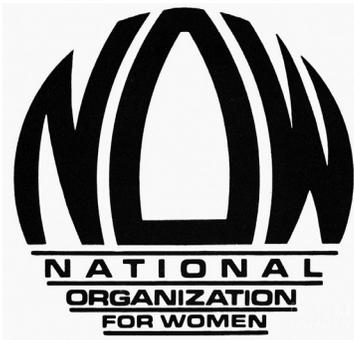


OHIO NOW TIMES

2545 Northwest Blvd., Upper Arlington, OH 43221

RAISE YOUR VOICE OHIO NOW CONFERENCE OCTOBER 20, 2018

The Boat House Restaurant, 679 W. Spring Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215



“Raise your Voice” is the title for our event again this year because it is what we must all do. There is no more time to wait. If not NOW, When?

We will come together on the Saturday morning on Columbus

to first off have the annual meeting including proposed changes to our Bylaws and elect officers for the next two years. You need to be here. Bring everyone you can think of who might be interested.

We will have the Hon. Melody Stewart for our luncheon speaker. She is running for the Ohio Supreme Court.

Our panel will include Sandy Theis speaking about Charter Schools, Paula Walters with Standing Courageous discussing domestic violence, an ACLU person discussing ICE and what they can ask of you, Wendy Patton discussing where we are with health care and several more people who have not confirmed as of this date. Watch the web site for updates as we get confirmations.

To pre-register please complete the registration form on the last page of this newsletter. Information can also be found on our web site <http://ohionow.org>.

LETTER FROM THE OHIO NOW PRESIDENT

Dear Ohio NOW Members and Friends,

This has been a very busy year without much of a feeling of accomplishment. We are struggling just to stay even. We are fighting the same battles as a year ago with many other issues added to our list. Reproductive health issues including abortion access are under constant attack and now it seems we many have a man appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court who is very opposed to abortion.

We have children on the border kidnapped from their parents who are seeking asylum. These children are placed in cages and in over 500 cases their parents are deported without the children.

Health care is under attack on all levels. There is an increase in jobs but the wages are not growing. There are workers at Walmart who get instructions on how to file for government assistance upon employment. The environment

is under attack. Flint still has poisoned water, Puerto Rice is still a shambles. I could go on and on.

There is some good news; we are short ONE state to having enough states to put the Equal Rights Amendment in the United States Constitution! The next task is getting Congress to drop the deadline. This has been a very long and difficult road. I have been involved in this since the mid-1970s.

I am asking that you join me in Columbus on October 20, 2018 for breakfast and lunch, a day of speakers and time spent with others who believe that women deserve an equal place in this nation. Many of our leaders in the 70s and 80s are gone so you need to step up and take their place. Do it for the future, our daughters, granddaughters and as importantly, for yourselves. I look forward to seeing you,

Carolyn T. Casper, President

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OHIO NOW LEADERSHIP LIST

President – Carolyn Casper
Vice President Action – Sara Tratnor
Corresponding Secretary – Sandy Rosso
Treasurer – Kathy Helmbock

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The following items will be voted upon during the conference

2018 Ohio NOW Bylaws Changes

CURRENT BYLAWS:

Article III. Trustees

The trustees originally named in the Articles of Incorporation shall serve until the annual meeting in 1976. Thereafter, the president, vice-president action, vice-president fundraising, secretary, and treasurer shall constitute the Executive Committee. The officers shall take no action without the approval of the State Board of Directors, except when such action is necessary and desirable between State Board of Directors meetings, and does not require a change of bylaws, standing rules, or adopted positions.

RECOMMENDED CHANGE:

Second Sentence: Thereafter, the president, vice-president action, vice-president fundraising, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer shall constitute the Executive Committee.

CURRENT BYLAWS:

Article V. Officers

The state officers may delegate such duties as may be necessary to allow them to implement the performance of their office, but they may not delegate their responsibility. The officers shall be responsible at all times to the State Board of Directors (hereafter referred to as the Board) and to the members.

Section 1. Titles and Duties

E. Secretary

There shall be a secretary who shall be a voting member of the Board. The secretary shall keep minutes of the Board meetings; shall issue correspondence as required by the Board; and perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Board. In the absence of the president and both vice-presidents, the secretary shall preside at Board meetings until a temporary chairperson for the meeting is elected by the Board. The secretary shall also serve as a trustee of Ohio NOW.

RECOMMENDED CHANGE:

Article V. Officers

The presiding officer may delegate such duties as may be needed to implement the performance of any office, (Board recommended & approved this change at 7/14/18 board meeting.)

E. Recording Secretary

There shall be a recording secretary who shall be a voting member of the Board. The recording secretary shall keep minutes . . .

In the absence of the president and both vice-presidents, the recording secretary shall preside at Board meetings . . .

The recording secretary shall also serve as a trustee of Ohio NOW.

Delete: shall issue correspondence as required by the Board;

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RECOMMENDED ADDITION:

F. Corresponding Secretary

There shall be a corresponding secretary who shall be a voting member of the Board. The corresponding secretary shall issue correspondence as required by the Board, and perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Board. In the absence of the president and both vice-presidents and the recording secretary, the corresponding secretary shall preside at Board meetings until a temporary chairperson for the meeting is elected by the Board. The corresponding secretary shall also serve as a trustee of Ohio NOW.

CURRENT BYLAWS:

Section 2. Eligibility for Officers

B. Only those persons who have been members of National NOW and Ohio NOW in good standing for at least one year immediately prior to election may serve as state vice-president fundraising, secretary, or treasurer.

RECOMMENDED CHANGE:

... may serve as state vice-president fundraising, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, or treasurer.

Section 4. Terms of Office

A. All state officers shall serve a two year term. The president, vice-presidents and secretary may serve only two consecutive terms in the same office.

RECOMMENDED CHANGE:

... secretaries may serve only two consecutive terms in the same office.

CURRENT BYLAWS:

Article VI. State Board of Directors

Section 3. Policy Votes

The Board of Directors shall make decisions by a majority vote of the delegates and officers present. A quorum of the Board shall consist of six officers and delegates. At least one officer must be present. . . .

RECOMMENDED CHANGE FOR CLARIFICATION ONLY:

A quorum of the Board shall consist of six Ohio NOW members, including officers and delegates.

*Copies of bylaws are available upon request & will be available on 10/20/18 prior to vote.

National NOW Action Center

1100 H Street NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005
202-628-8669
www.now.org

MISSION

NOW's goal is to take action to bring about equality for all women. NOW works to eliminate discrimination and harassment in the workplace, schools, the justice system, and all other sectors of society; secure abortion, birth control and reproductive rights for all women, and all forms of violence against women; eradicate, racism, sexism and homophobia; and promote equality and justice in our society.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS AND ALERTS

By Michael R. Smalz

The Ohio legislature (General Assembly) is now adjourned for summer recess. Although the Gen. Assembly may briefly reconvene in September to deal with any urgent matters, is unlikely there will be any significant legislative action before the November election. After the election, the legislature will reconvene for at least several weeks to pass priority legislation. The post-election legislative session is usually called a “lame duck session” because a newly elected legislature (with at least some new members) will convene in January 2019. Since this is the second year of the legislative session (biennium), any bills that have not been passed and sent to the Gov. by the end of the year will expire and will have to be reintroduced in the next session.

New Ohio Laws

Earlier this year, the General Assembly (House and Senate) passed three major bills that will have a large impact on women in Ohio. First, the legislature passed and Governor Kasich signed House Bill 1 (HB 1). This bill, sponsored by Representative Emily Sykes, establishes a civil protection order remedy for victims of dating violence. Existing law protected family or household members, including intimate partners who live or have previously lived together. HB 1 fills a big gap in the law by allowing dating violence victims will not live with their abuser to seek and obtain a civil protection order. The remedies and procedures are very similar to the remedies and procedures under existing domestic violence civil protection orders. HB 1 became law on July 6, 2018, and victims of dating violence are now free to seek and obtain civil protection orders under this new law.

In March, the Governor signed House Bill 214 (HB 14), which prohibits so-called Down Syndrome abortions. However, a week later federal district court judge Tim Black in Cincinnati issued a temporary injunction blocking the implementation of HB 214. That injunction is now on appeal to the Sixth Circuit United States Court of Appeals.

Finally, the legislature passed and the Governor signed a huge bill, House Bill 366 (HB 366), which radically revises Ohio’s statutory child support guidelines. Many Ohio mothers and children are likely to see lower child support orders under the new child support guidelines. However, this bill does not take effect until March 28, 2019, and most of its provisions take effect on September 28, 2019. For a

fuller discussion of this new law, see the separate child support guidelines article in this issue of Ohio NOW Times.

Pending Bills

The rest of this article will focus on several bills (good and bad) that have a chance of being taken up and passed by the Gen. Assembly during the post-election lame duck session. Although there are many pending bills, only a few bills will be prioritized by the House and Senate Republican leadership for votes during the lame-duck session.

Senate Bill 171 (SB 171) provides enhanced penalties for violations of both civil and criminal protection orders, including domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence protection orders. Under existing law, a first violation of a protection order is a misdemeanor of the first degree, and subsequent violations are a felony of the fifth degree. If SB 171 is enacted in the law, a second violation of a protection order would be a felony of the fourth degree, and subsequent violations would be a felony of the third degree. The Ohio Senate passed SB 171 on May 16, and it is now pending before the House Criminal Justice Committee. Please call your State Sen. and tell him or her to support this bill.

The Reagan Tokes Bill, House Bill 365 (HB 365), was passed by the Ohio House of Representatives on June 20. It has yet to be assigned to a Senate committee, but it will probably be referred to the House Criminal Justice Committee. This bill, named after a murder victim in Columbus, would establish requirements and standards for the use of GPS monitoring of paroled violent criminals, implement caseload and workload limits for parole officers, and authorize extended (indefinite) prison sentences for prisoners who were imprisoned because of serious violent felonies and engage in violent acts in prison. Supporters of HB 365 should contact their state senator to push for Senate passage of the bill.

House Bill 461 (HB 461), introduced by Representatives Fedor and Galonski, would provide further legal protections to juvenile sex trafficking victims who are charged with delinquency offenses related to the sex trafficking. It is still pending in the House Criminal Justice Committee, but if it passes out of this committee there is a reasonable chance it will be quickly passed by the full House and Senate.

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There are two identical companion gun control bills pending in the Gen. Assembly – House Bill 585 (in House State and Local Government Committee) and Senate Bill 207 (in Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee). These bills would allow family members or law enforcement officers to seek a protection order temporarily removing a person's firearms from their possession if there is clear and convincing evidence that they are a danger to themselves or others. They would also prohibit anyone convicted of domestic violence are subject to a domestic violence protection order from buying or possessing a fire, improve firearm background checks, stop illegal "straw man" purchases, and prohibit the sale of armor-piercing ammunition. Although it will be an uphill battle to pass these bills during the lame-duck session, they have bipartisan sponsors and enjoy broad support from Governor Kasich, prosecuting attorneys, the Catholic Conference, Protestant ministers, the Ohio Police Cheese Association, school board and professional associations, teachers, student groups, and crime victim advocates. This coalition is urging supporters to contact their state representatives and senators to push for committee votes and quick passage of this legislation.

The so-called fetal remains disposition anti-abortion bill, Senate Bill 28 (SB 28), has been passed by the Ohio Senate and the House Health Committee. It is not yet gone to a floor vote by the full House of Representatives. That may happen during the lame-duck session. SB 28 would create cumbersome and stigmatizing requirements for the

disposition of fetal remains following an abortion. It is a priority for the anti-abortion lobby. Please call your state representative to urge him or her to oppose this bill.

House Bill 511 (HB 511) was passed unanimously by the Ohio House of Representatives on June 28. It would eliminate the disparity in the age of marriage between men and women in Ohio. Under existing law, a female may marry at age 16 and a male may marry at age 18. (Females aged 16 or 17 must have the permission of their parents to marry.) HB 511 would establish the age of marriage for both males and females at age 18, but provides an exception allowing a 17-year-old to marry if he or she obtains the consent of the juvenile court and the other person is not more than four years older. Supporters of this legislation should call their state representative to urge them to vote "yes" on this bill.

Anyone who has questions regarding any of these new laws are pending bills can contact Michael Smalz of the Ohio NOW Education and Legal Fund at michaelsmalz040@gmail.com. There are many other bills pending in the Gen. Assembly that, if enacted, would significantly impact women (and children) in Ohio. However, those bills have little chance of passage during the lame-duck session.

Michael R. Smalz is a member of the Ohio NOW Education and Legal Fund Board and is the Legislative/Policy Director for the ACTION OHIO Coalition for Battered Women.

Local Chapter Contact Information

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Ohio NOW Education and Legal Fund Continues to Receive Valuable Support from Community Shares of Mid Ohio

Ohio NOW Education and Legal Fund continues to receive needed support from Community Shares of Mid Ohio's workplace giving campaigns. Workplace donations enable us to continue doing what we do best: work to eliminate sex discrimination in Ohio through research, education, legal policy and advocacy activities. By working on all major issues affecting women's lives, especially in the areas of employment, education, gender violence, family law and women's health; Ohio NOW Education and Legal Fund is working for you. For more information, please visit our website: <http://ohionowelf.org/wp>.

The vital support we have received from our membership in Community Shares has allowed us to provide resource information and referral services to victims of gender discrimination, support legal counsel and file amicus (friend off the court) briefs in precedent setting legal cases. Community Shares was established by various nonprofits for the purpose of fundraising on their behalf through workplace giving campaigns. Workplace giving campaigns allow donors believing in our vision of a society free of violence, discrimination and oppression against women to contribute to our mission. When donors are genuinely devoted to a cause, their support is that much more valuable.

If you or someone you know works at one of the workplaces that offers Community Shares of Mid Ohio, you can support Ohio NOW Education and Legal Fund by making a donation. Please encourage your co-workers or your friends to direct some of their donations to Ohio NOW Education and Legal Fund through Community Shares! Many central Ohio workplaces offer Community Shares – find a list at: www.communityshares.net.

What else can you do? Mail a tax-exempt donation directly to: OHIO NOW EDUCATION AND LEGAL FUND, 172 East Royal Forest Blvd., Columbus, OH 43214. Become a member, serve on the Board of Trustees, and/or volunteer your special skills. Join one of our new Advisory Committees if you are an attorney, educator or work on employment issues. For more information email: Ohionow@msn.com or visit our website: <http://ohionowelf.org/wp>.

CHAPTER NEWS

Cleveland Chapter

The Cleveland chapter drafted and adopted new bylaws and operating rules, which formalized the leadership structure, and we hope to have elections soon to fill positions. In the meantime, a core team of activists has been working to identify opportunities to realize our mission in our community. In April, we once again served as a community partner to the Cleveland International Film Festival, sponsoring the acclaimed documentary "Geek Girls," which exposes the sexism and barriers to entry that are rampant in online gaming, anime, etc. We were especially fortunate to be able to host a meet and greet with Gina Hara, the film's creator, at the Side Quest in Lakewood. In June, we hosted a booth at Pride in the CLE, Cleveland's gay pride festival, where our volunteers collected hundreds of signatures in support of Ohio House Bill 550, which provides for paid family leave, and in support of HB 61, which seeks to repeal the tax on menstrual supplies. This summer, we've turned our attention to the plight of undocumented

immigrants in Northeast Ohio, who have been targeted in the Trump administrations ICE workplace raids. In partnership with HOLA Ohio, a grassroots organization committed to providing direct support to immigrant communities, we've helped with voter registration drives targeting Hispanic voters. September finds us partnering with several progressive organizations to co-host "Grab 'Em by the Midterms" rally, encouraging voters to support progressive candidates that share our values.

Cincinnati Chapter

Cincinnati NOW has had an active year, with some fun thrown in! Cincinnati NOW participated with the Cincinnati Woman's Political Caucus in an "After Election Post Mortem". On Woman's Suffrage Day we participated in a celebration with CWPC. Cincinnati NOW participated with WCC in hosting a national speaker, and with many organizations in Take Back the Night and have had several feminist movie nights. Our ongoing project is erecting a historical marker honoring Lucy Stone, a feminist and abolitionist, who had substantial ties

continued

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with Cincinnati, including but not limited to membership in the First Unitarian Church and serving as a speaker at the National Woman's Rights Convention. Our members are also active in Planned Parenthood and Moms Against Gun Violence, as well as volunteering in the election, supporting candidates sharing NOW's political positions. Our meetings are generally the first Monday of the month at the First Unitarian Church.

Toledo Chapter

The Toledo Area chapter and its dedicated members have had a strong and continuous presence in the community this past year, joining forces and supporting several local organizations, including fellow feminist organization, NOFA Indivisible (Northwest Ohio Feminist Alliance). Actions include rallying the community in support of immigration by organizing a rally against family separation, and most recently holding a fundraiser to help raise money for ABLE's (Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc) Immigration Advocacy project which provides legal assistance for those in need.

Throughout the past year we have focused heavily on reproductive rights and violence against women. Most recently, Toledo Now held a presence in NARAL's Unite for Justice rally against the Kavanaugh nomination, having presence at both Toledo and Columbus rallies. Toledo NOW supported Capital Care, Toledo's only abortion clinic, and its fight to remain open. We are also an annual sponsor of Toledo's Take Back the Night, with several members serving as part of the organizing collective for the event, held back in April of this year. Additionally, we participated in the local YWCA Unity March and hosted a table at the event; and in February held a wonderful meet and greet for members and potential members with Teresa Fedor, candidate for Ohio Senate seat district 11, and fierce champion fighter for women's rights within our state legislature.

We are also extremely proud to announce that Toledo Area NOW has recently celebrated an exciting milestone. The Toledo-Lucas County Public library has agreed to house Steinem's Sisters, a wonderful feminist lending library that began at People Called Women Bookstore in Toledo. Steinem's Sisters began in partnership with Toledo Area NOW, People Called Women Bookstore, AAUW, Nirvana NOW! and The University of Toledo Women's and Gender Studies department to honor Gloria Steinem and the continuing presence of Northwest Ohio feminism. Long time members Debbie Schwartz and Gina Mercurio (previous owner and founder of People Called Women Bookstore) are founding members of Steinem's Sisters and currently serve on the advisory board

for the collection with the Toledo-Lucas County Library. This amazing book collection, having grown in size over the years, is now open to the community as a whole to check out and be inspired by the wonderful and empowering voices of the feminists that continue to inspire us!

Columbus Chapter

The Columbus Ohio Chapter of NOW was re-activated at the beginning of 2018, after holding elections for officers on December 3, 2017. Prior to its re-activation, a steering committee had been formed to review the Chapter's bylaws and operating rules in early 2017. Three members of the steering committee became officers: Desiree Shannon (President), Francie Arnett (Treasurer), and Debbie Hughes (Secretary).

The officers organized a Gun Violence Symposium held May 5, 2018 at the Grandview Public Library in suburban Columbus. Significant publicity was done for the event, which featured a panel of prominent Ohio gun control advocates, including Ethel Guttenberg, whose granddaughter, Jaime, was killed in the Parkland, Florida school shooting massacre. Ethel has been an active member of NOW's Cincinnati chapter for many years. Ethel and the other two panelists, Marian Harris of Ohioans for Gun Safety and Amanda Lynch of Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence, offered their unique perspectives as to how gun violence affects communities and the role activists can play in establishing a common-sense approach to gun ownership in this country. Most of the attendees at this event were members of the general public, and the event proved to be quite lively and engaging.

In June, the officers volunteered to help run a booth at the Columbus Community Festival (known as COMFEST to locals) held in Goodale Park. The booth was sponsored by Freedom of Choice Ohio (FOCO), and offered Chapter representatives an opportunity to discuss Chapter activities with members of the general public who might be interested in its causes. The Chapter held a light luncheon and discussion in honor of Women's Equality Day on August 26th at the Panera Bread restaurant in Columbus' Clintonville neighborhood. Attendees prepared a mailing announcing that the Chapter was accepting nominations for new officers (the current officers' terms expire at the end of the year). Columbus-area NOW members should watch for nomination materials in their mail in early September. Nominations can also be accepted at the Chapter's annual meeting on December 1, 2018 (location to be announced at a later date).

Ohio NOW
2545 Northwest Blvd.
Upper Arlington, OH 43221

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Visit us at
<https://ohionow.org>

RAISE YOUR VOICE

OHIO NOW CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 20, 2018

The Boat House Restaurant, 679 W. Spring Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

To pre-register by mail send by October 13, 2018

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Conference fee NOW Member	\$40.00	\$ _____
Sliding scale for NOW Member	\$1-\$40	\$ _____
Student and Senior Fee	\$20.00	\$ _____
Conference fee Non-NOW Member <i>(includes one year NOW membership)</i>	\$50.00	\$ _____
I cannot attend but would like to donate		\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$ _____

EXPLAIN IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS OR CHILD CARE - SUBMIT BEFORE OCTOBER 13

Write check or money order to Ohio NOW

Mail to: OHIO NOW, Francie Arnett, 4690 S. Old 3C HWY, Westerville, OH 43082.
To pre-register by mail send by October 13, or register online at <https://ohionow.org>