

AUSTIN NOW ♀

Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30pm
at the Austin Women's Center
1208 Baylor St., Austin 78703
phone 474-1798

Pres: Sue Ricket 836-9462
V.P.: Carolyn Todd 478-3192
Sec.: Ann Brooke 465-9269

DECEMBER 1973 NEWSLETTER



The Texas NOW Organizing Conference on November 17 was a very successful meeting. Texas NOW is now swinging into action. Our first elected State Coordinator is Martha Dickey, of Dallas County NOW, who had served as the Temporary Coordinator in organizing the Conference. Yours truly, Sue Ricket, is the State Treasurer, and Suzanne Santistevan of Waco is State Fund Raiser. Suzanne de Satrustegui, president of San Antonio NOW, is State Legislative Coordinator; Jane Baker of Dallas NOW is State Communications Director. The state has been divided into five Regions; ours is Region 4, and includes Austin, Temple, and El Paso. (El Paso? Well, I didn't draw the regional boundaries.) Each Region has a Membership Coordinator to help at-large members elect their State Council representatives and to serve as referral person for new members or potential members in the region; Linda Clonch of Temple is our Membership Coordinator. The Conference also included speeches by Dallas Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson and NOW Southern Regional Director Jackie Frost, and a workshop on chapter growth by Mary Jean Collins-Robson of Chicago, who is on the National Board of NOW. I am including with this newsletter the write-up on Austin NOW that was included in the Convenor's Kit at the conference.

Our chapter meeting with Mary Teague, the University's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, was very interesting. U.T.'s Affirmative Action Program is mediocre at best. It was surprising and encouraging that they hired Ms. Teague, a committed feminist and humanist, to administer the program; but they have allocated woefully insufficient funds and staff to be able to do even the little they had promised to do, and appointed to the Council on Women and Minorities, people who are indifferent or hostile to the implementation of the A.A.F.

Chapter elections are scheduled for December 5. There are as yet no announced candidates for any office. (Besides the offices of president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer, we need to elect a chapter representative to the State Council.) Elections will be by self-nomination from the floor. Frankly, I am perplexed: chapter membership has grown quite a bit in the last few months, but no one seems to want to do anything. If the chapter just wants to have a monthly speaker and let it go at that, I guess that's o.k.; but since its inception in 1967, NOW has always been an action-oriented organization, working actively to counteract the pervasive sexism in our society. Perhaps chapter members are just feeling "activitied-out," I don't know. But if you want Austin NOW to continue, giving us money isn't enough - you will have to contribute at least enough time and interest to see that we have officers, and that the officers know in what direction you want the chapter to move. Voting and offices are open to all chapter members; non-members may attend, though they may not vote. Please come and bring Austin NOW back together. (If no officers are found, the chapter will submerge into limbo until new officers do appear.) Assuming that officers are elected, I suggest that the scheduled Dec. 19 meeting be used by the new officers to organize for the coming year, with the meeting open to anyone with ideas to contribute.

Happy holidays to all!

Austin NOW was formed on October 4, 1972, with eleven charter members. The standard by-laws required by National were ratified; meetings were set for the first and third Wednesdays of each month, with the first meeting in December designated as the Annual Meeting, at which chapter elections are held. The meeting place was and is the Austin Women's Center, an old house close to downtown and to the University of Texas campus, which has been available to women's groups in the area since April 1972. Membership dues of \$5/yr (\$2.50 for students and others unable to afford the \$5) were set. Meetings are open to all at no cost. The monthly newsletter, a one or two page summary of chapter activities and news of other feminist activities in Austin, is mailed free to all who request it, and is supported by chapter dues and by direct contributions to the newsletter. Current membership is about 25; the newsletter mailing list includes about 150 persons and organizations.

The chapter initially formed several task forces. One focused on the disparity of spending on girls' and boys' sports in Austin city schools, and provided research and moral support for city board of ed member Carole McClellan to win approval of paid coaching positions for women coaches. Another investigated the discriminatory policies of city government, and persuaded the Austin police force to drop its stated requirement that applicants be male (however, the policy continues as de facto rather than de jure discrimination). Another worked on problems of sexism in advertising. They proposed and gained adoption of a ban on sexist advertising in the campus newspaper (over strenuous objections of the then-editor), and conducted a successful lobbying effort to persuade a local bank to change its particularly offensive advertising campaign. A fourth group investigated the availability and licensing of day care facilities in Austin.

From this last group grew the concept of a directory of Austin as a guide primarily for women. The day care group compiled a detailed survey of day care facilities. Other task forces re-formed into research units on: employment - how to find a job, guidelines on how to recognize sex discrimination and what to do about it; housing - how to find a place, where to go for help if a dispute arises with a landlord; health - basic informatin on gynecological care, clinics and hospitals available, self-defense information, suggestions on rape prevention; credit - information on city and state laws that forbid sex discrimination on the basis of sex, where to go for help on credit, how to establish credit; law - survey of laws and legal customs woman's name, property rights, birth control and abortion, marriage and divorce, child custody, etc.; and organizations - a list of any organizations that did not conveniently fit any other category, but which offered services or activities useful to women, from political groups to the Women's Art Guild. All sections stress contact information - where to go for more information or help in an area, preferably with both address and phone number. The project of writing this resource book is nearly completed; the book will hopefully be published this month (November 1973).

Meanwhile, chapter meetings usually featured a guest speaker on the first meeting of each month (with the third Wednesday reserved for task forces or research groups). Speakers have included Rachel Wahlberg, a freelance writer on the subject of women and religion; Jane Wells, member of the State Board of Education; Wilhemina Delco, member of the Austin school board; Janet Berry and Jenny Liston, who have each filed sex discrimination charges against

the University of Texas; and Mary Teague, the newly-appointed Affirmative Action Officer at the University. The chapter also celebrated Susan B. Anthony Day in February by awarding our first annual Susan B. Anthony Award to Sarah Weddington, state legislator from Austin and the lawyer who won the Supreme Court case voiding anti-abortion laws a month earlier.

So much for the sweetness and light. The chapter decided not to meet during the summer, since the heat (the Center isn't air conditioned) and summer activities had dulled enthusiasm (the June meeting had only two attendees - even the speaker missed it). This fall, efforts to reorganize and resume activities have been relatively unsuccessful. Although interest in the chapter's existence appears to continue (as evidenced by numerous new and renewal memberships, donations to the newsletter, etc.), attendance at meetings has been minimal, with thus far only one volunteer for a task force coordinator role and none for officers in the upcoming chapter elections (for various reasons, the current officers will not run for re-election). And so, beyond the publication of the resource book, the future of the Austin chapter of NOW is very much in question.

useful Austin addresses

Austin Women's Center, 1208 Baylor St., Austin 78703; phone (512) 474-1798. Official address for Austin NOW. Houses the Texas Women's Political Caucus state lobbying office (Cathy Bonner, State Director) and the office of The Texan Woman, feminist magazine published monthly or thereabouts (Carol Stalcup, editor).

State Legislators: Sarah Weddington (Austin)
Chris Miller (Fort Worth)
Senfronia Thompson (Houston) Capitol Station
Eddie Bernice Johnson (Dallas) Austin 78767
Kay Bailey (Houston)

State Senate: Betty Andujar (Fort Worth)

State Board of Education: Jane Wells, 6921 Thorncliffe, Austin 78731

Jeanette Watson, Director, Child Development Office, Governor's Office, Capitol Station, Austin 78767

Austin NOW officers (until December 1973):

Sue Ricket (president), 10021 Childress Drive, Austin 78753
(512) 836-9462

Carolyn Todd (vice-president), 1704 Willow Street, Austin 78702
(512) 478-3192

Ann Brooke (secretary-treasurer), 4602 Highland Terrace,
Austin 78731 (512) 465-9269

HOSPITALITY SUITE REPORT, June 10, 1974

Expenses Paid By N.O.W. Check:

#113 Judy Stroud: Bread	10.00
#115 Frito-Lay	83.16
#116 Lone Star Beer Co.	509.25
#117 Cash (change)	50.00
#118 Coca-Cola Co.	103.30
#119 Shipley Do-Nut Shop	20.60
#120 Jeanne Necaize: cheese, meat	42.00
#121 Susan Rokes: Peanut butter	5.45
#122 Jan Pierce: Jelly and miscellaneous	9.00

Expenses Paid From Cash:

Beverly Hayes: bread, meat, cheese	52.44
Dee Walker: Misc. supplies	9.39
Ann Robinson: Meat, bread cheese	27.38

Expenses Paid From 5-27 Deposit:

Norma Lee: Rice Hotel for ice and telephone service in Hosp. Suite	161.50
Ann Robinson: Tip for Service	2.00
Total Expenses Paid	1,085.47

Expenses Not Reimbursed:

Poster board and markers:	
Linda Lovell	4.73
Beverly Hayes (est.)	19.00
Tips for service:	
Nancy Harris	.30
Berta Stephens	1.00
Beverly Hayes	4.00
Linda Lovell	15.00
Alice Shrader: mayonnaise, mustard, misc. supplies	14.38
Dee Walker: Cokes	9.92
Total Expenses Outstanding	68.33
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,153.80

Income:

Sales: Deposited 5-27-74 (figure includes \$50 advanced for change and \$8 resale of bulk sandwich meat)	1,663.00
Coke bottle refund	18.00
Resale trash can	2.50
Resale 8 bottles Sprite @ @ 35¢	2.80
TOTAL INCOME	1,686.30
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,153.80
NET PROFIT to date	532.50

Donations For Consideration of Overall Costs:

Ann Robinson: printing of donation acknowledgements	5.25
Linda Lowrey: 24 pounds coffee, cups, cream, sugar	32.00 ¢
Bay Area Chapter N.O.W. Sandwiches	30.00 ¢
Vicky Glasgow and Jan Cunningham: Boiled eggs	5.00 ¢

Estimated value donations 72.25

Items Leftover, Not yet Resold:

41 cases beer @ 4.85	
cases Fresca and Orange @ 3.55	
1 gallon mayonnaise @ 5.49	
1 gallon peanut butter @	
1 gallon jelly @	
cases potato chips @ 3.96	

[Total deposit	1,686.30
Expenses paid from deposit	- 163.50
Net to N.O.W.	<u>1,522.80</u>]

Norma J. Lee

Austin Chapter
National Organization For Women
1208 Baylor Street
Austin, Texas 78703

