

MAY 1974 NEWSLETTER

May Meeting

"Women Can Earn What They're Worth" is the topic of this month's meeting, to be held on Wednesday, May 8, at North Austin Bank, 7600 Burnet Road. There will be coffee available and a get-acquainted time starting at 7:45. The program, which will run from 8 to 9 pm, will feature Barbara Thompson, president of Career Girls Personnel Service, a new Austin organization set up to match women to the management jobs for which they are qualified. After the program, there will be a short business meeting to discuss proposed changes to the chapter's by-laws, and to make plans for the National Conference (coming Memorial Day weekend).

Rape Crisis Center Meeting

The Austin Rape Crisis Center is still in the planning stages, as members of NOW's Rape Task Force explained at the April meeting. The group has developed a funding proposal, and is working on incorporation as a tax-exempt, tax-deductible organization to be eligible for foundation funding. Meanwhile, the group is moving on toward training of volunteers to staff the Center. There will be an Introductory Meeting for potential volunteers on Tuesday, April 30, at 7:30 pm at Farm and Home Savings Community Room, 1400 Lavaca. Members of the task force will describe the research they have done, and outline plans for the proposed Rape Crisis Center. They will also describe the training program being developed for volunteers; the first training class will begin early in May. Those attending will be invited to contribute ideas on directions for the Rape Crisis Center, and to sign up for the May class or for later classes to be held throughout the coming months. Future Introductory Meetings will be held as needed. The Rape Task Force is also interested in providing speakers to other organizations in Austin to present information about the Rape Crisis Center - why it is needed, what services it will perform - and to ask for volunteers to staff it. For more information, contact NOW's Rape Task Force Coordinator, Laura Brookshire, 459-8125.

Austin Women's Center Relocates

The endangered Austin Women's Center has found a new home, at 2312 San Gabriel, in the north wing of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs building. The Center will consist at first of one large room (as large as the entire old Center); sections will be partitioned off later for offices. There will be a moving party on Saturday, April 27, beginning at 11 am to pack up the Center's books, kitchen utensils, etc., and move as much furniture over as will fit into available vans; please come help if you can. The Center move must be completed by May 1, so there is much to be done quickly. Donations of Texas Gold and S&H Green stamps are being sought to help acquire new furnishings for the Center. For more information, call Nancy Van Beek, 836-0848.

1974 NOW National Conference Comes to Houston

The NOW National Conference will be held in Houston on Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-27 (Saturday-Monday). It will be a closed conference, which means that one must belong to NOW to attend. (If you have not yet joined or renewed, it is too late to gain voting privileges at the Conference, but membership is still required just to attend.) The Conference will be big - over 3500 feminists are expected to be there to prove the Conference's theme, "You Can't Stop NOW." The Conference will be centered at the Rice Hotel, and workshops will meet there, but plenary sessions will be at the Albert Thomas Convention Center, three blocks away - we're too big for the Rice.

The Registration Fee is \$15 now, or \$25 after May 10. Child care will be available for those requesting it, but requests must be made before May 10. If you are a NOW member and plan to attend the Conference, but did not receive the March Do It NOW, call Sue Rickett (836-9462) for a copy of the registration and hotel reservation forms.

The chapter has reserved two 4-person rooms for the Conference, one beginning Friday night, the other Saturday; rates for these rooms are \$6/person/night. If you want to stay with Chapter members at the Conference, please contact Sue Rickett or Barbara Duke. (Note: the Conference is scheduled to begin at 9 am Saturday.)

Hope to see you all in Houston!

Barbara's Column

The NOW National Conference in Houston, May 25-27, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Texas women to meet national leaders of the women's movement without going broke on transportation expenses. The vitality of a local organization is greatly enhanced when members attend meetings on the national level. The chance to exchange ideas and information with members from all over the country should not be missed. This would be a good time to talk with that friend who is almost ready to join NOW about paying dues and coming with you to Houston.

Austin NOW will offer a series of programs this summer on the history and progress of the women's rights movement. We plan to conduct two program meetings a month during June, July, and August in different parts of town to give all Austin women the opportunity to learn about feminism and NOW. If you can help or have ideas for meeting places, please let us know.

Members attending the Conference are invited to a pre-Conference meeting at my home on Wednesday, May 22 at 7:30 pm at 1907 David to make final plans for sharing transportation and housing. A short Board meeting will also be conducted.

Barbara Duke

Highland Mall Booth

NOW has use of the Highland Mall booth this month on Friday, May 17, from 10 am to 9 pm. We will be selling copies of the NOW Guide, which the chapter published in January. We will also be publicizing the chapter's current activities and the coming National Conference. We need volunteers to staff the booth. Anyone who can take a 2- or 3-hour shift that day, please call Nancy Van Beek, 836-0848.

NOW Officers to Appear on Television

Newly-elected NOW officers Barbara Duke and Laura Brookshire will appear on the Carolyn Jackson Show on Wednesday, May 1, at noon, on Channel 7 (KTBC). They will be talking about Austin NOW in general and the work of the Rape Task Force in particular. (Incidentally, a belated thanks to Cactus Pryor for his half-hour radio interview with Sue Ricket last month to publicize the NOW Guide and the then-fledgling Rape Task Force. He was very responsive and enthusiastic about the Guide, and his popular show helped spread the word that NOW is alive and well again in Austin.)

Consciousness-Raising Groups

Nancy Van Beek is coordinating Austin NOW's current effort to start new C-R groups. For those not familiar with C-R, these are groups of women, perhaps 6 to 12 in a group, who meet regularly, usually once a week, to discuss problems of mutual interest, and to try to understand and grow beyond problems arising from sex-stereotyping, etc. It is not group-therapy; there is no trained leader or therapist involved, only concerned individuals helping one another. Men's C-R groups will also be started if there is sufficient interest. Currently, there is one daytime group, on Monday afternoons, and a Thursday night group is being planned. If you are interested, please call Nancy, 836-0848, and tell her what days and/or nights you would be available (or which ones are definitely out).

Education Task Force Task

In coordination with other NOW chapters and other interested organizations around the state, Austin NOW will be reviewing proposed textbooks this summer and evaluating them re sexism. Austin will be reviewing science books for grades 1-6. If you can help in the reviewing process in June, please contact Patti Magee, 477-5397, or Sue Ricket, 836-9462.

WEAL Reception

WEAL (Women's Equity Action League) has a new Austin chapter, and they will be giving a reception on Thursday, May 2, at 7:30 pm at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2206 Exposition. The reception will be an opportunity for people to find out what WEAL is, and to learn about the Women's Coalition now being formed in Austin. (Dallas WEAL organized such a coalition in Dallas, and found it a very effective tool in lobbying for, and obtaining, a credit law forbidding sex discrimination in consumer credit, among other accomplishments.) Currently, the chapter is completing a credit study here and planning a conference on employment, to be held this summer. For more information, call Kay Bieberdorf, 345-5624.

THE TEXAN WOMAN Returns

The Texan Woman is a unique bimonthly magazine of "poetry, politics & people, plus feminist listings." It appeared for two issues last fall, then succumbed to many problems and was defunct for several months. Now it is reborn, reorganized and revitalized, and is stirring the interest of feminists throughout the state. Subscriptions are \$3.50/year (7 issues). Sample copies are available at the Austin Women's Center, and are offered to other feminist groups throughout the state as requested. Contact them at P.O. Box 1267, Austin, TX 78767.

Feminist Weekend Retreat at Camp Warnecke

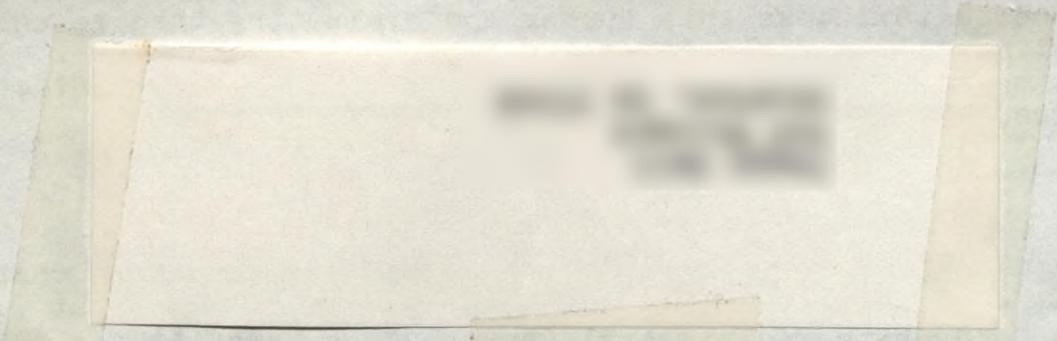
Houston NOW has invited us and other Texas feminists to a weekend retreat at Camp Warnecke in New Braunfels, June 14-16, spending Friday and Saturday nights there. Housing ranges from rustic cottages to motel units, depending on how much you want to pay; all offer cooking facilities of some sort. For more information, contact Sue Ricket, 836-9462.

New Officers

At the April 3 meeting, new chapter officers were elected (at last!). Cathy Albright has since resigned, due to the pressures of school work, and Gladys Ginn assumed her duties as Treasurer. The current officers are:

President	Barbara Duke	1907 David St., 78705	476-0510
First VP	Laura Brookshire	7704 Gault, 78757	459-8125
Second VP	Lee Sterling	1122 Hollybluff, 78753	837-0854
Sec/Treas	Gladys Ginn	2708B St. Edward's Circle, 78704	441-2241

Membership dues, contributions for the newsletter, etc., should be sent to the Treasurer, with checks made out to "Austin NOW."



Austin Chapter
National Organization for Women
2312 San Gabriel
Austin, TX 78705

From:



First class

