



My name is Michele Lockman, and I am a candidate for the Treasurer of the **Pennsylvania Chapter of National Organization for Women (NOW)**. If elected, I would occupy a position on the executive board.

I currently serve on the Pennsylvania NOW transition team, and have worked to support our organization as we've moved from interim administration toward electing new permanent leadership.

I have been a part of the feminist fight for equality since high school, when despite being attacked because of my gender, I was elected Student President during my junior and senior years. Never shying away from advocating for equal rights for all, attending undergrad at George Washington University, situated five blocks from the U.S. Capitol, afforded me the opportunity to participate in many equal rights marches and to attend congressional hearings, where I realized the value of expressing my opinions and the power of organizing in order to get things done. This led me to believe that WE CAN CREATE CHANGE if we work together, and I have continued to work to that end.

These early experiences fueled my activism in the feminist struggle, and I am particularly proud to be running at this time to be part of the National Organization of Women, where we recognize the importance of fighting for equality because the struggle for women's equality mirrors the struggles of many other communities.

My "We Can Do It!" feeling has been borne out in my lifelong involvement in politics and advocacy. As a committee person and then Chairwoman of the Springfield Democrats, I had the opportunity to work within our political system to push for positive change, interviewing and endorsing candidates who supported the agenda of equality for all. To that end, I organized a rally on the steps of the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown to show support for same sex marriage. The event was a spectacular success, resulting in statewide media coverage and support. In addition, for the past six years I have served as a staff member for Congressman Brendan Boyle, working to help provide vital services to underserved communities.

As a member of Pennsylvania NOW, I helped to plan the "We Stand with Her" rally in response to the recent sexual assault on SEPTA. I believe in uniting through grassroots advocacy to facilitate change.

I appreciate the importance of the responsibilities of serving as a treasurer, having served in this position for a countywide elected official, working with the treasurer as head of the Springfield Democrats. I understand the need to ensure that our budget and financial decisions reflect the priorities of our members. Accuracy and transparency of our funds must be our top priority, while also making sure we fundraise sufficiently to be able to carry out the events and priorities of our organization across our Commonwealth. To these ends, having an open dialogue with our membership and ensuring their priorities are heard is essential.

As someone with decades of experience in political advocacy, as an educator with a Master's Degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a mother of two sons, and as a grandmother, I have been schooled in the hard work it takes to move the needle on ensuring fairness and justice for people in our society. Pennsylvania NOW and its membership work hard to that end, and I would be honored to do my part in continuing to support that work by becoming the Treasurer of our organization.