



YOUNGER WOMEN'S TASK FORCE



A PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

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Dear YWTF members:

It is hard to believe that only six months ago, over one hundred young women from across the country came to Washington D.C. for the founding of a nationwide, grassroots movement dedicated to advancing the rights of women from our own generation. Throughout the weekend, YWTF's founding members engaged in complicated discussions about the everyday issues that affect our lives. By the end of the weekend, we had drafted a younger women's issue agenda and established regional chapters and leadership.

In the last six months, Regional Directors have worked hard to build their membership and engage their communities. In Washington D.C. YWTF recently held a community speak-out. Over 90 younger women came to discuss a number of community issues including the failed system for releasing women from DC jails and the latest LGBTQ equity bills in the Maryland legislature. In Seattle later this month, YWTF will co-sponsor a town hall meeting focused on framing progressive issues so they speak to younger women. In San Diego, YWTF is planning a business clothing drive for younger homeless women in the area who are in need of clothing for job interviews. Also, in New York YWTF participated in Oxygen's "Mentor Walk" which paired younger women with women leaders in various fields for a walk through Central Park.

This summer, Regional Directors from across the country will travel to Washington D.C. for a retreat filled with trainings and strategic planning sessions. At the end of the retreat, we hope to have a clearer plan for YWTF's future with Regional Directors who are equipped with the tools they need to return home and organize their regions.

Finally, we want to add a special thanks to YWTF's Nationwide Coordinating Committee. These twenty women have worked incredibly hard to build YWTF from the ground up. Their continued work, vision and commitment are what keep YWTF running.

In Sisterhood,

Alison Stein
Project Director, YWTF

Martha Burk
Chair, NCWO



The Younger Women's Task Force participated in a Mentor Walk in New York City on April 22, 2005

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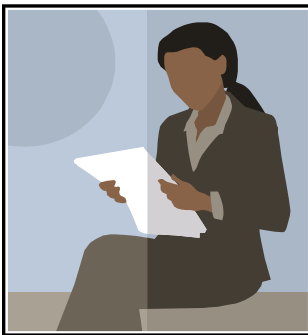
A special thanks to the Leo S. Guthman Foundation for their continued support.

Events

NEWS FROM THE NATIONWIDE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

An International Dialogue: Young Women Organizing for Change

Delegates from United Nations member state and non-governmental organizations from around the world convened in New York in March at the UN's Beijing +10 conference to evaluate the progress of the platform for action adopted at the Fourth International Women's Conference held in Beijing in 1995. The National Council of Research on Women in conjunction with the United Nation's Commission of the Status of the Women (CSW) organized a panel entitled, "An International Dialogue: Young Women Organizing for Change." The panel identified issues of concern to young women in different parts of the world, as well as challenges and opportunities for addressing these issues within the broader women's movement.



The YWTF will continue planning throughout the summer to increase communication and recruitment efforts.

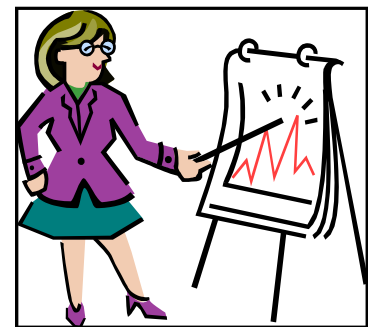
Alison Stein, Taylor Hatcher, and Andrea Powell from the Younger Women's Task Force served on a panel. Gwen Beetham from the Younger Women's Task Force organized the panel for the National Council for Research on Women. To read a full transcript from this panel, please [click here](#).

YWTF Summer Strategic Planning Retreat

Planning is currently underway for our first national event since the Meet-Up — the YWTF Summer Strategic Planning Retreat. The retreat will be held Friday, July 15th through Monday, July 19th, in Washington D.C. The weekend will bring together YWTF Regional Directors from across the country to share strategies and plan for the future of the YWTF. The Retreat will also include several networking events open to interested individuals from NCWO member organizations.

Building Our Skills and Planning Our Future

Throughout the retreat, Regional Directors will have the opportunity to get to know each other better and to share the successes and unique challenges of organizing in their regions. During strategic work sessions on Saturday and Sunday, attendees will brainstorm ways to strengthen the YWTF's growing impact and develop plans for the YWTF's future as the leading national membership group for younger women and their allies. In addition, several experts will give trainings to provide the Regional Directors in attendance with the tools necessary to organize effectively within their communities.



Two days of the summer retreat will be spent in strategic planning groups to further strengthen the YWTF's growing impact.

YWTF takes on Capitol Hill

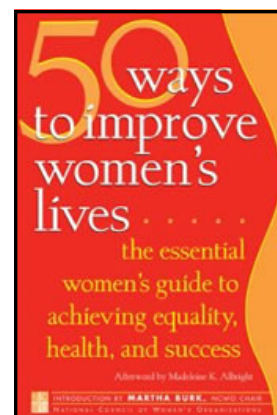
In addition to trainings and work sessions, the retreat will provide an opportunity for us to introduce the YWTF to Congress. Regional Directors will visit the offices of their members of Congress and will be holding a Congressional briefing on younger women's issues.

50 Ways to Improve Women's Lives

This brand new book presents 50 ideas and methods for moving women forward nationally and globally, providing a road map to turn inspiration into action. Women's voices are needed now more than ever, at the kitchen table and at the global roundtable. This book helps develop these voices, including diverse subjects such as pay equity, reproductive health, women in business, child care, domestic violence, women in sports, mentoring girls, and third world women.

In response to this book, Gloria Steinem, President of the Board of the Directors and Founder of Choice USA states, "What can I possibly do?" is the phrase I hear the most from women. *50 Ways to Improve Women's Lives* is a link between goodwill and good tactics that can harness women's energy for reform, from personal to global. Nothing could be more important."

This book includes an introduction by NCWO Chair Martha Burk and an afterword by former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright. The book also includes a section on young women leaders with entries by several members of the Younger Women's Task Force.



The NCWO hosted a book launch for *50 Ways to Improve Women's Lives* in March at the U.S. Capitol.

Interested in becoming a member? Please e-mail YWTF@NCWO-online.org and we will put you in touch with the Regional Director nearest you!

Research Review

This Research Review provides summaries and citation information for recent research articles related to sections of the YWTF Issue Agenda. This Research Review is based on the first two sections of the YWTF Issue Agenda: *Raising Consciousness about the History and Need for Feminism* and *Breaking the Silence: Acknowledging and Redefining the Power Dynamics in Feminist Efforts*. To review the YWTF's Issue Agenda, please [click here](#). Below is the citation information for the recent research articles related to sections of the YWTF. For summaries of these articles please [click here](#).

"Disavowing Social Identities: What it Means When Women Say, 'I'm Not A Feminist, But...'"

Alyssa N. Zucker

Psychology of Women Quarterly, 28 (2004): 423-435

Life after High School: Young People Talk About Their Hopes and Prospects

Jean Johnson and Ann Duffett, with Amber Ott

Public Agenda (2005)

Grassroots: A Field Guide for Feminist Activists

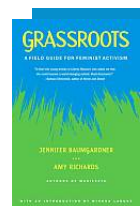
Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards

Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux (2005)

Written Out: How Sexuality is Used to Attack Women's Organizing

Cynthia Rothschild

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and Center for Women's Global Leadership (2005)



Regional Updates

DC/MD/VA Region

Deva Kyle

The DC Metro region has a total of 92 members. The regional chapter promoted and attended an ERA press conference in early March and hosted our first community event on April 21, from 7-11pm at the Wonderland Ballroom in Columbia Heights. The primary goal for this event was to bring in new members, increase visibility, and gain contacts already working within the community. To attain those goals we invited local political organizations, politicians, and members of the community. The program began with a small icebreaker to allow the attendees to mingle. Then we moved on to an "issue education"/speak-out session where six women within the organization spoke about issues most important to them. These issues included: The connection between a failing DC public school system and attrition of young female teachers, the state of reproductive rights in Virginia, the effect of the Global Gag Rule on DC's large immigrant population, the failed system for releasing women from the DC jail, the effect of the changes in the Catholic Church on all of us, and the latest LGBTQ equality bills working their way through the Maryland Legislature.

The event closed by allowing attendees to talk with the issue representatives about ways they can get involved and further network. There were 60 people who attended the event and 31 new women joined the organization as a result.

Some other activities we are pursuing include a Virginia Gubernatorial debate focused on younger women's issue probably in September. One member has already spoken to a representative of the current Governor who said he would be interested in participating. We have also discussed planning a Mayoral debate in DC. Many women are interested in the prisoner release issue though specific plans around that issue have not been developed.

The DC Metro region now has a full board of directors (though all major policy decisions are still made by the membership as a whole).

Regional Director- Deva Kyle

Communications Director- Susanna Murley

Fundraising Director- Leah Edwards

Outreach Directors- Aisha Taylor and Clara Gutkin

Programs Director- Stephanie Goodwin

Southwest Four Corners Region

Annette Gaynes

The Arizona Regional Director has provided outreach to Arizona State students and is working on bringing in another woman with experience in non-profits as a possible co-director. Annette Gaynes, the SW Four Corners Director has been working on outreach to various local community groups, as well as continuing work with her strategic planning advisors. Gaynes is hoping to have a table at the Arizona Women's Conference in Tucson on September 30th. These two regional directors have laid a foundation for a "how-to" strategic planning and operations book to help other regions at the Directors' meeting in July.

The Nevada regional director has an upcoming march in the Las Vegas HellDorado Parade in May. This is the oldest parade in Las Vegas, and this year's parade marks the centennial celebration for Las Vegas. Jennifer

will be marching with a coalition of women's organizations reenacting the suffragists marches in the early part of last century. They will hold a banner that says "Stand Up and Be Counted" on one side and "Younger Women's Task Force" on the other. She will also have informational material available. Jennifer also plans to begin recruiting at University of Nevada, Las Vegas prior to the end of the semester and continue outreach efforts.

The New Mexico regional director has been struggling due to a lack of community support, and has submitted newspaper articles which have not been printed. We are hoping to find additional support for Elizabeth because she has a very difficult task in her less populated area. Any recommendations or connections from people outside our region would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, we are tentatively planning a regional meeting on October 1st in Phoenix modeled after the national YWIF meet-up for setting agendas and plans, as well as intensive strategic planning.

Midwest (Milwaukee and Chicago) Region

Maureen White

The Midwest region has already had two conference calls with regional members and is developing the structure of their region, including potentially developing hubs in Chicago and Milwaukee, like the Western and SW Four Corners regions have done in Seattle and Tucson, respectively. The Midwest Regional Director is also a key organizer in an upcoming women's conference, potentially engaging many of these participants to become involved with YWIF.

Southeast Region (Northern Florida)

Sophie Brion

The Southeast Region is developing outreach materials and a strategic plan to recruit members. The South Florida Region is developing plans for a recruitment event this summer.

Southeast Region (Southern Florida)

Stephanie Mitchell-Madden

The Southeast region is working on recruiting new members. Northern Florida is working on coordinating with the YWCA of Tampa Bay to host an event at the end of the year.

Gulf South Region

Sara Covert

The LA Regional Director has been working with other Regional Directors in the Southeast to exchange ideas. They have had several meetings and have started enrolling new members. She is also in the process of securing a new regional co-director.

Maine Region

Katie Quin-Easter

The Maine Regional Chapter is working to figure out YWIF's position in the young adult world of Maine's political and issue based organizing. This chapter hopes to be a resource hub for organizations in Maine interested in activating young adult women.

This region is looking for any great ideas on what they can do to insert themselves into the

progressive community, based on the fact that there is already a lot of amazing work being done around town. Any recommendations on getting this started are appreciated.

New York Region

Lexie McNaughton and Erin Lee Mock

This region has dedicated most of its efforts to the New York City metro area and is fostering a younger women MeetUp in efforts to build a membership base in upstate New York. This region, over the course of meetings and discussion, is creating a structure that incorporates the better parts of both hierarchal and consensus structures. This regional meeting was held on April 7th at 7pm at Cheffy Red (23rd & Park Avenue) in central Manhattan and invited neighborhood groups, grassroots groups, public and private sector individuals, and feminist supporters. Over 40 new younger women were in attendance. This region is also coordinating with Kelly Connason in Ithaca to hold an upstate event soon after. Finally, the region planned a follow-up meeting scheduled for Cinco de Mayo to incorporate all those young women who could not attend the first meeting. Some of us also represented the YWIF and participated in the Oxygen Network's "Mentor Walk" through Central Park on April 22nd.

Western (Seattle) Region

Lauren Luttrell

This region planned a membership event in April, a town hall meeting on framing issues (with appearances by several key professionals in this area including George Lakof). We are also planning a social event in May and an event at a local law school in the fall.

Western (California) Region

Nina Flores

The California Region is just starting out; however membership so far seems to be growing rapidly in two main areas -- Los Angeles and San Diego. It has a chapter set up in San Diego that is small but mighty (and growing) and it has started building a partnership with CODE PINK San Diego that is primarily focused on gendered violence in the military. This region is surrounded by military bases here so it seems fitting that it discusses an issue that affects many young women, especially those in active duty. CODE PINK holds bi-weekly marches and has invited us to join them in their events.

The main focus right now is making connections with local women's organizations and creating informal discussion groups that serve to peak interest in relevant issues. In San Diego members are planning a movie screening for May and have discussed the possibility of a business clothing drive for younger homeless women in the area who are in need of business casual clothing and suits for job interviews and working situations. In Los Angeles things are a little more fragmented as there are women from various places in the LA basin who are interested, yet have never met. A meet-up of sorts is in the works so they can get the ball rolling there as well. This region is very eager to start work in Northern California, especially the Bay Area, and will devote time to that project as things take off in Southern California.