**Gender Equity Forum Meeting**

**Progressive Action for the Common Good**

July 19, 2022 at 7 pm

Bettendorf Public Library, Gilbert Room

**Opening**

* Jeannie will do this.

**Introductions***(1-5 min)*

* If small # attendees (< 12 people) we will all briefly introduce ourselves.
* If larger #, Alta & Carolyn will introduce themselves and mention good chance to meet like-minded people

*Use “people” and not women!*

* Ask people to sign in with their contact info & indicate what nights work best for meetings.
* Reminder to register to vote!

**Agreements***(1 min)*

* 60 min meeting length
* Gender equity can be an emotional and controversial topic. Please mind your manners and be polite.
* Allow people adequate time to speak without interruption, however, we must be mindful of the time
* Confidentiality

**Focus tonight - Abortion***(10 min)*

* Power Point slide: list of additional concerns we identified at 6/14/22 meeting
* We are looking for people willing to take on leadership roles in this group
* Update on abortion rights in **Iowa:**
* IA Supreme Court ruled in June that the state Constitution does not provide a constitutional right to abortion
* No special session currently planned
* Gov Reynolds will almost certainly introduce legislation in January to ban abortion

24 hr. waiting period has already gone into effect (2 separate appointments needed + impacts travel time)

* Update on abortion rights in **Illinois:**
* Illinois has become a haven for people wanting an abortion in other states, stressing existing resources.
* Closest abortion provider = Peoria

**Brainstorm abortion action items***(20 min)*

* Separate into 2 groups (IA/IL)
* Sign up to have conversations with state representatives
	+ *(we need district maps and lists of candidates)*
* IA group:
	+ Network with other groups (IA Abortion Access Fund, PP of the Heartland, Emma Goldman).
	+ Letter writing campaign?
	+ Other ideas?
* IL group:
	+ Can we get a Planned Parenthood in Moline/RI?
	+ Contact Emma Goldman – would they consider opening in Moline or RI?
	+ Thank you to legislators?
	+ Other ideas?

**Reconvene together***(15 min)*

* Review what each group discussed: **Use whiteboard**
* Concrete plans?
* Are there members willing to help in leadership for specific actions?

**Closing***(5 min)*

* This is a stressful time: importance of self-care.
* If there is time –
	+ Turn to someone sitting near you and share one thing you will do to self-care this week to keep you strong until we meet again.
		- You each speak for 30 seconds.
* Next **Gender Equity Forum** meeting: **Tues Aug 16th, 7PM, Bett Public Library**
* **Hands Off Happy Hour**: **Wed Aug 10th 5:00 to 7 pm, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island**
	+ a la Green Drinks that the Environmental Forum has been doing for 3 years
	+ social only this time
	+ buy a beverage, popcorn or something else to eat and socialize with like-minded people
	+ PS. We need a logo if anyone is a graphic artist
* We will try to alternate both monthly meeting sites between IA & IL (GEF and HOHH)
* We may try to offer hybrid meetings in the future.
* Best way to contact us with questions or comments/ideas: qcprogressiveaction@gmail.com