, unlike the Eagle Forum. True to our word, I am printing the reply that he mailed to me. Judge for yourself!!!!!!!

SERVING THE GREAT SOUTHWEST

August 30, 1984

Ms. Phyllis Tucker
243 Empress
Houston, Texas 77034

Dear Ms. Tucker:

Thanks so much for receiving my call and understanding the tremendously unfair position in which I have found myself placed. Sakowitz did not host, nor sponsor, anything with the Eagle Forum, nor was there a dollar contributed by our organization to their organization.

A number of months ago I was contacted by a group of Republican Eagles advising that one fashion show, and one only, would be given during the Republican Convention and requesting that we loan the clothes to the models, among whom would be Mrs. James Baker, Ambassador Gerard, Ed Meese's daughter and numerous congressmen and senator's wives, numbering 19 in total. In addition, it was between Sakowitz and Neiman Marcus as to which store would get the show, and if I would agree to commentate Sakowitz would be chosen. We have one store in Dallas and have been there since 1981, Neiman's have three and they have been there for a long time. The opportunity to expose our merchandise to 1,400 convention women, at no cost to us, was obviously a good business decision. It was not until two weeks prior to the show that we heard that Mrs Schafly was involved, even then I was made to understand that the fashion show was to have nothing to do with her presentation.

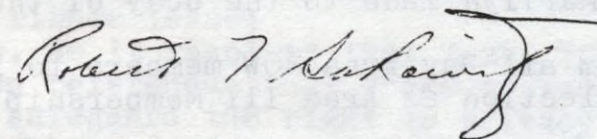
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Ms. Phyllis Tucker
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It is personally and professionally upsetting to me that a group of intelligent women who wish to have their rights heard would not afford me the same privilege. I have been subjected to "trial by press" or "association", which amounts to the worst sort of "McCarthyism" I have ever personally been subjected to. I am also upset in view of our previous efforts on behalf of womens rights, even in a period when it was considerably less popular than it is today. I would have thought that someone would at least have taken the time to give me the benefit of the doubt and to call before cancelling charge accounts and sending inflammatory letters. It is a great disappointment for someone who is 100% in the fashion business and not endeavoring to make a political statement while trying to run a business.

I would greatly appreciate your passing this on to your friends and associates so that at least I have had my right to be heard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert T. Sakowitz
Chairman of the Board
and President

One of the best conventions in Texas NOW history was held Sept. 14 - 16, at the Sheraton Crown Hotel, here in Houston. Sponsored by the members of North-East Houston NOW, participants spent all their waking hours in great fun, learning experiences, and a lesson in feminism and sisterhood.

Workshops ranged from sexual harassment to lesbian rights; from membership recruitment to "Bridging the Gulf, Binding the Wounds Between Women working outside the Home and women working Inside the home"; from combating racism to pornography, and so many more learning topics.

An auction was held on Saturday night to raise funds for Texas NOW-PAC. With donated items from such people as Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman, Gloria Steinem, Jean Stapleton, Phil Donahue, etc., the PAC was able to raise over \$1400.00. For those who missed the auction MC'd by Sue Devaney with hilarious assistance from Debbie Tate, you missed a great show. Judy Eron from Nashville brought us good music and good feelings about our selves and each other.

The convention was honored to have as our guests Kathy Webb, Secretary of National NOW, Jane Wells-Schooley, former National NOW VP-Action and candidate for Congress in Pennsylvania 15th district, Ann Richards, Texas State Treasurer and Sandra Gillis, the first National Lesbian-Gay Liason for the Walter Mondale-Geraldine Ferraro candidacy.

The by-laws change sponsored by Bay Area NOW was narrowly defeated by three votes. Maybe next year. The convention passed resolutions calling for a State day of education on the issue of Sexual Harassment. This will be on July 2, 1985. The convention passed a resolution creating a Texas Legal and Defense Fund. Also, a resolution asking that all staff jobs in the National NOW Tims use standard affirmative action. The Lesbian Rights Resolution which passed is printed under that topic.

Members attending from Bay Area were Donna Berend, Judy Snyder, Pat Kuhlmann, Judi Hoffman, Gwen Topper, Susi Topper, Ellie Castillo, Hedy Salazar, Rema Lou Brown, Anita Marcus, Phyllis Tucker and a very special guest John Topper. Member Marilyn Mieszkuc was not only there as a Bay Area NOW member, but as a candidate for office. How proud we all were of the marvelous speech that Marilyn made to the body of the convention.

Congratulations from all Bay Area NOW members to Patricia Todd Kuhlmann on her election as Area III Membership chair.

To NorthEast Houston NOW...Congratulations on a job well done.

Ruling on sex law is upheld by court

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal appeals court on Friday upheld a lower court's ruling against a Texas law that forbade certain sexual acts between members of the same sex.

A panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said a county district attorney had no jurisdiction to file the appeal after the Texas attorney general had withdrawn an earlier attack against the 1982 ruling by U.S. District Judge Jerry Buchmeyer of Dallas.

Buchmeyer, in the class-action suit of Donald F. Baker vs. Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade and other prosecutors in the state, ruled that a law banning certain sex acts between people of the same sex violated rights to privacy and denied equal protection under the law guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

9-22-84

And on January 19, 1985, with your help we will have another.

The following resolution was passed at the State Convention September 16, 1984. This resolution came out of the Lesbian Rights Workshop.

Whereas, since 1971 the National Organization for Women has recognized the double oppression of women who are Lesbians; and

Whereas, the National Organization for Women recognizes that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is a civil rights issue;

Therefore, be it resolved that Texas NOW actively oppose the Houston referendum that seeks to rescind those provisions which safeguard the right to privacy for all people, especially the rights of Lesbians and Gay men; and
Further resolve that this active opposition be a priority issue of Texas NOW.

- Oct. 1 Women's Lobby Alliance 4 Chelsea Place 6:30PM
- 2 Harris County Democratic Party invites you to it's
2nd Democratic "Get Together" Sheraton Hotel
777 Polk at Louisiana 6 - 10PM in the Grand Ballroom
\$5.00 donation free hotdogs with a cash bar
- 2 Picket of the Republican's \$1000.00 a plate dinner
Albert Thomas Convention Center 6:30PM
Join the "Ladies Against Truly Equal Rights" or
as known is some circles L.A.T.E.R.
- 3 A.C.L.U. organizational meeting. See article on
reproductive rights. Houston Area Women's Center
4 Chelsea 7:30PM
- 4 Bay Area NOW Program Meeting. We salute the feminist
candidates and show the movie on the Gender Gap.
A Uniting Church El Camino & Reseda 7:30PM
Bring your friends!
- 6 Harris County Democratic Rally. Be there to show
your support for the Democratic Ticket---From the
Courthouse to the White House!!!! 3:30 - 7:00PM
Pasadena Municipal Fairgrounds 7600 Red Bluff Rd.
\$3.00 or bring and register a voter and Get In
Free!!!
- 5-7 Common Cause in Texas will have its fourth annual
State Conference here in Houston. Americana Inn
3301 Southwest Freeway Registration \$10.00
- 12-14 Coalition of Labor Union Women will sponsor the
National Board Meeting for CLUW at the Warwick-
Post Oak. Reception, for all CLUW members on
Friday, the 12th. 6:00PM
- 13 Ed Watson, State Rep., dist. 129 opens new head-
quarters in La Porte. 471-1576, 1577
- 13 Rice University conducts a workshop "How to Get
Publicity in Print and On The Air" 9 - 3:00PM
\$50.00 Rice University Campus
- 13 Voters Registration is Over (for this election)
Party. In conjunction with FRS and Bay Area NOW
as a thank-you, gee, your swell, type of party.
Relax, pat yourself on the back, gear up for the
next month. 7:30PM See Donna Berend at the pro-
gram meeting or call Donna 409-948-8896 or Phyllis
944-0033.
- 14 The Gay Switchboard of Houston will have its 2nd
annual Benefit at Eagle Crest Inn 104 Avondale
\$17.50 at the door or \$15.00 in advance 529-3211
3 - 8:00PM
- 17 Bay Area NOW Business Meeting. A Uniting Church
El Camino Real & Reseda 7:30PM

Bay Area NOW Calendar cont. (Yes, this is a busy month)

- 23 KPFT presents NOW night on radio. 90.1 FM 8:00PM
- 27 Hazelwitch Productions presents a public service "Money; You Don't Have to Marry It", an introduction to financial planning and investments for women. Houston Area Women's Center 4 Chelsea \$7.00 9 - 12:30PM
- 29 Coalition For Peace and Justice in Central America presents Holly Near & Ronnie Gilbert in an election year concert. Tower Theatre 1201 Westheimer \$13.50 8:00PM

AND COMING IN NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1 Bay Area NOW Program Meeting with election of officers for the next year.
- 6 National Election Day
- 9 Texas NOW will present "Ferron In Concert" at Agnes-Hall on the UH-Main Campus
- 17-18 Texas NOW State Council in Longview, Texas

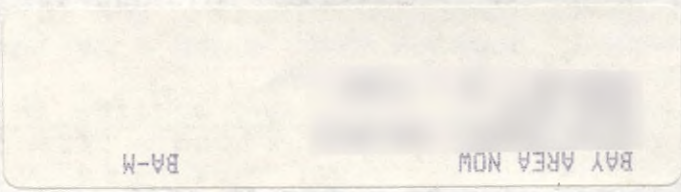
Bay Area N.O.W. Officers

President	Phyllis Tucker	(713)	944-0033
Vice-President	Anita Marcos	(713)	482-6515
Secretary	Donna Berend	(409)	948-8896
Treasurer	Judy Snyder	(713)	486-5565

WHO CARES ABOUT WOMEN? NOW CARES!!! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
Join NOW, now. Clip and mail to Judy Snyder 16310 Hill Point
Houston, Texas 77059

- _____ I want to be a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW and National NOW (\$40.00)
- _____ I want to be a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW and National NOW and can afford dues of \$ _____ (Dues for NOW are on a sliding scale from \$15 to \$40)
- _____ I am already a member of National NOW and want to join the BAY Area Chapter (\$0.00)
- _____ I am not a NOW member but want to receive the newsletter for one year (\$5.00)
- _____ I am making a contribution of \$ _____ to NOW.
- _____ I authorize my name and address to be printed on the NOW roster for members.

NAME _____
 HOME ADDRESS _____
 TOWN, STATE ZIP _____
 PRECINCT NUMBER _____ (FROM VOTER REGISTRATION CARD)
 HOME PHONE _____ OTHER PHONE _____

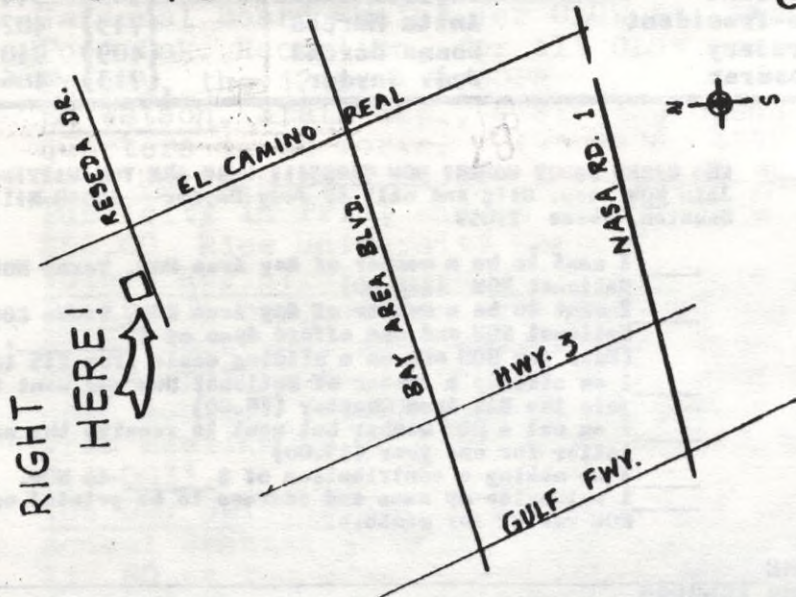


BAY AREA N.O.W. NEWSLETTER
C/O PHILLIS A. TUCKER
243 EMBRESS
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77034



WHERE DO WE MEET?

IN CLEAR LAKE CITY



****VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE BAY AREA NOW NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS AND/OR CONTRIBUTORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY EXPRESS THOSE OF ANY OTHER NOW CHAPTER, TEXAS