



The National Congress of Neighborhood Women

A Network of Grassroots Women
Leaders, Community Based Organizations,
and Partners Working to Sustain Families
and Communities Locally & Globally



Our Purpose & Identity

Welfare, public housing, education, and the economy are being “reformed” so rapidly that grassroots women leaders need access to independent information and to others trying to strengthen families and neighborhoods in order to stay energized, on vision and creative. National Congress of Neighborhood Women (NW), a network of community builders in low income urban and rural areas across the U.S., is this link. Founded in 1974, grassroots leaders and their allies join NW based on shared principles and common goals. Committed to partnering across race, class, culture, geography, and other differences, we:

1 Encourage low-income women to participate and lead in the development of their communities;

2 Identify and share the creative projects and methods developed by urban and rural grassroots women’s groups;

3 Increase the opportunities for grassroots women to network locally, nationally, and internationally;

4 Focus national attention on the capabilities and successes of low income women.



NW members exchange experiences in the network that range from forming housing organizations (from rural land trusts to effective public and low income housing associations) to reforming public schools and creating leadership support groups that help women survive exhausting responsibilities. In Appalachia, the Pacific Northwest, the Northeast, the Mid-West/Mid-South and with public housing resident leaders, NW connects community activists from neighboring states and cities to strengthen women’s capacity to plan, get resources, and maintain organizations in changing times.



Since the global economy requires global allies, NW helped initiate an international grassroots women’s network (GROOTS) and achieved consultative status at the United Nations in the mid 1980s. Both relationships provide practical information and access to experienced community developers who insist that low income women co-design solutions to poverty and urban/rural decay and offer peer lending, sustainable agriculture, and other approaches that illustrate the successes that result.



What our Network Offers

Members are invited to at least **two gatherings a year** where women can get to know each other in-depth, share their work and stay connected; receive an ongoing **newsletter** that shares resources and publicizes member successes plus regional/national activities; and can get help and information from partnering organizations and networks.

Specific membership benefits include:

- **Materials and access to trainers** who explain NW’s leadership support methods that help women to juggle day to day family pressures and community activism and to expand community participation through dialogues and partnerships across race, class, income, and other differences.

- **Hands-on help with local and regional community building events** (leadership support groups, peer learning exchanges, and action planning sessions that enable grassroots leaders to recommend programs and policies that empower women, families, and communities).

- **A Summer Institute on Women and Community Development**—a five-day training retreat where participants meet grassroots leaders from the U.S. and abroad, share successful approaches, exchange personal leadership support, and return home validated and inspired.



- **Access to grassroots developers** from Africa, Asia, Latin America and other regions **and to UN conferences**. NW’s affiliation with Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS) allows members to participate in Groots-related exchange visits, receive member profiles and purchase materials outlining the community building approaches pioneered by low income women around the world. Active at the United Nations in New York, NW also helps members attend and receive information about UN conferences on women, housing, and human settlements, poverty eradication, and other subjects.

- **A NW/GROOTS Grassroots Partnership Campaign:** Win/win strategies for generating income by using meaningful products that celebrate grassroot cultures as fundraisers for your own and/or our benefit: Putumayo World Music; Global to Local Organic Coffee and Tea; New Internationalist Holiday calendars and recipe books. (718.783.2298)

- **Ties to coalitions and allied networks**—including the National Low Income Housing Coalition, McAuley Institute, Sustainable America, Church Women United and others—that provide technical assistance, legislation and action updates, and explain fundraising and program opportunities.



How Can I Join?

JUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

—Yes! I want to join NW and participate in your networking activities for the coming year.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone# _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Membership #1 for individuals or
Affiliation #2 for organizations is for one
year from the month it is received.

The fee range is:

1. () \$15 Low income
() \$50 Partner
(\$65 with Sourcebook)
() \$100 Sponsor
2. Organizational affiliation fees:
() \$50 (budget under \$50,000)
() \$100 (budget \$50-100,000)
() \$250 (budget over 100,000)

(Note: NW's Leadership Support Methods
Sourcebook is available at a discounted rate of
\$15 to all members and affiliates.)

Mail to:
National Congress of Neighborhood Women
249 Manhattan Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11211



I am particularly interested in the following:

- NW's Leadership Support Manual,
Training Costs, and other "how
to" organizing materials
- The NW Annual Institute on
Women and Community
Development
- Ways to Link with Grassroots
Women Internationally
- Bringing Habitat Home
- NW/Grassroots Partnership
Campaign & Fundraising Initiative



*P*inciples that Guide Us

The Self Empowerment of Women

Honoring Diversity

Women's Leadership

The Preservation of Neighborhoods

Strengthening Families in their Many Forms

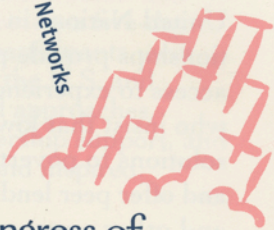
Processes fostering Dignity, Mutual Respect and Trust

Organizing through Support Groups and Networks

Governmental Accountability

Environmental Concerns

Working in Coalitions



National Congress of
Neighborhood Women

249 Manhattan Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11211

Ph: 888.777.5776 or 718.388.8915

Fax: 718.388.0285