

National NOW Chapters Report

To: NOW National Board

From: Elissa Blattman, Chapter Services Specialist, and Bonnie Grabenhofer, Vice President

Board Meeting: June 29, 2017

Chapter Services Staffing

After two years of the position being vacant, NOW hired a Chapter Services Specialist in April. Elissa Blattman will be supporting states with convening chapters and task forces, recording annual report information, providing chapters with information about IRS reporting and status, updating state and chapter information in NOW's database, responding to chapter rebates questions and other chapter-related inquiries, providing and updating the resources on the NOW Leaders section of the website, filling orders for NOW rounds and signs, and assisting with leadership development.

Elissa has 7 years experience working for nonprofits, including another women's membership organization and an MA in Cultural & Creative Industries, with a focus on gender in the media. And she's a NOW member serving as Co-President of her local chapter. We are very pleased that Elissa has joined the national NOW team.

Elissa has convened six chapters since starting at NOW, and is working to convene additional chapters. She has updated the Chapter Convenor Kit to include the most up-to-date information, and will be updating the Chapter Organizing Manual and Campus Affiliate Manual as well.

New IRS Requirement for Chapters

As of July 8, 2016, all new organizations that intend to operate as a 501(c)4 tax-exempt organization must submit Form 8976 if they have not filed Form 990-N, Form 990-EZ, or Form 1024 prior to that date. This applies to all new NOW chapters formed after that date. The IRS must receive Form 8976 to provide notification that a chapter is operating as a 501(c)4 organization within 60 days of the date its bylaws were adopted. There is a \$50 fee for filing this form, however, there is a penalty of \$20 per day each day the form is late, up to \$5,000.

Annual Reports

Chapters submitted 75 annual reports for 2015 and chapters already have completed 70 annual reports for 2016 as of June 2017.

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.

State Chapters

West Virginia NOW has become active again, with new state leadership elected earlier in 2017. Though Colorado NOW is not currently active on the state level, there has been one new convened chapter in the state in 2017, with another new chapter in the works. Iowa, Indiana, Oregon, and Virginia each have 3 new chapters in 2017. Louisiana and Washington both have 2 new chapters in 2017.

There are 33 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, West 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
- **Northern:** Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont

New Chapter Interest Forms

The New Chapter Interest form is what members or non-members fill out on the NOW website to let us know they are interested in starting a chapter or task force.

There has been a significant increase in New Chapter Interest Forms since 2015. NOW received 32 New Chapter Interest Forms in 2015; 64 in 2016; and 69 so far in 2017 (through May). Most of the influx of New Chapter Interest Forms has been received since the November 2016 election. During most months in 2016, we received 1-3 New Chapter Interest Forms per month. **We have received 109 New Chapter Interest Forms since November.**

New chapter interest forms per month:

- January – October 2016: 24
- November – December 2016: 40
- January 2017: 28
- February 2017: 11
- March 2017: 10
- April 2017: 13
- May 2017: 7

Convening Chapters

When a chapter becomes a “Convening Chapter” it means that 3 NOW members are listed on a Convenor Authorization Form, the form was signed by the convenor and state president, and the chapter was created as a convening chapter in the database. There were a total of 9 convening chapters in 2016. There have been 24 convening chapters so far in 2017 (through May).

- January – October 2016: 4
- November – December 2016: 5
- January 2017: 4
- February 2017: 10
- March 2017: 5
- April 2017: 1
- May 2017: 4

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

As of June 2017, 143 of 205 active chapters were eligible for rebates – about 70%.