

National NOW Chapters Report

To: NOW National Board

From: Supria Bhatia, Chapter Services Specialist

Date: July 5, 2018

Board Meeting: July 5, 2018

Supria Bhatia

Supria began working for NOW on May 29, 2018. Supria grew up in Upper Marlboro, Maryland and received her Bachelor's degree in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Prior to NOW, Supria was the Refugee Health Coordinator, contracted by the Department of Family Jobs and Services, at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Chapter Services Staffing Changes

Grace Ward is NOW's Development and Operations Intern for the current semester. She splits her time between the chapters and development departments. She is currently helping Supria process the 2017 NOW Annual Reports. In her other chapter work, she has assisted in processing annual reports. She has been diligent in updating, contacting, and mailing the FANs and NOW sustainers. Grace has also assisted in preparing conference materials, such as the addendum and PAC materials.

Annual Reports

Chapters submitted 75 annual reports for 2015, and 109 for 2016. The 2017 annual report was made available on the NOW Leaders section of the website on January 5, 2018. As of June 22, 2018, chapters have submitted 63 annual reports for 2017. For the remaining annual reports, Supria plans on reaching out to the Chapters to urge them to submit before the year ends.

Some of the comments and suggestions chapters have for National NOW, based on 2017 annual report submissions, include:

- Supportive and positive communication between state and local chapters.
- Email addresses. When you collect memberships at the national site, we would really appreciate it if email addresses were a required field. Having no way to communicate with our members except via paper mail saddles us with additional expenses -- if we have to pay for printing and stamps, it's money we can't spend on activism, and for a growing chapter like ours, that becomes a question of sustainability.
- Provide NOW T-shirts and other merchandise that would be available for order.

Some of the efforts and actions chapters completed in 2017, based on annual report submissions, include:

- Tabled at events
- Held press conferences
- Hosted film screenings
- Participated in marches
- Lobbied and met with elected officials
- Presented educational programs
- Partnered with other local organizations for fundraisers
- Registered voters

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 with National. Chapters are considered **dormant** if they have fewer than 2 chapter officers and/or no valid address on file with National.

State Chapters

There are 38 **active state chapters**:

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

Dormant state chapters in need of revival are:

- **Pacific:** Hawaii
- **Western:** Colorado, Idaho, Oklahoma, Utah
- **Heartland:** Nebraska, North Dakota
- **Southern:** Alabama, South Carolina
- **Eastern:** Delaware
- **Northern:** Connecticut, Maine, Vermont

Kansas NOW and Mississippi NOW have become active on the state level, since the last chapters board report. Since the last board report, Nevada NOW briefly went dormant, but is now active again.

New Chapter Interest Forms

There has been a significant increase in New Chapter Interest Forms since 2015, most likely due to the current political climate.

- 2015: 32
- 2016: 64
- 2017: 111
- 2018: 39 (as of June 25, 2018)

Convening Chapters

When a chapter becomes a Convening Chapter, it means 3 NOW members are listed on the Convenor Authorization Form, the form was signed by the convenor and state president (or relevant board member, if there is no state president), the form was submitted to National, and the chapter was created as a convening chapter in the database. There were a total of 9 convening chapters in 2016, 35 in 2017, and 4 thus far in 2018 (as of June 25).

- January - December 2016: 9
- January - December 2017: 35
- As of June 25, 2018, 4 chapters have been convened.

High School and College Campus Action Networks (CANs)

There has been a steady increase in new CANs over the past few months. We had 11 new CANs in 2016, and 19 in 2017, most of which were established in the second half of last year. Supria has established 2 CANs in June 2018.

Since Supria joined NOW, we have had 6 new CAN interest forms submissions.

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

Increased IRS Fee

Chapters that have lost tax-exempt status must apply to regain that status with the IRS. As of January 1, 2018, the IRS fee to do so has increased from \$400 to \$600. State and local chapter leaders should be diligent in filing their required 990-N e-Postcard or 990-EZ every year to ensure they do not lose tax-exempt status.

FYI NOW

The FYI NOW is the communication vehicle sent via email to NOW leaders – those who hold office at any level in NOW. The FYI NOW contains administrative information for chapters, chapter updates, and chapter highlights. The FYI NOWs listed below, have been sent thus far in 2018. We hope to add FYI NOWs to the NOW Leaders section of the website soon.

In addition to contributing to the FYI NOWs, Supria also plans to contribute to the Grassroots Spotlight in the News and Action Summary emails that are sent once a month.

- **January 2018**
 - 2017 Annual Report
 - Deadline Extended for Notification of National NOW Board Members Election
 - NOW Foundation's Women's Health Project: CFS Documentary Airs Monday, January 8
 - Heads Up! Enough is Enough Summit Planned for Early March [now April 25]
 - NOWPAC Will Meet January 13 -14 – Endorsement Recommendations Solicited
- **February 2018**
 - NOW 2018 Spring Board Meeting: March 10-11
 - 2018 National Conference
 - 2017 Annual Report
 - Maintaining Chapter Tax-Exempt Status
 - Chapter Highlights

Newest Chapter Highlights for upcoming FYI NOW

Supria will encourage chapters to send National NOW information so they can be included in the Chapter Highlights section of the FYI NOWs. Here are some examples:

- **Orange County NOW (CA)** - Orange County NOW is a proud exhibitor and sponsor for: Tea With Alice Paul and Me -- The Interesting Lives of Two Militant Visionaries Miss Alice Paul and Zoe Nicholson taking place on July 1. A Tea Reception will follow the event. You can learn more about the event [here](#) .