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Annual Meeting, Feminist Happy Hour, Women's Marches and More!!!!

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Start the New Year off right!! Shake off the Winter Blues!
Join us!

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National Organization for Women Washtenaw County Chapter Michigan

Don't miss **Washtenaw NOW's annual meeting!** It takes place on Thursday, January 26th, from 7-9 PM at the downtown Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Ave. We will all share our experiences from whichever of the upcoming January 21st Resistance Marches we participated in (see details on participation opportunities in Washington DC, Lansing and Ypsilanti below). We will also celebrate our second full year as an official chapter with cake, vote on whether to add two ad hoc member positions to the board, and vote for new board members (see the slate of officers below). Following the business meeting our outgoing president, Cheryl Farmer, will lead us in an exercise in Intersectionality. This relatively new term highlights the combined impact of overlapping social categorizations such as race, class and gender on an individuals' ability to succeed in their chosen career and in life. The exercise, for those who did it at the NOW Convention last July, proved to be interesting, painful and definitely helpful to participants in understanding Intersectionality on a gut level.

Officers for 2017

President: Principal spokesperson and
administrator of the chapter



Georgina Hickey is a professor in the History Department at the University of Michigan, Dearborn. She one of the original group of smart, caring feminists who convened in the spring of 2014 to re-organize a local NOW chapter, and has at one time or another assumed the responsibilities of every other office! She has most recently been vice president, and as such now rises to assume the role of president under our by-laws.

Our slate of candidates, all unopposed, to be voted for by acclamation:



Vice-President: Assists the president, presides over president's duties in the absence of the president, next-in-line to be president.

Anna Vockel is a registered nurse at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, served as Washtenaw NOW's treasurer, and is raising her two daughters to be feminists!

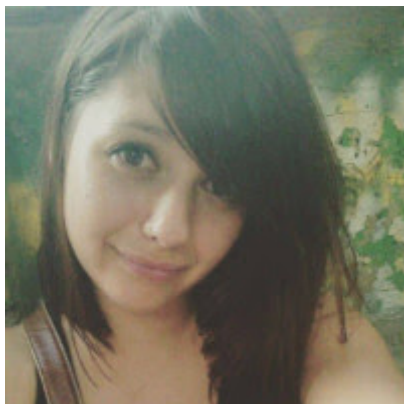
Recorder: Takes minutes & keeps a record of all meetings.

Cheryl Farmer is a retired physician and the former Mayor of Ypsilanti. She led the re-organization of Washtenaw NOW and served as its first president.



Treasurer: Keeps financial records

Margo Czinski is a retired English as a Second Language teacher and most recently served as our recorder.



Communications Coordinator: Manages the chapter's external communications

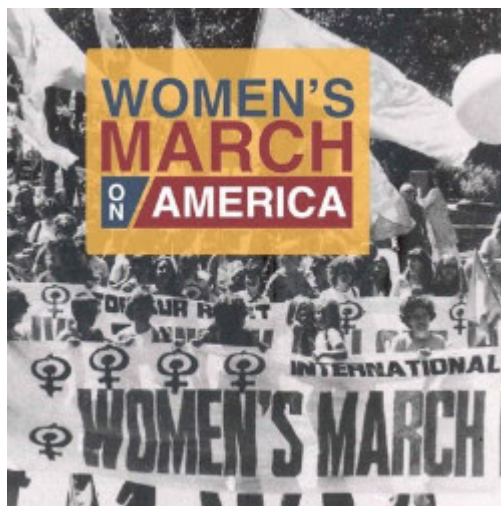
Shannon Basalla is an artist and has been leading our anti-harassment initiative.

At-Large Board Member (2 positions): Assists in the planning and coordination of programs and actions

Candidates will be announced at the meeting if the proposed bylaws change is approved

by the membership.

Last month's Feminist Happy Hour was marked by animated discussion of our anti-street harassment campaign, a teach-in sponsored by Standing Up for Racial Justice (February 4th), and the marches scheduled for January 21st. Mark your calendars for our next **Feminist Happy Hour on Thursday, January 12th at Bona Sera**, 100 W. Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, from 6-8 p.m. Among other topics, we plan to discuss the upcoming marches resisting rolling back the rights of women, minorities, religious groups and immigrants. In addition to the Women's March in Washington, D.C., on the 21st, there will be a march in Lansing and events right here in Ypsilanti. We will brainstorm ideas at the Happy Hour and supplies will be available for creating protest signs for whichever march we are planning to join.



Saturday, January 21st, will be a red letter day!!!

Choose from one of 3 peaceful protest marches planned to stand up for women's rights:

1) **Washington D.C.:** 77 organizations, including NOW, are collaborating to host this march. All the appropriate permits have been obtained. It will begin at 10 AM and start at Independence Ave and Third Street SW. For further information, go to:

<https://www.womensmarch.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2169332969958991/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/dec/27/womens-march-on-washington-dc-guide>. The local Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice has arranged for buses:

www.icpj.org

2) **Lansing, Michigan:** Rally on the Capitol steps in Lansing from 1-3 PM on Saturday, January 21. There will be music and speakers, including gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer, Lavonia Perryman, Dizzy Warren and Gretchen Driskell.

The march will be followed by The Women Organize Michigan Summit at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. Details can be found at marchonlansing.org

3) **Ypsilanti, Michigan:** March for Love, Resilience and Action : This ad hoc group plans a

procession route that will pass by and honor Ypsilanti locales significant to the movements for civil rights, women's equality and human rights. It will conclude in a performance space where our people power will be celebrated as WE inaugurate OUR vision for an interconnected future. The procession will begin at 1:00 PM. For details, go to

<https://www.facebook.com/lovesilienceactionypsi/>

So many opportunities to join like-minded people in discussion and action! Mark your calendar for all or even just one of these upcoming events. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Your Washtenaw NOW Team



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