



Ginny Lea, financial coordinator of Arizona National Organization for Women (AZ NOW), explains membership at the newest AZ NOW chapter's informational meeting in Bright Side Book Shop in downtown Flagstaff Oct. 26. **Rye So** | *The Lumberjack*

Bringing feminism to Flagstaff, NOW

ASHLEY BESING

The Arizona National Organization for Women (AZ NOW) is a non-profit organization that has worked to advance the equal status of females since the organization was founded in 1966. Their focus ranges from ending violence against women and racial and economic justice to reproductive and LGBTQ rights.

With six chapters already in operation, several members of the board of AZ NOW traveled to Bright Side Bookshop Oct. 26 in hopes of starting a chapter in Flagstaff.

Dorene Campbell is a co-coordinator for

chapter development and a retired public health professor at UA. She has high hopes for the future of the Flagstaff chapter of AZ NOW.

"I hope that [the Flagstaff chapter of AZ NOW is] able to collaborate with other non-profit organizations, like Together We Will and the She Wolf Project, so we can have a bigger impact on the political system in Flagstaff so we can hopefully elect people that are women-friendly, and, in fact maybe get women to run," said Campbell.

One of the main focuses of AZ NOW is political change.

"We have a political action committee, and we review bills that are being proposed ... We

call our representatives, we protest on site. It's mostly political action, it's all based on politics," Campbell said.

Though AZ NOW is focused on politics, it doesn't take any particular political party stance.

"It's not political in the sense of parties, but it's political in the sense for what's best for women. How we can promote the women's agenda with access to birth control, hopefully getting [the Equal Rights Amendment] ratified. Things like that," Campbell said.

The chapter's introduction started with opening remarks from Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans.

"I can tell, as the first African-American

female council member and the first African-American mayor here in the city of Flagstaff, that what we are doing here tonight matters," said Evans.

Evans was a student and community activist for more than 20 years and is very vocal about women's rights.

"I just really like to raise the consciousness ... that diversity is good. Females are good. Working together is good," Evans said.

Though feminism can be a controversial issue, Evans emphasizes its importance in a society.

"[Some people] think that [feminism] takes away from everybody else. It actually doesn't. It