

2013-14 Program Planning: A Guide for Interesting & Productive Meetings

The following is a suggested list of meetings to hold during the year. Plus, we've included other interesting ideas to keep your weekly meetings both engaging and well attended. Essential meetings are in **bold**; it is suggested that the executive board plan these important meetings beforehand so that they run smoothly.

September 9-13: Welcome Back Meeting & Get Out Her Vote Planning
This meeting should be held at the beginning of each semester in order to re-energize previous members and welcome new members.

Welcome topics to cover should include:

- **FMLA/affiliate group and its connection to FMF**
- **Celebrate recent successes—such as celebrating the Affordable Care Act and the opening of the Insurance Marketplace on October 1, 2013—and prepare to continue fighting for increased family planning access and other major goals of the year!**
- **Outline activities for the semester ahead.**
- **Introduction to the Get Out Her Vote Campaign!**

Get Out Her Vote topics should include:

- **FMF and its affiliates are *non-partisan*—we focus on issues, not candidates/parties**
- **What's At Stake: Current referenda on the state ballot or future state ballots**
- **Discuss plans for voter registration and mobilization (use the GOHV toolkit!)**

September 16-20: Examining Mainstream Media through a Feminist Lens

- Watch and critique a film
OR
- Bring in magazines and discuss the content.
- Think about:
 - Heteronormal views of our society
 - Racism
 - Classism
 - Body image
 - Division of labor

September 23-27: Spotlight on War on Women: State Actions to Restrict Access to Abortion and Birth Control

- Education on the effects of recent attacks on abortion and birth control access in many states
- The FMF's *State Capitals Project*
- Discuss hosting a *Walk for Women's Lives* in your community.

October 14-17: National Coming Out Day/Love Your Body Day

- Discuss plans for National Coming Out Day (October 11) or another joint event.
-OR -
- Invite a nurse or physician from your school to discuss eating disorders and other threats to women's health. National Love Your Body Day is October 15th.

October 21-25: Global Women's and Human Rights Project

- Young Women's Week of Action for U.S. and Global Reproductive Rights
 - Host a campus forum on the links between decreased family planning funding, the global gag rule, etc.
- "The Global Majority...Again" Screening & Discussion

October 28- November 5: Voter Mobilization

- **Mobilize student voters—Election Day is Nov. 5!**
 - **Please remember that *FMF and its affiliates are non-partisan!***
 - **Coordinate transportation to get students to the polls**
 - **Dorm Storm! Go door-to-door asking students if they've made it to the polls yet**
 - **Have an election party—get your group together to watch election returns!**

November 11-15: EC Week of Action

- Celebrate the victory of Plan B over-the-counter for women of all ages!
- Go to or call your local stores and pharmacies to ensure that Plan B is in stock and work on an educational campaign to inform other students about the availability of Plan B.
- Increase awareness of the newly won availability of Plan B to women and girls of all ages

November 18-22: Post Election Debriefing

- Invite a Political Science professor to discuss the implications of the election.

November 24: Elimination of Violence Against Women

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25th)
 - Discuss the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
 - Plan an event to commemorate victims of violence.

December 2-6: Holiday Potluck and Discussion

- Catch the holiday spirit! Have a discussion on religion and feminism.
 - Personal spirituality
 - Mainstream religion

- How feminists come to terms with their religion
- Fundamentalist religious factions and the oppression of women
- Have group members bring food items for a potluck dinner

January 20-24: Welcome Back Meeting & Spring Semester Kick-off!

This meeting should be held at the beginning of each semester in order to re-energize previous members and welcome new members. Topics to cover should include:

- **Outline activities for the semester ahead.**
- **Introduction to the *Never Go Back Campaign***
 - **Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* (January 22nd)**
 - **Show & discuss “Never Go Back: The Threat to Legal Abortion”**
 - **Plan a hanger action – What women choose when they have no choice!**

February 3-7: Feminism is For Everyone

- February is Black History Month!
- Invite multicultural groups from your campus to discuss black feminism and Chicana feminism.
- Celebrate Black, Chicana, Native American, and Asian Feminists in History
 - Coretta Scott King
 - Alice Walker
 - Dolores Huerta
 - Pauli Murry
 - Isabelle Allende
 - bell hooks
 - Loretta Ross
 - Aung San Suu Kyi

February 10-14: V-Day Events!

- Plan or participate in V-Day events on your campus.
- Take the *Vagina Monologues* to the next level—hold a discussion on the different forms of violence against women such as sex trafficking, sexual assault on campus, etc.

February 17-21: Feminist Leadership Week

- Show a movie portraying women in leadership roles.
 - “Iron Jawed Angels”
 - “Sisters of ‘77”
 - “North Country”
- Prepare for upcoming student government elections. Encourage members of the group to run and support their campaign.
- If a pro-woman, feminist line up is already assembled, work as support staff to help get these candidates elected.

February 24-28: Warm-up for Women’s History Month

- Plan actions, demonstrations, events for the month of March
- Schedule a weekly feminist movie night for the whole month
- Prepare flyers, artwork, informational materials to display on campus

March 3-7: Women's History Month

- Invite a faculty member from the history or social studies department to discuss women throughout history.
- Thank a Feminist: brainstorm reasons to thank feminists and post them as fliers around campus! Thank a Feminist For:
 - The right to own credit cards (Equal Credit Act of 1975)
 - The right to wear pants (Feminists sued department stores in the 1970s; Carol Moseley Braun was the first woman to wear pants on the Senate floor in 1992; female attorneys are still prohibited to wear pants on the floor of the Supreme Court)
 - The right to vote (19th Amendment, 1920)
 - The right to a safe and legal abortion (Roe v. Wade, 1973)
 - The right to receive an equal education (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)

March 8: International Women's Day

- Host an international fair, highlighting the state of women in various countries/regions around the world

March 10-13: *Standing with Our Sisters* Week of Action/ National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers

- Organize an event to call attention to the tens of thousands of women and girls dying from maternal mortality or botched abortions each year because of the Global Gag Rule and U.S. international family planning policies.
OR
- Make cards and thank you notes to show appreciation for abortion providers. Send them to clinics across the country or hand deliver them to local clinics.

March: National Young Women's Leadership Conference Preparation

- Prepare to travel to Washington, DC for the National Conference
- OR -
- If your group is unable to attend the conference, make plans to hold your own forum on reproductive rights on campus.

March 17-21: Group Elections

- **Decide which positions are necessary for your group (i.e. President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.)**
- **Decide on and implement an election process.**
- **Spend the following weeks training new members of the executive board/executive committee.**

April 7-11: Sexual Assault Awareness

- Plan a *Take Back the Night* event
 - Host a public speaker to discuss how to improve sexual assault prevention on your campus.
 - Organize a march on your campus to stop violence against women.
 - Contact a local women's shelter to co-sponsor the events.

April 14-18: Sweatshop Action Campaign

- Plan a fashion show with clothes made from sweatshop designer labels to educate your campus about the women and children who work for pennies per hour to make the clothes found in almost every campus and department store.
- Organize a *Stop Violence Against Women Workers in Juarez* rally.

April 21-25: Eco-Feminism

- Invite an Environmental Science professor and/or a Women's Studies/Gender Studies professor to discuss eco-feminism in honor of Earth Day (April 22nd).
- Pick a spot on campus or in the community and beautify it by picking up garbage or planting flowers.

April 28 – May 2: Pay Equity

- Plan a Wage Gap Bake Sale. Have group members bake goodies, charge men \$1.00, white women \$0.76, African American women \$0.66 and Hispanic women \$0.54. Hand out information explaining that these rates are equal to the wage gap in the U.S.

May 5-9: FEMMIES!!!!!!

- Celebrate the end of the year in style! Host a Femmies where each member of the group gets an award for all of their hard work throughout the year.
- Induct the new officers for the upcoming school year.
- HAVE FUN AND CELEBRATE ALL YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!