

## **National NOW Chapters Report**

To: NOW National Board

From: Bonnie Grabenhofer, Vice President and Paul Wommack, Network Administrator/Chapter Services

Date: February 13, 2017

Board Meeting: February 25-26, 2017

### **Chapter Services Staffing**

The previous Field Organizer left NOW in early May 2015, and she has not been replaced. Bonnie Grabenhofer did much of the chapter services work since then. Beginning in January 2016, Paul Wommack assumed some chapter services responsibilities with an additional one day per week. Chapter Services include: creating annual reports; recording submissions, and reporting results; coaching chapters through chapter convening, deconvening, and mergers; assisting chapters as needed with reinstating and maintaining IRS tax-exempt status; ensuring that the IRS parent report is completed and submitted each year; filing new and revised chapter bylaws; and coaching/assisting chapters with social media.

NOW is currently in the process of hiring a Chapter Services Specialist.

### **Annual Reports**

The deadline for submitting 2015 Annual Reports was Dec. 31, 2016. This board report uses the data submitted by chapters on the 2015 annual report as well as current data from the database.

Chapters submitted 75 annual reports for 2015. About 43% of active chapters completed annual reports for 2015 compared to about 50% for 2014. This decrease from the 2012 and 2013 annual reports can be attributed to a lack of staff in chapter services. Previously, there were staff to follow up and assist chapters with annual reports which led to more chapters completing reports. In addition, there were 33 new chapters during 2016; however, these new chapters were not expected to submit reports for the previous year – 2015. If the new chapters are excluded, the submission rate is about the same as last year.

States aren't required to submit annual reports, but 12 of 32 active state chapters did submit annual reports – about 38%

## Active Chapters

For purposes of this report, chapters are considered **active** if they have at least 2 chapter officers and a valid address on file. Chapters are considered **dormant** if they have fewer than 2 chapter officers or no valid address. Of 341 chapters listed in the database, there are currently 184 active state and local chapters compared to 151 in 2015 – 33 more active chapters.

The new active chapters are a combination of dormant and convening chapters that became active in 2016:

- In 2016, 20 convening chapters became active.
- In 2016: 13 dormant chapters became active.

## State Chapters

There are 32 active state chapters.

- **Pacific:** Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington
- **Western:** Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Texas, Wyoming
- **Heartland:** Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin
- **Southern:** Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee
- **Eastern:** Washington D.C., Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia
- **Northern:** Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island

**Dormant state chapters** in need of revival are:

- **Pacific:** Hawaii
- **Western:** Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oklahoma, Utah
- **Heartland:** Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota
- **Southern:** Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina
- **Eastern:** Delaware, West Virginia
- **Northern:** Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont

## **New Chapter Interest Forms**

There has been a significant increase in New Chapter Interest Forms since 2015. NOW received 25 in 2014; 32 in 2015; 64 in 2016, and 28 in January 2017! Most of the influx of New Chapter Interest forms was received since the November election. During most months in 2016 we received 1-3 New Chapter Interest Forms per month. We have received 68 New Chapter Interest Forms since November through January 2017.

New chapter interest forms per month:

- February 2016: 1
- March 2016: 2
- April 2016: 3
- May 2016: 3
- June 2016: 1
- July 2016: 4
- August 2016: 3
- September 2016: 2
- October 2016: 5
- November 2016: 24
- December 2016: 16
- January 2017: 28

## **Convening Chapters**

When a chapter becomes a “Convening Chapter” it means that 3 NOW members are listed on a convenor form; it was signed by the convenor and state president; and the chapter was created as a convening chapter in the database. There were 15 convening chapters in 2016 through January 2017 – most of them November 2016 through January 2017.

- January – October 2016: 4
- November – December 2016: 5
- January 2017: 6

## **Task Forces**

Some chapters are choosing to create task forces rather than chapters. We don’t list them in the database and don’t have numbers on them.

The states that we heard are forming at least some Task Forces rather than chapters are:

- Rhode Island
- California
- Texas
- Kentucky

### **Social Media Presence**

Chapters' social media presence increased from 2014-2015. Chapter Twitter accounts increased by 17%, and Facebook accounts increased by 19%.

### **Rebate Eligibility**

To be eligible for rebates chapters must have:

- At least 2 chapter officers with current memberships
- A valid address on file
- Submitted a current annual report or at least 2 consecutive annual reports in the last 3 years
- Cashed their last rebate check

In early 2017, 132 of 184 active chapters were eligible for rebates -- about 72%.