

FIVE NEW MEMBERS JOIN PPMET BOARD

PPMET is proud to welcome Tom Lee, Deborah Narrigan, Betty C. Nixon, Rev. Kelvin Sauls, and Dr. Mona Williams-Hayes to the PPMET Board.

Tom Lee, a partner with Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, is an adjunct professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Law. A senior advisor to the Karl Dean for Mayor campaign, he has more than 15 years experience in lobbying, campaign management, and political counsel. As a political reporter for WSMV-TV, he won two 1991 Emmy awards for his documentary on Operation Desert Storm.

A certified nurse-midwife, **Deborah Narrigan** holds a masters in nursing from the University of Kentucky. She is currently a research nurse at Meharry Medical College and has multiple publications on midwifery, childbirth, and women's health. Deborah is a former member of the National Board of Directors of the National Women's Health Network.

Betty C. Nixon recently retired as the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community, Neighborhood, and Government Relations at Vanderbilt University. A 12-year veteran of the Metro Council, she has also served in various capacities with the Nashville Women's Breakfast Club, Tennessee Women's Political Caucus, the Nashville Electric Service, and the Davidson County Election Commission.

Rev. Kelvin Sauls is a passionate advocate for the empowerment of individuals to actively engage in waging peace and equality through justice. Currently the Director for Congregational Development in the United Methodist Church,

he has spent his life providing leadership for communities across the United States. Rev. Sauls is a former board member of Planned Parenthood of the Golden Gate in San Francisco, CA.

Dr. Mona Williams-Hayes holds a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee in Social Work. She is currently the Executive Director of the Child Advocacy Center in Lenoir City, TN, an organization which counsels children who have been victims of sexual assault. Dr. Williams-Hayes has been published in numerous journals of social work and is a recognized leader in counseling children in crisis.

ROE TURNS 35!

January 22, 2008 will mark the 35th anniversary of Roe v. Wade! The 1973 Roe ruling stated that restrictive laws regarding abortion violated a constitutional right to privacy under the Due Process Law of the 14th Amendment. Women were now able to make medical decisions about their own reproductive health. On January 22nd, PPMET will be remembering the landmark decision for women and families by gathering from 4:00 - 5:30 pm on the sidewalk in front of Centennial Park (on West End Ave.) with signs in support of Roe and Planned Parenthood and by hosting a "Cocktails for a Cause" later in the evening. All supporters who join us on the sidewalk in Nashville will get free admission to our "Cocktails for a Cause" that evening, complete with drink tickets and hors d'oeuvres (normally \$25)! Plans for our Roe celebration in Knoxville are forthcoming. For more information, call Jessica at 615-345-0952.

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FROM THE CEO

Reproductive self-determination is a basic human right. The ability to decide the number, timing and spacing of your children, under what circumstances you will or will not have children, and the right to seek abortion, is without a doubt one of the most private, personal rights of any family. That right is accessible to many around the world, but it is denied to many more, often with tragic consequences.

Recently, The New York Times reported on a study by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Guttmacher Institute that reviewed abortion rates around the world. The comprehensive global study came to several conclusions. Most important among them are:

1. Abortion rates are similar in countries where abortion is legal and where it is illegal, and
2. The best way to reduce abortion rates is not to make it illegal but increase access to birth control.

At the same time, the only difference between countries where abortion is legal and where it is illegal is that women are more likely to die or suffer loss of fertility in those countries that criminalize abortion.

Isn't that what all of us who support reproductive freedom have been saying all along?

According to Dr. Paul Van Look, Director of the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research, "What we see is that the law does not influence a woman's decision to have an abortion. If there is an unplanned pregnancy, it does not matter if the law is restrictive or liberal."

This is a fact all too familiar to people in this country. Go back only forty years, prior to Roe v. Wade, for countless stories of women so desperate that they risked their health, their future fertility, and even their lives to obtain an abortion, usually under horrible conditions. Still, worldwide, nearly half of abortions take place in developing countries, usually in unsafe circumstances.

Of course, one of the most shocking and consistent statistics is the high rate of abortion in the United States as compared to the industrialized nations of Western Europe. It is clear that greater access to birth control and comprehensive sex education in Europe plays a tremendous role in reducing unintended pregnancies that lead to abortion.

In Congress and in every state, Planned Parenthood is confronting head-on the non-stop attempts by anti-choice lawmakers and activists to make access to birth control more difficult and to criminalize abortion. If they are successful, the United States will leave the company of developed countries that protect human rights and join the ranks of countries like Afghanistan, Haiti, Iran, Libya, the Sudan and Syria. We cannot let that happen.

With the upcoming legislative session starting in January, we expect the Tennessee General Assembly to deal with a ridiculous number of bills aimed at limiting access to reproductive freedom. Sadly, this means attacks not only on abortion, but also access to birth control and comprehensive sex education. 2008 is an election year; rest assured that anti-choice members of the legislature will be looking to score political points.

With your help, PPMET will fight any attempt to deny Tennesseans their basic human right of reproductive self-determination. We will fight every piece of legislation designed to prevent access to birth control and education that will help prevent unintended pregnancies.

Finally, as we come to the end of another year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your support and commitment to protecting human rights, especially reproductive rights. Without your support, none of our important work would be possible.



Jeff Teague
President and CEO

CHANGES IN EAST TENNESSEE

PPMET's new Knoxville Health Educator, Ginny Ramseyer Winter, joined PPMET in April, 2007. She comes to us with health education experience both domestically and abroad. She says of her experience thus far, "I am honored to join an organization with such a strong mission and leadership focused on social justice and reproductive health care rights. Providing comprehensive sexuality education in our communities is incredibly rewarding and empowers youth and adults to make healthy, informed decisions in their lives."

Ginny has expanded our programming in East Tennessee to include the Tri-Cities, as well as several other area counties. Additionally, PPMET is excited to announce a new peer education program in East Tennessee. Peer educators will be selected this winter and will attend 40 hours of training next spring. They will be required to complete educational contacts with their peers as well as a service component. The peer educators will receive a \$200 stipend after completing the program in May 2008. Please contact Ginny at ginnny@ppmet.org or 865-694-7155 x.3 for more information.

WORLD AIDS DAY

December 1st is World AIDS Day. According to UNAIDS, there are now 39.5 million people living with HIV, including 2.3 million children. During 2006, 4.3 million people were newly infected. Almost half of those newly infected with HIV are under age 25. Nearly 95% of people living with HIV/AIDS live in developing nations, but HIV/AIDS does not discriminate – it is a threat to women, men and children on all continents.

World AIDS Day is about increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education. HIV has not gone away, and there are many things still to be done.

Remember: There is no vaccine. There is no cure. You can make a difference. Get tested. Talk to your friends. Be safe. SPREAD THE WORD! Visit ppmet.org or betheneration.org for more information.

GALA 2007 – UNDER CONSTRUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS!

PPMET supporters responded in record numbers to Gala 2007 – Under Construction, our one-time-only "non-event" fundraising event. PPMET thanks everyone who supported Gala 2007 – Under Construction and would like to recognize the following Patrons and Sponsors (as of July 20, 2007):

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EAST TENNESSEE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF ARTS & EATS!

Over 100 PPMET supporters gathered on October 19, 2007 to enjoy the 10th Annual Arts & Eats auction. Responding to the wishes of East Tennessee donors, this year Arts & Eats moved to a new, elegant location: The Foundry. Arts & Eats featured over 220 live and silent auction items, including works from both local and national artists. Highlights of the evening included hand-blown glass vases from Curt Brock from the Appalachian Center for Crafts and gorgeous art pieces from Marcia Goldenstein and Greg Decker, as well as UT football and Lady Vols basketball packages. As always, live auctioneer Bear Stephenson kept the crowd excited with his rapid-fire delivery and incredible charisma.

In addition, this year's Arts & Eats featured the first East Tennessee winner of the Family Life Educator of the Year Award, Rhonda Sternfels of Vine Middle Magnet School. Rhonda's family and friends were on hand to applaud as she accepted her plaque and cash award, made possible by the Joni Werthan and Patricia Werthan Ullmann Generations Fund.

Many thanks to this year's Arts & Eats committee and to all our East Tennessee supporters who attended the event or donated items. We couldn't have done it without you!



PHONE BANKING FOR FAMILY PLANNING

On July 19, 2007, as the House was debating the Labor Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN) introduced an amendment that would have denied family planning services to millions of women, men, and teens by restricting federal family planning funds (Title X) from going to ANY Planned Parenthood health center. Thanks to our friends in Congress who spoke up on the House floor, and an amazing organizing effort by Planned Parenthood's state and national staff, the Pence amendment was overwhelmingly defeated by a vote of 231-189.

Unfortunately, Tennessee Representatives Lincoln Davis and Marsha Blackburn voted with the minority and against Planned Parenthood. If Representatives Davis and Blackburn were serious about wanting to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion, they would support Planned Parenthood and work with us to ensure access to low-cost family planning services.

During the August House recess, we gathered volunteers for 3 evenings and worked the phones, attempting to contact PPMET supporters in Davis's and Blackburn's districts. We were able to reach more than 50 people, who then made nearly 50 calls to their Representatives' home office. Our volunteers really enjoyed talking to our supporters and received lots of positive feedback like "keep up the good fight!" and "thank goodness you called!" Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers and supporters who took the time to call Davis and Blackburn. This was a great opportunity to hold our elected officials accountable!

PG-13 PLAYERS PREMIERE 2007

The PG-13 Players, PPMET's teen theatre troupe, celebrated the opening of their 21st season with a successful premiere at the Darkhorse Theatre on Tuesday, September 11th. The PG-13 Players are teen actors from high schools across Middle Tennessee. As a group, they develop and perform skits dealing with a variety of teen issues. The situations presented are left unresolved so that audience members may question the actors, who remain in character for the discussion. By exploring motivations, feelings and choices, the audience helps the characters make responsible decisions.

With the assistance of their coordinator, Kayce Matthews, the Players created five new skits this year addressing the issues of sexual decision-making, healthy relationships, drugs & alcohol, eating disorders, and stereotypes & prejudices. The players have been working on their new skits since they started their summer training in mid-July.

Since the Premiere, the teens have started performances and their schedule is filling up quickly. With the fall line up already set, Kayce is working on scheduling the teens for the spring semester. The Players perform for between 3,000 and 4,000 teens every year. If you are interested in scheduling a performance, contact Kayce Matthews at 345-0952 x218 or kaycem@ppmet.org.



Members of the PG-13 Players with coordinator Kayce Matthews.

PROJECT STI (SPREAD THE INFORMATION)

In the spring of 2007, Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee sent five peer educators to Planned Parenthood's inaugural Youth Summit in Los Angeles, California. The teens had to apply to attend the conference and were selected from a very competitive pool of young people from across the country. The main goals of the conference were to: integrate and enhance advocacy efforts into existing teen peer education programs and learn how Planned Parenthood can better work with youth; contribute to a plan for a Planned Parenthood National Youth Advocacy Taskforce; and identify the best ways to reach teens and youth through new technology (social networks, text messaging, internet, etc).

Since then, the five teens who attended the conference have started a pilot group called Project STI (Spread the Information- Not the Infection) and they have been hard at work. This new group of Planned Parenthood advocates immediately began to branch out to other teens and have already managed to generate awareness about Planned Parenthood's mission and why it is important for young people to know and advocate for their reproductive rights. We are still in the preliminary stages of development, but so far the teens have been involved with volunteer projects including tabling at the Nashville Pride fest, advocating for the Pathway Act (HIV legislation), and volunteering for National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Day.



Project STI members.