

# 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

## South Dakota—Bad for Women, Bad for Babies

As soon as I saw the headline of [Sarah Seltzer's article on Alternet](#) in September, I knew South Dakota would be on the list. Any article that starts with "*Which State Is Winning the Race to the Bottom to Become the Worst Place for Women?*" is bound to include South Dakota.

Paired with Ohio, Kansas and Virginia, Seltzer highlights our 2011 law that passed, requiring a 72 hour waiting period (the longest in the nation) and mandatory visit to a crisis pregnancy center.

All of these laws are passed under the auspices of "saving babies." So, does that make us one of the top four states in which to be a baby? Not so much.

Even though a majority of the state legislators and past governors call themselves pro-life, their policy-making and legislating tell another story.

In 2009, pro-life governor Michael Rounds tried to eliminate a program called *Birth to 3*. *Birth to 3* provides funding for pediatricians, hospitals, and school nurses to alert them to children who appear to have developmental delays. In 2010, Over 30,000 children 5 years old or younger were on Medicaid in South Dakota. In 2011, new Governor Dennis Daugaard balanced the state budget on the backs of kids and seniors, cutting Medicaid by an average of 8-12%.

And in February of this year, Representative Kristi Noem voted for a budget that would have cut WIC – the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children – by \$747 million. She was [quoted](#) as saying "We will cut our spending to make sure our priorities are funded." Apparently the nearly 200,000 South Dakota children under age 5 using WIC do not fall under the Congresswoman's priorities.

Will South Dakota reach the bottom first? Will it be the worst state for women or the worst state for babies? If our current trajectory is any indication we're definitely leading the race for both.

~Carmen Toft



### Inside this issue:

Planned Parenthood's 95th Anniversary	2
Updates from Virginia and Mississippi	2
LUNAFEST Tickets Still Available!	2
National Sex Ed Week of Action	3
SDCHF PAC Fundraisers - Vermillion and Brookings	3
Unofficial TTRT Book Club— <i>The Cider House Rules</i>	3
Choice Words: "EC" Emergency Contraception	4
Kudos to <i>Grey's Anatomy</i>	4

## Congrats to Some Amazing Women!

It's been a great month for the Women of Team Roe! Rockstar volunteer [Julie Tibbetts](#) was awarded the 2011 Human Relations Commission Humanitarian Award in September.

Sam Ellingson spent the summer studying and took the LSAT in October. While we will miss her in

Sioux Falls, she will be a lucky addition to any law school. We anxiously await your results, Sam!

And our own NARAL ED, Alisha Sedor found out she passed the South Dakota Bar Exam! (As if we had any doubt.) Make sure you ask for one of her new business cards!

~Carmen Toft



Photo credit Taté Walker

## Planned Parenthood's 95th Anniversary

In the past 95 years, Planned Parenthood has grown to be the nation's leading women's health care provider and advocate. There are nearly 800 Planned Parenthood health centers nationwide, providing health care services and information to millions of women, men and teenagers every year — and this is care that many of them would not be able to receive if not for Planned Parenthood. In fact, one in

five American women has relied on Planned Parenthood for accessible, quality health care. The Planned Parenthood websites receive nearly 3 million visits a month — visits from real people looking for real health information in real time.

In the face of constant attacks from those whose ultimate aim is to deny women access to essential health care, including birth control,

Planned Parenthood doctors, nurses and other health care professionals work to ensure that everyone has a place to turn for accessible, affordable, quality care and unbiased information. We need Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood has been a part of the health care community in South Dakota for over 20 years. And at 95, Planned Parenthood is just getting started!



## Updates from Virginia and Mississippi

**“It is essential to stand together and stay strong for choice.”**

As many of us know, 2011 was a year of attacks on women's reproductive healthcare. Virginia and Mississippi saw some of the most egregious legislation.

Virginia faced one of the most restrictive TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Provider) laws ever seen. While SB 924, was signed into law by the governor, the [“Virginia Coalition to Protect Women's Health”](#) continues the battle to

protect women's health in VA. This month, they will be hosting a rally for women's health to demand an end to the war on women.

In Mississippi, a personhood initiative (Initiative 26) will be on the ballot in November. [Organizations from across Mississippi](#) and the country are battling this initiative. If passed, 26 would likely outlaw many forms of

commonly used birth control, IVF, and abortion.

As we see continued attacks on reproductive health across the country, it is essential to stand together and stay strong for choice. We have to prepare to see similar attacks in our state and remember that elections matter. The legislative session may be over, but it is time to look to our sister states and prepare for 2012.

-Alisha Sedor

## LUNAFEST© Tickets Still Available!

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and our office is doing our part by bringing LUNAFEST back to Sioux Falls! Benefiting both NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota and [the Breast Cancer Fund](#), LUNAFEST is bound to be a fun-filled evening.

The event begins at 7pm and will be at the Old Courthouse Museum. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students, and includes hors d'oeuvres and cocktails!

LUNAFEST© is a festival of short films by, for and about women. This season, the program of nine films – filled with stories of

reflection, hope and humor – will travel to over 150 cities and screen in front of 20,000 people.

Check out the [Facebook Event](#), and contact Hannah Prentice ([Hannah@prochoicesd.org](mailto:Hannah@prochoicesd.org) or 605-334-5065) to reserve your tickets today!

- Alisha Sedor





Sex. It's something we are exposed to on a daily basis. From billboards to music to television, sex is a common theme in our society. We are exposed to sex everywhere except where it counts the most: in the classroom. When I ask my peers where they learned about sex, almost all of them answer "from TV" or "from the Internet," and I think this is dangerous. Young adults can be misinformed and make mistakes that will affect

them for the rest of their lives. And that is why I support Planned Parenthood's Sex Ed Week of Action so fully.

I believe that comprehensive sex education is the best way to protect our future, and as president of the SDSU Campus Women's Coalition I am doing my part with my fellow coalition members.

Throughout the school year, we will be setting up a table in the student union from

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. when we will hand out literature to help stress the importance of comprehensive sex education and other important health issues such as sexually transmitted infections. Anyone can attend, and remember, whether you're abstinent or sexually active, being educated is always important.

~Libby Trammell, 2011-2012 Campus Women's Coalition President, SDSU

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**SDCHF PAC Fundraisers - Vermillion and Brookings!**

Faced with the task to change the landscape of the South Dakota State Legislature to be more favorable to women's rights, the SD Campaign for Healthy Families PAC set aggressive goals for fundraising and candidate recruitment.

Part of those goals included visiting many communities across the state, including Spearfish,

Aberdeen, Vermillion and Brookings.

The events for Vermillion and Brookings are quickly approaching in October: 10/20 in Vermillion and 10/28 in Brookings.

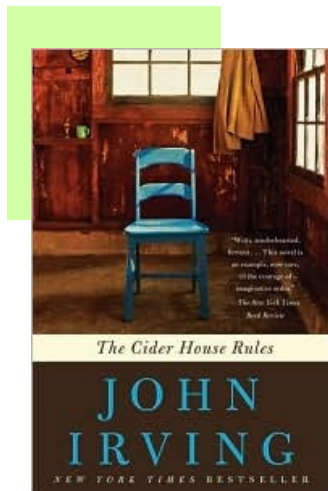
If you are interested in attending either of these events or if you are interested in hosting an event in your own community (still looking for

Aberdeen and Huron!) please contact me at [ctoft@ppmns.org](mailto:ctoft@ppmns.org) and I can put you in touch with the right people. It's up to us to run and elect more prochoice officials!



**"It's up to us to run for office and to elect more pro choice officials!"**

**Unofficial TTRT Book Club — *The Cider House Rules***



I read *The Cider House Rules* years before I started working or volunteering for PPMNS. It's a beautifully written novel that continues to shape about how I feel about our work providing pregnancy tests, adoption referrals and abortion care in South Dakota.

"He was an obstetrician; he delivered babies into the world. His colleagues called this 'the Lord's work.' And he was an abortionist; he delivered mothers, too. His colleagues called this 'the devil's work,' but it was all the Lord's work to Wilbur Larch. As Mrs. Maxwell had observed, "The

true physician's soul cannot be too broad and gentle."

This is the essence of John Irving's *The Cider House Rules*: delivery from desperation without judgment, neither passion nor prejudice. Dr. Wilbur Larch gave women what they asked for—either an orphan or an abortion.

~Carmen Toft

## The Team Roe Times

A NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota/  
PPMNS Collaboration

### Upcoming Events:

SDCHF PAC Fundraiser, Vermillion - 10/20/11  
LUNAFEST, Sioux Falls - 10/26/11  
SDCHF PAC Fundraiser, Brookings - 10/28/11  
Election Day - 11/8/11  
Legislative Session Opens - 1/10/12  
Women 4 Women Day - 1/30/12  
Pro-Choice, Pro-Chocolate - 2/11/12



### Contact:

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### Choice Words

#### Terminology of the Choice Movement Defined

October's Choice Word: "EC"

"EC" is shorthand for Emergency Contraception, often referred to as "the morning after pill." Emergencies happen – even when it comes to your birth control. That's why emergency contraception (EC) is so important. EC is birth control for emergencies, and it works *after* sex. Several brands of EC are available: Plan B®, Plan B One-Step™, Next Choice®, and ella®.

EC has such great potential, but it's not used as much as it should be. Many women don't know about EC. On top of that, our anti-choice opponents do whatever they can to make it harder for women to access it. In South Dakota, pharmacists have the right to refuse to dispense EC, meaning that many pharmacies in our state do not carry it (these ones do).

[Check out NARAL Pro-Choice America's info on EC](#)

### We're on the web!

<http://www.prochoicesd.org>

<http://www.SDplannedparenthoodadvocate.org>

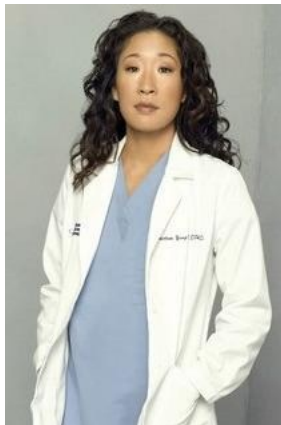


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<http://www.facebook.com/ppsodak>



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@ppSoDak

## Kudos to Grey's Anatomy



Sandra Oh, "Dr. Christina Yang"  
Photo c/o TVfanatic.com

In late September, the season premiere of ABC's *Grey's Anatomy* took the brave step of actually having one of their lead characters choose to end an unintended pregnancy. Abortion is frequently discussed as an option in primetime TV, but rarely do the characters actually go through with having the procedure. Most often, the character ends up miscarrying or deciding to carry the pregnancy to term. This happens often enough that the taboo of abortion on TV has become a bit of a joke.

In this episode, however, Sandra Oh's character Christina Yang grapples with her pregnancy, and with the

support of friends, her husband and her physician, she chooses abortion.

*Grey's Anatomy* creator Shona Rhimes recently gave an interview with Vulture, where she said she wanted to "portray the character honestly." Those who watch *Grey's* would certainly agree that this decision was in keeping with Yang's character.

Rhimes also said the decision to portray an abortion on the show was "...not a political agenda as much as me trying to make the world as full and round and as complete with peoples'

opinions as possible." The reality is that 1 in 3 women in the US have an abortion by the age of 45.

In comparison, (since it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month) 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their *lifetime*. The pervasiveness of the taboo associated with portraying such a common procedure is absurd. To accurately reflect the world of medicine as it stands today, such portrayals should not raise a big ruckus; they would in fact be much more commonplace. Thanks to *Grey's* for taking a step in that direction

- Alisha Sedor

P.S. To watch the episode, [check out Blog for Choice.](#)