

# Philadelphia NOW

Autumn 2009



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## VOTE

## NOV. 3!

## Philadelphia NOW to elect new board

On December 14, 2009 the Philadelphia Chapter of NOW will hold elections for President and Board Members. Below is a statement by Karen Bojar, President since 2001, who will be stepping down.

I have very much enjoyed being President of Philadelphia NOW for the past eight years, but it's time for a change, both for me personally and for the organization. We have an impressive team of officers, political action committee board members, and chapter activists who have done a great deal to advance feminist issues and raise the profile of Philadelphia NOW.

Six years ago we started a political action committee to support our efforts to elect feminist candidates. Five years ago we set up the Philadelphia NOW Education Fund, a separately incorporated non-profit which supports our educational work. Our major effort in this area was the very successful, well attended 2006 Women of Color Conference chaired by Cindy Bass.

Our greatest challenge is attracting younger members who will remain committed to the organization. Many of the older progressive organizations are experiencing similar difficulties recruiting a younger generation of leaders who are committed to building the organization and staying involved through good times and bad.

It may be that a younger generation will build different organizations. However, a multi-issue, multi-strategy feminist organization that is active on the local, state, and national level is still very much needed.

Although the feminist movement has been extraordinarily successful, this success has not been shared equally. Women with economic privileges and access to elite educational institutions have made enormous strides in the professions, business, political and civic life. Of course there is still a glass ceiling in American life. However, many affluent white men have been willing to make room for their daughters--the same men who have fought the economic policies which would provide opportunities and a robust safety net for the majority of women in our society.

At this stage in its history, NOW must focus on expanding opportunities for the women who have not been the primary beneficiaries of the feminist movement—working class and low-income women, who are disproportionately women of color.

Lauren Townsend, who is running for chapter president is uniquely qualified to take on these challenges. She is committed to continuing and strengthening the partnership we have built with the Philadelphia Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). Lauren has often referred to herself as a member of the bridge generation, women in their 40's who can relate to older feminists as well as to a younger generation of women in their teens, 20's, and 30's.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a candidate like Lauren, who has extensive experience as an activist, a deep understanding of feminist issues, and who is very well-known and highly regarded by local progressive community.

Lauren understands that if our organization is to continue to exist it must do more to address issues of concern to young women, women of color and low-income and working class women. She has recruited a strong team of NOW veterans and active members who are new to NOW leadership. Under their leadership, I am very optimistic about the future of Philadelphia NOW.

# New Slate for Philadelphia NOW Board

## Upcoming MEETINGS

5:30 PM,  
1606 Walnut St.

*NOV. 9 \**

*DEC. 14 \**

On December 14, 2009, the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) will hold elections for all Executive Board positions. Following is a list of the slate of candidates.

**President—Lauren Townsend**

**Executive VP—Dee Johnson**

**VP for Finance—Kathy Black**

**VP for Membership—Caryn Hunt**

**Secretary/Newsletter Producer—Terri Falbo**

**Representatives to State Board -**

**Doris Pridgen & Francesca Alvarado**

**Alternate Representative to State Board-**

**Rosa Woods**

*For information, statements and photos of candidates, please see*

[www.philanow.blogspot.com](http://www.philanow.blogspot.com).

## Lauren Townsend, Candidate for President of Philadelphia NOW

*“NOW must focus on expanding opportunities for the women who have not been the primary beneficiaries of the feminist movement—working class and low-income women, who are disproportionately women of color.”*

**-Karen Bojar**

Lauren Townsend has been doing progressive organizing and advocacy since she moved to Philadelphia in 1984. For the last three years, Lauren has worked in partnership with Lou Freimiller doing general political consulting. Townsend Freimiller Associates has been at the helm of a number of winning campaigns. Some of these were with candidates endorsed by Philadelphia NOW PAC including: Councilwoman Maria Quinones Sanchez; Superior Court Judge, Christine Donohue, State Representative Vanessa Brown and Democrat, Dawn Segal who is running for judge of Philadelphia's Municipal Court. Currently, Lauren and Lou are running Montgomery County Commissioner and former congressman, Joe Hoeffel's campaign for governor of Pennsylvania.

Before beginning her consulting business, Lauren was the Executive Director of Citizens for Consumer Justice (CCJ) for almost 10 years. CCJ was responsible for: convening Pennsylvanians for a Fair and Independent Court that opposed the Alito nomination to the Supreme Court; coordinating the success-

ful Pennsylvania arm of Americans United to Protect Social Security and the Emergency Campaign for America's Priorities; registering over 25,000 new African American and Latino voters 2004; executing highly-publicized bus trips to Canada with seniors who couldn't afford their prescription drugs; successfully fighting tort reform legislation through the pro-active Pennsylvania Safety and Justice Act; AND convening the Patients Not Profits Coalition during the demise of the Allegheny Health System.

Lauren has also worked with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, Pennsylvania Citizen Action, The Philadelphia Singers, The Clay Studio, New Jersey Citizen Action, Farm Workers Support Committee, Kensington Joint Action Council, Clara Bell Duvall Education Fund, NARAL-PA, Lutheran Settlement House Women's Program and The League of Conservation Voters.

Lauren lives in West Philadelphia with her son, Alex, who is a junior at Central High School.

*"I am honored to be asked to run for president of Philadelphia NOW," said Lauren Townsend. "If the membership of Philadelphia elects me and this incredible slate of women to the board, my top priorities will be: aggressive recruitment of diverse young feminists; public and media relations about the issue campaigns on which we have been (and will be) working; solidifying our growing clout in elections; and fundraising"*





**Philadelphia NOW PAC and Pennsylvania NOW PAC  
Endorsements for November 3 General Election:**

**Endorsed by Philadelphia NOW PAC**

**For the Court of Common Pleas:**

**Roxanne Covington (D)**

**Angeles Roca (D)**

**Diane Thompson (D)**

**For Municipal Court**

**Dawn Segal (D)**

**For Traffic Court**

**Earlene Green (D)**

**Endorsed by Pennsylvania NOW PAC**

**For PA Supreme Court**

**Jack Panella (D)**

**For PA Superior Court**

**Anne E. Lazarus (D)**

**Kevin Francis McCarthy (D)**

**Teresa Sarmina (D)**

**\*Robert J. Colville (D)**

**For PA Commonwealth Court**

**Barbara Ernsberger (D)**

**Linda Judson (D)**

“Support” is given to those candidates who are good on most of our issues but have a problem with one or two; we believe that these candidates are significantly better than their opposition. Candidates marked with an asterisk (\*) have received “Support only” by the PA NOW PAC.