



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Terry Garcia and Lika Smith

This Fall/Winter 2010 Season is an important time for us; locally, on state levels and nationally. It is a time to set the stage for future feminist and progressive politics, (slow as they may seem), to continue to thrive. Consider the alternative which furthers the Mad Hatter's Tea Party as our new reality. The right wing conservatives are casting an entire set of toxic characters complete with the bizarre, the bigoted, and the unjust far right religious zealots who thrive on chaos and hatred as a state of mind. We cannot let them win. We must press on towards justice and solidarity to create the world we envision. **VOTE and encourage good folks to VOTE.**

Visualize "I DO for LGBTQ". What if we just change DADT to DO ASK, DO TELL? How about that for turning the tables and creating an acronym and policy we can embrace.

NOW has and will always support and endorse a woman's right to choose freedom and independence and we recognize the adversity in this modern day for the warriors on the frontlines for Choice and we say - YES! We're with you Brothers and Sisters, all the way!

It is Election season for Seattle NOW and we encourage you to increase your participation in NOW by becoming a Board Member. Your talent, passions, and energy are needed to help us make a difference; to stand up to those who would rather turn back the clocks and choose our health options for us; to work in solidarity with those seeking a living wage. If you're a Social Media activist, Political Junkie, Event Planner, or an 'on the front lines' activist, we need you to get involved. We're looking for feminist minded folks from all walks of life to join us in fighting for women's rights and social justice!

Watch for Seattle NOW's 40th year Anniversary Celebration in March of 2011 - food, festivities and fun - celebrating our victories and our diversity. We will celebrate Seattle's Feminists of generations past, the present, and look forward to what's ahead - calling on young spunky future feminists carrying their own banners with pride to join the march for equality and solidarity, in a new and different way, yet, always with love.

We will proceed - we must succeed - si se puede! La lucha sigue.

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Board appointments can be made throughout the year, so if you are interested in becoming involved please contact:

Seattle NOW @ 206-632-8547 or
email: nowseattle@gmail.org



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HERSTORY

SEATTLE NOW – 40 YEARS AND STILL STRONG.....

The Seattle Chapter of the National Organization for Women was founded in 1970. Originally named the Seattle-King County Chapter, it was the 36th chapter of NOW chartered in the United States.

The founders' intent was to work "peacefully and within the system, through the courts, through all of the constitutional means available to effect the changes that our system has channels for." In 1972 our then president, Elaine Day Latourell, expanded upon that intent by stating, "NOW is dedicated to working within the system and when that doesn't work, to raising hell" For 35 years Seattle NOW has not strayed from the commitment made by our founding mothers to pushing buttons, breaking barriers and opening doors for women and girls.



Before the mid-seventies Seattle NOW had helped to establish the Seattle Women's Commission which later established the Seattle Office for Women's Rights. NOW members founded the Washington Women's Political Caucus and Seattle NOW paid the Caucus' first bill. Seattle NOW was instrumental in securing the right of a married woman to sue alone for personal injuries to herself, to manage her own earnings and to co-sign with her husband when joint property was sold. The word "sex" was added to laws against discrimination in employment, public accommodation and real estate transactions. We helped to make it illegal to cancel women's auto insurance and credit cards merely because a divorce had occurred.

NOW was a prime sponsor of the Washington State Equal Rights Amendment ratified by our Legislature. In the face of the national wave of anti-abortion terrorism, we continue to work to protect the rights guaranteed by Washington's 1991 Reproductive Privacy Act. We have established the Feminist Overground Railroad which pays for transportation and safe lodging for women who must travel to Seattle for abortion services which, though legal, are not available in the majority of Washington's counties.

We have continued our efforts to establish and maintain better working conditions for women and families. In 2005 we joined with the NW Women's Law Center (now Legal Voices) and began our campaign to educate people about the "high cost of low prices" at Wal-Mart. We continue to work with UFCW Local 21 in their efforts to unionize local Wal-Marts in this area. Our Economic Justice for Women Taskforce, in conjunction with Sisters in the Trades and the Evergreen College Labor Center worked to educate State and Federal legislators about the importance of distributing Federal Stimulus Funds in ways that provide union-wage jobs and child care for women in the work force.

We have over the years held innumerable public forums on issues such as abortion, "Jane's House", Social Security, breast cancer, body image, welfare reform, education, AIDS and woman, the effects of advertising on women, self-defense, and racism/white privilege.

In 2007 Seattle NOW helped host the Women of Color and Allies Summit (WOCA) which, along with being an amazingly wonderful conference of women of all colors, also resulted in strengthening our ties with women working for peace and justice in the Puget Sound area. Much of the focus of the conference was on immigration rights and healthcare reform we continue to work in that area as well as other issues that support progressive global politics.

2010 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, Seattle NOW, joined dozens of other women's and progressive groups and community support groups to recognize the important date for IWD and co-sponsored a March for International Women's Day, participating in the march providing both financial and other resources towards this successful event and to applaud and recognize various feminists and women of color and other leaders in our communities that work towards peace, justice, reproductive rights for all women and LGBTQ and other social justice issues for all.

Seattle NOW turns 40 this year and we will continue to work towards our goals of a fair and equitable society for all women, girls and the men that love us and to promote progressive social justice by all means, and as before, when that does not work, as so eloquently stated by our founding foremothers:

"NOW is dedicated to working within the system and when that doesn't work, to raising hell"

VOTER'S GUIDE TO 2010 BALLOT INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE 1053: *REQUIRES 67% APPROVAL VOTE OF THE LEGISLATURE TO RAISE TAXES AND CREATE NEW TAXES.*

VOTE NO ON INITIATIVE 1053

Should we let one-third of legislators block passage of the budget or anything related to state revenue?

When you put it like that, you see Tim Eyman's I-1053 for what it is: an intentional recipe for gridlock in Olympia. In California, a similar super-majority requirement has been an unmitigated disaster.

I-1053 is a harmful, undemocratic impediment to our elected legislators' ability to fund the critical state services we all rely upon, especially during the current severe economic downturn.

INITIATIVE 1082: *ALLOWS PRIVATE INSURERS TO COMPETE WITH OUR PUBLIC WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM*

VOTE NO ON INITIATIVE 1082!

Should AIG and other insurance companies take over our public nonprofit workers' compensation system? Should we let them work the same "private sector efficiency" magic that they have on our health care system?

The truth is that I-1082 would drive up employers' costs by at least 25% and that would kill jobs in this state. In states with privatized systems, taxpayers have been forced to bail out insolvent insurers that left injured workers and employers hanging.

INITIATIVE 1098: *REFORMS OUR IMBALANCED AND UNFAIR TAX SYSTEM AND GENERATES DEDICATED FUNDING FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE*

VOTE YES ON INITIATIVE 1098!

Should people who can afford it, pay more taxes than poor people? I-1098 tackles the elephant in Washington's living room: As a percentage of their incomes, the rich here pay less in taxes, and the poor pay more, than in any other state. It's called a regressive tax structure.

I-1098 will make the tax code fairer by creating a high-earners income tax on couples with joint incomes of more than \$400,000 a year (\$200,000 for individuals) to raise desperately needed revenue dedicated to education and health care. At the same time, 1098 addresses our unfair tax system by:

- Reducing small business B&O taxes. By increasing the small business tax credit to \$4800, 80% of businesses will be exempt from the B&O tax.
- Reducing the state portion of property taxes by 20%

INITIATIVES 1100 AND 1105: *ENDS OUR STATE'S LIQUOR CONTROL SYSTEM BY PRIVATIZING THE SALE OF HARD LIQUOR*

VOTE NO ON INITIATIVES 1100 AND 1105!

These rival initiatives funded by dueling retail special-interests would privatize Washington liquor stores, eliminating more than 1,000 family-wage jobs and costing the state hundreds of millions of dollars per year in revenue. That means even more cuts in core state services. Under our current system, markup on sales of liquor goes to the state, cities and counties to fund core public services like law enforcement, education and health care. The liquor control board estimates that sales of hard liquor generate \$600 million a biennium in net revenue.

Our state liquor stores have the best compliance rate in the nation for avoiding alcohol sales to minors. Public safety officials have denounced I-1100 and I-1105.

INITIATIVE 1107: *ENDS TAX INCREASES ON CANDY, SODA, AND BOTTLED WATER.*

VOTE NO ON INITIATIVE 1107!

Should we force the Legislature to do another all-cuts budget?

Should we revoke taxes on soda pop, bottled water, candy and gum, compelling the Legislature to make even more severe cuts in education, public safety and health care?

Callously indifferent to the billions of dollars in state job and service cuts enacted in the past two years, out-of-state industry groups funded I-1107 to protect their products from taxation.

REFERENDUM 52: *ALLOWS STATE TO SELL BONDS TO FUND ENERGY SAVINGS RETROFIT TO SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE.*

VOTE YES ON REFERENDUM 52!

SHOULD WE CREATE JOBS BY REPAIRING AND UPGRADING SCHOOLS?

The "Schools & Jobs Referendum" would issue \$505 million in bonds to create some 30,000 jobs doing energy repair and retrofitting work at public schools, state colleges and universities.

R52 will provide funds to remove asbestos, mold, lead and other toxins from our state's schools. More than 45 % of school space in Washington was built or last remodeled prior to 1969. These buildings are old, unsafe and potentially putting our students at risk. This investment will create desperately needed jobs and energy cost savings for the state over the long term. It will pay for itself and frontload the jobs NOW, when we need them.

WASHINGTON STATE NOW/PAC ENDORSEMENTS LEGISLATIVE RACES

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>How to Contact</u>	
Eric Oemig	Senate 45	www.voteeric.com	206-595-3013
Scott White	Senate 46	www.scottwhite.com	206-310-7970
Claudia Kauffman	Senate 47	www.claudiaforsenate.com	253-737-4622
Derek Stanford	House 1 - Position 1	www.derekstanford2010.com	425-481-6231
Luis Moscoso	House 1 - Position 2	www.electluis.net	425-773-2826
Marko Liias	House 21 - Position 2	www.markoliias.com	425-610-8683
Laurie Jenkins	House 27 - Position 1	www.lauriejenkins.com	253-365-9000
Jeanne Darnielle	House 27 - Position 2	www.jeannedarneille.com	253-756-0976
Cindy Ryu	House 32 - Position 1	www.cindyryu.org	253-370-0201
Kris Lytton	House 40 - Position 1	www.krislytton.com	360-299-4542

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GEORGIE KUNKEL

She's 90 years old.
She's one of Seattle NOW's founding foremothers
and its first full-term President.

AND
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She does incredible stand up comedy.

AND
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DEFENDING SOCIAL SECURITY

by Thalia Syracopoulos

Many of us, young and old, have been alarmed by the damage inflicted on our individual and national well-being by the floundering economy and the ongoing Gulf oil spill. Meanwhile, another insidious threat to all of us who live and work in this country has been largely ignored.

What has been given great attention is the opinion of those who call themselves “fiscal conservatives”. They insist that our federal budget deficit is our nation’s biggest threat and that our “unsustainable” Social Security system is responsible for the deficit and must be cut back.

In response to these so-called fiscal conservatives, President Obama has created the Bipartisan Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. The Committee’s job is to recommend ways to decrease our federal deficit, which has indeed reached astronomical levels. However, rather than concentrating on the devastating degree to which such things as the Iraq and Afghan wars, billions in tax cuts for the wealthy and the ongoing economic collapse triggered by the greed of Wall Street have increased our deficit, the Commission appears intent on attacking the most important and successful part of our National personal safety net – Social Security.



Under serious consideration are proposals to weaken the formula that determines initial benefits; to undercut cost-of-living protection; and to raise the age of full retirement from 67 to as much as 70. As the “fiscal conservatives” speak, they reassure the old folks who are already on Social Security that none of these changes would affect those at or near retirement age. They do not speak of the reality of what Social Security is and what it means to every one of us regardless of our age. They never mention that Social Security has nothing to do with the federal deficit. They never recognize how Social Security has done, particularly for women and children, during its 75 years of existence.

They frighten us all about the impact of the retirement of the “Boomer” generation while never telling us that it is not true. The Boomer’s retirements were anticipated and Congress made minor changes to the payroll tax cap and retirement age in 1983 to compensate for them.

As a result, the managers of the Social Security Trust Fund declare the program will pay benefits in full until 2037. The conservative Congressional Budget Office estimates that the fund will pay full benefits until 2043, when nearly all the Boomers will be dead.

What these “fiscal conservatives” do not speak of is that Social Security is an insurance policy. Every working person pays into it. As a result, every working person has the right to receive the benefits for which they paid. Over the years, the working people of this country have grown the Social Security Trust Fund to its present value of \$2.6 TRILLION.

It is true that the Federal Government has borrowed from the SS Trust Fund. However, unless our country experiences a complete social, political and economic collapse the SS Trust fund is not endangered. And, indeed, if our country did suffer such a collapse, the SS Trust Fund would be the least of our worries.

Presently 51 million people in this country receive monthly Social Security checks. Of these, only 33 million are retired workers. The others are:

- 3 million spouses or children of retired workers
- 4.2 million surviving spouses of deceased workers
- 1.9 million children of deceased workers
- 7.4 million disabled workers
- 1.8 million children or spouses of a disabled worker

There are 3.1 million children under age 18 who receive Social Security and 900,000 adults who have been disabled since childhood who get benefits as dependents of a retired, disabled or deceased parent.

People who work paid for these benefits. They have the right to collect them just as any of us has the right to collect on any life/disability policy for which we paid. We did our part to prevent ourselves from suffering sudden, devastating poverty as a result of serious injury or death. It is wrong for Congress to cut the deficit by cutting our benefits or by raising the age at which we are eligible to collect them.

But there is good news. More than 60 organizations across the nation have formed a coalition called “Social Security Works”. Its purpose is to prevent any cuts to Social Security benefits or any increase in the retirement age.

More than 18 local organizations, including Seattle NOW are already members of “Social Security Works/Washington”. We have already gotten support from both of our Senators and several of our Congressional Representatives who have taken a public stand against any negative changes to Social Security. We continue to work on this and have every reason to hope that our efforts will be successful in Washington and across the country.

CALL FOR 2011 NOMINATIONS

BOARD NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD FOLLOWING OUR "All Holiday Gathering" in December 2010. Event details to be announced. Please see the insert for the nomination form and send in your nominations!

IN REMEMBRANCE AND WITH LOVE AND GREAT THANKS TO AN EXCEPTIONAL PERSON – AN EXCERPT FROM: "KINDNESS, COURTESY, LOVE, AND RESPECT:" A MEMORIAL AND VIGIL FOR DR. GEORGE TILLER

By [Marcy Bloom](#), GIRE

It is still very painful for me to remember that, slightly more than a year ago, so many of us lost so much: a beloved friend, an exceptional human being, a compassionate doctor, a skilled teacher and mentor, and an inspirational role model. I knew Dr. Tiller and was aware that he viewed his Wichita medical practice at Women's Health Care Services as a reproductive health *ministry*. Truly a unique perspective from a unique man. Dr. Tiller was affectionately called St. George by the close-knit community of abortion providers who were constantly drawn to his ever-present and upbeat courage, conviction, and compassion. In fact, among so many other things, Dr. Tiller was known for his "Tillerisms," phrases and reflections that demonstrated his views and attitudes about his life and work. These Tillerisms continue to inspire me and remind me that George Tiller was far more than an abortion provider and even much more than the humane physician who called himself a woman-educated doctor. He helped pregnant women in dire circumstances, desperate with nowhere else to turn. These include those women (and often their families), with wanted pregnancies that had gone tragically wrong, either because of damaging and/or fatal fetal anomalies, or life-threatening health conditions to the women or girls themselves. With his dedication, optimism, and commitment even through decades of relentless threats, harassment, bombings, arsons, and shootings, Dr. Tiller ultimately became a symbol of love, grace, and kindness that came to be larger than life. His Tillerisms truly reflect that; below are only a few.



- *"Kindness, Courtesy, Justice, Love, and Respect." "Attitude Is Everything." "Courage is not the ignorance of danger; it is the management of our emotions in the face of reality and the ability to live sanely during heightened levels of opposition."*
- *"Trust Women." "Abortion is not a cerebral or reproductive issue. Abortion is a matter of the **heart**. For until one understands **the heart** of a woman, nothing else about abortion makes any sense at all."*

Stay Safe, Live Long and Prosper, and May the FORCE be with you."

Dr. Tiller also used those last few Star trek missives and integrated them into his Tillerisms. And these will help us get through the pain of the dark and ferocious forces of anti-choice fanaticism as we continue to advance safe abortion care, respect, and reproductive justice for women and girls everywhere.

As the crowd slowly began to disperse and I hugged friends and colleagues on the cool Seattle evening of Dr. Tiller's memorial event in Seattle, the sun peeked through in an attempt to drive away the darkness. I noticed that someone had written on one of the banners: "Dr. Tiller was a savior." Yes, he was...and will always remain so in our hearts. I felt some comfort as I turned my face towards the sun.

JOIN SEATTLE NOW'S ALERT LIST!

Did you know that Seattle NOW emails out our Calendar of Events every month? We also email the occasional notices of Zap Actions and NOW sponsored events of special interest to our members.

Roughly 200 of our 650 members are already on our email distribution list. If you would like to be, please just drop us a line at membership@nowseattle.org and ask us to add you to the Seattle NOW Alert List.

You don't have to be afraid that we'll inundate your mailbox with unwanted mail. We send anywhere from 1 to 3 emails per month. We never share, trade, or sell our members' email addresses or other personal information. In addition to staying informed and engaged, you can help the chapter save money for important actions, events, and programs. Contact: info@nowseattle.org to get added to our Seattle NOW email list.

YOUR NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SEATTLE CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Submission Guidelines: Articles, letters to the editor, and other contributions are welcome from any NOWsletter reader.

Submission CD can be mailed to:

Seattle NOW
3720 Airport Way South
Seattle, WA 98134-2217

Or submissions can be emailed to: info@nowseattle.org

Advertising is available in 1/8, 1/4, 1/2 and full-page sizes. For rates, send a request email to: info@nowseattle.org

***Editorial Policy:** All submissions are subject to editing unless the author notes otherwise and includes day/evening phone numbers. If unreachable, the article may be omitted. The Seattle NOW Board reserves the right to select and refuse articles and advertising. The material in this publication does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Seattle NOW Board of Directors.*

JOIN SEATTLE NOW AND BE PART OF THE CHANGE.

THERE IS STRENGTH IN OUR NUMBERS!

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Dues include newsletters, action updates, legislative reports, meeting announcements and memberships in all three levels of the National Organization for Women – National NOW, Washington State NOW & local Seattle NOW Chapter.

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SEATTLE NOW 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

- Actively supporting UFCW 21 workers who have been in contract negotiations since May 2010 and have yet to achieve an acceptable contract. We've written letters, met with store managers, participated in an "action" at U Village in Seattle and met with the UFCW negotiating team and our community allies in solidarity and to support their efforts.
- As an ally to SEIU Local 6, we contacted the King County Council and King County Executive Dow Constantine in support of the workers in the downtown Seattle Bus Tunnel. We asked that King County not fund anti-union employers with public money. After all good union wages with good benefits contribute to making our economy stronger.
- Women's Equality Day Event at MOHAI: Senators, legislators, diverse women, community panel speakers and more – came to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Washington women getting the right to Vote. Guests were treated to a free tour of the 'Women's Votes, Women's Voices' exhibit on WA STATE Suffrage.
- Seattle NOW joined with other feminist activist groups to organize a fabulous march on International Women's Day and to host a marvelous event honoring some of the incredible women whose work has made our community safer and better.
- Gasworks Peace Concert: This summer, our members and feminist allies registered voters while enjoying the sounds of talented Blues musicians.
- Fremont Parade and Solstice Fair: NOW has participated in this community event for many years and we continue to enjoy meeting new friends and seeing long time supporters!
- GAY PRIDE: SEATTLE NOW marched with PRIDE and had a lot of fun doing it! Thanks to our organizers, Shae and Amanda!
- We provided a speaker for the North Seattle CC class on Psychology of Gender.
- We provided speakers for the SCCC Women in Society Lectures Series. They spoke on Feminism and Politics, focusing on reproductive freedom, globally and nationally.
- Cervical Cancer Awareness Week: NOW presented and staffed tables at various college campuses in and around Seattle to inform students on the importance of health awareness and early cervical cancer testing and vaccinations.