

NOW Foundation Board Meeting
June 18, 2015
Hyatt Regency New Orleans, LA
DRAFT Minutes

NOW Vice President Membership **Bonnie Grabenhofer** called the meeting to order at 11:20 am.

Roll Call

Present or arriving shortly thereafter were: April Emmert-Maguire, Charlotte Klasson, Gilda Yazzie, Gordy Gustafson, Jerilyn Stapleton, Joanne Tosti-Vasey, Kae Chatman, Marian Bradley, Mary Pollock, Meredith Ockman, Michele Hamilton, Nancy Campbell Mead, Robin Dionne, Shirley Ranz, Sinoun Hem, Sonia Ossorio, Sue Gibson, Ellie Smeal, Janet Canterbury, Patricia Ireland, Bonnie Grabenhofer,

Absent were: Aida Zuniga, Amber Kirchhoff, Carla Josephson, Elena Carillo, Kim Villanueva, Laurie Bertram Roberts, Panyiota Bertzikis, Susan Mottet, Carol Moseley Braun, Terry O'Neill

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved without correction.

Policy Report

Jan Erickson, Director of Foundation Programs, reported that the **Military Justice Improvement Act**, which would remove sexual assault cases from the chain of command, was submitted as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act but failed to pass. We expect Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, the bill's principal sponsor, to continue building support for the measure. There will be more opportunities to re-submit it. The **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act**, which was developed to improve enforcement of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, has bipartisan support and might pass in this Congress. A briefing on the growing problem of **online threats of violence** was held on Capitol Hill recently, hosted by the National Task Force to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, NOW, and other organizations, and there is some indication that funding may be allocated to increase FBI investigation into such incidents. **ERA legislation**, both three-state and start-over strategies, have been re-introduced. Sen. Ben Cardin created a good backgrounder on all of the aspects of the ERA. Erickson will be a speaker at a roundtable discussion of the ERA, where she will outline the potential for the ERA to go beyond wage fairness and address women's access to reproductive health care services as well as LGBTQ women's rights. The **National Women's History Museum** project is moving forward, but unfortunately its governing body is dominated by anti-feminist women who object to coverage of women's right to reproductive care. Despite efforts by supporters of the museum, there is no public funding for it at this time. The **Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)** is likely to get fast-track treatment, which is of great concern to us for women's economic security and for setting the standards for women's rights and LGBTQIA rights around the world. Most of the TPP's provisions are still secret so at this point we are waiting to see its full impact. NOW Foundation is monitoring it. NOW Foundation has signed on to efforts to urge the FDA to resist unconscious bias in evaluating the safety and efficacy of Flibanserin, a medication to treat **Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (HSDD)**. Women afflicted with HSDD have no FDA-approved treatments and doctors are often prescribing male hormones "off-label" in an effort to alleviate their symptoms. NOW does not endorse particular products and has not endorsed

Flibanserin; however, we hope that if this medication is found to be safe and effective, the door will be opened for further medical research into this condition and an array of treatments will become available. Finally, the NOW Foundation has worked with DC NOW to demand the inclusion of girls and young women of color in the District of Columbia's racial justice initiative "**Educating Males of Color.**" The DC council is poised to allocate some \$64 million to a school for boys of color, despite ample evidence that girls of color are in equal need of the services to be provided such as mentoring and college prep courses. (This males-only policy is being driven by the White House's My Brother's Keeper, which continues to exclude girls and women of color from racial justice.) NOW has demanded that the District develop a racial justice initiative and that girls and women of color be included in it.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.