

Montgomery County

NOW TIMES

March, WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH

Feminism is the radical notion that women are people.

“There is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.” Alice Paul

The Equal Rights Amendment *Failure is IMPOSSIBLE!*
Equality of rights under the law
shall not be denied or abridged by
any state on account of sex

Susan B Anthony

General Meetings

Date: 4th Mon. of
month except Aug & Dec.

Place: Wm. Jeanes

Program Meetings – 8PM (Business – 7:30) Memorial Library, on

March 23 Topic: “Improved Prospects for ERA Progress” The Democratic Party’s Platform Includes strong support for the Equal Rights Amendment. Learn what actions need to be done to get this passed.

Joshua Rd., Lafayette Hill

**Cancelations due to
weather call 610-337-9746
from 3-5 PM day of meeting**

April 27 Topic: “Now’s Action Agenda for 2009 and Beyond” Learn about our Feminist goals to increase equality and opportunity for women and girls.

No meetings in bad weather.

*****MUNICIPAL PRIMARY IS MAY 19*****

May 26 (this is Tuesday) Topic: “Strengthen the Violence Against Women Act” Work needs to be done to fully fund this act and enhance the provisions.

June 22 Topic: “Freedom of Choice Act Needed” Learn about the Act and take action. Reproductive rights must be part of our Individual freedom in this country.

July 27 (check with chapter about this date) Topic: “Education Equity & Restore and Enhance Title IX” Rescind the Department of Education’s 2005 harmful Athletics Policy. Also withdraw the 2006 Department of Education regulations allowing public schools to establish sex-segregated schools and classes that foster sex discrimination and sex stereotyping.

“Men their rights and nothing more: women their rights and nothing less” Susan B. Anthony

CONTACT US

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PLEASE GIVE CHAPTER YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

2009 Chapter Officers

eScrip (www.escrip.com) Fundraiser Again

President – Kathleen DeFrees-Shank
Vice President – Brian Jones
Treasurer – David Grunfeld
Secretary -- Kathy Maniscalco
&

Chapter has eScrip again. Sign up again for eScrip with your Genuardi’s Club card number at store, or contact the chapter to give me your card #, or online at eScrip click “renew” or if new click “sign up.” Our Group ID#2350940. Register credit card

buy at stores on eScrip or at other merchants: Office Max, Eddie Bauer, Orvis, Sierra Trading Post, Anna’s of San

Francisco, Lullaby Lane,

Toddler to Teen Furniture, Outdoor Kids, Final Wrap, & Gerrity’s Supermarkets.

Donations Are Appreciated!

We appreciate the donations to our chapter since our last newsletter from: Elaine Ferrara, Kathy Maniscalco, Kathy Shank

2009 National NOW Conference

The NOW Conference is June 19-21 in Indianapolis, Indiana. If you want to attend contact the chapter soon. This is an opportunity to join with other activists in sharing knowledge and gaining inspiration for the fulfilling work of advancing our dreams of equality for all.

Chapter Women's Herstory Month

As chapter president I will speak to the Business and Professional Women on March 19 about Alice Paul which will include some information about the ERA.

Five members will help table at Ursinus on Tuesday, March 24 for the Vagina Monologues (V-Day) campaign from 6:30-7:30pm with the production at 7:30-8:30pm followed by a question and answer period starting about 8:30pm. The members are Im Ja Choi, Jessica Ivins, Brian Jones, Kathleen Maniscalco and Kathleen Shank

This event will be held in the main auditorium in Bomberger Hall. Tickets for the production, 7:30-8:30pm, are \$3 for people that do not help table. The student organizer would also like some of our chapter members to attend on March 25-26. If you are interested contact the chapter.

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. More information about V-Day can be found at www.vday.org.

Justice and Judicial Accountability

Mandy Lin, a member of our chapter, has been in a still ongoing legal battle started in 2000 by her former employer, a major chemical company. The

lawsuit against her was filed 10 days after the US EEOC initiated an investigation against the employer, based on a complaint of retaliation Mandy Lin filed with the federal government. The EEOC completed that investigation in 2002 and issued a formal Determination that the lawsuit filed in 2000 was motivated by retaliation and that the chemical company violated the Title VII federal law. Despite the EEOC Determination, a year later in 2003, the former employer further extended the retaliation to Mandy Lin's new employment, for which Mandy filed her 3rd complaint with the EEOC in 2004. The new investigation started in 2006, and the EEOC expects to complete this 3rd investigation this year.

The lawsuit filed by the chemical company in 2000 has been handled by Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Judge Bernard Moore for 9+ years, and has become the biggest case in Montgomery Court, with 1054 docket entries and 11 judgments entered, and 10 of 11 judgments had been stricken shortly after. This unusual case has been twice spotlighted on its front page by Philadelphia Inquirer in two lengthy investigative reports, which was followed by an online petition signed by many taxpayers, seeking Justice and Judicial Accountability in Judge Moore's courtroom.

This year Moore is up for retention for his next 10-year term as a judge. Does he care about justice? How many years does one large company, "motivated by retaliation", need to go to court against one former female employee, to waste taxpayer's money? This case is unbelievable!

Action: Go to our chapter website and click on the links to the Philadelphia Inquirer for information about this expensive, protracted legal battle and to sign the online-petition by taxpayers. Check our website later for additional updates. Please share this information with everyone you know.

Results of State Ballot Measures

Abortion Rights Upheld: The ballot measures against abortion rights in South Dakota, Colorado and

California were defeated. This reinforces what national polls have shown for decades. The majority of people in the U.S. supports a woman's right to abortion, and understands that some young women cannot safely tell their parents about an unwanted pregnancy.

Same-Sex Couples Marriage Rights Defeated: The cause of marriage equality experienced a stunning defeat particularly in California, where marriages for same-sex couples had become legal and thousands had already married. Voters amended the state constitution to ensure that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid in the state." Anti-human rights (wrong wing) advocates falsely claimed that without the ban, public school children would be indoctrinated into accepting gay marriage against their parents' wishes. Also Churches would be sanctioned for not performing same-sex weddings.

In Florida and Arizona voters approved bans. In Arkansas the ban is not limited to same-sex couples.

Affirmative Action Attacked: Anti-equal opportunity measures failed to get on ballots in Arizona, Missouri and Oklahoma due to challenges from supporters of equal opportunity. In two states where the ballot measures did qualify the measures were misleadingly named Civil Rights initiatives, Nebraska voters cast ballots against affirmative action while we narrowly defeated the anti-equality Colorado initiative.

Paycheck Fairness Act

Contact Senator Arlen Specter and urge him to sponsor S.182. Thank Senator Bob Casey for being a co-sponsor. For more information go to now.org

Reproductive Justice for Women

President Obama takes the side of justice for the reproductive rights of women. Obama lifted the ban on the "global gag rule" a regulation that "forced international family planning organizations to make an

impossible choice between providing comprehensive reproductive health care and receiving funds that enable them to help women in need. Women around the world have died as a result of this heartless policy," said Kim Gandy in a press release.

Another important action announced by Obama will be the release of federal funding for the United Nations Population Fund as soon as Congress makes it available.

He has also moved to overturn the Bush Health and Human Services' midnight 'conscience' rule that further limits women's access to abortion, birth control, emergency contraception (due to rape) and other health needs. The President must allow the public 30 days for commenting on his planned action.

Fix for Affordable Birth Control

On March 10 the Senate passed a crucial provision of the Appropriations Act which is a legislative fix to existing law that will restore access to affordable birth control for millions of women. Two years ago a legislative error made prices of birth control skyrocket by as much as 900 percent.

White House Council on Women & Girls

On March 11 President Barack Obama created by executive order the White House Council on Women and Girls Cabinet. The news just keeps on improving more and more.

Supreme Court Gender Victory

On January 21 a Supreme Court ruling in the case, *Fitzgerald v. Barnstable School Committee* which ruled for the Fitzgerald's, will safeguard women's and girl's rights when they face discrimination in education by allowing them to pursue remedies for gender discrimination in schools under both Title IX and the Constitution. In the Fitzgerald case a kindergarten girl claimed that a third grade boy regularly harassed her on the school bus. Her parents were dissatisfied with the school's response, and sued under Title IX, and the federal statute

that bars sex discrimination in schools that receive federal money, and the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution, which is enforced through another federal statute known as Section 1983. "Sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, is still all too common in our nation's educational institutions," stated Marcia D. Greenberger, Co-President of the National Women's Law Center.

Stop Discrimination in Pennsylvania

Legislation, HB 300, prohibiting discrimination on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in housing, employment and public accommodations (will add this category of protection to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act) passed the State Government Committee in the PA House of Representatives on March 11. This legislation offers the same anti-discrimination protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people that are offered to other Pennsylvanians.

A majority of the Senate and House will vote to pass the bill, and Governor Rendell has promised to sign anti-discrimination legislation.

Action: Contact your state legislators and ask them to request that House and Senate leadership schedule votes on this vital legislation.

March 8 International Women's Day

These are difficult global economic times for improving the status of women. We need to keep global issues of global starvation, violence, trafficking and the lack of clean water, and basic necessities as part of our continued priority list.

Nearly one billion people live on \$1 or less a day, and women constitute about two-thirds of that number, states NOW President Kim Gandy. World leaders need to end the wars, feed the

people and stop the systemic sexual violence and horrific crimes committed against women and girls in every country. Amnesty international reports at least one out of every three women worldwide are beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in their lifetime. Torture, rape and sexual violence are destroying entire communities. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, during her confirmation hearing made the commitment that she intends to advocate for women and girls around the globe. She stated: "Of particular concern to me is the plight of women and girls, who comprise the majority of the world's unhealthy, unschooled, unfed and unpaid. If half of the world's population remains vulnerable to economic, political, legal and social marginalization, our hope of advancing democracy and prosperity will remain in serious jeopardy."

March 8 reminds the United States and other nations of the opportunity to commit themselves to the all-important goals of education, training, health care, nutrition, access to capital and reduction of conflict.

U. S. Violence Against Women

Murder: in 2005 there were 1,181 women murdered by an intimate partner which is an average of three every day.

Sexual Violence: in 2006 there were 232,950 women in the U.S. raped or sexually assaulted.

Domestic Violence: there are 4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes every year.

Health and Social Services Impact: in 2003 the cost of domestic violence was more than over \$8.3 billion due to medical care, mental health services and lost productivity.