

Minnesota NOW Foundation

Report to 2024 MN NOW State Conference

The MN NOW Foundation operates for charitable and educational purposes, by providing services to bring women into full participation in all activities of human life by securing for them their full legal rights under the United States and Minnesota Constitutions.

The Foundation membership consists of current members of Minnesota NOW but is incorporated separately as a 501-c-3 organization under the IRS.

The Board of Directors of the Minnesota NOW Foundation consists of:

- The **Minnesota NOW President, Vice-President, and Secretary**. (Anyone elected to or continuing in any of those positions at this State Conference, will also be MNF Board members.)
- No more than five (5) nor fewer than three (3) directors elected at the annual meeting (state conference). Board terms are two years, some elected in odd years and some in even years. The current members and term expirations are: **Mariquita Anderson** (2024), **Mary Bren** (2025), **Lyn Crosby** (2024), **Elizabeth Merz** (2025), and **Mary Ann Vande Vusse** (2024)
- The Foundation Board may appoint up to three additional directors selected for their special skills, experience, or knowledge in research, the law, sociology, education, or related fields. In 2016 **Kathy Forbes** (attorney and NOW member) was appointed to one of these positions.

Our money is used to further NOW's goals and support our core issues. We have used some of our funds for ERA/Equality Day sponsorship, ERA billboards, supporting projects at several like-minded organizations, chapter networking, and sharing some administrative expenses with MN NOW. We also have given small grants to teachers for classroom materials amplifying the rights and roles of women and girls.

We also support two efforts that align with NOW goals, by serving as fiscal sponsor for ERA-Minnesota and West St Paul Pride.

In the last year we have not been quite as active as previous years, but we did accomplish several things: converted our finances to QuickBooks (thanks to Mary Bren) and filed required federal and state reports; fulfilled a state statute requirement by electing a second officer (Renee Cardarelle, Vice-President/Education); and appointing a Bylaws Committee.

State Conference Action Item:

Running in 2024 for election (2-year board terms) are:

Lyn Crosby (running for Foundation President)

Mary Ann Vande Vusse

The **motion** before the 2024 State Conference is to elect these NOW members to the Minnesota NOW Foundation Board.

Lyn Crosby

MN NOW Foundation President

April 2024