



The Team Roe Times

Welcome The Team Roe Times. Our aim is to

- ◇ Create a sense of unity in the pro choice community
- ◇ Provide accurate and timely information regarding current and pending legislation
- ◇ Promote networking to share ideas, resources and projects
- ◇ Share news of communities and individuals across South Dakota
- ◇ Feature stories about organizations, individuals, websites and more
- ◇ Promote growth, excellence and integrity

Legislative Session 2012 Opens!

The madness has begun! The 87th Legislative Session of the South Dakota State Legislature commenced on Tuesday, January 10. Alisha Sedor and I were present on opening day and were able to touch base with our lobbyists, our supportive legislators and other friendly faces around the Capitol.

Opening Day is special because everyone is still well-rested and getting

along, for the most part. Of course, the rumors were flying. The Rapid City Journal [wrote](#) about a ban on abortion care after 20 weeks of gestation. The Argus Leader [reported](#) that Rep. John Hanson would introduce a ban on abortion coverage in the insurance exchanges. (Even though it sounds like Governor Dugaard is [going to wait](#) on the health care exchanges...)



SDANW Women4Women Day 2011

No matter what gets dropped as final bills, this session promises to be every bit as exciting as the last. We're in for quite a ride! ~Carmen Toft

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SDANW's Women4Women Day 2012 - [Register Now!](#)

Session has arrived and it's time to start ramping up the enthusiasm for [Women4Women Day 2012](#), hosted by the South Dakota Advocacy Network for Women, a network of more than twenty member organizations and dozens of individual members across South Dakota. Women4Women is an opportunity for our friends and supporters to gather in Pierre and present a united front to the legislature.

This year's lobby day will be held on **Monday January 30, 2012** at the Capitol, with an optional meeting on Sunday evening for members and friends of SDANW.

The day will feature issue trainings on domestic violence, education, equal pay and reproductive rights from state and national experts. We will also have a rally, observe the floor of the legislature, and have a legislative

reception at which attendees will have the opportunity to converse with some of their representatives.

[Registration is now live so make sure to register today!](#) For schedule details and more information head to [SDANW's website](#). Look forward to seeing you there!



Professional Student Coalition for Reproductive Justice - Interview with Erica Pettigrew

For the last few years I have been involved with an emerging coalition, and again attended the yearly summit this past weekend. The Professional Student Coalition for Reproductive Justice (PSCRJ) is a coalition composed of Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ), the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), Nursing Students for Choice (NSFC), Medical Students for Choice (MSFC) and a group of pro-choice pharmacy students that are working to organize their own group.

Erica Pettigrew is the founder of the coalition. I believe her experience illustrates how important and beneficial coalition work can be.

~Alisha Sedor

AS: What inspired you to attempt to create the coalition?

EP: First of all, thank you so much for talking to me about our coalition!

While I was an undergrad at the University of Georgia I became involved with feminist activism through my women's studies coursework. I decided during that time that I wanted to become a physician with supplemental legal training so that I could continue advocating for the reproductive health and rights of my patients and community. I had the good

fortunate of working closely with MSFC, AMSA and LSRJ through my MD/JD degree program, but I was surprised to find that these groups did not have a formal forum for their national leaders to communicate given the similarities in their missions and work. I was so inspired by my fellow student colleagues at these organizations that I knew if I could get them in the same room, awesomeness would happen.

AS: Tell me a bit about how the coalition works.

EP: We had our first meeting in March 2009. The coalition focuses mainly on information-sharing between the national organizations.

PSCRJ is also working toward becoming the resource for local chapters of these organizations to establish grassroots collaborations on their campuses.

AS: Why do you feel so strongly about interdisciplinary collaborative work?

EP: As I am wrapping up my six years as a dual-identity student in law and medicine I have personally seen the potential of disciplines coming together to tackle an important issue. Social justice movements, in particular those involving reproductive freedom, require a level of cooperation amongst all of the key players. These include the lawyers filing the briefs to protect rights, nurses who ensure that patients receive compassionate, non-judgmental care, pharmacists playing active roles granting widespread access to necessary medications such as birth control and emergency contraception, and physicians

who provide all options of reproductive health care including abortion and contraception at the highest quality possible. Our coalition is also looking forward to expanding to other crucial disciplines such as social work, clinical psychology, and public health.

AS: Have you faced any challenges and how have they been overcome?

EP: Coalition work comes with its own inherent challenges. Negotiating leadership and work distribution is always going to be a factor in this type of endeavor. The PSCRJ has an additional challenge of being made of students - a group of people who turn over at a very high rate. Our potential as a united coalition rather than minimally-communicating parallel organizations is exponentially greater, however, and we are extremely happy with the progress we've had so far in making our vision a reality!

AS: How can coalition work help us overcome The War on Women?

EP: For far too long the reproductive health, rights and justice movements have mainly acted in the defensive, fighting against the egregious chipping away of established rights. We need to regroup and refocus. It's critical that we merge our silos into one unified vision for reproductive freedom where we appreciate and learn from all disciplines' perspectives. By the time they move into positions where they are filing those briefs or treating patients they have already honed the skills necessary for interdisciplinary work, and the new leaders are not strangers to each other!

Join us for *Roe on the Rocks!*

Roe on the Rocks is our annual commemorative event for the 39th anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*. The event is co-sponsored by Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD and NARAL Pro Choice South Dakota and will be held in Sioux Falls, on Saturday, January 21 from 6-8pm. The speaker is

a former Argus Leader reporter who will discuss reporting on the 2006 and 2008 abortion bans.

Bias in the media is something of which both sides are very concerned. Our speaker will talk about reporting on such a sensitive topic while maintaining professional distance.

It promises to be a lovely evening and should help us to focus our efforts on the upcoming weeks. For more information, **including the event location**, please email me at ctoft@ppmns.org.

~Carmen Toft



Roe
on the
Rocks

It's the New Year, what do you want to see?



I spent most of 2011 saying to myself, “How is it already March? How is it already August? I can’t believe it’s December, already!” And 2011 wasn’t even an election year! I have a feeling that in 2012, the passage of time will seem even faster.

That begs the question, dear TTRT readers, what would you like to see from us? In our limited number of hours in the day, Alisha and I consider TTRT

one of our favorite activities. But we want to spend our time writing what you want to read. More politics? (Less politics?) More interviews? More guest posts? Movie reviews, volunteer stories, or polls? The possibilities are endless.

You can comment on our blogs, email us, Facebook us, tweet us, or find us eating quiche at Queen City Bakery. However you do, let us know what you want to read and we

will do our best to make it happen!

The Team Roe Times was a brainchild that appeared on one of our LONG road trips to Pierre and it’s important to us to keep the information fresh, but also up-to-date and available to those supporters who aren’t as tech savvy as the blog crowd.

Thanks so much for reading in 2011 and we look forward to besting 2012 together!

~Carmen Toft

Challenge to Speaker Boehner: [Zero Anti-Choice Votes in 2012 - Petition!](#)

In 2011, across the country we saw an unprecedented number of anti-choice legislative attacks. The U.S. House of Representatives held eight votes on choice-related issues. That’s the highest number in a decade!

Boehner’s attacks made clear that he could not care less about women’s health, privacy, and dignity. These attacks included his “Let Women Die” bill (H.R.358) which attempted to give hospitals the right to refuse to provide a woman with emergency, lifesaving abortion

care – even if she will die without it. The “Rape Audits” bill (H.R.3) could spur the Internal Revenue Service to audit rape survivors who choose abortion care.

He also almost shut down the entire federal government over women’s access to birth control and cancer screenings.

We cannot stand by and let him attack women’s right to make personal, private health-care decisions in 2012. Join us in challenging Speaker Boehner to put an end to the War on Women and stop

holding votes attacking choice. [Add your name to our letter!](#)

Please ask Speaker Boehner to focus on our country’s economic challenges instead of attacking women’s access to safe, legal reproductive-health care, including abortion.

[Sign the petition today](#) and add your voice to the opposition of the War Against Women.

~Alisha Sedor

“...eight votes on choice-related issues. That’s the highest number in a decade!”

Unofficial TTRT Book Club — *Pink Politics*

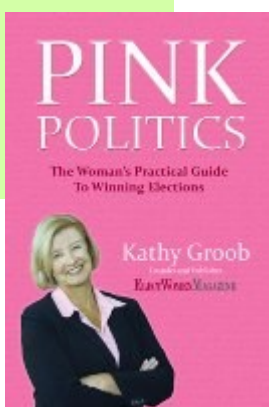
I really enjoyed this no-frills book outlining specific steps for women running for office. Groob walks us through her successes and failures while relating them to our own future race. She quotes other powerful women talking about their experiences including Ann Richards and Hillary Clinton. She talks

about the campaign basics like fundraising and door knocking, but also, hairstyles, pantyhose and childcare, which more often than not, falls mostly on women candidates. She also points out dirty tricks from the opposition as well as mistakes to avoid. It’s a quick read with big print and double spacing, but it’s the

type of book one can reference over and over and make notes on the many blank pages provided. My highlighter-finger was itching the whole time.

I recommend this book for serious or potential candidates. Either way, we need more women in office and Groob would like to see us get there [successfully](#).

~Carmen Toft



The Team Roe Times

A NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota/
PPMNS Collaboration

Upcoming Events:

League of Women Voter's Meeting - 1/19/12
(Alisha presenting on choice in the 2012 session)
Roe Anniversary Event - 1/21/12
39th Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* - 1/22/12
Sioux Falls Legislative Coffee - 1/28/12
Women 4 Women Day - 1/30/12
Sioux Falls Legislative Coffee - 2/4/12
Sioux Falls Legislative Coffee - 2/11/12
Pro-Choice, Pro-Chocolate - 2/11/12

*Please contact [Carmen](#) or [Alisha](#) if you would like your event added to this list.



NARAL
Pro-Choice South Dakota



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Choice Words

Terminology of the Choice Movement Defined

January's Choice Word: "Exchanges Ban"

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, anti-choice legislators in several states have attempted to pass legislation that would ban insurance coverage of abortion in the new insurance exchanges. Such attacks have been proposed in spite of the fact that many states have not put into place the enabling legislation for the exchanges, [including South Dakota](#). Such bans are another example of anti-choice legislators trying to prevent women from obtaining coverage for abortion services, regardless of the source of their insurance.

Further, offering women the "option" to pay extra for supplemental abortion coverage, often known as a rider policy, is a false promise. Unintended pregnancies are by definition unplanned; women rarely purchase abortion coverage in anticipation of these circumstances.

For more information, [check out NARAL Pro-Choice America's website](#).

We're on the web!

<http://www.prochoicesd.org> (New and improved!)

<http://www.SDplannedparenthoodadvocate.org>



<http://www.facebook.com/naralsd>
<http://www.facebook.com/ppsoadk>



[@NARALSD](#)
[@ppSoDak](#)

South Dakota Governor's Task for on Infant Mortality Missing Crucial Piece

Recently, the South Dakota Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality released their final report and recommendations for reducing infant mortality in the state. As a Certified Nurse-Midwife and Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), I applaud Governor Dugaard, the First Lady, and the Task Force on their efforts to reduce infant mortality in South Dakota. I believe every effort should be made to reduce infant and maternal mortality in the United States and worldwide. However, one proven and fundamental way to decrease infant mortality was left out of the Task Force's recommendations: planning one's pregnancy in advance.

Increasing access to family planning is an essential step in reducing the rate of infant deaths in South Dakota. The Department of Health and Human Services, the National Physicians Alliance and the Guttmacher Institute all agree that being able to plan one's pregnancy and adequately space births helps to decrease infant mortality. Fortunately, South

Dakota has an infrastructure of family planning providers throughout the state from Sioux Falls to Rapid City. Title X, the nation's family planning program, has helped millions of American women prevent unintended pregnancies and obtain reproductive health care for almost four decades. The program serves about five million patients a year who might otherwise be unable to afford family planning.

Beyond reducing unintended pregnancies, Family planning programs like Title X are fiscally responsible because for every dollar invested in Title X, the state saves nearly \$4 in Medicaid costs for pregnancy related care and medical care for newborns. Promoting access to South Dakota's family planning infrastructure is not only economically smart, it's an important part of reducing infant mortality and improving health outcomes for moms and babies. Further, the report lists low birth rate (LBW) as a risk factor for infant mortality. Teen pregnancy is one

of the greatest risk factors for babies being born with low birth rates. The US has a higher teen pregnancy rate than almost any other developed country, and 95% of these pregnancies are reported to be accidental. Making sure young people have access to birth control and providing them with health education that includes information about abstinence and contraception are also key in reducing infant mortality.

I applaud the Governor's focus on reducing infant deaths in the state. One of the best ways we can achieve this goal in the long-term is by supporting women's health before they become pregnant, including ensuring they have access to basic health care like family planning, birth control, and prenatal care. Planned pregnancies lead to healthier pregnancies.

~Pam Glenn, CNM/APN is the Director of Clinical Operations for Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD