

# PRO-CHOICE MINNESOTA NEWS

Announcement of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota & NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation

## GETTING THE GROUNDWORK FOR VICTORY IN 2008 *Bring A Pro-Choice Majority to the Capitol and the Ballot Box*

Save the Date!

## 2008 Pro-Choice Lobby Day

Following a successful 2007 legislative session, including the long awaited and much needed passage of the Compassionate Reproductive Assault Victims Act, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota began preparations for the next legislative session and the critical

election cycle may seem like a long way away, it is crucial to be prepared and have been working hard in 2007 to lay the groundwork, strengthen the grass-roots, and make bigger strides for women's rights in 2008. This work will build upon the momentum from 2006, and move the pro-choice movement forward. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota is ready to Protect & Elect pro-choice candidates across the state.



We have continued to sustain and build the innovative programs that make NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota unique. We are expanding our student organizing work (see page 4), and are working to ensure women truly do have access to the right to choice, i.e., Emergency Contraception, through the Pharmacy Access Project (see page 6).

Remember here. We must build upon our strong base. Did you know that an astonishing 96% of our members voted in the 2006 election proving that when pro-choice people vote, pro-choice candidates win. As a member of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota, you have the power to truly make an impact on the future of reproductive rights.

Pro-Choice Minnesota envisions:

- Pro-Choice Electoral Victories at every level – from the White House to State Capitol;
- Comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate reproductive and sexual education that teaches about both abstinence and contraception will again be taught throughout Minnesota;
- A recent University of Minnesota poll showed that over 90% of Minnesota parents want this curriculum taught in Minnesota schools; and
- All Minnesotans have timely and affordable access to Emergency Contraception, whether it is at the local pharmacy, hospital, or campus.

So take it on, but we can't do it without you. Please join us with your monetary support, your letters and phone calls, your expertise, and with your time and expertise. Renew your membership today, give one more gift or contact us to find out how you can be a part of history. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota can be reached at 651-602-7655 or info@ProChoiceMinnesota.org.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 pro-choice supporters gathered from throughout Minnesota to voice their support on the State Capitol grounds for choice at the 2008 Pro-Choice Lobby Day!

Pro-Choice Lobby Day is an opportunity for all supporters of reproductive rights to learn about the issues, meet with their legislators, and voice their support for reproductive rights across the state.

Since its beginning six years ago, Pro-Choice Lobby Day has become an annual event and better. In 2008, we will have additional organizational support from reproductive rights groups in this important event including the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Midwest Heal Women, and Hamline Reproductive Justice. We are also adding the additional organizations for Pro-Choice Lobby Day, bringing together supporters from different backgrounds, and experiences to amplify the voices of all women and girls in the Capitol!

Your legislators need your voice. Join us on March 4<sup>th</sup> and make your voice heard!

To register see Page 7, [www.ProChoiceMinnesota.org](http://www.ProChoiceMinnesota.org)  
651-602-7655

Pro-Choice Spotlight	◆ APEP Update
Pro-Choice Update	◆ Special Event Thank Yous
Pharmacy Access Update	◆ Board Member Election
Pro-Choice Update & Convener of the Month	◆ Why donate to NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota?

**AL**  
**Pro-Choice Minnesota**

100 Rice Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55103  
Phone: 651-602-7658 fax  
[www.pro-choiceMinnesota.org](http://www.pro-choiceMinnesota.org)  
[www.pro-choiceMinnesota.org](http://www.pro-choiceMinnesota.org)

**Pro-Choice Minnesota  
Board of Directors**

Darielle Dannen  
Theresa DeRusha  
Erin Ghere  
Kimberly Anne Johnson  
Vanessa Martin  
Anna Odegaard  
Sara Radjenovic

**Pro-Choice Minnesota  
Foundation  
Board of Directors**

ID Amy Brugh  
Janet Keysser  
Julie Ingmire Seminitis  
Sarah Taylor-Nanista

**Pro-Choice Minnesota  
Action Fund  
Board of Directors**

Terrell Brown  
Dawn Erlandson  
Lisa McDonald  
Ruth Usem

**Pro-Choice Minnesota**

Canvasser  
APEP Coordinator\*  
Canvasser  
Canvasser  
Field Manager  
Canvasser  
Assistant Canvasser  
Director  
Canvasser  
Canvasser  
Grassroots Organizer  
Canvasser  
Executive Director  
Canvasser  
Canvasser  
Field Manager  
Canvasser  
Trainer  
Canvasser  
Field Manager  
Field Manager  
Canvasser  
Office Manager  
Canvasser  
Political Director  
Canvasser  
Canvasser  
Canvasser Director

Expansion Project (APEP) is a partnership between the NARAL Pro-Choice

**Elect the Future of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota**

**Members' Votes Needed for 2008 Board of Director Candidates**

One of the responsibilities of your membership is to participate in electing the leaders of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota. Below is the slate of candidates seeking positions on the Board of Directors. Please complete the ballot envelope included in this newsletter, and return to our office by

**Spotlight**

**Cindy Aegerter**

*Seeking 3<sup>rd</sup> term*

I have enjoyed serving on the board of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota for the last four years, as it's a great way to exercise my voice for choice inside a framework that is making real progress for women's health in Minnesota. It's an opportunity for me to expand my leadership skills, while serving an organization about which I care deeply. I look forward to steering the organization forward as we transition to the next level of organizational capacity and member engagement over the next two years.

**Ana Allen**

*Seeking 1st term*

Reproductive rights, women's access to services and the underlying factor for both of these issues, education .....are all issues I would like to lend my passion and commitment to through work with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota. As a first year law student I am choosing to focus my free time towards work with an agency like NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota that personally inspires me.

Being a member of the NARAL board will allow me to further shape my voice as a pro-choice

**Louis Asher**

*Seeking 1st term*

I greatly respect and defend peoples' right to follow their heart's path. This path is a personal journey of exploration, development and growth and is the most honest path I know. Other people can assist us, but ultimately we each determine what is true and right for ourselves.

The Constitution of the United States grants us religious freedoms and the right to make personal choices. I believe that this includes the right for a woman to make her own health decisions including reproductive choices. The availability of legal and, therefore safe abortions, is a right that needs to be protected.

I have worked for over 38 years as a researcher and/or statistician and have been involved in the

**Theresa DeRusha**

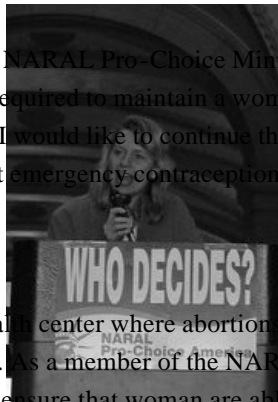
*Seeking 4th term*

I have had the opportunity to serve on the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Board for several terms. I am still a huge amount of work and commitment that is required to maintain a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion in the state of Minnesota. I would like to continue that work. It is imperative that not only abortion is safe and legal but that emergency contraception is available to sexual assault

**Barbara Elliott**

*Seeking 2nd term*

As a patient advocate at a Minneapolis health center where abortions are performed, I see the importance of reproductive choice every day. As a member of the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota board, I can proudly volunteer my time to ensure that women are able to continue to make these



**Kristen C**  
*Seeking 1st term*  
I am a law  
choice ad  
Planned P

downtow  
refusals to

**Sara Radj**  
*Seeking 2nd term*  
I have been  
then as a st  
board, I se  
the events  
ship at the  
Foundation

**Sarah W**  
*Seeking 2nd term*  
I started n  
Minneapo  
hours taki  
around the  
Board of I  
tinue to br  
young mo

Members  
year. To c  
Foundatio

To inquir  
call 651-6

The mission of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota is to develop and sustain a constituency that uses the political process to ensure every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing un

## Canvass Program Update

2007 has been an exciting and busy year for the canvass program. Year after year, our professional and talented canvass staff knocked on 144,963 doors, having met with 56,306 people about pro-choice issues and brought in 13,696 new members. We gathered 14,497 actions (letters and e-mail contacts) and 239 new volunteer members of the Minnesota Legislature on critical votes to protect our freedoms and keep our movement strong.

Thanks to the generous support and hospitality of Minnesota citizens, our canvass will be able to reach even more people next year, bringing in new members, resulting in even more political strength and electoral victory. In addition, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota will be starting an in-house canvass that we can build relationships with our loyal and dedicated members. Our power is our members and we cannot thank each and every one of you for your continued support and making NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota successful!

### Canvasser of the Month: Meghan

At the beginning of the summer, I would have hesitated to call myself a canvasser. Today, as a NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Canvasser, I declare that my first steps down a career path would be in the direction of progressive politics. In the past five months, I have grown immensely through a job that allows me to meet wonderful and inspiring people night after night, door after door.

To every person who has given me their time, their support, a glass of water, an inspiring story, and even a hug: thank you. Your kindness and support keeps us strong and joyful through the rain, the heat, the cold, the apathy, and the ignorance. Together we are Pro-Choice Minnesota and we will create the positive change we need in the world.



Canvassers Meghan Hein (left) and Son

working mainly environmental and land use law. I started my professional career in my first year in high school when my local government tried to stop a clinic from opening in our Iowa town. After envelope stuffing, letter writing, parade marching, and a well-timed court victory, the clinic finally opened shortly after I left for college. As a law student at the University of Iowa, I co-founded Iowa's chapter of Law Students for Choice (now Law Students for Reproductive Justice) and worked with volunteers at the Women's Resource and Action Center on choice-related voter education. I have worked as a clinic escort for the Midwest Health Center for Women in Des Moines and published an article on the legal implications of pharmacist emergency contraception. I do these things because I believe

in working with pro-choice organizations since college, first as a volunteer, then as a member for NARAL Pro-Choice America in 2002. As a member of the executive board development and executive committees and have served on various boards in the past. I currently work at the Center for Integrative Leadership at the Carlson School of Management and the Travelers

in partnership with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota shortly after I moved to Des Moines for the 2002 elections. Since then I have volunteered many hours by phoning, mailing parties, tabling and playing live music at events. Because of my volunteer involvement, I was nominated to join the executive board in 2006. I have learned a lot in the first two years and plan to continue to gain knowledge and experience working with lower income families and their organization.

he

### Am I A Current Member?

Considered current if they have contributed \$10 or more within the last 12 months. With IRS regulations, gifts to our NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota can no longer be considered membership dues.

To check our membership status, contact [info@ProChoiceMinnesota.org](mailto:info@ProChoiceMinnesota.org) or

To become a member or keep your membership up to date, please return the enclosed envelope with your contribution today!

## Abortion Provider Expansion Project: Increasing Access Through Collaboration

In 2000, the number of abortion providers declined by 37% nationwide, according to the Guttmacher Institute. Locally, the numbers are even more dramatic. Since abortion was first legalized in Minnesota over 34 years ago, abortion care was available in all of the state's 87 counties. Today, however, a mere 3 counties have facilities, and last year just 15 physicians performed over 90% of all the abortions. As the number of physicians trained to offer abortion care dwindles in this largely rural state—especially for those in rural communities, an important part of the state—also declines.

Recognizing this dilemma, in 2001 the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation began working with Pro-Choice Resources in creating the Abortion Provider Expansion Program. The mission of this unique collaborative program, which shares resources and the pool of medical and surgical abortion providers by increasing educational and training opportunities for medical students and residents, and by supporting pro-choice medical and nursing students, residents, clinicians, and physicians in their efforts to influence the attitudes and behaviors of the medical community.

In order to meet these goals, APEP works closely with several key partners: Medical Students for Choice, the Midwest Access Project in Illinois, the Access Project in New York, and the many generous clinics, physicians, and nurses who train and mentor tomorrow's healthcare providers. Through APEP, medical and nursing students have spent a day shadowing physicians at abortion clinics in the state. 23 medical students, including participants from the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota Medical School at Duluth, completed externships at local clinics during summer breaks. In addition to providing clinical surveys and facilitating practical hands-on workshops with physicians to demonstrate abortion techniques, APEP actively supports advocacy groups, health student groups, who lobby state legislators and push for curriculum changes. APEP is helped to foster a sense of community among providers by hosting meetings and discussions.

Through the strength of local and regional networks and collaborations, APEP has seen a net increase in providers and a diminishing sense of isolation in the state. For the last two years, there has been an overall gain in the number of providers in the state. Moreover, we have seen an increase in training opportunities. The residency program at the University of Minnesota now trains all residents in the state. However, much remains to be done. None of Minnesota's 11 family planning clinics currently offers comprehensive training, and providers are concentrated in the Twin Cities, leaving a majority of the population with no option but to travel long distances for care, a significant barrier for those with few resources. APEP is unable to expect to receive standard medical care without leaving their homes. APEP will continue to work to ensure that all women have access to safe, affordable abortion care and that healthcare professionals, in turn, have access to the training they need to provide women and their families with genuine options.

*Subject of the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation and Pro-Choice Funding is made possible by grants from the Jay and Rose Phillips Foundation and the Women's Foundation of Minnesota.*

## Thank You, Derek!

After five years with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota, Derek Burrows said good-bye to the organization earlier this year.

During his stellar tenure with the organization, Derek served as Election Development and Communications Director, and Executive Director. He saw the development of the hugely successful Canvass Program. He led and adapted to the challenges of growing a grassroots political organization to the ongoing success of the organization.

While we miss Derek's experience and dry sense of humor, we know he will excel in his new role as full-time Dad. The multi-tasking skills he has brought will come in handy in his new role. Good luck, Derek!

## Bringing Choice to a College Campus Near You ...

The Campus Organizing Program at NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota is strong and growing stronger every year. During the 2006-07 school year, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota was active on 13 campuses, with over 15 campus interns. Over 5,000 students participated in campus activities throughout the state. There were educational events, choice celebrations, panels and discussions, movie nights, and lots of tabling.

As we move into the 2007-08 school year, we are expanding to 18 campuses, with a focus on greater Minnesota campus organizing. We plan to have over 20 interns throughout the state by next spring. Annie Bigley, a 2007 Morris graduate, is working as the Student Organizing Intern this academic year. Annie has been traveling the state hosting recruitment events at various campuses and meeting with students about NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota's volunteer and internship opportunities this fall, hoping to further expand our campus program.

Here is a snapshot of Choice campus events around the state:



- ◆ University of MN – Duluth has added a Safe Sex Carnival in the fall along with their Safe Sex Fest Week in the Spring, which attracts over 200 students
- ◆ Carls for Choice at Carleton College recently held their annual bake sale fundraiser
- ◆ Nursing Students for Choice out of Winona

recently sponsored a Rock for Choice concert and raised \$1300 for a local family planning clinic.

choice off  
sota retail  
policy is l  
and accou  
we repres

### How You

Membersl  
our politic  
tion allow  
candidate:  
protect an

Our lean,  
work to et  
pro-choice  
and electo

Every dor  
exclusivel  
goes direc

### Why Not

You are p  
organizator  
RAL Pro-  
tions in m  
becomes l  
tee our sta  
must also

### Stand U

said

# NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota: The Political Leader of

ctor,  
o over-  
to learn  
; crucial

## *Why Your Membership Is Important*

Your membership with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota is essential to our political strength. Every member of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota plays a pivotal role in protecting reproductive privacy.

will also  
e will

Because of members like you, our staff, interns and volunteers are able to work throughout the state to elect pro-life advocates at the legislature to guarantee that the women of Minnesota have reproductive privacy and freedom. Our ability to influence government is based on the number of paid members we have, generating awareness with policymakers about the tens of thousands of pro-choice citizens in Minnesota.

## *Contribution Makes a Difference*

Contribution is the primary revenue source for all of our activist work, and cannot be paid for with any other source of funding. Your contribution to Pro-Choice Minnesota to expose the voting records of anti-choice legislators in our state, as well as develop effective election strategies to elect pro-choice candidates.

Our efficient organization will turn your contribution into action! We ensure that freedom of choice is a guaranteed right by mobilizing Minnesota's resources into the formidable political force it needs to be to win legislative victories.

Your contribution makes a difference. As a truly grassroots organization, we exist almost entirely of members who give less than \$250 per year. Your hard earned money funds the activities that seek to protect the right to choose in Minnesota.

## *Why Pro-Choice Minnesota?*

It's about a woman's right to choose, and support other pro-choice organizations like NARAL Pro-Choice America. What are the benefits of supporting NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota? While we work in coalition with our partner organizations, we are the only organization working to ensure our state legislature is pro-choice. We team up with NARAL Pro-Choice America to guarantee our part to protect reproductive rights in Washington, D.C., but we focus on our rights here at home.

## **Secure a Pro-Choice Future. Donate to NARAL Pro-Choice**

plans to



## **2008 Legislative Session Preview**

With supporters of reproductive choice still in the majority in the Minnesota Legislature, the 2008 session promises to be another positive one for NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota members and supporters.

The extreme anti-choice legislation of the past has largely been replaced with a common sense, prevention first approach to public health. A recent World Health Organization and Guttmacher Institute study reveals what we have always known: "Abortion is less prevalent where it is prohibited, it's just more dangerous." Regrettably, those supported by anti-choice legislators and the extreme Minnesota Legislature concerned for Life do nothing to reduce the need for abortion, but simply put the wellbeing of women in jeopardy. The hypocrisy of these extremists is their lack of support for family planning, sexual health education, and health care for low income children.

Pro-choice legislators are advancing prevention-focused legislation, protecting reproductive rights in Minnesota by blocking anti-choice bills. This session is moving forward to working with these commonsense lawmakers to advance reproductive rights, increase access to family planning, bring traditional sexual health education into Minnesota schools, and increase oversight of dangerous crisis pregnancy centers.

Visit the policy section of our new website at [www.ProChoiceMinnesota.org](http://www.ProChoiceMinnesota.org) for dates on all pro-choice and anti-choice legislation from the Capitol throughout the legislative session.

# Pro-Choice Minnesota Investigates Pharmacy Access

Emergency Contraception (also known as EC, the morning-after pill, available to purchase over-the-counter without a prescription to all and over. This decision by the Food and Drug Administration grassroots organizing and lobbying by supporters of contraceptive the nation, including many NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota mem- most effective the sooner it is taken, this important change means that ickly access this effective birth control method without the delay or costly trip to the doctor.

toward increased access, many pharmacies still do not carry EC, and > women with erroneous and misleading information about EC. This Pro-Choice Minnesota launched the Pharmacy Access Project, a first- y of all 1,200 pharmacies

he help of over 100 ators, we are working to ability, price, and refusal esota pharmacies. The l to create a website an locate the pharmacy t stocks EC at a price his statewide survey is ntify pharmacies that are :emergency contraception.

ave been telling:

emergency contraception is most limited for women in Greater Min-

rmacies provide inaccurate or misleading information about emer- traception, sometimes confusing it with the medical abortion pill,

clear lack of awareness of the new over-the-counter status of EC, / pharmacies still demanding a prescription.

o work with these pharmacies to help them learn about EC and the omen’s immediate access to emergency contraception. We will be ivers and activists in the coming months to support our grassroots our help to reach out to pharmacies and encourage them to improve rantee that women throughout Minnesota have immediate access to

***Did you know?***

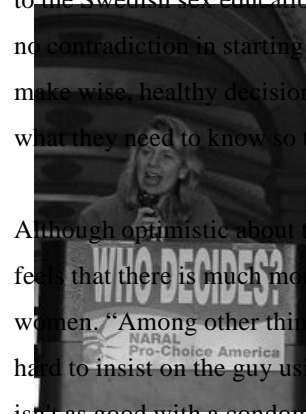
- ◆ When taken within 120 hours (5 days) after unprotected sex, EC can be up to 89% effective in preventing unintended pregnancy.
- ◆ The price of EC can range anywhere from \$5 to \$60.



Volunteer Camilla Engblom

## Volunteer Spotlight: Camilla Engblom

Camilla Engblom is a 20 year old biology student at Macalester College in St. Paul. Hoping to someday work in a public health related profession, Camilla became involved with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota this year through the Comprehensive Sexuality Education Project. Collecting postcards to send to legislators as well as stories of Minnesotans' experience with sex education, Camilla hopes to inform legislators about the need for comprehensive sexuality education legislation in Minnesota. Born and raised in Sweden, Camilla was introduced to the Swedish sex education system in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. “I see no contradiction in starting as early as that. Sexual education make wise, healthy decisions concerning your sexuality. what they need to know so that they can look after them-



Although optimistic about the future of reproductive feels that there is much more to be done, especially to women. “Among other things, I have heard many times hard to insist on the guy using a condom. It can be that isn't as good with a condom on or that it's safe because Well, what if she gets pregnant? No one but the woman cide over her own body! I think it is crucial to make both

special th: partner or Riverview for hostin

**Headway**  
On Sunda  
NARAL F  
choice. T

Fill out an are acc

\*NAME  
tion is key  
\*STREE  
It is about  
\*CITY/S  
\*EMAIL  
\*PHONE  
\*SCHOOL  
rights in ti  
improved  
from girls  
the guys s  
\*Require  
they don't  
herself ha  
parties aw



