August is upon us and for fun I decided to look up the meaning of this month. “August” is both a given name and surname developed from the Latin, Augustus. Derived from the Latin word *augere*, meaning "to increase," Augustus had the meaning "esteemed" or "venerable" and was a title given to Roman emperors. I like the idea of increase and it is my hope we can increase knowledge about what NOW is up to and helping to raise our esteem along with sharing wisdom together.

To accomplish that I hope to see all of you at our summer gathering, on Saturday August 11 from 1-4pm at the Howarth Park Gazebo in Santa Rosa. It is my hope by gathering and meeting and talking with one another folks will become more involved in the organization along with seeing we are not alone in this time when so much is on the line for women and their right to chose. Please bring a guest.

Last month I reported that staff support was being cut from the Commission on the Status of Women and the Human Rights Commission and I have not heard anything of late. Please watch for Letter to the Editor in the Press Democrat and I want to encourage you to call your supervisor and let them know your thoughts. Also please email me at Elaine@womensspaces.com if you have any questions, concerns or need to find out ways to get involved with our chapter.

**Something to think about:** “*True community is based upon equality, mutuality, and reciprocity. It affirms the richness of individual diversity as well as the common human ties that bind us together.*” Pauli Murray, an American civil rights activist, women's rights activist, lawyer, Episcopal priest, and author. Drawn to the ministry, in 1977 Murray became the first black woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest. As a lawyer Murray argued for civil rights and women's rights. Murray served on the 1961–1963 Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, being appointed by John F. Kennedy and in 1966 she was a co-founder of the National Organization for Women.

GET OUT THE VOTE!
Minutes of July 18, 2018 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM

Introductions were made and member, Lisa Thomas, visited, and new members were announced.

Minutes of June were approved as submitted.

Financial statement noted the payment of the phone bill. A check for $100 was sent to Melissa Barnett who attended the national NOW conference and, in addition to her own group, represented our Sonoma Chapter in our absence.

Website passwords have not been forwarded so new passwords may be created.

NOW national convention - Melissa, as our representative, delivered our greetings. She also spoke with Gloria Allred who "returned" her greeting back to us. Melissa may come to Sonoma to report to us and will be on the Women’s Spaces radio program.

Resolution Request for Sonoma County Human Rights Commission meeting: The funding for support staff for this Commission and the Status of Women has been cut. President Elaine will write a letter to the Peace Press expressing the crisis this creates. What is the rationale for this cut and what other services are affected?

Update on August Event: The posters created by Rebecca are great - very professionally done. These are being distributed in various sites. The Howarth Park location will be checked out for planning of sound system and any necessary items that will be needed. This chapter will meet again on August 4th at Marion’s home at 10:00 AM for final planning. Ice cream and all items pertinent will be obtained.

New Business: Progressive Festival - Elaine will have a table with Women’s Spaces and NOW materials. Motion was made, accepted and passed for the addition of the NOW information.

2020 Plan: Meeting will be held on August 29th and Elaine will see if Marion can attend since she is our lead person for this event.

Sponsor a Group - Discussion was made regarding allying ourselves with another group (League of Women Voters; AAUW; or?) to facilitate greater involvement and presence in the community.

Announcements: The ERA is getting closer to being enacted. Efforts should be made to work on this movement.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM
August 26th – 98th Anniversary of Women in the United States Winning the Vote

August Women’s History Events

**August 6, 1965** – The Voting Rights Act outlaws the discriminatory literacy tests that had been used to prevent African Americans from voting. Suffrage is finally fully extended to African American women

**August 8, 1969** – Executive order 11478 issued by President Nixon requires each federal department and agency to establish and maintain an affirmative action program of equal employment opportunity for civilian employees and applicants

**August 9, 1995** – Roberta Cooper Ramo becomes the first woman to hold the office of president of the American Bar Association

**August 10, 1993** – Ruth Bader Ginsburg is sworn in as the second woman and 107th Justice to serve on the US Supreme Court

**August 12, 1972** – Wendy Rue founds the National Association for Female Executives (NAFE), the largest businesswomen’s organization in the United States

**August 14, 1986** – Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper retires from active duty in the US Navy. A pioneering computer scientist and inventor of the computer language COBOL, she was the oldest officer still on active duty at the time of her retirement

**August 23, 1902** – Fanny Farmer opens the “School of Cookery” in Boston, MA

**August 26, 1920** – The 19th Amendment of the US Constitution is ratified granting women the right to vote

**August 26, 1970** – Betty Friedan leads a nationwide protest called the “Women’s Strike for Equality” in New York City on the fiftieth anniversary of women’s suffrage

**August 26, 1971** – The first Women’s Equality Day, initiated by Representative Bella Abzug, is established by Presidential Proclamation and reaffirmed annually

**August 28, 1963** – More than 250,000 gather for a march on Washington, DC, and listen to Martin Luther King, Jr.’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech

**August 30, 1984** – Judith A. Resnick is the second U.S. woman in space, traveling on the first flight of the space shuttle Discovery

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GET OUT THE VOTE!
Women’s Equality Day Proclamation

Many of you have asked about a Women’s Equality Day Proclamation for your community, workplace, or military base. Please feel free to edit the following one to meet your needs.

Proclamation Designating August 26, 2017, as Women’s Equality Day

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have historically been treated as second-class citizens and have often been denied the full rights and privileges, public or private, legal or institutional, which are available to male citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have united to assure that these rights and privileges are available to ALL citizens equally, and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have designated August 26, the anniversary date of the certification of the Nineteenth Amendment, which culminated a 72-year, non-violent campaign to extend the right to vote to women, as symbol of the continued fight for equal rights; and

WHEREAS, the women of United States are to be commended and supported in their organizations and activities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the (name of elected body or elected official or commanding officer) recognizes the commemoration of that day in 1920, on which the women of America won their right to vote, as an opportunity to continue to work for equal rights for ALL citizens.

The History of Women’s Equality Day

At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 and passed in 1973, the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as “Women’s Equality Day.”

The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world’s first women’s rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

Source: Women’s History Project

California NOW Urges HHS to rescind the proposed changes to the Title X Program

About Title X
Congress established the Title X program in 1970 to provide high-quality family planning services and other preventive health services to individuals who may otherwise lack access to health care. The Title X program in California is the largest and most diverse network in the nation. Over 1,000,000 women, men, and teens each year receive Title X–funded services at more than 350 health centers across the state, representing 25% of the total Title X patient population nationwide. Learn more about Title X.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has proposed new regulations for the Title X federal family planning program that could impede access to time-sensitive family planning and reproductive health services in California and across the country. These harmful changes include imposing a gag rule on provider referrals for abortion services, repealing current counseling requirements, requiring the separation of family planning facilities from those that provide abortions, and imposing additional burdens on providers and patients. Read the proposed rules here.

Kolieka Seigle
President
California National Organization for Women
Editor:

REALLY! With a women majority on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (BOS) it is difficult to understand why this is happening, the (BOS) is cutting staff support funding for the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women at a time when women’s productive rights are in jeopardy and there is an effort to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The purpose of the Commission on the Status of Women is to promote equal rights and opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls, and to address issues of discrimination and prejudice that negatively affect women in Sonoma County.

In addition, the BOS is cutting the staff funding for the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights (CHR) as the United States has pulled out of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Both of these Commissions are a venue for Sonoma County residents to have a place to voice their concerns. Both are needed now more than ever.

In cutting county staff support, the BOS is degrading both commissions thus creating a potential to fail. Call your supervisor and encourage them to find the funding to support these two commissions. This letter is sent on behalf of the National Organization For Women (NOW) Sonoma County Chapter Executive Committee.

Elaine B. Holtz
President

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RENEWAL AND MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular Membership $40/year. $75/two years. $115/3 years.
Reduced dues $15. - $30.

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