



Shannon Basalla <shannonbasalla@gmail.com>

FW: "Back to Bona Sera," Washtenaw NOW update and important events!

Cheryl C. Farmer <mayorsis@provide.net>
To: Shannon Basalla <shannonbasalla@gmail.com>

Mon, May 15, 2017 at 5:25 PM

I used to compose the newsletter in Microsoft Word. So the format of these earlier newsletters is different than what I use now. I learned the new way from Pratiksha and Margo!

From: Cheryl C. Farmer [mailto:mayorsis@provide.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 11:05 PM
Subject: "Back to Bona Sera," Washtenaw NOW update and important events!



National Organization for Women
Washtenaw County Chapter
Michigan

Dear Feminist Friends and Allies,

We were enlightened and entertained at our January 14th First Annual Meeting by historian Matt Sigfried's excellent presentation on **Women of Ypsilanti's Historic African American Community!** In case you missed it, Matt has shared his PowerPoint slides with us - see attachment. The data are all there, but I am sorry for you if you missed out on the energy and enthusiasm that Matt brought to the presentation!

Our new Board members were elected: President Cheryl Farmer, Vice President Georgina Hickey, Treasurer Anna Vockel, Recorder Pratiksha Menon and Communications Coordinator Kaitlyn Szczepanowski (formerly Kaitlyn Witjes). At our Board organizational retreat last week, we had an opportunity to get better acquainted and discussed ways of growing our Chapter and becoming more effective advocates for women. Minutes of this meeting are available on our website at www.nowwashco We agreed to meet at roughly 2 month intervals, and the next meeting of your Board will be held on April 11, 7PM, in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum Archives. All are welcome.

Our Intern Samantha Campbell's program Speak Out Against Domestic Violence went very well. Her brave speaker Chloe Roland told us how the erratic behaviors of her abuser (from loving to progressively more abusive with occasional loving moments) and her hopes that he would again become the man she once thought he was, made leaving so difficult. One of the audience members shared their tragic story of a loved one killed by her abuser, despite the many attempts of family and friends to have the man stop his dangerous behaviors and/or have the woman leave the relationship. This event was about helping SafeHouse as well as raising awareness, and produced a big box of needed supplies for them. Good job Samantha!

Up next will be **our Intern Asia Paige's program Identifying and Reducing Pregnancy Risks among Black Women** on Tuesday February 9th at 6:30PM. The featured speaker will be our renowned local OB-GYN expert Dr. Timothy Johnson. If you are a woman of color, or have family members or friends of color who are pregnant or considering pregnancy, you owe it to yourself to learn more about the reasons for the increased risks and how best to minimize them. Open the attachment for a beautiful poster containing details on location. I hope to see you there, and bring a friend!

The **EmpowHER to Run** program that Washtenaw NOW co-sponsored last month with EMU (Government and Community Relations Office; Women's Resource Center), Planned Parenthood, AAUW, and State Representative David Rutledge featured the ever amazing Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and an inspiring panel of State and Local elected officials. If we are going to change the tone of the conversation about pay equity and reproductive rights, we **MUST** elect a lot more committed feminist women to public office! Perhaps you, or someone you know, should run?

The next opportunity to learn more about the process of running for elected office is the Emerge Michigan program being sponsored by our sister Chapter: Oakland/Macomb NOW. <http://www.emergemi.org/training/application> The application deadline for this program is February 15th, 2016, at 11:59 PM. The deadline to "throw your hat into the ring" as an actual candidate this election cycle is in May. Be part of the growing number of women who are seeking seats and winning in local elections here in Michigan. These women will make changes and make history!

On Thursday February 11th we will be going "**Back to Bona Sera**" for our **Feminist Happy Hour!** This opportunity for casual conversation among like-minded women and men happens monthly on the second Thursday from 7-9PM. We meet on the lower level. If you have a problem with stairs, there is an elevator - but accessing it requires advance notice, so let me know! Bona Sera is a great woman-owned, woman-run restaurant located on the corner of North Washington and West Michigan Avenue in downtown Ypsilanti.

We want all of our university student readers to be aware of an AAUW program called the **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders**. <https://www.nccwsl.org/> At this wonderful conference you will have a blast honing your leadership skills, meeting other amazing student leaders and forming lifelong connections. To make it easy to attend, our local AAUW chapter has scholarship money and bus transportation available! If you are interested, please contact AAUW-Ann Arbor President Amy Seetoo at adseetoo@att.net The scholarship application deadline is March 1, and conference registration closes on May 10th.

Save the dates:

State NOW Annual Convention Saturday April 9th, 2016, all day at the U of M Dearborn campus – details to follow.

National NOW 50th Anniversary Party June 23rd, 2016 in Washington D.C. <http://now.org/about/conference/gala/>

National NOW Annual Convention June 24-26th, 2016 in Washington D.C. <http://now.org/about/conference/register/>

We are looking for member input on program topics. Suggestions so far include critical analysis of media coverage around the 2016 elections with a special focus on Hillary coverage, micro-aggressions in the workplace, and a candidate forum. Please share your thoughts!

And last but not least, consider this information from our **State NOW President Danielle Troia**: "**The national chapter has officially endorsed Hillary Clinton for President**. However, there are some within the organization that support Bernie Sanders. So if you are in support of Clinton and want to work on her campaign as representatives of NOW, you are able to do so. However, if you support Sanders and want to work on his campaign, you are welcome to do so as an individual but not as a representative of NOW. This scenario would also apply on the state level as well. If the state did not endorse a candidate that you support, you are still welcomed to work on their campaign but not in official NOW capacity. As chapter leaders, you cannot go against what the organization has decided for their endorsements. Also, there is no obligation to participate in a political campaign that has been endorsed. You just can't work against the organization."

See you soon!

Cheryl Farmer MD, President

Washtenaw NOW

2 attachments

 **women.pdf**
6138K

 **Identifying and reducing pregnancy risks among black women.docx**
265K