

Meeting Formats

Chapter MER NOW (Mothering) Task Force

There is no set way that a meeting should be structured. The only specification is that the subject matter deals with Mothers' Economic Rights (See suggested Meeting Topics and MER Reading lists for ideas). Obviously the number of people in attendance will influence what you do at your meeting. Flexibility is key. Even if you advertise a certain type of meeting, it's a good idea to have at least one back-up plan. Bad weather, summer break/holiday vacation plans and cold & flu season can wreak havoc on caregivers schedules.

*** Discussion Group:**

- Book Club -- Prior to the meeting, suggest some articles. Have the group vote on it so that everyone comes to the meeting ready to speak on that topic
- Watch a video (movie or select tv report) on MER issue and discuss.
- Pull from the Hat -- Members write down a topic, it gets pulled from the "hat" and discussed.
- Talking Stick -- Everyone gets time to talk.

Please also refer to the attached "Meeting Formats" by Laird Schaub and "Successful Meetings" from National NOW Chapter Development online.

*** Instant Activism:**

- Letter Writing-- provide issue statements, sample letter, stamps and envelopes.
- Petitions -- bring a laptop with petitions bookmarked or provide hard copies to sign.

*** Educational Workshops & Consciousness Raising :**

- Check out the many great meeting outlines that are available at Mothers and More (www.mothersandmore.org - members access only) , NAMC/MOTHERS Incentive (www.mothersoughttohaveequalrights.org) and our own National NOW site (www.now.org) .

We will be posting our own CR workshops on the NOW-NJ site.

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*** Special Events:**

- Open House with a workshop on a Mothers' Economic Rights topic that deals with an issue specific to your community .
- Hold a Thinking Moms' Book Fair featuring one of your local booksellers.
- Arrange a special program for the children (global music, a special craft project, story time) while moms have a chance to introduce themselves and ease into the discussion topic. This has proved very successful in the Morris County MER Task Force.
- Have a speaker or set up a roundtable discussion -- invite local authors, businesspeople, activists and academics to speak on an appropriate topics.
- Field Trips. Whether a Historical Feminist site, Lobby Day in Trenton or a marching for with NOW at a local holiday parade, try to get your group out and active.

For more information regarding NOW-NJ Mothers' Economic Rights Task Force, Chapter MER TF development, or to receive additional action kits, please contact Laurie Pettine at mertf_info@nownj.org or 973-214-2643.