President’s Message

In honor of Labor Day and to remind us of the contribution women made in the labor movement, I want to acknowledge Frances Perkins (Fannie Coralie Perkins; April 10, 1880– May 14, 1965) who was an American sociologist and workers-rights advocate who served as the U.S. Secretary of Labor from 1933 to 1945, the longest serving in that position, and the first woman appointed to the U.S. Cabinet. As a loyal supporter of her friend, Franklin D. Roosevelt, she helped pull the labor movement into the New Deal coalition. During her term as Secretary of Labor, Perkins executed many aspects of the New Deal, including the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Public Works Administration and its successor the Federal Works Agency, and the labor portion of the National Industrial Recovery Act. With the Social Security Act she established unemployment benefits, pensions for the many uncovered elderly Americans, and welfare for the poorest Americans. She pushed to reduce workplace accidents and helped craft laws against child labor. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Perkins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Perkins)

As I write this column my Great Granddaughter Satori Trinity Jensen is being born. As I worry about the future for her and all the children of the world I am comforted when I am reminded of the women who came before us and made the experience of life a bit easier and those who are speaking out today for Women’s Equality and Rights.

We are starting to discuss the plan the celebration of the 100 year anniversary since the passage of the 19th Amendment in 2020. Special shout out to Supervisor Lynda Hopkins and her aid, Aime Windsor and to our own Marion Aird for getting the ball rolling. I am looking forward to the celebration. **Join us the third Wednesday of the Month from 1-3pm at Round Table Pizza on Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa from 1-3 pm.**
Minutes of August 14, 2018 N.O.W. Sonoma County

Meeting was called to order at 1 PM

Minutes of July 18 meeting were accepted as submitted

Financial Report - The full report for this year (Jan 2018 through August) was submitted. Costs from the Summer Ice Cream Social and the charge to Haute Flash were all approved.

Website - Has been “down for administration” after having been “hacked.” Investigations are being made and problems solved.

Letter to the Editor - the letter that President, Elaine, wrote was in the Peace Press and will be in the Press Democrat.

Information on the Progressive Festival - Scheduled for Sunday, the 26th and Elaine will have a booth for both NOW and Women’s Spaces. Information on the History of August 26th will be presented to one of the producers of the event as well as information about NOW and what happens on “This Day in History.”

New Business: Evaluation of the event on August 11th - Because of several events happening on the 11th, attendance was lower than we had hoped. These events include the hot weather, the Sebastopol Apple Festival and the County Fair but the gathering was successful and fun. Guests included Lynn Woolsey and the jazz trio (Haute Flash) was excellent!

There was an offer of a “white” horse and rider to lead the parade for the 2020 Event. This will be followed up as the days go by.

Next events - Possibilities include Zen Honeycut, Mom’s Across America, Unschackled stage play and discussion, and an event around February 14 concerning “Women in Action/Support” - similar to Women in Conversation offered via the Press Democrat.

Planning for 2020 first meeting - will be on August 29, 2108 with Lynda Hopkins and Elaine and Marion will attend. Discussion will revolve around what each participant (which include representatives from Sonoma County cities) anticipates. Suggestions include a big parade in Santa Rosa; a different presentation from each city; all cities to be represented.

Will separate events be happening on different days? Will there be a week of celebrations? Support from other women’s organizations will be required. Prominent women in the County will be included.

A suggestion was made to have a dinner of the “founders” with a speaker to set off the event.

Financing should come from every City Council and Boards of Supervisors and Chambers of Commerce as all will be represented.

Announcements - contact Shirley Bennett for pictures of the ice cream social.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05.
September Highlights in US Women’s History

September 12, 1910 – Alice Stebbins Wells, a former social worker, becomes the first woman police officer with arrest powers in the U.S. (Los Angeles, CA)

September 14, 1964 – Helen Keller receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom along with 4 other women: Dr. Lena Edwards, Lynn Fontaine, Dr. Helen Taussig, and Leontyne Price

September 14, 1975 – Elizabeth Ann Seton is canonized and becomes the first American-born saint, founded the first U.S. Order of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph

September 20, 1973 – Billie Jean King defeats Bobby “No-Broad-Can-Beat-Me” Riggs in the battle of the sexes tennis match

September 25, 1981 – Sandra Day O’Connor is sworn in as the first woman U.S. Supreme Court Justice

September 26, 1971 – Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-New York) announces she will enter the Democratic presidential primaries

September 26, 1973 – Capt. Lorraine Potter, an American Baptist minister, becomes the first woman U.S. Air Force chaplain

September 29, 1988 – Stacy Allison becomes first American woman to reach the summit of Mt. Everest
Discussion and conclusions reached at first meeting of **Women’s 2020 Centennial Celebration** 8.29.2018 Meeting

**CELEBRATION:** Parade = day/weekend long event culminating celebration in downtown Santa Rosa.
- City/county wide efforts
- Year long education effort
- Community members to invite
- Schools

**PHRASES:**
- How many times do we get to celebrate a centennial?
- Let’s make feminism cool again
- Educational and inspirational

**NEXT STEPS**
- Reach out to stakeholders
- Schedule second meeting
- Create 3-5 talking points
- Create celebration title/name
- Establish committees
- Look ahead to website logo

THE FULL REPORT ON THE MEETING WILL BE POSTED ON THE NOW SONOMA COUNTY WEBSITE:

**www.nowsonoma.org**

for complete information.
August 30, 2018

U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is preparing new policies on campus sexual misconduct that turn the government’s response to assault, harassment and rape upside down. She wants to shred the Obama Administration’s guidelines for rightfully and aggressively holding schools accountable for complaints of sexual harassment and rewrite the rules to limit the definition of sexual harassment and favoring the rights of students accused of assault.

Under the Obama guidelines, schools could rely on the lowest standard of proof, or the “preponderance of evidence” when deciding whether or not an alleged perpetrator should be punished for sexual misconduct. But in Betsy DeVos’ upside-down land, schools could decide which level of evidence to rely on when investigating misconduct, narrow the definition of sexual harassment, and only be accountable for complaints which are formally filed.

Betsy DeVos sees no evil, hears no evil, and speaks no evil against sexual predators on campuses across the country. Instead, she joins her partner-in-crime Donald Trump in railing against bureaucracy and standards of evidence that support survivors of sexual assault.

The new rules will not require congressional approval to be enacted, but lawmakers are not off the hook. Congress must call on Betsy DeVos to explain why she gives more weight to the feelings of the perpetrator and short shift to the survivors of the horrific crimes of sexual assault, harassment and rape. Congress should strengthen the laws dealing with campus sexual violence and hold the schools and perpetrators accountable rather than covering up these crimes and letting schools and predators off the hook.
RENEWAL AND MEMBERSHIP FORM
Regular Membership $40/year. $75/two years. $115/3 years.
Reduced dues $15. - $30.

NAME ____________________________________________

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