

FEMINIST NEWS AND VIEWS

Morris County NOW

P.O. Box 394, Morristown, New Jersey 07960
Chapter Phone 973.285.1200



TAKE ACTION WITH MORRIS COUNTY NOW

November/December 2020

RFA: THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM ACT

By Susan J. Waldman

With Justice Amy Coney Barrett firmly ensconced on the Supreme Court, no one knows what the future will bring. All sorts of scenarios have been predicted, with Reproductive Rights, LGBTQIA Rights, Civil Rights and more on the line. However, here in New Jersey we have the opportunity to protect women's reproductive rights.

On Thursday, October 8, 2020, the Reproductive Freedom Act (S3030) was introduced in the New Jersey Senate. Primary Sponsors are Loretta Weinberg and Linda R. Greenstein, with the following Co-Sponsors: Vin Gopal, M. Teresa Ruiz and Troy Singleton. The bill has been referred to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. The Assembly version (A4848) was introduced on Thursday, October 19, 2020 with Primary Sponsors Valerie Vainieri Huttel, Mila M. Jasey, Raj Mukherji, Annette Chaparro, Joann Downey, Angela V. McKnight, Verlina Reynolds-Jackson and Annette Quijano. The Co-Sponsors: Yvonne Lopez, Herb Conaway Jr., Andrew Zwicker, Anthony S. Verrelli, Joe Daniels, Britnee N. Timberlake and Daniel R. Benson. The bill has been referred to the Assembly Health Committee.

The Reproductive Freedom Act is the product of THRIVE—New Jersey, a coalition that includes the National Organization for Women of NJ (NJ-NOW), Planned Parenthood, ACLU, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), New Jersey Abortion Access Fund (NJAAF), Catholics for Choice, and New Jersey Policy Perspective among others.

According to the State of New Jersey website, <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/20201002b.shtml>, "The Reproductive Freedom Act protects and expands access to essential reproductive health care services in three key ways:

- ◆ **The Reproductive Freedom Act explicitly ensures all New Jerseyans have the right to make their own personal health decisions when it comes to birth control and pregnancy-related care, including abortion.** The decision about whether and when to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions we make. We need to trust all people who can become pregnant to make decisions about their own health and lives.
- ◆ **The Reproductive Freedom Act makes certain that financial barriers do not prevent anyone from making their own personal health decisions when it comes to birth control and pregnancy-related care, including abortion.** Key provisions of the bill require private insurance coverage for birth control and abortion care with no out-of-pocket costs, to ensure that a person's income or insurance status do not dictate their ability to access time-sensitive health care.
- ◆ **The Reproductive Freedom Act expands access to birth control and pregnancy-related care including abortion by breaking down medically-unnecessary restrictions that right now only serve to block access to care."**

It is time to secure a future that safeguards reproductive care, upholds basic rights and justice, and respects decision-making throughout pregnancy. "As access to health care and the right to choose are under attack at the federal level, we will support, defend, and protect reproductive rights here in New Jersey," said **Governor Murphy**. "The Reproductive Freedom Act will remove barriers to reproductive health, as well as expand access to contraception while reaffirming choice. Together, we stand unwavering in our commitment to work towards reproductive freedom for all New Jerseyans."

(Continued on Page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ The Reproductive Freedom Act (Page 1)
- ◆ Human Trafficking Coalition Update (Page 2)
- ◆ MC NOW Election of Officers (Page 3)
- ◆ A Feminist Story: Mavra Stark (Page 4)
- ◆ Menstrual Products Legislation (Page 5)
- ◆ Taking Action with Stacey Gregg (Page 6)
- ◆ NJ NOW State Conference Report (Page 6)
- ◆ NOW National Conference Report (Page 7)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL



(Continued from Page 1)

Some highlights of the RFA

- ◆ Declares that all New Jerseyans — including cisgender women, transgender men, and non-binary people — have a fundamental right to access reproductive health care, such as birth control and pregnancy-related care including abortion, and have the right to make their own health care decisions without interference by politicians.
- ◆ Ensures that birth control is covered through insurance without copays, and that prescriptions can also be written for a full year of birth control at a time.
- ◆ Ensures abortion access from private insurance with no out-of-pocket costs.
- ◆ Expands a program for individuals who are not currently eligible for Medicaid coverage due to their immigration status to access safe, legal and affordable birth control and pregnancy-related care, including abortion.
- ◆ Updates and repeals medically unnecessary, harmful regulations regulate abortion differently from any other medical procedure and restrict access to care.
- ◆ Repeals old laws that create barriers to abortion access, including an unconstitutional law that required forced parental notification (which was struck down by the New Jersey Supreme Court two decades ago) and two criminal laws that are vaguely written and could be misused to prosecute and imprison someone who has ended their own pregnancy.

TAKE ACTION WITH MORRIS COUNTY NOW

NJ-NOW needs to be an active participant, working with the other members of THRIVE-New Jersey, in getting these bills out of committee and passed through the legislature. NJ-NOW President, Anjali Mehrotra, is putting together a team to organize our lobby efforts. She has already reached out to the Governor's office to plan a town-hall on the RFA. If you are interested in joining the team, please let her know. You can choose your level of engagement, but they are looking for individuals who want to join lobby meetings, make phone calls, etc. If you would like to join the RFA team, contact Anjali by email at president@nownj.org or by phone, 908.456.8081. We must protect the women of New Jersey no matter what the Supreme Court decides.

In addition, the primary sponsors are asking for our help to get this legislation out of committee and to the Senate and Assembly floor. That means contacting your legislators and asking them to co-sponsor these bills. *There is an insert in this newsletter with names and contact information for the legislators in the six districts that include any part of Morris County. It is also important to contact the members of the committees to which these bills were referred (see paragraph two of this article). You can look up this information on the New Jersey Legislature page, www.njleg.state.nj.us, under "Committees" on the far left side of the page. You can also find information on all individual New Jersey legislators.*

There is more information on the bill at the Planned Parenthood website, www.ppactionnj.org. If you would like to read the bill, visit https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S3500/3030_11.PDF.

NEW JERSEY COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING UPDATE

By Susan J. Waldman



Rebranding

As reported in the September/October 2020 newsletter, the Coalition won the \$50,000 rebranding. The great "reveal" is planned for January 4, 2021 to coordinate with Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Qanon Problem

This conspiracy theory group is causing problems for survivors and victims of child trafficking. They are accomplishing this by spreading misinformation, delegitimizing real resources, clogging hotlines with false calls and threats, diverting monetary and other resources from legitimate organizations, and normalizing the concept of "saving" and "rescuing" trafficking victims. (Report "#Save The Children, Qanon, and the Dangers of Conspiracies," Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, PA [DVCCC]). Masquerading as legitimate anti-trafficking organizations, they approach the NJCAHT to co-sponsor their events. This forces the Coalition to waste time researching and uncovering their attempts to spread misinformation.

Education

On July 19, 2019, Governor Murphy signed into law A1428 which states that "the Department of Education (DOE) in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Children and Families shall develop and distribute to school districts guidelines concerning Child Trafficking. The purpose of the guidelines shall be to provide directions for schools in creating awareness of Child Trafficking including warning signs and risk factors associated with Child Trafficking and how to prevent it." The Guidelines are ready to go per Sonia Moticha, Student Support Specialist, NJ Department of Education. However, they still need final approval. Once approved they will be integrated into various curricula as those curricula are updated. Several Coalition board members were part of the working group that produced the Guidelines along with representatives from many state groups.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

Legislative Update

S280 and A883 “Directs the development and posting of notices containing information for victims of human trafficking.” It looks like S280 will be moving out of the Judiciary Committee soon. The chair of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Nicholas Scutari, has taken the place of Senator Troy Singleton as a Primary Sponsor. Senator Singleton has moved from Primary Sponsor to Co-Sponsor. Background: These bills were re-introduced on January 14, 2020. Both were sent to their respective Judiciary Committees. On July 20, 2020, the Assembly version (A883) was passed out of committee. On Thursday, July 30, 2020 it was passed by the full Assembly 73-0-0. Once the Senate version is passed out of committee it can move to the Senate floor for a vote.

Expanded Vacatur Bill (A3596/S1750) Provides for process for a person to vacate and expunge, as applicable, arrests, charges, complaints, convictions, or other dispositions, as well as DNA records, associated with violations of law committed by person while victim of human trafficking. Both referred to their respective Judiciary Committees. Background: The 2018-2019 Assembly version (A5085) was passed in the Assembly on January 13, 2020 but had to be reintroduced since the 2018-19 Senate version was not passed. Assuming that the 2020-21 Assembly version will pass, the Coalition is focusing on the 2020-21 Senate version, S1750.

The Coalition hopes that we can get both Senate bills passed at the same time.

Events

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Boys, Young Men & LGBTQ+ Youth in the U.S., Tuesday, November 17, 7:30PM
 The Trafficking of LGBTQ+ Youth in NJ, Thursday, November 19, 7:30PM

For more information visit the NJCAHT Website, www.njhumantrafficking.org

NO-SHOW GARAGE SALE

Thank you to all who didn't get to our No-Show Garage Sale on September 31, 2020 but made a donation instead.

Your non-presence was greatly appreciated. But wait, there's more...You can still make a donation without attending by visiting the chapter website, www.morriscountynow.org and clicking on any item that you can certainly live without!!

Morris County NOW Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee is pleased to propose the following slate of officers for 2021:

President	Karen Lontka
Executive Vice President	Rosemary Lontka
Treasurer	Shirley Henderson
Secretary	Nancy Critchley
Action Vice President	Stacey Gregg
Fundraising Vice President	Susan J. Waldman
State Board Delegates	Shirley Henderson
	Susan J. Waldman
Alternate State Board Delegate	Margaret Davey

The election will take place at the December Meeting on December 1, 2021.

A Feminist Story: Mavra Stark

Mavra Stark, past president and member of Morris County since 1985, was interviewed by the Veteran Feminists of America for their *VFA PIONEER HISTORIES PROJECT* in June 2018. Mavra's story is a must read, from being turned on to Feminism in the 1960s; founding a daycare center in Brooklyn; being the force behind the chapter's public access, cable TV show, *New Directions for Women*; discovering feminist spirituality; and much, much more. Information on how to access the full interview can be found at the end of this article. Here are a few excerpts (note that this is the verbatim interview as spoken).

Becoming a Feminist

I was jealous of my husband because he would go out every day and he had a very exciting job. And he apparently enjoyed it very much. I had more education than he did. He barely squeaked through high school. So I was jealous. And then one day I was vacuuming and I had the TV on to a talk show and a woman came on by the name of Robin Morgan. This was in the late 60s – probably around 67 – 68. Anyway she was on a show – The Mike Douglas Show. And she was wearing a pantsuit, which women didn't wear at that time and her hair was cut very short. And she was speaking about women's rights. And he was really egging her on and the audience was laughing. So I stopped the vacuum cleaner and I stood there. And I've never been the same since.

I was taking courses for my masters at Brooklyn College and my mother – my husband didn't believe in higher education for women – my mother was paying for the courses and then she lost her job. So I asked my husband for the money for my courses and he refused. So at that point I went to the financial aid office and I said I've got good grades and I need help. And they said no you don't have to prove anything with your grades. You just have to prove that you're in need. So I said well I am. So I was told – bring in your husband's W-2 form. Well – you know he did very well – let's put it that way. And I didn't bring it in because there was no use. But at that point I contacted the ACLU and they were willing to take the case. They just needed an affidavit from my husband stating that he wouldn't pay. So he took the cash and he threw it on the floor next to me. And that was the end of it. So I got the money but it just incensed me – that I had no legal right to his income. And I didn't have any income of my own. I had a child – she was a tot at the time, a child with disabilities. I had to take her to various therapies during the day and I just couldn't get a job.

I founded a daycare center in 1970 in Canarsie, Brooklyn, which was where I was living at the time. And I put out a notice in the paper and I expected dozens of women and I think six showed up at my house. But with the six of us we started this day care. It was co-op first. It was very funny but at one point we had our daycare center in the Italian American Club in Canarsie, which was the headquarters of, I'm pretty sure the Gambino Family at the time. They would be there during the day, and we brought our kids there at night. And so I worked on that for two years. And in 1972 the center was funded by the city of New York and I became the Director.

I took a job with a very large insurance company. I was in a management-training program. And after that 18-month program I hired people – sales persons. I trained them in sales and I won awards for my team doing so well. And it was finally announced that I would become an agency manager, which is what I was really aiming for. And it was announced. But it never happened. And to this day I'm not exactly sure why it never happened but I heard a lot of stuff. And mainly I think it was they didn't want another – they had one woman agency manager and they were afraid – they didn't want to have another one. So I tried like hell to find out. I went to this vice president, that vice president and I left at the end of 1983.

Morris County NOW

And I joined NOW in 1985 I think. So I was walking in my area and I see this group of women on the main street – they're picketing. And they're picketing about Bork. Something in me said – you've got to get back to these feminists. And so I joined the picket and I joined NOW. And I became the Treasurer in short order. It was Morris County NOW. And I became president.

We were instrumental in getting a women's – a battered women's shelter. Now they call it the battered women's service. But anyway originally it was a shelter and we were very important in establishing that.

We also did consciousness raising. It was the 1990s and I don't know that there was any consciousness-raising going on by then. So we had to redo all the questions because many of them were no longer relevant. So we created our own questions and there were a dozen of us and we met for a very long time. I think it was three years and most of us are still close.

New Directions for Women, Public Access, Cable TV Show- Florynce Kennedy's Influence

...we had a women's festival every year at the local Unitarian Fellowship. And a lot of women would come and this time our guest speaker was Florynce Kennedy. You know you could already tell that she wasn't completely there. But one of the things she said that really got to me is, she said – don't let other people define you – you define yourselves. And then she said something about – you go on television. And that lit up a bulb in my head and I said that's what we've got to do. So we went to the local TV station and we made a fuss and they said OK. And we were trained.

(Continued on Page 5)

TAKE ACTION WITH MORRIS COUNTY NOW

By Susan J. Waldman

Menstrual Products Access

The following legislation has been introduced in New Jersey in prior legislative sessions only to languish in committee. Menstruating students need access to free menstrual products. According to the National Education Association (NEA - 2/20/20) “one in five teens said they have struggled to afford period products or haven’t been able to purchase them at all according to a national study. As a consequence, 84 percent say they’ve missed school, or know somebody who else who has.” Per Equality, Period. NJ, “products such as toilet paper and paper towels are mandated in public restrooms and available for free, but period products used by more than half the population every month are not.” Based on the latest information (January and February 2020), only California, Illinois, New Hampshire and New York have enacted such legislation with several other states in the process. It is past time for New Jersey join these states and pass this legislation.

S692/A3388 *Requires school districts to provide feminine hygiene products in certain public schools and requires State to pay costs.*

S692 Introduced January 14, 2020 - Referred to Senate Senate Education Committee. Passed out of Education Committee. Referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee, February 13, 2020.

Primary Sponsors: Senators M. Teresa Ruiz and Troy Singleton; Co-Sponsors: Senators Sandra Cunningham and Shirley Turner.

A3388 Introduced February 25, 2020 - Referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee

Primary Sponsors: Gabriela M. Mosquera, Valerie Vainieri Huttle and Carol A. Murphy; Co-Sponsors: Raj Mukherji and Anthony S. Verrelli.

Menstrual Products Labeling

At a time when we are becoming more aware of harmful ingredients in consumer products, we need to have this information available in an easily understandable format.

S2844/A3611 *Requires ingredients of menstrual products to be listed on package.*

S2844 Introduced August 25, 2020 - Referred to Senate Commerce Committee

Prime Sponsor: Senator Declan J. O’Scanlon, Jr.

A3611 Introduced March 5, 2020 - Referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee

Primary Sponsors: Representatives Annette Quijano, Lisa Swain, and Valerie Vainieri Huttle; Co-Sponsors: Representatives Angela McKnight, Carol Murphy and Serena DiMaso.

Please contact your legislators and ask them to support and co-sponsor these bills. See Page 2 (*italics*) and enclosed insert for contact information.

(Continued from Page 4) **A Feminist Story –Mavra Stark**

This was at the beginning of 1994. So we had training there for a large group of our membership. And in August of 1994 we began our show. ...and I think the first show was about girls being bullied and sexually abused in high schools. That was our first show and we had experts come. I was the producer and the host – I’m very proud of this and I got really good guests. (Editor’s note: Morris County NOW stopped producing the show at the end of 2017.)

Right to Choose

I joined New Jersey Right To Choose, which eventually became New Jersey Right to Choose NARAL. And I was a vice president. And what I did was I went to high schools all over New Jersey. And what they would do was they would have someone from right to life come in first and speak to the health classes and then I would come in the next day and speak about – you know from our point of view. And I spoke to a couple of Junior colleges you know county colleges and also a couple of colleges.

Feminist Spirituality

The other big thing in my life that I’m still very involved in is feminist spirituality. This started for me at a NOW conference. There was a feminist bookstore that had come and set up a little store. I was looking around and looking at the books and I saw one book called Women’s Rituals. So I picked it up – it looked oddly interesting and I bought it. So I had heard about these goddess groups. But I wasn’t a lesbian so I didn’t think I would belong. But a friend of mine did belong to one of these groups in my area and she said it was for all women. So I went. This was in 1988.. I went to this full moon group in Morristown – it met, and I loved it. I did a number of their rituals and it got to be a very large group. I think there were 60 or 70 women at some of the rituals. It was an open group and it was wonderful. And when I came to Pittsburgh I looked very hard for a group like that but I couldn’t find it. So eventually in 2015 I started my own group. It was a meet-up group and it’s going great.

(Editor’s note: In 2003 Mavra’s quote in the *Daily Record* about the Scott Peterson murder case led to a national and international uproar including the involvement of political commentator Bill O’Reilly. To find out more, read her complete VFA interview on their website at <http://www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org/vfa-pioneer-histories-project-mavra-stark/interview-mavra-stark>.)

Taking Action With Stacey Gregg

At 1:36 AM on Sunday, November 1, 2020, Stacey Gregg, MCNOW Action Vice President, posted an action her Facebook page directed mainly at healthcare providers but inviting everyone else.

“All Available Healthcare First Responders Needed Today, Sunday, November 1, 12 Noon –1 PM, Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, (corner of Route 206), Bedminster. I Know This Is Very Short Notice. Do No Harm - Wear A Mask - Educational Outreach To Trump Supporters. Help Stop The New Jersey Spread of Corona Virus. Teach why it is important for people in crowds to wear Masks - This is a group [of Trump supporters] that gathers weekly to rally for their Candidate but most arrive without masks. They will need to hear what happens to people and how they will not be able to have family with them. This is a Public Health Service - Not A Political Statement. We plan on keeping our distance. Mask distribution. Please stay aware that these are potentially going to be your patients. We need to be 100% compassionate and not combative with them. Share your experiences. Sadly some do not believe that people are dying at a rate any different than other times. If you’re uncomfortable speaking - just your standing silent in Solidarity - socially 6ft or more apart but with others will be a Huge Help saving possibly many lives. This is a historic moment in NJ as people testing positive for CoronaVirus is rising, and your participation - even the helping of one of these people- changing habits and not spreading false information can help so many. They may not listen - but there is an obligation to humanity to at least try. Thank You in Advance to anyone Able to Attend.”

The following is a posting from Kate Mclaughlin, a nurse responding to Stacey’s posting. She later joined Stacey at the event.

“I know many of you are frustrated by the way healthcare workers are being treated as well as the frustration of people not wearing masks and taking Covid seriously.

The idea that we have gone from the most trusted professionals to now a targeted profession is really a slap in the face, especially with the lack of PPE and abundance of PTSD we’ve dealt with.

An advocate reached out to me, if you are interested in joining this event, it is Today!!

I truly don’t care if you are pro or anti...either candidates, this is a great opportunity to hopefully educate people on the importance of masks and social distancing.

Not everyone has seen what you have seen. Many were not able to see loved ones, and if they didn’t see what Covid looked like in the hospital, well they may not understand just how horrible it can be.

Educating and sharing your experiences, absent of politically charged vitriol can be helpful, regardless of who wins the election, we truly need healthcare workers to be safe and we need to be able to safely care for our patients-and we know that’s not going to happen if we spike again. Reach out to Stacey if you are interested in attending.”

Editor’s note: The event took place across Route 206 from where a very large banner was hung: THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT FOR MAKING AMERICA GREAT. Many cars and pick up trucks passed with horns honking and Trump flags flying. Perhaps on their way to the blockade that occurred on the Garden State Parkway later in the day. To keep up with Stacey’s actions, check her Facebook page regularly.



NJ NOW STATE CONFERENCE REPORT

by Susan J. Waldman

On Saturday, October 3, 2020, NJ NOW held its first Virtual State Conference. During the business part of the meeting the revised bylaws were passed and the following Officers were elected to two year terms, commencing on October 17, 2020:

State President – Anjali Mehrotra

State Administrative Vice President – Saily Avelenda

State Action Vice President – Danni Newbury

State Membership Vice President – Joseph Shelley

State Communications (formerly Technology) Vice President – Isha Mehrotra

State Legislative Vice President – Linda Weber

State Treasurer – Katherine Brennan

State Secretary – Aisha Mapp

After conclusion of business, the first speaker was Senator Cory Booker. He told us, “The power of the people is greater than the people in power.” Keynote speaker, Dr. Khyati Joshi was next. Her topic, “Getting Comfortable With Being Uncomfortable” addressed the issue of racism. She said, “White privilege is the product of systemic racism.” Next we had a visit from Senator Loretta Weinberg. She told us her consciousness-raising story of a black woman friend of hers who had two sons. Her friend told her that she counseled her sons to keep their money in their hand when walking around a store so they wouldn’t be accused of shoplifting. Something she would never consider having to tell her two children. Loretta was followed by candidates Stephanie Schmid (NJ04) and Amy Kennedy (NJ02). Next was a visit with Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter (LD 35). The last thing on the agenda were videos from Andy Kim, Tom Malinowski and Mikey Sherrill, all running for Congress. All in all it was a great conference. Congratulations to NJ NOW and our new officers!

Be A Newsletter Contributor

Wouldn't you like to see your name in print? How about submitting an article to the Morris County NOW newsletter? Maybe you have an idea or an issue that you would like to publicize? Please send any articles to our email address, morriscountynow@gmail.com. Since our newsletter is published bi-monthly at the beginning of the "odd" months (July, September, November, etc.), the deadline for submitting articles is the third Monday of the "even" months (June, August, October). This would apply for advertisements also.

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR OUR MEMBER'S CORNER

Please note that all articles and advertisements submitted for printing are subject to the discretion of the editor.

Email Alerts

Morris County NOW wants your email address so we can keep you aware of important up-to-the-minute chapter news. Perhaps there is an upcoming event or action on an issue important to you that came up after the newsletter was published.

Since our newsletter is bi-monthly, this can easily occur. In this day and age of instant communication we want to keep in touch with our members.

Please write to us at morriscountynow@gmail.com with your email address and you won't be left out again.

Join Us On Facebook

Morris County NOW can now be found on Facebook, a social utility site that keeps people connected. If you are not already a member of Facebook, it is free and easy to join. You can use the link www.facebook.com/mcnownj



FOLLOW US ON **twitter**

<http://twitter.com/mcnownj>

National NOW's Top Six Priority Issues

Abortion and Reproductive Rights

Economic Justice

Ending Sex Discrimination

LGBTQ Rights

Promoting Diversity & Ending Racism

Stopping Violence Against Women

Chapter Calendar

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting
Election of Chapter Officers
Virtual Zoom Meeting*
7:30 PM

Friday, January 1, 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting*
7:30 PM

NOTICE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no gift wrapping fundraiser this year

*Register in advance for these meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocO6trzooGdBrfHkpRVaoUez6hyYh98US>

NOW NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

By Susan J. Waldman

The conference was virtual due to the coronavirus. It was made up of three parts. The first part was mainly to pass the revised bylaws, most of which did not pass due to a failed voting and presentation system. The guest speaker was V (formerly Eve) Ensler, author of *The Vagina Monologues*. This was followed by District caucuses. The second part was a Political Action Committee (PAC) lunch followed by workshops which I was unable to attend.

The third session offered speakers, a plenary, "Feminists, Money & Power" and Special Constituency Caucuses. The plenary speakers were Jill Barkley Roy, Emerge; Lisa Turner, National Political Director at LPAC; Hon. Delia Garcia, PODER PAC; and Cartney McCracken, Control Point Group, LLC. The discussion centered around women running for office. Here are some interesting quotes:

Jill-"When you run for office, be your authentic self."
"The answer to the question 'Is she electable?' 'She is if you vote for her'."

Delia-"What you need to run for office is Training, Training, Training. Especially regarding media and fundraising."
"When women support women, women win and the country wins." Campaign advice, "wear comfortable shoes and a good bra."

Cartney-"Why is it important to have women at the table? Because women get things done."
"Campaigns need more women working behind the scenes."

CONGRATULATIONS

**President Elect Joseph R. Biden
and
Vice President Elect Kamala Harris**



Membership Application

Morris County NOW (NJ0200)
P.O. Box 394
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

I wish to join NOW and commit myself to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

National, State, and Local Dues:

- \$35. Regular Dues
- \$15-\$34. Reduced Dues
- Additional support
- \$5. Newsletter Only

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please return form with your check to the address above.

Our TV show "New Directions for Women" is available on YouTube

Most of the shows from 2007 to September 22, 2016, and some from as far back as 1994 are now available for on-demand viewing. More recent shows are in one 29 minute presentation. Because of limitations previously imposed by YouTube, older shows are presented as three separate ten minute segments. To help improve continuity, each subsequent segment begins by replaying approximately the last 20 seconds of the previous part. As time permits, the archives will expand to include all previous shows (to date we have produced 285 programs). To access "New Directions for Women," go to www.YouTube.com/menownj.

Come to Our Morris County NOW Monthly ZOOM Meetings

And now for something completely different. Join us at our monthly ZOOM meetings. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise noted on the chapter calendar (www.morriscountynow.org). You can register to attend at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocO6trzooGdBrfHkpRVaoUez6hyYh98US>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Morris County NOW
P.O. Box 394
Morristown, NJ 07960

Going Green

Thank you to all the members who replied to our "Going Green" campaign. You can still let us know if you want to receive your newsletter by email only. Contact us by phone, 973 285 1200, or by email, morriscountynow@gmail.com.

Feminist News and Views

News and Views is published six times a year by Morris County NOW as a means of informing the membership of current activities and issues.

Chapter Officers

Karen Lontka, President - 973.584.0612
Rosemary Lontka, Executive V.P.
Shirley Henderson, Treasurer
Nancy Critchley, Secretary
Stacey Gregg, Action V.P. - 973.477.7574
Susan J. Waldman, Fundraising VP- 973.895.2218
Rosemary Lontka, Shirley Henderson, Susan J. Waldman - State Board Delegates
Margaret Davey, Alternate State Board Delegate
Susan J. Waldman, Newsletter Editor - 973.895.2218

Advertising Rates (business card size)

Members: \$15/issue; Non-members: \$25/issue

For Information

Chapter Phone - 973.285.1200
morriscountynow@gmail.com
www.morriscountynow.org