

Policy for Interaction Between Chapters Sharing the Same Geographical Area

1. New Chapter Formation in Areas Where There is an Existing Chapter(s): The chapters are encouraged to issue a joint media release, in which the media is advised of the convening of the new chapter, and that it is being formed for these reasons: 1) expanding of NOW, 2) diversity of programs and actions, 3) expanded choice of meeting nights and locations. The release may also include meeting information for all chapters and a listing of official spokespeople and contact telephone numbers for each chapter.

2. Membership: No chapter should actively solicit for funds or membership the members of other chapters. Any person wishing to transfer membership from one chapter to another may do so by making a written request to the other chapter. No chapter may transfer a member from other chapters onto its own rolls without first transmitting to that chapter a copy of the member's written request.

3. Communication: Each chapter is encouraged to put the other chapters on its mailing list, and each chapter is encouraged to send the other chapters copies of its newsletters, meeting notices, media releases, etc., to avoid date conflicts and duplication of efforts. In the event that chapters regularly publish a newsletter, each should make a reasonable effort to include information about the other chapter's events, if requested to do so by that chapter.

4. Public Criticism: No representative (meaning officer, board member, or official spokesperson) may publicly criticize any statement, activity or representative of other chapters, unless the statement or activity is contrary to NOW policy (e.g., Administrative or Issues Policy Manual, conference resolution, etc.); even then, the "aggrieved" representative must first attempt to meet with the "offending" representative, to resolve the conflict and make a joint statement if possible.

5. Local Area Council: In multi-chapter metropolitan areas, each chapter shall be encouraged to form a local area council for the purpose of exchange of information, ideas, press, and scheduling of events on NOW actions where those chapters have decided to participate in the same action, although this does not bind any chapter to participate in any particular National action.

6. Issues Positions: On an issue which is not addressed in National NOW policy, or on which National NOW has not taken a position, a chapter or state may only identify their position as their chapter's or state's position on such an issue.

7. Defunct Chapters: The existing treasury of defunct chapters, if any, shall be forwarded to the state organization, earmarked specifically for the purpose of chapter development in that state.

Passed by the National NOW Board of Directors, May, 1987

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