



National Organization for Women

Shreveport-Bossier Chapter

<http://www.nowshreveportbossier.org/>

shreveportbossiernow@gmail.com

“Let’s get to work!”

Ideas & suggestion for progressive activism in North Louisiana

1. Learn how to have conversations about equality issues in a positive, constructive way
2. Learn more about NOW (www.now.org), women’s issues, activism + attend/host monthly NOW meetings – or create a chapter of another activism group in your community.
3. Host community classes/seminars to learn how to do #1 & #2
4. Recruit instructors/speakers who are qualified to lead community workshops on activism, equality, intersectionality, etc.; this will help increase public awareness of these issues.
5. Continue to publicly demonstrate re: equality for all regardless of gender, race, sexual preference, etc., without sacrificing our integrity; conduct public rallies/demonstrations more often.
6. “I’ve been giving this a lot of thought, and my area of immediate concern is education because I believe its key as far as unlocking hope for the future. Toward that end, I’m going to call our local public school & find out whether they have a need for volunteers. If there’s any way to get more involved in supporting our public schools, that could help at least partially stabilize the erosion our educational system has been subjected to. I’m also going to push for more emphasis on analytical critical thinking exercises, starting in early middle school.”
7. Create/participate in mentoring programs
8. Host monthly meetings to connect & plan
9. Create/support LGBTQ groups
10. “Please do more woman+ marches!”
11. “This election has made me realize that I have not been active in my beliefs. I’m ready to jump in – I need to jump in.”
12. The first Ruston NOW Organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017 at 6:30PM at the Lincoln Parish Library. If you live in NELA, please get involved! Contact info: Text to 318.343.0465; email to rustonNOW@gmail.com
13. “Come speak to women’s groups across the area; give each group a “road map” to activism; give lots of options – let them choose one or more that work for their group; women need “road maps” to success in activism”
14. “Create a task force of 10-12 women from across North/Central Louisiana. Call the meeting here in Shreveport.”
15. “Diversity should be more visible.”
16. “Make efforts to hold your friends & co-workers accountable when it comes to volunteering & speaking against injustice.”



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17. "Work on division and separation in the AA community."
18. "Get all contacts either to list others who attended the march to create an extended contacts list, or refer others to (a designated) website."
19. "My hope is that someday when all of this is over men, women, LGBTQ+, People of Color, and people of foreign descent will be able to walk down the street without having to fear their fellow Americans. I'm looking for reforms in education, police, government, and other institutions. All marginalized groups need to work together to make these things possible, and fight hate & discrimination."
20. "I'd love to see information disseminated about any equality-related or impacted bills being discussed by our government officials (federal and/or Louisiana-specific). Then I'd love to see us all get together again to fight (or support if it's good stuff!) said bills."
21. "I'd love to see gatherings where we can all (all colors, cultures, nationalities) gather to communicate, empathize and generally support one another in overcoming racial barriers & systemic racism. As a white woman, I recognize that I need opportunities to listen to hopefully better understand what Women of Color have, and do, go through daily so that I can help them and society in whatever ways they welcome."
22. "I am a retired reference librarian & a writer. I feel educational & social outreach to young people is so important. The current administration has presented an opportunity for passing activism to a new generation who previously took social advances for granted. Youth, energy & enthusiasm are essential to the continued struggle."
23. "Women are often limited by the availability of childcare. I'd like to see an effort to make childcare affordable for all. Not just a subsidy for low-income, but relief for all women."
24. Expect & demand good manners and decency from all sides.
25. Meet everyone who live on your block & have block parties.
26. Remove all roadblocks to voting.
27. Have mobile facilities to go into communities to make IDs (so everybody can vote).
28. "Quit describing people by race unless you're giving a report to the police. The media should do this too."
29. Bring teachers to the table to make policy & curriculum decisions.
30. Healthcare is not a privilege. (Note: healthcare *is* a human right, according to the United Nations: <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>)
31. Create equality/activism opportunities at community events: JazzFest, Christmas festivals, etc.); ask for a table and/or distribute information to crowds, if that is legal at the event.
32. "STAY INVOLVED."



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33. For information on trans-marriage & transgender education, call Leslie Fabian and Deborah Fabian, M.D. Contact info: cell – 978.895.6122; email – leslifab@aol.com
34. “Bring ‘old’ NOW members in to speak about what it was like ‘back then’ and what worked and didn’t work. (I was at the ERA Extension March in DC in 1978!)”
35. Facilitate outreach to distant/rural towns (“Leesville!”).
36. Create a list of products to boycott – hurt them in their pockets.
37. “Organize a group to keep the various segments of progressives informed/united.” (Note: refer to the “*You are not alone*” handout from the march! It will be posted on our NOW Facebook page & website.)
38. “First and foremost, we need to keep intact the rights we already have! We need to find ways to keep Planned Parenthood (*and locally-owned abortion clinics*) alive & available. We need to keep reproductive rights in the hands of those with the capability to reproduce, and continue to have safe & affordable ways to handle unplanned/unwanted pregnancies. Marriage equality & reproductive rights are my first concerns. After that, poverty and public education.”
39. “I believe we need to practice intersectionality of women’s rights on more than a local level...there should be more diversity (disabled, minorities, LGBTQ, etc.) among women’s rights representatives on a national level.”

Source: Attendees at the Jan. 21, 2017, Women’s March in Shreveport, Louisiana



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