



ND Women's Voice

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Fighting Personhood Legislation** 2
- Contacting ND's Delegation** 3
- Giving Hearts Day** 4
- Searching for 2013 NDWN Woman of the Year** 4
- 2012 Opportunities and Advancements for Women** 5
- WE Rise Event Announcement** 6
- Ready to Run Graduates Champion Children** 6
- Recognizing NDWN Donors** 7
- Become a Member** 8

From the Director's Desk



2013 could well be a watershed year for North Dakota. Changes have been aggressive in the state and our state policy-makers have to make a lot of decisions to catch up. Where services and infrastructure has not kept up to the growth, the legislature needs to figure out how to support child care and affordable housing. A number of bills have been filed to funnel state support into building more affordable housing and funding into child care. But, while these needs are begging for attention,

extreme legislation is circulating to severely, if not completely, infringe on women's reproductive rights.

Throughout the session the North Dakota Women's Network will be actively fighting to increase state support for vital programs and fighting to hold back attacks on women's rights. NDWN posts a weekly legislative update on our website. We post hearings and the status of bills of interest. All NDWN supporters are encouraged to not only follow along with NDWN. But more importantly, voice your opinion to your legislators.

One of the most important tools for the session is available through the state legislative website. The homepage for the legislative assembly is: www.legis.nd.gov

Find your legislator here: <https://www.legis.nd.gov/lcn/assembly/constituentViews/public/findmylegislator.htm>

And contact them here: <https://www.legis.nd.gov/lcn/assembly/constituentViews/public/publicviewpointormessage.htm>

Speak up and be part of the process!

Member's Corner: Featuring Tonya Stebbins

The Member's Corner was created for you to become acquainted with a fellow member of the Women's Network. Say "hello" to this issue's featured member...



I first became aware of the NDWN through an advertisement for their "Ready to Run" training. Being married to a state employee for 25 years, ND politics has long been part of our lives. With two newly independent children and a recently closed business, I longed to find an outlet to make a difference. I decided to attend the January 2011 "Ready to Run" training to learn what was involved in a campaign and how to lobby. Mostly though, I

attended for the opportunity to meet some independent, professional women. In rural ND, opportunities for that are few and far between. After a wonderfully interactive, informal day of meeting with our state's most inspirational women leaders; hearing their journeys; feeling their passion; and absorbing their wisdom and courage; it became clear it was my turn. I finally had the one thing always missing...time. I was 'as ready to run as I would ever be', according to Pam Gulleon. A month later, I was nominated as a District 8 candidate for the ND House of Representatives.

I began attending First Feminist Friday gatherings where my

network and support system grew and my voice was encouraged. Throughout the ups and downs of a partisan campaign, I found comfort knowing, win or lose, my newly found network of advocates would be there. Their mission to make a place at the policy table for all women would continue. Their passion to push each of us to reach beyond our comfort zone, to be engaged in a world with a desperate need for compassionate, collaborative, strong women leaders was inspirational. Who wouldn't want to join a group like that? Although I didn't win my race, it was an amazing networking journey. Thanks NDWN!

Coalition Formed to Fight Personhood Legislation

By Karla Rose Hanson

The moment a woman's egg is fertilized, some believe it should have all the constitutional rights as its parents.

So-called "personhood" legislation has been introduced in the last three North Dakota Legislative Assemblies.

As North Dakota's legislature kicks off another session, many expect a personhood bill to be introduced again.

Because the prior bills have gone further along in the process in each session, there is a chance that North Dakota could pass personhood into law in 2013, becoming the first state in the nation to do so.

Coalition Formed to Educate

In response, a group was formed to educate lawmakers and citizens about the broad and negative impact of a personhood bill and other potential bills.

The North Dakota Coalition for Privacy in Health Care is a non-partisan group of national and state organizations and individuals who believe government should not interfere in the private relationship between patients and healthcare providers.

Laws that directly or indirectly dictate or limit how your doctor interacts with you puts your health at risk and infringes on your right for privacy in health care.

The Coalition opposes any bill that defines human life as beginning the moment an egg is fertilized. It also opposes any bill that would ban IVF, regulate the number eggs that are fertilized or the number of embryos

transferred into the uterus, or affect the ability to freeze embryos.

Unconstitutional & Costly Law

The goal of personhood legislation is to challenge *Roe v Wade* and end elective abortion. However, in April 2012, the Oklahoma Supreme Court declared personhood legislation to be unconstitutional. And in October 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal on that ruling, upholding the lower court's decision.

If a personhood law passes in North Dakota, it would be legally challenged, requiring the state to spend up to \$4 million to defend the law. Yet, the state's defense would likely be unsuccessful due to last year's court decisions, wasting taxpayer dollars.

Meanwhile, North Dakota would attract national media attention for being the first state to pass a personhood bill.

Broad, Negative Impact

If passed, personhood legislation would have many far-reaching and negative effects:

Fertility Treatment: Infertile couples couldn't build a family through in vitro fertilization (IVF). It would impact cancer patients' fertilization preservation efforts.

Pregnancy Care and Reproductive Health: Personhood laws put women's lives and health at risk. It would be difficult for doctors to help women with life-threatening

ectopic pregnancies and incomplete miscarriages. It would also ban some forms of birth control.

Miscarriage: A woman who miscarries would be subject to criminal charges of homicide, manslaughter or reckless endangerment since the nature of the pregnancy loss would be questioned.

Abortion: All abortion would be banned, regardless of circumstances. Rape and incest victims could not terminate a pregnancy resulting from sexual violence.

Religious Freedom: Not every religion believes that life begins at conception. Personhood laws would force one religious view on all citizens through law.

Legal Questions: Personhood laws would raise questions about the census, inheritance law, and all laws referring to a person, resulting in costly reviews and changes.

You Can Help

Go to www.NDforPrivacy.com to learn more and stay updated on any bills that are proposed.

Go to the "Join Us" page on www.NDforPrivacy.com to see the ways you can help – like writing your legislators or testifying – and to send us your contact information.

Karla Rose Hanson is one of the organizers of the North Dakota Coalition for Privacy in Health Care.



Contacting our North Dakota Senators and Representative

John Hoeven (R)

DC Address:

The Honorable John Hoeven
United State Senate
120 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC, 20510
Phone: 202-224-2551
Fax:: 202-224-7999

Email: <http://hoeven.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-the-senator>

Homepage::

<http://www.hoeven.senate.gov>

ND Offices:

US Federal Building, Room 312
220 East Rosser Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
Phone: (701) 250-4618
FAX: (701) 250-4484

US Federal Building, Room B
1802 32nd Ave South
Fargo, ND 58103
Phone: (701) 239-5389
Fax:(701) 239-5112

Federal Building, Room 108
102 North Fourth Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203
Phone: (701) 746-8972

US Federal Building, Room 204
315 Main Street, South
Minot, ND 58701
Phone: (701) 838-1361

Heidi Heitkamp (D)

DC Address:

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate
G55 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
DC Phone: 202-224-2043

Homepage:

www.heitkamp.senate.gov/

ND Offices:

Federal Building, Room 228
220 East Rosser Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
Voice: 701-258-4648
FAX: 701-258-1254

Federal Building, Room 306
657 Second Avenue North
Fargo, ND 58102

Federal Building, Suite 105
100 First Street SW
Minot, ND 58701
Voice: 701-852-0703
FAX: 701-838-8196

Federal Building, Suite 104
102 North Fourth Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203
Voice: 701-775-9601
FAX: 701-746-1990

Kevin Cramer (R)

DC Address:

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
1032 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2611

Email: <https://cramer.house.gov/contact/email-me>

Homepage:

<http://cramer.house.gov/>

Bismarck Address:

220 East Rosser Avenue
328 Federal Building
Bismarck, ND 58501
Phone: 701-224-0355

Our delegates have offices in multiple locations, improving the access for constituents. When you reach out to any of them, you will first speak with their staff. Most often, that is the most reasonable approach. For example, if you want to let the Senators or Representative know your preference on a particular piece of legislation, calling the office and voicing your opinion through a staff member is quite effective. The staff will record the information and pass it along to the office holder. There is no need to have detailed talking points for this call. Your call can be as simple as “I would like him to vote no” with perhaps a small mention of the reason: the bill disregards the needs of women, etc. In a few weeks you will receive a follow up letter from the Senator or Representative sharing his perspective on the issue.

As a constituent you can also request an audience with a Congressman. Because of their busy schedules, it is important to be prepared and concise in your discussions. These meetings require more preparation and details. Meeting with the office holder can be the most influential form of contact, followed by postal letters, then calls and finally email. If you mail a letter to the Washington office, it will take a good length of time to get to her/him due to the mail sorting process in DC, so plan accordingly.

Being an active participant in the legislative process is really quite simple and effective. Go out there and let your voice be



Giving Hearts Day

Hosted By: impactgiveback.org

24 Hour Online Fundraising Event

2.14.13

This is a
ONE-DAY
only
opportunity
to double
your gift!

Dakota Medical Foundation and other community donors want to inspire you to give back by **matching your gift to the North Dakota Women's Network**. On **Tuesday, February 14**, two generous individuals, Carla Christofferson and Melissa Gillett, will match online contributions made to **Giving Hearts Day** participants up to \$4,000.00.

Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour online fundraising event for Nonprofit Organizations.

The North Dakota Women's Network has been selected to participate in this opportunity and we invite you to give from the heart!

With your help, the North Dakota

Women's Network can raise a tremendous amount of funding to support our mission. If the North Dakota Women's Network is one of the top ten organizations to receive the most in **online contributions**, we will receive additional funding from Dakota Medical Foundation!

To make a secure, tax-deductible online contribution to the North Dakota Women's Network and have your donation matched, simply go to www.impactgiveback.org on **Thursday, February 14** and click on the Giving Hearts Day *donate* button.

On Giving Hearts Day, **you can double your charitable gift** and **Give Back** with Impact!

Search is on For 2013 NDWN Woman of the Year

The North Dakota Women's Network (NDWN) is searching for an outstanding recipient for its 2013 Woman of the Year award. This is the 7th year the NDWN has bestowed the award.

"Nominees for the award should be women who have dedicated their time and talents to improve the quality of life for women in North Dakota," said NDWN Board Chair JoNell Bakke of Grand Forks.

Bakke said that nominees should be leaders and advocates in one or more of the following areas: women's health and reproductive rights; the support of educational opportunities for women, equal pay for equal work; equal representation in political offices; preventing violence against women and children and the eradication of gender, familial, ethnic, racial and sexual orientation discrimination.

Past recipients include Dr. Ellen Chaffee, Bonnie Palecek, Representative Nancy Johnson, Cheryl Bergian, Judy DeMers and Connie Hildebrand.

Nominees are submitted by NDWN members and allies and the honoree will be selected by the board of directors in March. **To submit a nomination, go to www.ndwomen.org to download the nomination form, or email renee@ndwomen.org**. Nominations are due March 1, 2013. The Woman of the Year will be honored at the NDWN 2013 Annual Meeting, which will be held in the fall of 2013.



2012 Opportunities and Advancements for Women

By Karen R. Ryberg, North Dakota Women's Network Member

As the North Dakota Women's Network members, funders, partner organizations, and friends work to improve the lives of women through communication, legislation and increased public activism, it is easy to dwell on the negative. Let's dwell on the positive for a bit. AAUW, an organization that has partnered with NDWN for numerous events, annually provides a list of opportunities and advancements for which we can be thankful. Here are a few notable opportunities and advancements identified by AAUW, along with additional comments, related resources, and stories.

"We are thankful for the record number of women who will serve in the 113th Congress: 20 in the Senate and 78 representatives and three delegates in the House. We are particularly grateful for the states that elected their first female senators — Hawaii, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin — and the other 'firsts' in the 2012 elections, which broke representation barriers for religion, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation."

"We are thankful for the 40th anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the landmark legislation that ensures equal opportunity in education for all students." We are thankful for the many people that continue to support and use Title IX.

"We are thankful for the implementation of the requirement that all new health insurance plans must include coverage without cost sharing of an additional eight women's preventive care services, including contraception, testing for sexually transmitted infections, and breastfeeding support." Many of us are already benefitting from these provisions.

"We are thankful for the U.S. Olympic Team sending more female athletes than male athletes for the first time in history, and we are thankful that women won 29 of the U.S. teams' 46 gold medals." Seeing strong women of diverse shapes and sizes competing at elite levels influences public perception of women's capabilities.

"We are thankful that the teen pregnancy rate dropped to its lowest level since at least 1972, partly due to increased contraceptive use among teens of both genders."

We are thankful for the removal of some barriers to careers that have been exclusively male. This includes Shannon Eastin becoming "the first female to referee a National Football League (NFL) game in August when she officiated a preseason game between the Green Bay Packers and San Diego Chargers." Also, "Air Force Lt. Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger became the first female four-star Air Force general and the second female military officer to receive four stars." The Pentagon recommended "that women be allowed to serve in more jobs closer to the front lines, a move that would open around 14,000 additional jobs to women," and the Marine Corps decided "to open its

infantry course to women for the first time."

For AAUW's complete list, visit <http://www.capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=62171581&type=CU>.

At Feminist First Friday in December, we discussed some of the items in this list and additional items for women in North Dakota. We are thankful for the many women that ran in local, district, and state-wide elections. Many of them were graduates of NDWN's Ready to Run program and we are proud of them. Whether or not they won, having women part of the election conversation raises important issues that are less likely to be raised by male candidates, such as child care, healthcare, and equal pay and opportunity. We are thankful for the many women that did win, increasing the representation of women in the Legislature, in state-wide office, and in the US Congress.

We are thankful for the girl that petitioned Hasbro to make easy bake ovens in more colors. She wanted to buy one for her little brother and did not want him to be turned off by a pink oven (some girls are turned off by pink things too).

Many of us are thankful for the men in our lives that spend much more time cooking, cleaning, and taking care of children than their fathers and grandfathers did. We are thankful for them noticing and commenting on gender imbalances in politics and the media and for voting for candidates that we hope will improve this situation.

It is refreshing to reflect on positive achievements for women and girls.



The North Dakota Women's Network is made possible through the generous support of the Chambers Family Fund, S.L. Gimbel Foundation, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, and member support.

WE Rise - North Dakota

March 10 & 11, 2013 in Bismarck

Learn More and Register for FREE at standupnd.org

Have you ever been interested in how the political process works, what it means to lobby, or meeting other North Dakotans interested in making change? The North Dakota Women's Network is sponsoring a free advocacy training and progressive women networking event on March 10, followed by the Women's Lobby Day at the Legislature on March 11. Register today - men are welcome, too!

Previous WE Rise: Women Empowered Lobby Days held during the 2009 and 2011 legislative sessions were greatly successful and highly encouraging. The legislators encouraged every woman in the room to find her voice and run for elected office! Each year this event will grow and grow, and we will build women's participation in the legislative process for years to come

Ready to Run Graduates Champion Children

Over forty women participated in NDWN's Ready to Run Project: Campaign Training for Women. Of those women, at least ten went on to put their name on the ballot. Two of those women went on to success and earned a seat in the North Dakota Legislature: Senator Nicole Poolman (R) and Representative Jessica Haak.



Rep. Jessica Haak

Their success is everyone's success they are taking their responsibilities seriously and have

put their collective energies into helping children. Senator Poolman and Representative Haak are both sponsoring positive legislation to support Head Start in ND because of their shared belief that ND should invest in early childhood education:

1) Low income children statistically start kindergarten two years behind their middle-class peers. We know that when children start behind, they stay behind.

2) 11% of the children enrolled in Head Start programs are in need of special education services upon registration. When those same students move on to kindergarten, the number drops to 6%. This not only saves money for our local public schools, it also improves the quality of education delivered to all of our kids by improving the learning environment. Head Start children

learn how to behave, interact, and learn.

3) It is an efficient way to spend a dollar. Harvard studies report a return of \$4 to \$9 for every dollar invested into these programs.



Sen. Nicole Poolman

North Dakota is fortunate for the leadership of Rep Haak and Sen Poolman. Congratulations to them both. Women do make a vital difference in moving positive policy forward.

Recognizing Generous Membership Donations

Membership is a must-have ingredient of NDWN's recipe for success. So, in an effort to enhance our membership contributions, you will notice that we have added new levels of support.

We offer a MOVER, a SHAKER and an EQUALITY MAKER level of membership.

Every membership dollar our organization receives is greatly appreciated. These funds empower our goal to strengthen equality. Please consider the level that best fits your ability to give and know that you are "Promoting Equality" with the North Dakota Women's Network.

We also offer the opportunity for automatic monthly contributions. Call the office to sign up!

The North Dakota Women's Network is grateful to this list of members who embraced the program and increased their giving above the general membership level.

MOVERS—\$31-\$199

Audrey Cleary
Cheryl Bergian
June Enget
Joan Frankson
Amy Jacobson Reisenauer
Gisele Thorson
Amber Forde-Carroll
Carol Reed
Lois Sundquist
Bruce Hagen
Karen Anderson
Jenny Buell
Kristi Carlson
Virginia Duval
Daphne Ghorbani
Mindi Grieve
Pam Gulleeson
Jessica Haak
Kathy Hawken
Connie M. Hilderbrand
Margine Holland
Tina Johnson
Carol Kapsner
Kelly Krein
Marlowe Kro
Mary Markland
Arlys Netland
Laura Oster-Aaland
Helen Rudie
Lavetta Syverson
Mary Van Sickle
Peggy Wardius
Lorraine Davis
Nancy Miller
Maureen Kelly Jonason
Katrina Turman-Lang
Shelly Carlson
Michelle Forde

Kara Geiger
JoNell Bakke
Sally Holewa
Cynthia Kaldor
Corinne Lee
Dorothy Lick
Betty Mills
Lisa Omlid
Donette Peterson
Paul Ronningen
Ron & Nancy Saeger
Aruna Seth
Linda Steve
Sylvia Morgan
Kathi Osteen
Joan Stromme
Renee Stromme
Mary Mitchell
Kjersten Nelson
Karen Ryberg
Laura Forde
Kara Gravely-Stack

SHAKERS—\$200-\$499

Tracy & Dan Wanek
Rose Stoller
Ellen Chaffee
Trudy Iseminger
Thomas Wentz
Lynette Wold
Janis Cheney

EQUALITY MAKERS—over \$500

Michelle East
Patricia Schutt
Carla Christofferson
Melissa Gillett

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JoNell Bakke
Co-Chair
Grand Forks

Melissa Gillett
Vice-Chair
Tolna

Kathi Osteen
Secretary/
Treasurer
Mandan

Lorraine Davis
Bismarck

Jessica Haak
Jamestown

Amy Jacobson
Fargo

Nancy Miller
Bismarck

Jane Opdahl
Bismarck

Aruna Seth
Bismarck

Renee Stromme
Executive
Director
Bismarck



North Dakota Women's Network
 1120 College Dr, Suite 100
 Bismarck, ND 58503
 Phone: (701) 223-6985
 E-mail: network@ndwomen.org
 Website: www.ndwomen.org

Return Service Requested

NDWN Membership Information

Name: _____ Organization (if applicable): _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Individual membership:

- \$10 Student Membership
- \$30 Standard Individual Membership
- \$31-\$199 MOVER Level Membership
- \$200-\$499 SHAKER Level Membership
- \$500+ EQUALITY MAKER Level Membership
- A financial contribution isn't possible at this time but count me as a member.

Organization membership (based on operating budget):

- \$100 for a budget under \$100,000
- \$150 for a budget between \$100,000 and \$500,000
- \$200 for a budget over \$500,000

Your membership contribution to NDWN: \$ _____
 Additional donation to NDWN: \$ _____
 Total enclosed: \$ _____

I support the mission of the North Dakota Women's Network and commit to the common purposes of NDWN to achieve full equality for women.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to **North Dakota Women's Network**. Memberships are requested on an annual basis. Send to:
 North Dakota Women's Network
 1120 College Dr, Suite 100
 Bismarck, ND 58501