

SONOMA COUNTY

NOW



Dear NOW Friends,

Happy Pride Month! While our chapter isn't celebrating anything for it specifically this year, we do stand firmly with the LGBTQIA+ community and fight against any discrimination of it. We have two important Zoom events this month: the first will be held on **Monday, June 13, at 6:00 PM**, to bring to your attention the pending closure of Athena House, which is the only place in Sonoma County for women escaping alcohol and drug addiction. We will hear more about the decision to close it, explore alternate funding, and discuss how we can support the process to keep it open. Our chapter is hosting representatives from Athena House and the brainstorming will be led by Elaine B. Holtz. The letter that she and Deborah McKay (Santa Rosa League of Women Voters) had published in the

Peace Press on May 25th is printed below. We will send further details as the date grows closer.

The second event where we will have a presence is the [Santa Rosa MLK/Juneteenth](#) celebration on June 18th. Look for Elaine and me at a table that will have materials on NOW and on Elaine's radio show, *Women's Spaces*, on KBBF 89.1 FM. Please plan to attend both events to become even more informed about what's occurring in our county!

Finally, we had a wonderful session with Carl Tennenbaum on June 2, whom we endorsed as the best candidate for Sonoma County Sheriff. The recording link is on our [Facebook](#) page and on our [YouTube](#) channel.

--Amy Nykamp

President, Sonoma County NOW

[View this email in your browser](#)

The End of Athena House?

It is appalling that the California Human Development Corporation is eliminating a model program, Athena House, which has helped thousands of women turn around their lives. Think of how many women and children have been helped in the past 30 years.

CHDC states that they are the only location of CHDC that is operating this kind of program. Does that mean it should end? No, it means it is a model program which should be replicated throughout our state in many other communities. We have a rampant problem in our communities of drugs and alcohol

abuse, which is destroying lives and families. It that the time to terminate a program with a proven record of success in assisting women in address their addition and reclaiming their lives? No.

We, as a community of women, need to come together to save this program. We need to share why and how it has been able to help thousand of women and children. We need to recognize it as a vital and necessary service to our community.

All the local women's organizations need to join our voices together to demand that this vital service to our community be restored, funded, and supported to continue this essential work.

The impacted children of our community will thank us, all the women struggling with reclaiming their sobriety will thank us, as will their grandchildren and families. We cannot sit by silently and let Athena House slip away.

We need our elected officials both local and state to find new funding for this important program for women. It is so amazing that we can find billions for wars, we can find billions to support wars but domestically we have a habit of letting these programs just fade away never thinking of the consequences.

On June 13 at 6pm the National Organization for Women will be holding a Zoom to gather the women in our community to stand up and speak out against the elimination of this program. We want our elected officials to do their job and work diligently to find funding for this organization. Go to their Facebook Sonoma County NOW Chapter,

www.facebook.com/groups/sonomacountynow for Zoom information. By our silence we give our consent.

Elaine B. Holtz and Deborah McKay

Visit our Sonoma County NOW site for news, links, and information:

<http://www.nowsonoma.org/>

(707) 545-5036

P.O. Box 6223

Santa Rosa, CA 95406

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sonomacountynow>

YouTube: https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCIqTr7_29T8COX2MNul_Q8g

About NOW

As the grassroots arm of the women's movement, the National Organization for Women is dedicated to its multi-issue and multi-strategy approach to women's rights, and is the largest organization of feminist grassroots activists in the United States. NOW has hundreds of chapters and hundreds of thousands of members and activists in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Since our founding in 1966, NOW's purpose is to take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women

and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life.

Core Issues

NOW is a multi-issue, multi-strategy organization that takes a holistic approach to women's rights. Our priorities are winning economic equality and securing it with an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will guarantee equal rights for women; championing abortion rights, reproductive freedom and other women's health issues; opposing racism; fighting bigotry against the LGBTQIA community; and ending violence against women.

Reproductive Rights and Justice

NOW fully supports safe and legal abortion, affordable and effective birth control and other contraception, and reproductive health education for all.

Economic Justice

NOW advocates for a wide range of economic justice issues, women's freedom and success and intertwined with racial justice, reproductive freedom, and other systems of oppression.

Ending Violence Against Women

NOW recognizes violence against women as the broad and interconnected issue that it is, addressing oppressive structures and attitudes in our nation.

Racial Justice

A leader in civil rights since 1966, NOW continues to fight for equal opportunities for women of color in all areas including employment, education, and health care.

[LGBTQIA+ Rights](#)

NOW is committed to fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in all areas.

[Constitutional Equality](#)

NOW is a proud supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment and prioritizes giving women explicit protections in the United States Constitution.

For additional information go to: <https://now.org/about/>



MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM

- Regular membership \$40/year \$75 2 yrs \$115 3 yrs
 Reduced dues: \$10–30/year

Name _____

Address _____

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Email _____

Sonoma County Chapter #CA0660



Mail with check to: National Organization for Women,
1100 H Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005

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