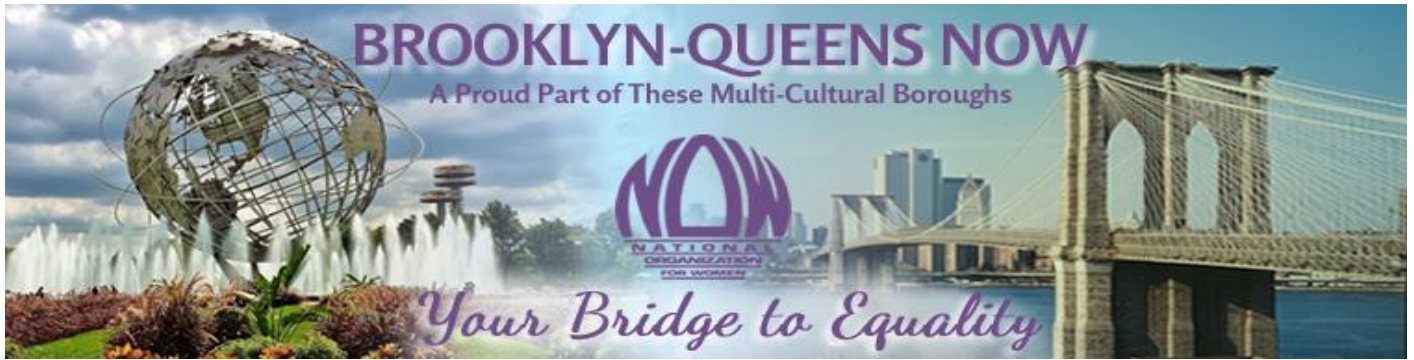


BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW NEWS



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718-769-0101
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www.brooklynqueensnow.org

BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW CHAPTER CALENDAR-2015

Chapter meetings take place *the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm*, unless otherwise noted. Inclement weather may force the rescheduling of a chapter meeting, so be sure to RSVP to the number provided. Or call 718 769-0101. Call the numbers below for exact location and directions. Check for Calendar updates on our website:

www.brooklynqueensnow.org.

- June 10 **Chapter meeting.** in Jackson Heights.
- July 6 **Chapter meeting** in Sheepshead Bay. Call 718-769-8901 for location.
- Sun, Aug 30** **Women's Equality Day** celebration. at The **Women's Center** at Brooklyn College. Speakers will discuss *Women in the Media*.



SOME GOOD NEWS!

EQUAL PAY BILL PASSES IN ALBANY

The Equal Pay Bill has finally passed both houses of NYS's legislature and is now awaiting Governor Cuomo's signature. This bill was originally part of the 10 point Women's Equality Act, which the Republicans refused to pass because it included a provision strengthening NYS's abortion law. The Democrats in the Assembly refused to separate acts but relented earlier this year.

The bill lays out clearer, narrower reasons why male and female co-workers can be paid different wages for equal work, such as their level of education or training. If an employer willfully violates the new law they would be forced to pay damages equal to 3 times the wages due to the employee. The new law would also prohibit employers from keeping their employees from discussing their rate of pay.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN ACT PASSES

This legislation (A.4272/S.8) will ensure that women who are pregnant are able to receive "reasonable accommodations" on the job, in order to continue working throughout their pregnancies. Employers will be protected from providing any accommodations that would cause them a severe hardship.

Most accommodations are generally simple, such as more frequent bathroom breaks, less heavy lifting, or providing a stool for sitting. Seventy-five percent of women in the workforce will become pregnant while working, yet too many women are forced to take unpaid leave or are even fired after requesting a modest change like a chair or extra bathroom break.

ACTION ALERT!
WORKING MOM'S NEED PAID
FAMILY LEAVE

New York is close to passing a law that would modernize our temporary disability insurance program to include paid family leave. New moms—and dads—could get up to 12 weeks of insurance benefits to help replace lost income when they are home with their newborns. Workers could also use paid family leave to care for a seriously ill family member, like an aging mother who suffered a stroke. Insurance makes paid family leave affordable for workers and businesses. It's paid for by employees through weekly paycheck deductions of less than \$1 a week.

Other states like California, New Jersey, and Rhode Island already have similar systems in place.

Just how close is New York to making this happen? The Assembly has already passed a bill. Now the State Senate and the Governor need to act before the legislature goes home in June.

Act now to send a message to Governor Cuomo and your State Senator.

PRO-CHOICE IN QUEENS
Clinic Escorts Needed!

On a typical Saturday at **CHOICES**, a women's health clinic in Queens, anti-choice protesters outnumber pro-choice volunteers 5 to 1. Escorts provide a buffer zone from the lies and harassment coming from the anti's.

Join us on Saturday mornings from 7-11am at **CHOICES** in Jamaica, Queens. Located at 147-32 Jamaica Ave, the clinic is close to the E, J, Z and LIRR trains.

Announcement to all BQ NOW members

Due to the high cost of postage we will no longer be sending out a printed version of our newsletter. We will continue to keep you updated and informed about our chapter activities and about how you can further the goal of full equality for women.

Future newsletters will reach you via email. If you haven't given us your email address please do so to our editor: shranz@optonline.net. If you don't have an email address the newsletter will be posted on our website: www.brooklynqueensnow.org.

DONATE TO BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW WITHOUT SPENDING A PENNY!

TD Bank will make an annual contribution to the chapter based on the activity of all participating members' TD Bank accounts. Eligible accounts include: Checking - Business & Consumer, Savings, Money Market, Certificate of Deposit, and Retirement.

Checking Accounts

\$50 for every new checking account • \$10 for every existing checking account

Savings Accounts or CDs

1/10 of 1% contribution based upon your annual average balances

If you are already a TD Bank Customer, visit any one of our locations and ask to have your balances included as part of your organization's **Affinity Membership Program**. Our bank code is **AG220**.

If you don't already have an account, open one! In this way you'll be helping the chapter continue it's work.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Please take a moment to complete this survey and return it to us either by scanning and attaching it to an email to: membershipbqnow@gmail, OR post it to: BQ NOW, 2520 Batchelder St #2L, Brooklyn, NY 11235

QUESTIONS:

1. How important to you are the following issues (10 extremely important - 1 not important at all):
 - protecting full reproductive rights
 - gaining economic equality and opportunity
 - stopping violence against women!
 - putting the ERA into the US constitution
 - supporting same sex marriage
 - ending discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation

2. Are there other issues you think the Chapter should address?

3. What prevents you from attending Chapter meetings/events?
 - transportation
 - location!
 - time/day of the week
 - not interested

4. What is your current employment situation?!
 - employed FT (30+ hrs/week)
 - PT (less than 30 hrs/week)!
 - volunteer (more than 30 hrs/week)
 - retired
 - disabled, not able to work
 - none of the above

5. Would you be interested in strictly social events? For example, monthly pot luck dinners, book club etc.

6. In which age group do you belong?
 - under 20 to 35 years
 - 36-49
 - 50-64
 - 65-75
 - over 75

7. Looking ahead to the rest of 2015, how active do you expect to be outside the home? very active
 - moderately active
 - not active in activities outside the home

**BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW
LEADERSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS**

President: Rachelle Suissa 917-923-4657
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Membership: Judy Barkoski 718-843-7978
PAC President & Newsletter Editor:
Shirley Ranz 718-769-8901

Email: bklynqnsnow@yahoo.com
Website: www.brooklynqueensnow.org
Phone: 718-769-0101
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ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

OUR CORE ISSUES:

- Reproductive Rights
- Passage of the Federal ERA
- Equal Economic Opportunity
- Stopping Violence against Women
- Ending Discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation

Our activities focus on political, legislative and educational arenas.

**National Organization for Women
Brooklyn-Queens Chapter
2520 Batchelder St #2L
Brooklyn, NY 11235**

Address Service Requested