

**Planned Parenthood®
Greater Memphis
Region**

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NEWS & VIEWS

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New Name, Same Quality Care in FY2008

Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood began its new fiscal year with a name change to Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region, bringing its name into alignment with other Planned Parenthood affiliates.

At the annual meeting June 21, outgoing board chair Ashley Coffield highlighted a number of achievements over the last year, including an increase in patient visits to nearly 18,000. Patients are now able to make appointment requests and download patient forms on our website, and a new computer patient management system allows us to streamline patient information and processes.

PPGMR has benefited from significant media coverage of all types—television, radio, print and Internet. We continue to advertise our services in the *Memphis Flyer* and University of Memphis *Helmsman* and promote events through radio public service announcements. Our online advocacy system has also proven beneficial in disseminating messages and fostering activism quickly when faced with legislative threats.

PPGMR has intensified its outreach, holding free HIV testing events at city community centers and free emergency contraception distribution at our health center. Speaking engagement requests have risen, as we provide honest, accurate information to all groups at no charge.

Kate Connell, who is serving her fifth year on the board, was inducted as chair for fiscal year 2008.



Left: Chey Widdop nominates the new board. Right: New board members Dan Unowsky, Harriet Roberts, John Marshall Jones and Caren Creason are welcomed by new board chair Kate Connell (far right).

James Award to Honor Congressman Cohen

Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region is proud to honor Congressman Steve Cohen for his unwavering support of reproductive rights. Rep. Cohen has been a reliable champion of the women of the 9th district, fending off attacks on Title X family planning funding and defending reproductive freedom.

Join PPGMR as we bestow our highest honor on Rep. Cohen Sept. 20 at the Palm Court. Please call (901) 725-3008 to purchase tickets (\$75 each) or make a donation in his honor.





Presidential Candidates Address Action Fund

Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama joined Elizabeth Edwards, wife of John Edwards, in Washington July 17 to address Planned Parenthood Action Fund attendees. The event was part of the annual Public Affairs Retreat and Roundtable.

All three speakers emphasized the importance of reproductive choice and affordable health care. The Action Fund has not yet endorsed any candidate.

PPGMR Director of Community Affairs Christie Petrone (pictured far left) had the opportunity to meet PPGA President Cecile Richards (left).

HPV Vaccine Effective in Prevention of Cervical Cancer

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine Gardasil is a major breakthrough in the fight to prevent cervical cancer.

By age 50, at least 80 percent of all sexually active women will have acquired genital HPV, although many will never even know it. For about 10,000 of those American women every year, HPV will cause invasive cervical cancer. About 4,000 will die.

Gardasil is effective against the strains of HPV that are responsible for 70 percent of cervical cancers and 90 percent of genital warts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends routine vaccination for girls aged 9 to 26, emphasizing the importance of reaching girls before the onset of sexual activity.

The vaccine, which costs \$360 for a series of three shots, is available at Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region. Call (901) 725-1717 to make an appointment for your daughter.

PPGMR Patient Speaks Out

“My boyfriend’s mother died because she did not have insurance and regular check-ups, and only went to a doctor when she had pelvic pain. It was determined she had advanced cervical cancer. She couldn’t even get treated for it because of the lack of insurance, and she died the next year. What a shame, because what [Planned Parenthood does] can prevent that. I hope more people know that these days.”

—Mary Ellen Smith, PPGMR patient

Planned Parenthood Defeats Dangerous Pence Amendment *Rep. Marsha Blackburn Voted to Deny Women Family Planning Services*

Millions of women risked losing access to affordable family planning services on July 19, thanks to the Pence Amendment to the Labor Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. This amendment, introduced by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN), would have stopped all federal funding to Planned Parenthood affiliates. Approximately 575 Planned Parenthood clinics nationwide, including PPGMR, receive Title X funding to help women plan pregnancies, prevent sexually transmitted infections and detect breast and cervical cancer.

Planned Parenthood responded to the threat with force. Staff and volunteers phoned 160 offices on the Hill, and 100 pink-shirted activists took to the streets chanting, "Use Common Sense, Vote Against Pence." The following morning, Planned Parenthood supporters made more than 230 lobby visits to legislators, urging them to

vote against this unconstitutional amendment. Meanwhile, the government relations team prepared select representatives to speak on the House floor in defense of Planned Parenthood. Legislators responded by defeating the bill, 231-189.

Unfortunately for Tennessee women, Rep. Marsha

Blackburn (7th district) was one of the amendment's strongest supporters. She spoke on the House floor against Planned Parenthood's subsidized programs for low-income women. The amendment would have denied basic birth control and Pap smears to those who can not afford them.

People who are serious about reducing abortion should support services that help prevent pregnancy. Contact Blackburn's Memphis office at (901) 382-5811 to let her know that you support Planned Parenthood.

PPGMR volunteer Whitney Henderson contributed to this report.



PPGMR Volunteers Impact Community

Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region's volunteers are tireless. They call patients to confirm appointments. They administer HIV counseling and testing. They participate in health fairs. They write letters to the editor. They research legislation.

In short, our volunteers provide a meaningful service, whether it's by cleaning out a supply closet or undertaking a major advocacy campaign. Volunteers help out in all departments—education, community affairs and the clinic.

We thank all of our volunteers for their dedication and time. Particularly heartfelt gratitude goes to college interns Lindsay Eason, Rachel Goodwin and Whitney Henderson for their hard work this summer.

If you are interested in being a volunteer or receiving internship credit, please contact PPGMR at info@ppms.org.

Birth Control Without an Exam



Do you need birth control but don't have time for an annual exam?

We require only that you fill out a short medical history and meet with a nurse practitioner.

No appointment necessary. Stop by Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In Brief

- Board member Nora Boone has generously created "My Uterus, My Choice" shirts and accessories. Visit www.cafepress.com/myuterus or link to her site from PPGMR's homepage. All proceeds benefit PPGMR.
- In May, we saw a dramatic increase in sales of emergency contraception. A total of 98 women purchased EC, preventing numerous unplanned pregnancies.
- Check out PPGMR's monthly column in *La Prensa Latina* and *The Memphian* for important information about your health.
- PPGMR is teaming up with the Memphis Center for Reproductive Health to offer a pro-choice movie night. On Sept. 27, we will be screening "Abstinence Comes to Albuquerque" in the theatre room at First Congo Church at 6:30 p.m. Join us for refreshments and a discussion about the importance of comprehensive sexuality education.



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NEWS & MEDIA



PPGMR Health Educator Elokin CaPece poses with SNAP 94.1 radio personalities. The station's promotions encouraged 84 people to get free HIV tests June 27 at the Ed Rice Community Center in Frayser, in recognition of National HIV Testing Day.

Check us out on the web—www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis