



# PENNSYLVANIA NOW TIMES

**Pennsylvania NOW  
Inc.**

Pennsylvania NOW Times

Fall 2007

## PA NOW to Celebrate 35th Anniversary of Pennsylvania NOW and Title IX

### Remembering Our Past, Building the Future

This is the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of both the founding of Pennsylvania NOW and the passage of Title IX that mandates equal access for women in education and sports programs. Pennsylvania NOW will celebrate both events at our annual convention October 12-14, 2007 at the Hilton Pittsburgh .

We will be honoring our local and state NOW founders and leaders at this convention. We are inviting the founders of all current and former PA NOW chapters to attend, bring their memorabilia, and share their experiences with other feminists. We are planning

a historical "poster" area to display and discuss our history. In this way we hope that everyone will share in "Remembering our past and building the future" of equality for women in PA.

Our keynote speaker will be Eleanor Smeal, Executive Director of the Feminist Majority and the Founding President of Pennsylvania NOW, Inc. She will be speaking on the history of NOW's founding in PA and where we go from here.

Peggy Pennypacker, a consultant and expert on Title IX access for girls in middle and high schools in PA will be speaking on Title IX's history in Pennsylvania. During this session, members of the Slippery Rock University

field hockey, swimming, and water polo teams will be honored for their successful Title IX suit that reinstated their athletic programs.

During the day, we will honor our leaders and founders as well as elect our statewide officers for the next two years .

If you are a founder of a local chapter or have information on the founding members of any chapter, whether it still exists or not, please let our conference manager know by email at [panowconvention@aol.com](mailto:panowconvention@aol.com) or by phone at 412-241-4844.

The plenaries and workshops will look back at our history over the last 35 years and forward towards our dreams and plans of

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## Phila NOW PAC Endorses Their Local Candidates

Primary 2007 was a busy time for the Philadelphia NOW Political Action Committee. Several Philadelphia NOW members were running for office, including our Vice President for Membership, **Cindy Bass**. Although Cindy did not win a seat on city council, she ran a strong race and is in a good position to win next time.

We honored Cindy and NOW member **Maria Quinones Sanchez**, who won a city council seat, at our annual spring fundraiser. Maria's victory was especially gratifying. She ran a strong race for council in 2003, but came up short. This time she scored an impressive victory.

In addition to Maria, three strong incumbent candidates supported by

Philadelphia NOWPAC, **Blondell Reynolds Brown, Marion Tasco** and **Bill Greenlee** won re-election to council.

In the judicial races, two of Philadelphia NOWPAC's endorsed candidates, **Linda Carpenter** and **Ellen Green Ceisler** won the Democratic Party nomination for the Court of Common Pleas. For both, it was their second run for the Court of Common Pleas. We hope that the excellent candidates we endorsed who did not win this time around will run again.

However, it has become clear to us that we have to do something about the high cost of judicial elections. Philadelphia's new campaign finance laws applied to the mayor's race and city council races,

but not to judicial elections. Successful candidates for the Court of Common Pleas were forced to raise and spend obscene amounts of money. One of the successful candidates spent \$500,000.00—a record for a local judicial race.

We hope that NOW members across the state will work for campaign finance reform in Pennsylvania. We need contribution limits and ultimately public financing of elections. It will be a long, difficult struggle but one we must wage if we are to elect more candidates of the caliber of our endorsed candidates.

To learn more about the candidates endorsed by Philadelphia NOWPAC, please check out our election newsletter at <http://www.philanow.org>.

— Karen Bojar, Philadelphia NOW PAC

## Domestic Violence and Policing in Pittsburgh

In mid-June, the Pittsburgh Mayor and Police Chief promoted three police officers alleged to have perpetrated domestic violence. NOW and other feminists were incensed at the official attitude about violence against women. A petition circulated by Jeanne Clark of Squirrel Hill NOW prompted a June 28 Pittsburgh Council hearing before 150 people. Among 19 speakers were Clark, and Flo Gaskill and Phyllis Wetherby of First Pittsburgh NOW. The speakers described police as abusers and detailed inadequate follow through on domestic violence calls. A PA NOW letter to Council President Doug Shields supported the speakers' calls

for rescission of the promotions and change in policies regarding hiring, promotions, & training of police relative to violence against women.

Shields has arranged a "Post-Agenda Hearing" for September 10 to review policy. Squirrel Hill NOW member Audrey Glickman volunteered to help Shields organize this hearing and has arranged weekly meetings of advocates to organize expert testimony on police policies on domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. Advocates at these meetings include, among others, NOW, the National Council of Jewish Women, the domestic violence shelters, and the Citizen Police Review Board.

## THERE'S GONNA BE AN AUCTION!

Pennsylvania NOW will hold a live auction during the state convention on October 13 in Pittsburgh. Your donations of items are gratefully accepted. Our 2005 convention auction included everything from political memorabilia to wine, books, household items, and accessories. Baskets of goodies from chapters are

highly desirable! Individual items can be new or used (in good condition). All proceeds will help continue our work on behalf of women's rights. To contribute to or ask questions about the auction, please contact Susan Woodland at 814-734-1018 or [woodlands103@yahoo.com](mailto:woodlands103@yahoo.com).

## Please Help Fund NOW!

Our US Constitution is being dismantled piece by piece. The Supreme Courts' decisions continue to attack women's rights. We must dig deep to make sure that the Pennsylvania State Constitution does not follow the same path. **Please help support our actions to ensure that our feminist vision is promoted, legislation is monitored and our voices are heard.** Enclosed is a donation card and SAE for you to financially assist us. Thank you.

## Women and Parents Deserve Equal Rights

Pennsylvania NOW, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, and Mom's Rising are organizing a rally and lobby day in Harrisburg on Tuesday, October 2 in support of adding marital and familial status to the PA Human Relations Act (SB 280 and HB 280). The rally is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Capital Rotunda. See p. 4 for a summary of this legislation. Please make an appointment to see your state Senator and Representative for this day and then join us in Harrisburg to lobby for equal rights for women and parents in housing, public accommodations, and employment.



## Legislation in the PA General Assembly

PA NOW is monitoring several pieces of legislation in the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

### Reproductive Justice

#### Emergency Contraception

HB 288—PA NOW **supports** passage WITHOUT any amendment. Requires hospitals to provide Emergency Contraception (EC) to all sexual assault victims who come to the emergency room. The hospital & staff must provide every woman clear & unbiased information on EC. Anti-choice advocates and legislators want to amend this bill to allow hospitals and doctors to

opt out of providing EC. This bill is awaiting final vote on the House floor before it goes to the Senate.

#### Right to Breastfeed

SB 34—**A VICTORY!** This bill was signed into law as Act 28 on July 8. It protects breast feeding women from being accused and arrested for indecent exposure, sexual conduct, or obscenity while breastfeeding their children.

#### Reproductive Health

HB 49—PA NOW **supports** passage of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act.

This bill would add uninsured women under the age of 65 with a diagnosis of cervical or breast cancer to Medicaid for treatment of the cancer if her family income does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. This bill is currently being reviewed by the House Appropriations Committee.

HB 874—PA NOW **opposes** this bill in its current format. If passed this bill would require health care facilities and providers to give pregnant patients information regarding umbilical cord blood banking and to arrange for umbilical cord blood donations. This

would allow a woman to bank the cord blood for future use by her child should the child or another sibling need a stem-cell transplant. However, there is a hospital and doctor's conscience exemption in the bill that would allow any hospital to disregard the law for religious reasons. This exemption would deny the mother the right to make medical decisions about her child's future health. If this clause would be removed, we could support this bill.

SB 996—PA NOW **supports** passage of this bill. If passed, additional

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Chapter Exchange

**Harrisburg NOW** commemorated Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April with a Take Back The Night rally and speak-out which garnered excellent media coverage. Other chapter actions included a showing of the documentary : *Motherhood Manifesto* on Mothers Day, and a statewide judicial candidates forum prior to the May primary. This busy chapter also participated in a Community Night fund-raiser, staffed a NOW informational table at Harrisburg's Pridefest, and conducted a T-shirt decorating session for MomsRising.org's "Power of Onesie" campaign.

**Berks County NOW** had three informational tables at the Berks Peace Initiative Fair in Reading on July 14. One of the tables focused on NOW's "Love Your Body" campaign. The "Beauty Comes in All Sizes" button was the day's best seller!

**York NOW** is contributing children's feminist and diversity themed books to the Martin Memorial Library and has also provided funds for the purchase of new books for the children's library. The chapter is gearing up for its third annual Feminist House Tour fund-raiser. The June meeting featured Jennifer Brenner, one of the three

winners of York NOW's 2007 scholarship. She spoke about her research on the women's movement in York during the '60's and '70's. Some of the local women she had interviewed for the project attended.

**Ni-Ta-Nee NOW** staffed an informational table at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts in July. Members registered voters, distributed information on Family Responsibility Discrimination in the Workplace, and collected signatures in support of HR288 (access to emergency contraception in the ER) and of HR 280 and SB280 (adding marital and

family status to the PA Human Relations Act).

### **NWPA NOW**

lobbied local state legislators regarding the PA Human Relations Act, and showed the Equal Marriage documentary *Tying the Knot* at public meetings in Crawford and Erie counties. The chapter hosted the PA NOW state board meeting in June, and sent delegates to the National NOW Conference in July.

Thanks to all chapters who submitted reports, and for all the good work throughout Pennsylvania.

— Susan Woodland,  
At-Large Member, PA  
NOW Executive  
Committee



**Legislative Summary (cont'd)**

targeted funds would be sent to rural and non-rural hospitals that provide more than 50% of their ob/gyn and neonatal care to Medicaid recipients. This bill is currently in the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee.

**Economic Justice**

Family Equality

SB 35—PA NOW **supports** passage of this bill. As a companion bill to SB 34/Act 28, this bill would add breastfeeding or expressing breast milk at work as a protected employment class in the PA Human Relations Act. This bill was referred to the Senate Labor and Industry Committee in February; hearings have not yet been held on this bill.

SB 36—PA NOW **supports** passage of this bill. As another companion to SB 34, the Breastfeeding Promotion and Support Tax Credit Act would give a 50% tax credit to businesses that promote and supply breastfeeding equipment for use by their employees who are breastfeeding their children. This bill was referred to the

Senate Finance Committee in February; hearings have not yet been held on this bill.

HB 280 & SB 280 — PA NOW **supports** passage of this bill. Adds language to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to make it illegal to discriminate against someone in employment, housing, or public accommodations based on either their marital or familial status. PA NOW is recommending that this bill be amended to add family responsibilities to the Human Relations Act so that people who have the responsibility of caring for another family member, regardless of age, also do not experience discrimination. SB 280 was referred to the Senate Labor & Industry Committee. HB 280 is currently in the House State Government Committee. See p. 2 for information on the rally & lobby day in Harrisburg on October 2 regarding this legislation.

Health Care

There are two different health care proposals currently before the state legislature. Both are improvements over the current health care insurance programs.

HB 700 — aka Governor Rendell's "Rx for PA" attempts to cover all Pennsylvanians via an

integrated government & private industry health care program that people without insurance could buy into. This bill is currently in the House Insurance Committee.

SB 300 — Provides comprehensive universal health coverage while preserving the private health care system with the right of individuals to choose their own doctors. This bill is currently in the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee.

HB 1556—Health Insurance Coverage for Adult Children. PA NOW **supports** passage of this bill. Allows families to continue basic health care insurance coverage of their adult children up to the age of 29 who are unmarried, without dependents, and who are either residents of PA or are full-time students. Employers would not be required to pay any additional premiums for this extension of coverage. This bill is waiting for final passage in the House before moving to the Senate.

Title IX

SB 985—PA NOW **supports** passage of this bill. This bill would require junior and senior high schools to collect secondary school athletic equity data and send it to the PA Department of Education to determine if

*(Continued from page 1)*

building a feminist future of full equality. Entertainment will be provided on both Friday and Saturday nights.

There will be a fundraising auction held on Saturday, October 13. See page 2 for details.

We will also be holding a PA NOW PAC (Political Action Committee) Brunch on Sunday, October 14. See page 6 for details.

A draft of our conference agenda can be found on page 5.

Hotel information and conference registration can be found on page 7. Information on registering for the PAC Brunch is on page 6.

**Come celebrate our history!** See you in October in Pittsburgh!

secondary schools are complying with the federal Title IX educational equity law. Currently this type of data collection is only mandated for colleges and universities.

**Lesbian Rights**

SB 761 and HB 1400—LGBT Civil Rights Bill. PA NOW **supports** this bill, which seeks to amend the PA Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual

*(Continued on page 8)*

PA NOW will have an exhibit table at the PA Governor's Conference for Women on November 8 at the Philadelphia Convention Center. Go to <http://pagovernorsconfereneforwomen.org> for info on this conference.



**PA NOW Convention Draft Agenda**

**Friday, October 12, 2007**

<b>4:00—6:00 PM</b>	PA NOW State Board Meeting
<b>6:00—9:00 PM</b>	Hospitality Suite including Entertainment by Joan Dickerson

**Saturday, October 13, 2007**

<b>9:00 AM—5 PM</b>	Childcare	<b>MUST</b> Register in advance. Deadline for Childcare Registration is Saturday, October 6. Use registration form (p. 7 or contact Conference Manager at <a href="mailto:panowconvention@panow.org">panowconvention@panow.org</a> or 412-241-8329
<b>9:00—10:30 AM</b>	Plenary I	<b>Title IX 35th Anniversary</b> Welcome, presentation by Peg Pennypacker, Slippery Rock University Title IX recognition, Molly Yard Awards, and Election Speeches
<b>10:30 AM—4 PM</b>	Voting	Credentialed attendees only
	Workshops I	⇒ <i>Fighting for Equality: Meet the Slippery Rock Women Athletes</i> ⇒ <i>Policing and Domestic Violence</i>
<b>10:45 AM—Noon</b>		⇒ <i>Racial Justice with Latifa Lyles, National NOW VP—Membership</i> ⇒ <i>Denying Emergency Contraception to Rape Victims: Exposing the REAL Conservative Agenda</i>
<b>Noon—1:45 PM</b>	Lunch and Possible Action	
<b>1:45—3 PM</b>	Plenary II	<b>PA NOW 35th Anniversary Celebration</b> Keynote Speech by Eleanor Smeal, Founding President of PA NOW plus Founders and Leaders Recognition Awards
<b>3:15—4:30 PM</b>	Workshops II	⇒ <i>Closing the Gender Gap in PA and Across the United States</i> with Eleanor Smeal ⇒ <i>Understanding the Mindset of the Abusive Person</i> ⇒ <i>Economic Justice Starts Here! Strategies to Stop Employment Discrimination against Moms and Caregivers</i>
<b>4:30—5:00 PM</b>	Plenary III	Election Results and Resolutions (if any)
<b>5:00—7:00 PM</b>	Reception and Auction	We need donations from you! See Page 2 for details.
<b>7:00-8:00 PM</b>	Dinner	On your own
<b>8:00—11:00 PM</b>	Entertainment	To Be Announced

**Sunday, October 13, 2007**

<b>9:00 AM—Noon</b>	<b>Childcare</b>	<b>MUST</b> Register in advance. Deadline for Childcare Registration is Saturday, October 6.
<b>9:00 AM—Noon</b>	PA NOW PAC Brunch	Separate Registration Required. See page 6.





## 2007 PA NOW CONVENTION October 12 –14th in PITTSBURGH

### Remembering our Past, Building the Future

Registration by mail or go to <http://www.panow.org>

- NOW Member \$65 or more to support attendance
- Sliding Scale–NOW members only (\$0-\$170)\_\_\_\_\_

Year first joined NOW \_\_\_\_\_

- Non-Member \$85 (includes optional membership)
- Non-Member Student \$35 (student ID required)  
(includes optional NOW membership )
- I am unable to attend but will support others  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ included

Name:.....

Organization:.....

Address: .....

City, State, ZIP.....

Telephone:.....(h).....(c)

Email:.....

Mail check & registration form to:

2007 PA NOW Convention, P.O. Box 8614

Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

OR

Go to <http://www.panow.org> to make a *secure* Credit Card payment and registration

- Free Childcare (pre-registration required—deadline October 6)

\_\_\_\_\_ Children, ages \_\_\_\_\_

- ASL signing  Alternative Housing
- Other accomodations needed \_\_\_\_\_

State Elections  
 Speakers: including  
 Ellie Smeal  
 Feminist Workshops  
 & Discussions  
 State & Chapter  
 Founders history  
 & recognition  
 Entertainment  
 Exhibitors  
 Auction (see p. 2)  
 PAC Brunch (see p.  
 6)

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 for PANOW  
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 \$139 per night  
 (4 persons)**

Tell hotel you are registering for PA NOW Conference. Deadline for reduced room rate is October 1.



Pennsylvania NOW Inc.

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**See the PA NOW  
PAC Voter's  
Guide on page 6.**

#### Legislative Summary (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 4)*

orientation & gender identity in employment, housing, & public accommodations. SB 761 is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee; hearings have not yet been held on this bill. HB 1400 was just introduced on June 18 and placed in the House State Government Committee.

#### **Promoting Diversity and Ending Racial Discrimination**

HR 296—PA NOW **supports** this resolution opposing implementation of the Federal REAL ID

Act. REAL ID is a federally mandated identification program that would force states to create a national ID. It violates individuals' privacy rights and could result in citizens and resident aliens being discriminated against because they look or sound "foreign." REAL ID requires states to set up computerized databases that share personal details of ID card holders. Since its passage, the US Department of Homeland Security has flatly refused to guarantee privacy protections in the ID card itself or in the mandatory databases. Resolution has passed the House and was referred to the Senate Veterans Affairs

and Emergency Preparedness Committee on June 25.

#### **Stopping Violence Against Women**

SB 150 — Sexual Violence Victim Protection Act . PA NOW **supports** this bill. It creates a "Sexual Violence Victim Protection Order" similar to a Protection from Abuse order for domestic violence victims. The protection order would last up to 18 months, but could be extended if the accused violates the order. It also requires training of members of all police departments about sexual violence victim protections

orders and requires police notify all victims of sexual violence verbally and in writing of community sexual assault services. Passed the Senate on March 26, 2007. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration. It is currently in the House Judiciary Committee for review.

HB 95 — PA NOW **supports** this bill, which would repeal the statute of limitations on rape and involuntary deviate sexual intercourse. This bill is currently in the House Judiciary Committee; hearing have not yet been held on this bill.