

Ms. President NOW Board Report

To: National NOW Board Members

From: Bonnie Grabenhofer, Vice President

Date: September 18, 2016

The summer of 2016 is turning out to be the busiest summer ever for NOW activists. Not only did we celebrate our 50th anniversary with a great conference and fabulous gala, we were thrilled to see our NOW PAC-supported candidate for president, Hillary Clinton, officially nominated at the Democratic National Conference with many NOW members in attendance in Philadelphia or glued to the proceedings around the country listening to the glass ceiling shattering. Congratulations goes to the hundreds of NOW activists who phoned, canvassed, rallied and contributed to the MsPresidentNOW campaign to make it all happen.

Ms. President NOW at the National NOW Conference

Hillary and the MsPresidentNOW campaign were addressed in several exciting events at the conference including a workshop called: “Looking at the 2016 Feminist Political Landscape” which included discussion of NOW PAC’s strategy to elect the first woman president, emphasizing swing states and states with key Senate and House races.

The PAC Lunch Plenary focused on Hillary’s campaign and NOW PAC’s MsPresidentNOW work to help elect her. Speakers were NOW PAC members Bonnie Grabenhofer and Jacqueline Kozin, and Mini Timmaraju (HFA), and Jamia Wilson, with moderator Eleanor Smeal and Woman of Impact Award Honoree Senator Barbara Mikulski.

At the NOW PAC Party Poster Session participants had the opportunity to view posters highlighting some of the excellent Ms. President NOW work done by NOW activists. Members viewed items representing their work like pictures, flyers, and media and talked to the organizers about their events and tips for success. Their Tips for Success were compiled into a handout.

Democratic National Convention – Hillary Accepts Nomination!

The officers, political director, and many NOW activists participated in the Democratic National Convention as delegates and/or participants in other exciting events to celebrate Hillary Clinton accepting the nomination – the historic milestone – as the first woman nominated for president for any major party! In addition, it was a thrill to see many of our favorite NOW PAC endorsed senators and representatives on stage at the convention and speaking at other events around Philadelphia including the fabulous *EqualiTea*. It was a lot of fun to celebrate with Pennsylvania NOW and other NOW activists

at the Happy Hour hosted by PA NOW. And, of course, we passed out NOW4Hillary and ERA buttons – they were very popular!

MsPresidentNOW Coordinators and Volunteers

Following the conference a number of new volunteers joined MsPresidentNOW, and updated volunteer lists were sent to the MsPresidentNOW coordinators and/or state presidents in their respective states. Emails were sent with suggested election activities and resources.

MsPresidentNOW Activities

Here are some highlights of what NOW activists have been doing to help Hillary win in the general election.

- At the **Indiana NOW State Conference** there will be a panel on What's at Stake in this Election with Marcella Jewell, the Indiana State Director for Hillary for America, and Bonnie Grabenhofer and Gay Bruhn discussing Hillary and the MsPresidentNOW campaign. Afterwards one of the breakout groups will create "action ideas" for Indiana NOW PAC and electing Hillary.
- Illinois NOW is gearing up to for the election and to help, Bonnie Grabenhofer will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming **Illinois NOW State Conference**.
- Gay Bruhn and other Illinois NOW activists are going to the **Women for Hillary Illinois Summit** with key female Illinois elected officials and special guests to show their support for Hillary and learn how women can lead in this election. Gay Bruhn is also hosting a **debate watch party** and planning other events.
- Barb Miller from Peoria NOW (IL) reports that their chapter has been **registering low-income, Black voters** from public housing and was pleased that they're supporting Hillary. (As voter registrars, of course, they didn't discuss candidates, but the voters do.) They also did **training** recently and are joining others at the exciting **Women for Hillary Illinois Summit**.
- Toni Van Pelt, West Pinellas NOW, reports that they are housing a Hillary fellow/organizer who is staying until Nov. 15 and their home is being used as a staging site for events. Toni has been identified as a **GrassTops woman** and she's working on the Democratic Women's Club of Florida committee, doing various jobs. She is also doing VAN data entry and voter registration.
- Barbara McDaniel reports that Alaska Ms. President NOW volunteers have had a great time promoting Hillary at the **Alaska State Fair** for several weeks during August and September. Many enthusiastic supporters visited their booth and had their photo taken with Hillary – or the famous life-size Hillary cutout.
- Patricia Ireland reports that they had a great launch for the **Dade County NOW 67 day countdown** with National NOW President Terry O'Neill, FL NOW President Terry Sanders, National NOW Board member Meredith Ockman along with 30 chapter members!

- Cindy Wolfe Boynton reports that Connecticut NOW's recent meeting addressed: "How You Can Help Hillary Clinton & Other Feminist Candidates Get Elected in November" with a **surrogate from Hillary for America**. CT NOW recently ran an awesome phone bank and has also been going gangbusters with **social media**. They have shared their work for use by other chapters!
- Rebecca Talley, Contra Costa NOW, is organizing **phone banking** in October and expects about a dozen phoners.
- Jacqueline Kozin, CT NOW, is organizing **phone banking and canvassing** in New Hampshire.
- **NOW PAC phoners** across the country will be calling NOW members in targeted states focusing first on presidential battleground states with key senate races.

Additional Suggested Activities to Consider

Voter Registration, etc.

Now is a good time to be sure that people are registered to vote and help register others. NOW members are usually good about registering to vote, but it would be good to check, especially with some of the changes (like purging voter rolls) that may have occurred. Reminders to members in your state would be helpful.

It's also a good time to identify dates and processes for voter registration, requesting absentee ballots, and early voting and share that information.

Debate Watch Parties

Debate watch parties are a fun way to regenerate enthusiasm of existing volunteers and recruit new volunteers. The current schedule is:

- First presidential debate: Mon. Sept. 26
- Vice presidential debate: Tues. Oct. 4
- Second presidential debate: Sun. Oct. 9
- Third presidential debate: Wed, Oct. 19

Hillary for America

Hillary for America is hiring staff in every state. Be sure to connect with them to find out what's happening and how you and NOW volunteers can best help. Offices are opening and training, organizing meetings and other events are happening.

To find out what's happening in your area and what you and other NOW members and allies can do help – like go to rallies, register voters, march in parades, participate in festivals, make calls, or knock doors, go to: HillaryClinton.com/events.

They are in need of lawyers and paralegals to sign up for voter protection in every state. If you know a lawyer, paralegal, or law student, ask them to sign up [here](#).
<<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/forms/protect-the-vote/>>

Women for Hillary

Women for Hillary provides a weekly conference call and email updates with helpful information. Email womensoutreach@hillaryclinton.com to join.

Set up a **woman to woman phone bank** at yours or a friend's home. You can even call Hillary's new "Women Together" list, which only calls other women. Just enter the [call tool](#) and select "Pennsylvania: Women Together" to start calling. < <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/calls/phonebank/>>

MsPresidentNOW Resources

We've added some new Fact Sheets about Hillary's record and positions related to NOW's issues. They are posted on [nowpac.org](#), the [NOW Leaders Page](#), and the MsPresidentNOW Facebook page. The new additions are bolded.

Buttons

- [Order NOW4Hillary buttons](#)
Link from <http://now.org/leaderdoc/mspresidentnow-resources/>

Fact Sheets and Flyers

- Talking Points: NOW PAC's Endorsement of Hillary Clinton
- Flyer: Key Facts – Hillary's Positions on NOW Issues (Color PDF)
- Flyer: Key Facts – Hillary's Positions on NOW Issues (B&W PDF)
- Hillary's Record for LGBTQIA Rights
- **Hillary on Reproductive Health and Justice**
- **Hillary on the Elimination of Violence Against Women**
- **Hillary on Economic Justice and the Caregiving Economy**
- **Hillary on Gun Violence Prevention**
- **Hillary on Immigration Reform**
- **Hillary on Racial Justice**

Organizing Materials

Organizing materials are on the [NOW Leaders Page](#), and the MsPresidentNOW Facebook page.

New organizing materials: Participants in the NOW PAC Poster Session at the conference also wrote tips for success to share what they did during the primary. They have been combined into a booklet that is available, with other organizing resources, on the MsPresidentNOW Facebook page and on the NOW Leaders page: [MsPresidentNOW: State Tips for Success](#)

- **MsPresidentNOW: State Tips for Success**
- What NOW Members and Chapters Can Legally Do to Elect Hillary
- Who Speaks for NOW PAC Endorsements
- House Party Guide
- Sign-In Sheet
- Contribute to NOW PAC's Ms. President NOW Campaign
- Kickoff Event Exercises
- Take Action 1
- Video: [NOW Launches MsPresidentNOW \(formerly NOW4Hillary\) 2015-08-25](#)

Social Media

New in our social media section: Cindy Wolfe Boynton, President of CT NOW, wrote a number of Tweets and uploaded a bunch of photos that include quotes from Hillary about women's issues.

- MsPresidentNOW Tweet 4 Hillary
- Example Tweets for Hillary 2
- **Tweets for Hillary – Sept. 2016**
- [Link to Photos and Quotes: http://bit.ly/2cc6Oqr](http://bit.ly/2cc6Oqr)