



Texas State National Organization for Women



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME I, Number 1

August, 1975

STATEMENT ABOUT STATE DUES AND STRUCTURE

In the summer of 1973, Jackie Frost, Southern Regional Director, asked the Texas delegates to the Southern Regional Conference in Atlanta, Georgia to meet to talk about establishing a state NOW structure in Texas. Harla Kaplan and Marlene Kilby from Houston, Marge Schuchat, Shirley Goodwin, and Martha Dickey from Dallas, and Dorothy Dubose from Fort Worth met together and began to plan how we would start our state organization. Martha Dickey volunteered the Dallas County NOW Chapter to coordinate the first Convention in the fall of 1973.

In September a planning committee met in Dallas with the following chapters represented; Fort Worth, San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, and Arlington. Suzanne deSaturstequi volunteered to chair the By-Laws Committee which met in San Antonio and drafted State By-Laws before the November 1973 State Convention.

At the First NOW State Convention in Dallas in the Oak Lawn Methodist Church the By-Laws were adopted and officers were elected. During the first year for a state organization the State Coordinator, Martha Dickey visited existing chapters in Waco, Houston Area, Temple, Fort Worth, Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio and convened new chapters in Abilene, North East Texas, Huntsville, San Marcos, El Paso, Killeen, Lubbock, and Bay Area. Since the first year new chapters have been convened in Big Spring, Brazoria Co., Golden Triangle, Houston Inner City, Longview, Northeast Houston, and Southwest Houston.

The Texas NOW Council established active taskforces in Rape and Textbooks. The Bay Area NOW and Kay Whyburn coordinated a successful state adoption textbook study for two years. Fran King from Fort Worth chaired the Rape Taskforce which started self defense courses and rape crisis centers in many Texas cities. In the spring of 1975 a new State Criminal Justice Taskforce was started by Marie Terry from Austin, Jacqueline Bouter from Houston, and Sheila Thomas from Dallas. So far, the New Taskforce has helped secure appointment of Selma Wells to the Board of Pardons and Paroles, Helen Copitka Commissioner, Board of Pardons and Paroles, and conducted a jail questionnaire in major Texas cities.

After Helen Cassidy and Poppy Northcutt coordinated the Houston National NOW Conference in May, 1974, Austin NOW hosted the Second Texas NOW Convention at the Sheraton Crest Hotel. The State Convention passed eleven resolutions, elected officers and worked in Equal Rights Amendment strategy. One resolution which passed called for a By-Law Committee chaired by Helen Cassidy to rewrite State NOW By-Laws. The State By-Law Committee made up of chapter and at-large delegates met in May and write new By-Laws which have now been ratified.

To implement the new State By-Laws, present officers will serve until the next convention, and Texas chapters and at-large Texas NOW members need to pay \$1.00 per year dues to Sue Rickett, State NOW Treasurer, 10021 Childress, Austin, TX., 78753. When the dues are paid by chapters, the large chapters' delegate representation on the State NOW Council will increase. The next Council meeting will be September 20, 1975, so please try to have chapter dues paid to Sue by September 1, 1975.

The Equal Rights Amendment rescension effort in Texas pulled all Texas chapters together to work for a top priority in the spring of 1975. The State ERA effort brought home the need for a strong State NOW structure in Texas.

Show your support to our state organization by paying your dues either through your chapter or individually.

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter marks another first for Texas NOW--a state Newsletter. Future issues will be published every three months for a cost of \$3.00/year and will contain state NOW news and ideas such as fundraising, membership recruitment and "zap actions". Suggestions for other topics are most welcome and may be sent to Kay Whyburn, 2234 Goldsmith, Houston, TX 77025.

SUGGESTION FROM ABILENE

Sue Racquer, President, Abilene NOW, suggests that chapters be aware that "law enforcement agencies in Abilene requiring medical evidence for investigation of a rape case were not paying hospital and doctor bills as required under Article 4445m VTCS Section 1, Vernon Law, June 11, 1973. Other chapters should check this out for their local governments.

STATE FUNDRAISER RESIGNS

Deborah DeBerry Kershaw resigned as State Fundraiser on April 11, 1975. This resignation was made necessary because of her other activities as Co-Director of the Women for Change Center and as a graduate student in the SMU School of Business. Because the new Texas By-Laws do not provide for a fundraiser, a new appointment for this position was not made.

EDUCATION TASK FORCE - TEXTBOOKS

The Bills of Particulars written by Sisters and Brothers from all over Texas (Abilene, Austin, Bay Area, Big Spring, Brazoria Co., Centex, Dallas Co., El Paso, Galveston, Golden Triangle, Houston Area, Houston Inner City, Houston N.W., Houston S.W., North East Texas and the El Paso Caucus) were collated and transmitted to the Texas Education Agency by Kay Whyburn. The Bills are now in the publishers hand's as they prepare their responses.

Your co-ordinators are now planning for the oral testimony in Austin September 10, 11, and 12. We hope very much that any Bill writer who wishes to participate in this very important and interesting activity will notify Mary Buxton, 713-333-3872 by September 2 if possible. Adequate materials will be provided in advance of the testimony so that you may prepare your testimony before the oral hearings.

We have found, this year, some evidence of knowledge of sexism. However, some publishers who have included pictures or text references of non-stereotypic activities have, seemingly, as a price increased male dominance. Two thirds of the publishers are still showing women as only mothers, witches, queens or nurses. Our work has just begun and evidently will require several more years of diligent work on our part to provide our daughters and sons images of a full range of human potential in their text books. For this reason we urge all of our sisters and brothers to consider participating in or observing the oral testimony in preparation for the very large number of books which will be up for adoption in 1976. See you in Austin?

Marjorie Randal, Kay Whyburn,
Mary Buxton, Twiss Butler

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The National Board of NOW passed a Travel Equalization Plan for the October National Conference. National NOW will provide a check for one-third of the amount of the round-trip airfare to each chapter with ten or more members as of July 27, 1975. The check will be made payable to the chapter and will be mailed October 1, 1975. The chapter may use the money for conference travel in any way it chooses--by subsidizing a single member's airfare, by splitting it amongst several members, by purchasing a bus ticket and providing the balance in cash to the member to pay for food and lodging, and so forth. The chapter has sole authority to decide who will be assisted with this money. If you have questions about the plan, contact your chapter president or Martha Dickey for further information.

NOW STATE COUNCIL

The next NOW State Council meeting will be held at Dallas on September 20, Saturday, at 10:00 A.M, the new YWCA, 4601 Ross Ave. (827-5600). All NOW members are invited. A special invitation is extended to NEWSLETTER EDITORS.

RAPE TASK FORCE

Texas Rape Prevention and Control Project

A new project has been started which is designed to utilize available resources and develop new programs that will aid in the prevention, reduction, and control of rape offenses in Texas. The project received a grant from the Texas Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy. The funds will be used to conduct a series of seminars throughout the state. Their topic will be: "Rape: Attitudes, Issues, and Law". The seminars will bring together all people involved and interested in rape prevention. The organization asks for our support and input. Among the persons on its board of directors are Senator Betty Andujar, Representative Kay Bailey, and Representative Sarah Weddington. Executive Director - Cathy L. Bonner, Texas Rape Prevention and Control Project, P. O. Box 13072, Capitol Station, Austin, TX. 78711

Texas NOW chapters have been asked to participate in a survey to determine attitudes and policies of officials in various Texas cities. Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Pasadena Area (Houston), and San Antonio have completed their surveys.

Information about starting a self-defense course for women was provided Abilene, Austin, Fort Worth, and San Antonio, and these cities became involved in such a program.

Meetings have been held with members of Dallas Women Against Rape, the Austin Rape Crisis Center, and the Texas Rape Prevention and Control Project. Meetings were held with Senator Betty Andujar, Representative Chris Miller, and Representative Kay Bailey to discuss the proposed rape reform legislation which passed in the last Legislative Session. Frances King was present in Austin when the Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence held its hearings on the legislation.

Information concerning state activities has been mailed to Hillside, N.J.; Saginaw, Michigan; New Orleans, La.; Trenton, N.J.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Tampa, Fla.; Point Lookout, Mo.; Louisville, Ky.; Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles, Calif.; and San Jose, Calif.

Frances K. King
2571 Waits
Fort Worth, Texas 76109

TO ALL AT-LARGE MEMBERS:

This newsletter is being mailed to each NOW member in Texas. After this, only subscribers and convened chapters will receive the state Newsletter. If you want to stay informed, support and be supported by your nearest chapter. The following list will help you find your sisters and brothers in NOW.

Peggy Hall & Kay Whyburn

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Enclosed is my check for \$1.00.

TX.

I am a member of _____ Chapter

_____ I am an at-large member.

_____ I am interested in starting a chapter in my area. Please send me materials and information for convening a chapter.

Kay Whyburn, Communications Coordinator
2234 Goldsmith
Houston, TX 77025

Enclosed is my check for \$3.00 for a subscription to the state Newsletter. I will receive a newsletter once every quarter and possibly additional mailings as needed and finances permit.

TX.

These are "helpful hints" collected from a variety of sources on starting and conducting a NOW Chapter. You probably can add to and improve on them, based on your own experiences. Please feel free to share any ideas you have with others, by mailing to Ruth Thornton, Membership Coordinator, Area 1, Texas State NOW, 8144 Meadow, 229, Dallas, Texas 75231.

1. Do have a newsletter for the Chapter, from the beginning, no matter how small.
2. Some Chapters have a complimentary newsletter sent to each new person for the first three months. Then, if they haven't joined, but want to continue to have a newsletter, they can take out a subscription.
3. Communication is probably the single most important factor in a good functioning NOW Chapter.
4. Publicize meetings in every conceivable place--area colleges, suburban papers, laundry mats, etc.
5. Develop a telephone tree among members to get really rapid information to everyone in a hurry. One person calls 3 people, who then call 3 other designated people, etc.
6. Have a good, centrally located meeting place--possibly a library; keep in mind minorities and those who may have transportation problems.
7. Check into the need for child care for meetings. Some groups ask a young person to provide child care, with a guaranteed \$5, and ask for \$1 per child contribution.
8. As new officers take office, each one keep an eye toward training their replacement.
9. Don't spread yourself too thin--get help; someone may be just waiting to be asked to help.
10. Give each person an assignment--before the meeting to encourage them to attend, and at the meeting to help them become a part of the group.
11. Designate someone (membership person?) to greet each one at the door of the meeting.
12. Name tags are good--red ink for new comers and green ink for NOW-comers--with a sheet at the door to record their visit, and so they can receive the newsletter.
13. Try to limit actions, even in a larger chapter, to 2-3 priorities at a time.
14. Do recognize interest in an area other than a priority by (a) designating a "resource person", and (b) changing a priority taskforce to "ongoing" when the action is over.
15. Remember, NOW is action-oriented, different from other civil rights groups. Do something outrageous!

National Organization for Women
1975
National Conference

Schedule

Thursday, October 23, 1975

5:00 PM - Registration
Eve: - Committee meetings, Workshop Leaders' Orientation

Friday, October 24, 1975

Morning: - Committee meetings, Workshop Leaders' Orientation
1:00 PM - Rally and action at Independence Mall
3:30-6:00 PM - Workshops
6:00-7:00 PM - Dinner
7:00-8:30 PM - Special Interest Meetings
8:30 - Programs: Informal - Cultural and Historical

Saturday, October 25, 1975

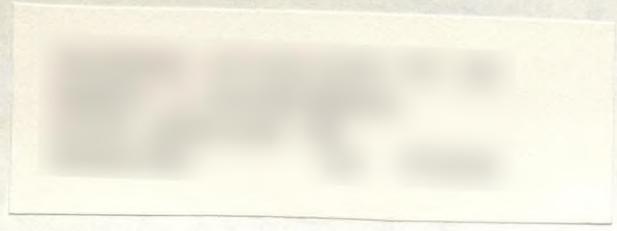
9:00-12:00 Noon - Opening Plenary Session: Keynotes, Agenda, Rules
12:00-1:30 PM - Lunch and action
1:30-5:30 PM - Plenary Session: Nominations for Officers and Board,
Speeches by Nominees
5:30-10:00 - Voting for Officers
5:30-7:00 PM - Dinner
7:00-9:00 PM - Workshops and Hyde Park for Nominees
9:00 PM - Program: Formal

Sunday, October 26, 1975

8:30-9:00 AM - Ecumenical Sister Service
9:00-1:00 PM - Plenary Session: Election Results, Run-off if necessary,
By-Laws
10:30-3:00 PM - Voting for Board Members (or Run-off if necessary)
1:00-2:00 PM - Lunch
2:00-5:00 PM - Plenary Session: Resolutions - Issue, Election Results
5:00-7:00 PM - Dinner
7:00-9:00 PM - Workshops
8:00-12:00 Midnight - Voting, if necessary
9:00 PM - Program: International

Monday, October 27, 1975

8:30-11:00 AM - Plenary Session: Resolutions - Workshop, Election Results
11:00-12:30 PM - Closing Speaker(s), Formal Adjournment
12:30-2:30 PM - Lunch and action
2:30-4:30 PM - Workshops - Implementing



Third Class Mail