

NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY



p. 3

CALENDAR

October, 1976

Caucus Activities

Oct. 23 General Meeting

University Ave. Library, Berkeley
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM - bring own lunch

Agenda: Revision of Caucus By-Laws

Nov. 13 Luncheon Meeting

Northbrae Church - Solano & The Alameda
Berkeley

11:30 AM Lunch - \$3.50

Speaker: Dr. Judith Hicks Stiehm
Professor of Sociology

Topic: WOMEN IN POLITICS

Other Events

Oct. 30 Conference - Economic Survival For Women

Marina Jr. High School
3500 Fillmore, San Francisco

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Registration Fee
optional

Further Information: 874-7807 -
Alameda Commission on Status of Women

Nov. 2 ELECTION DAY

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!!

EDITORIAL

Where are the buttons, the bumper stickers, the literature of yesteryear? Is this really the year of national elections? Yes, Virginia, it is. There are candidates; there are issues. Remember your local ballot box Nov. 2nd!

Betty Rhoades
Chair

VALERIE RAYMOND FUNDRAISER

Alameda County Caucus members and friends showed their support for Valerie Raymond, candidate for District 1 Supervisor, Alameda County Board of Supervisors, on September 29th.

In addition to individual contributions given Valerie, the Caucus raiser \$250 for her campaign. Good speeches, good conversation and good food were the order of the evening.

Valerie has been a tireless campaigner. More feet are always needed to help her cover a very large district. Contact Mary Young, 278-9464, coordinator for the South Alameda County Caucus, if you are able to walk for Valerie.

CAUCUS AFFAIRS

October has been - and still is - a busy month. Albany Mayor Joyce Jackson was our guest speaker at the Oct. 9th meeting. She discussed her own personal involvement in politics - both before and after becoming a member of the Council; then Mayor. She also outlined some of the problems currently facing Albany and mutual problems of Albany and Berkeley.

Endorsements were made during the business meeting. (See political action report.) Caucus member MARY LEE JEFFERDS is running for re-election to the Regional Parks Board. She has been a strong Board Director and is a good local reason to be at the ballot box Nov. 2nd.

The primary agenda item for Oct. 23rd is the revision of the Caucus by-laws. This, too, is an important meeting. Our Caucus is growing and we need to look at the by-laws.

November promises to be a highlight month. Dr. Judith Hicks Stiehm, Professor of Sociology, University of Southern California, will be our guest speaker. She has been doing research on elected women (she sample being Californians). She has recently been awarded a grant to study the status of women in the armed forces. An outspoken supporter of ERA, Dr. Stiehm is one of the most interesting and exciting speakers I have ever heard. Watch for a special flyer on this meeting.

ITEMS

- The Caucus fall fund raiser is a raffle - drawing at our Dec. 11th meeting. Chances - 3 for \$1. Prizes:

- 1st. - \$50 in cash
- 2nd. - \$25 gift certificate
Hinks Department Store
- 3rd. - \$10 gift certificate
Iris (Solano nr. The Alameda)

All this in time for Christmas! What could be better? Raffle tickets are a good "purse item" so be ready to say how many books you will be taking when you are contacted.

- Local merchants are becoming more aware of NWPC. Walt's Drug Store sold us the hats for Political Fare '76 at wholesale. Hinks and Iris are donating gift certificates for the raffle. When you shop at these stores, why not say you are an NWPC member and thank them for their interest?

...

- The Western Women's Bank, 235 Front Street, San Francisco recently opened its doors. A letter of congratulations was sent to the bank from the Caucus.

(cont. next page)

POLITICAL ACTION NEWS

CAUCUS ENDORSEMENTS

The screening committee held its endorsement of candidates meeting on October 2nd. The following endorsements were recommended and approved by the membership at the October 9th meeting:

East Bay Regional Parks Board

MARY JEFFERDS - Dist. 1 (Berkeley)
 HARLAND KESSEL - Dist. 2 (Oakland)
 WILLIAM HESTER - Dist. 4 (Oakland)
 AUDREY BRAMHALL - Dist. 6 (Walnut Creek)

EBMUD Board

BARBARA VINCENT - Ward 1 (Richmond)

BART Board

NANCY ROCKMAN - Dist. 1 (Contra Costa)

The screening committee further recommended that there be no NWPC endorsement in the BART District 3 race. The general membership approved the recommendation.

It was the consensus of the screening committee, and unanimously supported by the membership, that in the future NWPC review ballot propositions. The screening committee will consider relevant procedures at its next meeting.

Norma Baiocco
 Chair

ITEMS (cont.)

- The Caucus sent a check to the Alabama Women's Political Caucus in response to an appeal from them to help write off a legal debt of \$450. This is the balance still due from a bill of \$1,400 incurred when AWPC joined with a Democratic Task Force to challenge the Affirmative Action Plan of the Alabama State Democratic Party's Delegate Selection Plan for the '76 Convention. Individual contributions can be made payable to NWPC "for legal debt" and sent to: Alabama Women's Political Caucus, P.O. Box 477, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama 36088 Att: Bettie Stokes, Chair.

...

- The monthly newsletter can provide a means for Caucus members to share information. If you have a notice of a coming event, a provocative news item or other statement that you would like to see printed in the newsletter please send it to NWPC, P.O. Box 68 with a note directing it to the attention of the newsletter editors.

Betty Rhoades
 Chair

Rustle of Spring!! - Well before the outcome of the November elections Berkeley activists are preparing for the biennial battle of the City Council and Board of Education elections in 1977. The clearly defined protagonists come from a base in either Berkeley Citizens Action or the Berkeley Democratic Club. A new thrust is being provided by Progressive Berkeley Neighbors which hopes to act as a non-polarized catalyst in developing candidates. This group has a platform and will undertake candidate search based on commitment to its issues. Caucus member Linda Brubaker is chair for the Citizen Participation subcommittee. BCA is well ahead with platform development also and preliminary consideration of candidates with the expectation of having their selections firm by the end of November. Shirley Dean is the prime mover in an effort to develop an independent neighborhood orientated coalition involving people active in neighborhood issues from all over the city. Members of the group represent a cross section of political views but find common interest in neighborhood problems and do not believe slate politics of the past have spoken to all concerns.

Oakland will be electing a mayor and several council members; one seat definitely will be open since Councilman Joshua Rose will not run. This seat could be a real opportunity for a woman candidate and Mary Moore of the Montclair Greater Oakland Democratic Club looks like an entry. All members with any suggestions for candidate possibilities please call Lyn White 843-4229.

PACE Fundraiser - A painless way to help each of the candidates whom NWPC endorse for the special districts is to attend this Wine and Cheese function scheduled for Oct. 25th at the Montclair Presbyterian Church 4-7 pm \$5 covers everything!! Top priority candidates for us are EBMUD - Barbara Vincent (234-4625); Park Dist. - Audrey Bramhall (934-6686) and Mary Jefferds (843-7803); and BART - Nancy Rockeman (464-0786). Volunteer for these campaigns and come to the party - what else are you doing on Veteran's Day that's more fun!!

Lyn White
 Political Action
 Chair

STATE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

SF Caucus hosted the state meeting at the Ecology Center, a charmingly funky setting complete with gourmet meals! Round Robin reports given by all the reps included the new caucus organized in Napa County. Jolynn Samuelson (Santa Clara Caucus) made the presentation of the California bid for the national convention scheduled for the fall of '77. Her excellent report was accepted for submission to the National Steering Committee at El Paso, Texas. Val Hannon gave the Fundraising Committee report which had been prepared by Betty Rhoades who was on vacation. Alameda Caucus has assumed the responsibility for developing fundraising proposals at the State level. The report was well received with assurances of local efforts to implement the suggestions. Joan Hanrahan (Contra Costa Caucus) is the new attorney for State. The position of Northern Coordinator is open since Celestine Randall (Southern Alameda Caucus) is now a school principal with a heavy schedule.

Candidate support in the amount of \$1500 was authorized with the State treasury to be reimbursed one-half in accordance with moneyraising activities (25% of net return from local caucus activities goes to State in order to provide money for candidate support only.) Northern Assembly candidates who will benefit are Betty Smith (Chico), Leona Egeland (San Jose) and Carol Hallett (Atascadero). Rose Ann Vuich (Fresno) was not endorsed for the State Senate since she had not been endorsed by the Fresno Caucus. Tomi Curtis (formerly Alameda Caucus and now SF Caucus) spoke vigorously in support of Jane Tolmach (Oxnard) in whose campaign she has been a volunteer. After discussion and telephone conversation with Tolmach she was then endorsed.

At the prior request of our member Shirley Dean who as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, the motion was made by Alameda Caucus that National and State NWPC do an orientation brochure for future delegates. Additionally each Caucus will ask their convention delegates to provide a one page summary of their experiences and recommendations to be presented at the December meeting of the Steering Committee. Dina Iguchi (Legislative Chair) was elected to represent the State Caucus at the Legislative Round Table and be eligible for an office in that organization. Retha Ott (Orange County Caucus) will handle the presentation before the Assembly Finance Committee Hearing on Oct. 13, 14 which will deal with Discrimination in Insurance. Our State ERA Fund was able to send an additional \$600 to national in support of the continuing effort to get the ERA ratified.

(continued next column)

The next State meeting will be Dec. 4, 5 in Fresno or Pasadena.

Lyn White
Alternate Rep.

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The legendary hospitality of Texans was in evidence on every hand at this long delayed meeting held at El Paso's Mesa Inn. National Chair Audrey Colom, fresh from honors at the Republican Convention, handled a gruelling agenda with determination and finesse. The California contingent (with a voting strength of eight votes the same as Texas and Iowa) consisted of National Rep Iris Mitgang (Contra Costa Caucus), Boots Jones (LA Metro), JoLynn Samuelson (Santa Clara Caucus) and Lyn White (Alameda Caucus).

A surprisingly tight vote developed in the matter of selection of the National convention site since Iowa withdrew its bid and Ohio decided not to go forward with theirs. Colorado and California made excellent presentations to the Administrative Committee which was functioning as the Site Selection Committee. JoLynn Samuelson was accompanied by a woman staffer from the Tourist Bureau of the city of San Jose. Discussion in the committee resulted in a tie vote. In general session the Steering Committee noted 31 to 30 in favor of Denver, Col. On the motion for a roll call of the states made by California the vote favoring Colorado melted as in a summer sun and the motion was defeated. Pivotal to the debate was the moral issue of the fact that Colorado has approximately 45 members fully credentialed to National whereas California has almost 800. Colorado's low national membership is due to their lack of support for the increase in dues which was noted at our Boston Convention in 1975. With the defeat of the motion to approve Denver the Steering Committee moved to unanimous support for California. Delegates left the meeting whistling "Do you know the way to San Jose?" and prepared for the trek west in the Fall of '77. All California Caucuses will cooperate with Santa Clara Caucus which represents San Jose, the host city.

Candidate Support Committee agenda was covered on Sunday with an additional reordering of priorities so that the remaining \$13,000 allocated to candidates had increased percentages to state legislative candidates in non-ratified ERA states. A crisis situation exists with regard to ERA since 1977 is the last year for some states to consider ratification. A comparable amount had been disbursed during the primary elections.

(cont. next page)

National Report (cont.)

California reported more than \$10,000 raised by various methods in the state for California candidates.

Capitol Hill Caucus reported a significant development in the establishment of the House Fair Employment Practices policy. This document is a voluntary agreement by which House members commit themselves to follow personnel guidelines to provide job security and salary equity for their own employees. Alameda County Congressmen Ron Dellums and Pete Stark are among the first signatories to this landmark agreement.

(cont. next column)

The next Steering Committee meeting will be in Washington, D.C. at the opening of the Congressional session in January, 1977 (this relates to lobbying activities scheduled at that time).

SPECIAL NOTE: Non-support of Betty Friedan's new book "It Changed My Life" is requested of all Caucus members due to the libelous nature of her statements concerning the NWPC and its leaders.

Lyn White
