



# LAKE NOW

NOW AND FOREVER!

MAY 2013 LAKE NOW NOTES



## Upcoming Events to Get on Your Calendar

### Lake NOW May Meeting May 21st, 7:00PM

*M.T. Bland Library in Mt. Dora*

*Guest Speaker*

*Nancy Hurlbert*

*'State of the State'*

*Highlighting Women's Issues*

### LAKE NOW NEEDS YOU!!

We want our members to be involved and interested in our activities and programs. PLEASE, come to our meetings, and feel free to contact Carol King or Sandee Paradise with your input for programs and activities that you would like to see.

### 2013 NATIONAL NOW Convention

*SAVE THE DATE*

Friday, July 5– Sunday 7th

Chicago, IL

Hilton Chicago

720 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60605

312-922-4400

## GENERAL LAKE NOW NEWS

### Lake NOW Chapter to Host 2014 Florida NOW Conference in Mount Dora MAY 2014!!!

During Executive Session following the FL State NOW conference, it was voted that Lake NOW would, in fact, host the 2014 FL NOW conference in Mt. Dora, FL. Judi Phillips Jones, Carol King, Sandee Paradise and Nancy Hurlbert will be working as a start-up Committee to make Hotel arrangements and form other committees such as:

- Breakout Session Content and Scheduling
- Entertainment
- Guest Speaker (s) invitations
- Conference Brochure development
- Auctions, Special Fundraising Events
- Merchant Tables
- Establishing Sub-Committees!



ALL Lake NOW members will be invited to participate in this extremely important and challenging event. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Lake NOW to assemble an impressive event! Please talk with Judi or any of her Committee members for additional information. ALL of our Lake NOW talent will be needed to pull this off.

## MORE LAKE NOW NEWS...



## Lake NOW Book Club

The Lake NOW Book Club had its first meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at the W. T. Bland. The new members defined the particulars of how the club will operate and identified our first five books. The club will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in a meeting room at the W. T. Bland Library. Each meeting will be run by a different hostess who will lead the discussion of the book and, as desired, provide some snacks for the members. All Lake NOW members are welcome to join the book club. A second book club may be formed in the fall that will meet in the evening or on weekends to allow working members to participate. Our first books include: "In the Name of Honor: A Memoir, "Pope Joan", "The Feminine Mystique (50th Anniversary Version)", "Day After Night", "The Bluest Eye." Check out our WEBSITE for additional details.

## Lake NOW Speakers Bureau

Lake NOW is forming a Speakers Bureau to provide speakers on different topics to local organizations. We have many knowledgeable members in our organization and would like to provide some of this expertise as a resource to the community. This community involvement would help to raise Lake NOW's visibility in Lake County while provide a community service. An example of how this might work is speakers might go to a girl scout troop to speak about their work experiences. We could be role models for these future women! If you would be comfortable speaking to a group, please send Sandee Paradise ([msscgp@yahoo.com](mailto:msscgp@yahoo.com)) your available times and your knowledge area. Remember, you do not have to be an expert, just someone who knows something others don't. If you know things but are not sure about how comfortable you would be speaking, this is a solvable problem. Practice makes perfect!



## The Vagina Monologues



Do you have a dramatic flair? Do you enjoy theater? We might have just the thing for you. Lake NOW is investigating the possibility on putting on a production of the internationally-known play *The Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler in the spring of 2014. This collection of monologues is all about the feminine experience including our experiences with love, sex, orgasm, rape, and more. Planning is still in the early stages but watch this space.

## President's Note

Your Board is working to continue to shape and develop Lake NOW into the most dynamic and meaningful group we can possibly be!

We have been working on reviewing our Strategic Planning and Bylaws documents. We believe we are very close to presenting the Bylaws to our membership for final approval.

Our Strategic Planning has continued 'virtually' as we review in collect out thoughts in the planning document that now exists. Once our Board finalizes the document, we will present it and start gather-

ing membership input in this living document that will be our roadmap forward.

Another focus is our Committees and 'policy and procedures' documents that will help this and future boards and committees in their day-to-day work.

I want to personally thank the Board members who are working tirelessly to establish new and exciting programs and activities for you. And, thank you to the Board members who are working to establish sound administrative and financial procedures. **NOW AND FOREVER!** *Sherrie*

## Lake NOW OFFICERS' REPORTS TO THE MEMBERSHIP

### First Vice President for Programs—Carol King



At our last monthly meeting , I distributed pieces of paper and asked everyone to write down three topics of interest that they would like to see covered at future meetings or at field trips or socials or other events. Although we had a small meeting attendance, I received good feedback. Among the top five interests were Women's Health, Recap of the recent Florida State Legislature Session and it's affect on Women's issues, and Violence against Women. I am pleased to announce that we plan to cover these issues at our next three meetings.

As you know Nancy Hurlbert, recently returned from Tally Days, during the Legislative session, and will report next week on good and bad news affecting women's issue.. In June we hope to have a wonderful speaker from Planned Parenthood, if her schedule permits, to headline the program on Women's Health and in July we will have another good program on Violence against Women with a panel representing different concerned groups.

For all of you who didn't have a chance to give me your top three issues last month, please send them to me or give me a note at the meeting. As I said last month , your names are not necessary unless you might want me to get in touch with you. Everyone's input is important to us.

### Secretary—Barbara Hill



As Secretary, I will be seeking assistance with the preparation and publication of public information, which includes notices of meetings for newspapers, the preparation of flyers announcing the topic/guests at the Lake NOW General Membership meeting to be distributed to libraries, etc., as well as the preparation of articles and letters relating to current women's rights issues. Let's get the message out Lake NOW is vibrant and growing and as long as there are impediments to women's rights (whether current or future), we are not going away."



### Treasurer—Karen Salvat



I have been working tirelessly on processing our membership dues and coordinating with National on processes and procedures that directly affect our Chapter. We have a financial position currently and look forward to your continued support in all of our activities, fundraisers, and of course, always looking for new members!



## Lake NOW OFFICERS' REPORTS TO THE MEMBERSHIP

### Second Vice President for Membership—Sandee Paradise



#### Just Three Things

One of the most important characteristics of any organization is its membership. The organization is meant to serve its membership; without members, the organization would not exist. Like other organizations, we need to work on building our membership. People move away or leave the organization for other reasons and, if membership is not being built, this attrition will eventually doom the organization. Lake NOW is only in its second year but we want to grow bigger to be able to make the kind of impact we want to make on Lake County.

Growing our membership depends on just three things:

1. Prospective members must know we exist; otherwise, they will not know they can join our chapter.
2. Prospective members must have a positive impression of our organization.
3. Prospective members must believe they will benefit by joining our organization.

There are things we are doing to address each of these.

Our participation in local events such as the recent GSA events is one of the ways we create awareness of our organization. We hope that staging The Vagina Monologues will also help get our name out to the local population. Individual members can also help this effort by telling friends about our organization and inviting prospective members to our meetings.

A good reputation is important because once lost, it is very difficult to recover. On this note, we have asked all members to avoid bra burnings on the front steps of the court house and other public buildings. We want to be seen by our communities as being a cause for good. Our Speakers Bureau will be one way we can serve the community in a positive way.

We want all members to believe there are benefits to joining Lake NOW. Of course, the fellowship of being with people who share your beliefs in women's equality is one clear benefit but we want to do more. To this end, we are sponsoring things that are fun for the member to do such as the social events we organize and the Lake NOW Book Club. We also want to help keep our members informed. Our web page, newsletter, and monthly programs do this.

We are doing many things but we want to do so much more. Your help and input is wanted. I challenge each member to do just three things this month:

- Tell someone who otherwise would not know that you are a proud member of Lake NOW.
- Bring a friend to one of our events or the monthly meeting.
- Speak out. Tell us how we can do better; tell a senator how he can do better.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Sandee**

## Lake NOW Continues Fighting for Gay-Straight Alliance for Lake County Middle Schools

Several members of our Lake NOW group have been actively participating at the Lake County School Board meetings providing testimony in support of the Gay-Straight Alliance being debated by the School Board members.

Now having appeared at every meeting (all three of them), the school board is about to make their final decision regarding school policy for student clubs and organizations.

While the ultimate long term policy is still unknown, we are so proud to report that the requested GSA at Carver Middle School WAS approved and is now up and running, even if only for the short period of time this school year.

Thank you for all who have participated and supported in demonstrating our support in the effort to protect vulnerable minorities from the hostile environment they experience as a result of their perceived sexual orientation.

Lastly, your Lake NOW President will be chairing a new committee that grew out of the GSA meetings, the "Lake County Equality Steering Committee." This impressive group is being formed from Rollins College professors with incredible experience leading equality efforts, Democratic Leaders in our area, leaders in civil rights, and more.

**"In the end, it will not be the words of our enemies we remember  
but the silence of our friends."**

Quote from Martin Luther King Jr.

### Your Lake NOW BOARD

**President: Sherrie Aly**  
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**1st Vice President (Programs):**  
**Carol King**  
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*msscgp@yahoo.com, (352) 343-2064*

**Secretary: Barbara Hill**  
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**Treasurer: Karen Salvat**  
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### Lake NOW Meeting Date Question to the Membership—Tuesday or Wednesday?

A group of current members has requested we change the day of the monthly meeting from Tuesday to Wednesday, where it originally was held. It would now be the third Wednesday of the month. The Bland Library is available provided we tell them ASAP. Therefore if change is very inconvenient for you please let us know as soon as possible by Email or phone or at the meeting next week. You may call or email Sherrie Aly or Carol King with your comments and/or recommendations. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you agree to the change. It will be discussed at the upcoming meeting for final approval. Thank you all.

