FEMINIST NEWS AND VIEWS
Morris County NOW

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Chapter Phone 973.285.1200

COUNTDOWN TO THE AUGUST 28 GARAGE SALE
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July/August 2021

How ERA is Good for the Economy[1]

By Christian F. Nunes, President of the National Organization for Women (NOW), and Carol Jenkins, President and CEO of the ERA Coalition and the Fund for Women's Equality

Labor Secretary Marty Walsh has said that a strong, equitable recovery depends on getting women back into the workforce. More than 4.6 million women dropped out of the labor force during the coronavirus pandemic, with Black and Latinx women disproportionately hurt by this devastating job loss. Women's jobs are almost twice as vulnerable to being lost during what's been called a "she-cession."

Women have been playing catch-up in the economy from the start. We were intentionally left out of the Constitution. The blueprint for "equal justice under law" was written by the Founding Fathers (there were no mothers) for white men with financial means. History records the only thought given to women, albeit white women, was by Abigail Adams, who wrote to her husband, "Please remember the ladies."

They didn't.

As Congress and the White House navigate the economic path back from the pandemic, it's time to correct the Constitution's fundamental flaw that left women in all our diversity out of the nation's foundational document.

No matter how we may disagree over politics, we are truly lost if we can no longer depend on the human drive towards decency, fairness and justice. Business leaders understand this, and that's why they are increasingly vocal in defense of these values — not because they want to score political points, but because their customers demand it. Corporate America also understands that gender equality isn't just good for business; it's vital. In June 2020, 93 companies from across the economic spectrum signed an amicus brief in Virginia, voicing their support for the ERA. Brands like Apple, Google, the NFL, Salesforce, and Pfizer signed the brief because "diversity in the workplace drives business performance."

Nasdaq is seeking regulatory permission to require diverse boards and related disclosures on companies listed on its exchange. Bloomberg created the Gender-Equality Index (GEI) to track the "performance of public companies committed to disclosing their efforts to support gender equality through policy development, representation and transparency." Unilever set a goal in 2010 for 50 percent of managerial roles to be represented by women.

Women are the backbone of our economy, and their contributions cannot be understated; women drive 70-80 percent of consumer behavior and contribute trillions of dollars to the economy. Women start businesses at higher rates than men and are often the sole, primary, or co-breadwinners in their households. In 2019, women held 51.8 percent of all management and related occupations. But despite the enormous role women play in American society, family life, and economics, women still aren't recognized as fully equal in the eyes of the U.S. Constitution.

[1] *The Hill,* June 16, 2021

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The ERA will create a permanent, uniform, and national standard for preventing the government from discriminating based on sex and would empower Congress to enforce gender equity through legislation. Without this guarantee, laws furthering women's economic participation, such as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, can be repealed by a simple majority vote in Congress.

As Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) reminds us, "A constitutional amendment is forever. It cannot be repealed, rolled back, or expire. It is not subject to the whims of who controls Congress, a statehouse, or the White House."

We have made progress in rejecting some of the paternalistic, discriminatory foundations of our society and our economy, but not enough. The U.S. doesn't even rank in the top 60 world economies (out of 131 total) on the World Bank's index of economic inclusion via gender legal protection, behind nations such as Ecuador, Albania, Colombia, Togo and Hong Kong. And we are among the 24 percent of countries that lack constitutional protection for gender equity.

Aren't we better than this? We have to be. We can't build an equitable, productive economy when 51 percent of the workforce is left behind.

We want and need to live in a society that respects all its citizens, not just a privileged few. There can be no expiration date on equality. **Pass S.J. Res 1**. **A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.** This bill was passed by the House of Representatives on March 17, 2021 as H.J.Res. 17.

TAKE ACTION: Call your senators today and ask them to co-sponsor this legislation. Current Sponsor: Benjamin L. Cardin, (D-MD); Current Cosponsors: Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME), Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA), Senator Angus S. King, Jr. (I-ME). And don't stop there, send this to your friends and relatives and ask them to call too. All the Senators can be reached by calling the United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. A switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request.

Some additional notes:
The ERA has been ratified by 38 states, the last being Virginia on January 27, 2020. That is the number of states needed to ratify a Constitutional Amendment.

The Amendment states:

"**Section 1:** Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

NEW JERSEY COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING UPDATE

By Susan J. Waldman

NJ COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Legislative Update

Expanded Vacatur Bill "*Provides for process to vacate and expunge certain arrests, charges, complaints, convictions, other dispositions, and DNA records, associated with violations by certain human trafficking victims.*" The Assembly bill, A5322, was introduced on January 29, 2021 and was referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee where it was amended and passed unanimously on March 15, 2021. On June 24, 2021 it was passed unanimously by the full Assembly. However, the Senate version, S3433, which was introduced on February 11, 2021 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, is still sitting in that committee. Passage depends on moving it out of this committee and to the floor of the Senate. Therefore the "Take Action" below is still imperative.

TAKE ACTION

Please contact State Senator Nicholas P. Scutari, Chair of the Judiciary Committee, and ask him to hold a hearing and bring S3433 to a vote. His contact information:

Senator Nicholas P. Scutari
1514 E. Saint Georges Ave.
2nd Floor
Linden, NJ 07036

Phone: 908 587 0404

Email:senscutari@njleg.gov

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Human Trafficking Update

S280 and A883 *"Directs the development and posting of notices containing information for victims of human trafficking."* This bill was signed into law by Governor Murphy on January 29, 2021. The Senate and Assembly bills were consolidated as A883. The State Commission on Human Trafficking is awaiting funding so they can execute their mandate to print and post these notices.

Community Awareness Toolkit

The NJCAHT has prepared a toolkit to empower communities with knowledge and action that will be the catalyst to end human trafficking in New Jersey. You can access/download a copy here: https://www.safernj.org/uploads/resource/Community-Toolkit-Jan-2021-REVISED-1.29.21.pdf

IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL MORRIS COUNTY NOW GARAGE SALE, AND WE ARE IN RECEIVING MODE

After a year of quarantining we are ready to get together on Saturday, August 28, 2021 for our annual Garage Sale. The sale runs from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the Waldman residence in Randolph. This is your chance to donate those unused, unwanted and unnecessary items that you have hanging around. We will gladly receive them and happily send them on to new homes. Books are welcome, except text books and encyclopedias (are they still around?).

Call me, Susan J. Waldman, 973.895.2218 or email the chapter at morriscountynow@gmail.com to arrange for drop off or pick up. Also, if you would like to spend some time outdoors with some of our friendly chapter members just let me know. You can come any time during the day and stay as long as you like.

I am sorry to report the **BAD NEWS** that Barnes & Noble in Morris Plains will no longer offer gift wrapping services at holiday time. That means that the Garage Sale is our only major fundraiser scheduled in 2021. I look forward to hearing from you, and **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS**.

MORRIS COUNTY PRIDE MUSINGS—MY HERO

By Susan J. Waldman

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, I attended the first Morris County PRIDE event which was held outside at the Morris Museum. The weather was summery with a few sprinkles that were basically ignored by the attendees. At the GAAMC (Gay Activist Alliance in Morris County)/SAGE (they work with the LGBTQ elderly, including on housing) booth I spotted an old friend, Gordon Sauer. I joined him in the booth for awhile. Later, making the rounds of the vendors, I stopped by the Stonewall Community Development Corporation booth. They are a New York City organization whose mission is to connect elderly LGBTQ with health services and affordable housing. They are looking to expand into New Jersey. When I heard that, a light bulb went off. I rushed back to Gordon and said he had to connect with Stonewall. Well I was the only other person there so I became the GAAMC/SAGE representative. A gentleman came over to look at the handouts including a old issue of GAAMC's Pride Guide. He said he was looking for LGBTQ resources because his son is gay and his daughter is bisexual. He also said he was from an older generation and needed to update himself. I told him to also visit their website and Facebook page but had to turn away because there was a flurry of activity at the booth and I was the only one there. I didn't get to tell him that he was ***My Hero*** for being a loving Dad, especially after hearing so many stories of bad endings after children have come out. That experience made my day along with the fact that connecting Gordon with Stonewall will lead to good things for the elderly LGBTQ community in New Jersey.

Bias Training to be Required in Maternity Care[1]
Why do we need these actions?

By Rosemary Lontka, RN BSB
Executive VP-Morris County NOW

Black women are seven times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women in New Jersey. A law signed by Gov. Murphy will soon require doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners and midwives to undergo training to root out any unconscious bias that may affect the treatment they provide. New Jersey's overall maternity death rate – 47 women's deaths per every 100,000 live births--is dramatically higher than the national average of 20 women dying after childbirth, according to Nurture New Jersey, an initiative led by First Lady Tammy Murphy. The law signed by Gov. Murphy will require every hospital that delivers babies and provides maternal and perinatal care to create a bias training program, approved by the state Department of Health. The curriculum would include "information about communicating more effectively across racial, ethnic, religious, and gender identities" and a discussion on racial, ethnic, and other disparities within the field of perinatal care and how it "may contribute to pregnancy-related deaths and maternal and infant health outcomes," according to the law.

All medical and nursing staff will be required to complete the training to receive or renew their license. Hospitals that don't comply would face fines. The First Lady's office recently released a plan based on numerous meetings with mothers, hospital officials, medical professionals and state officials that aims to reduce the state's infant mortality rate by 50% in five years. The infant mortality rate is nearly as grim for black newborns that are three times more likely to die than white babies before they reach their first birthday. The plan is designed to make transformational changes in a system that has historically failed mothers and babies of color said the governor's spokeswoman Alexandra Altman.

[1]Based on the May 12, 2021, *Star Ledger* article, Susan K. Livio, www.njadvancemedia.com.

BOARD MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
NOW-NJ State Board Meeting

YOU ARE INVITED TO A ZOOM MEETING

WHEN: Saturday, August 21, 2021, 9:00AM — 3:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
WHERE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

You must register to attend; however, the registration link was not available at the time of this writing. Registration information will be available on the NOW-NJ website, https://nownj.org/. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Morris County NOW invites its members to attend this virtual State Board Meeting. Join us and see how NOW-NJ works. You can participate in the discussions. However, only chapter delegates can vote.

The **National NOW 2021 Conference**, themed ***Springing Hope into Action: Amplifying NOW's Intersectional Feminist Agenda*** will be held virtually on **Saturday, July 24 and Sunday, July 25; Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1; and on Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8**.

Check out the **interactive conference** site to plan your weekends!

Don't forget to register!

Registration for our **2021 conference** is free of charge, but in celebration of NOW's 55th birthday this year we welcome additional contributions in the amount $1 - $55. If you are able to make a larger contribution, we appreciate any support you can give towards NOW's mission and commitment to fighting for equality.

Officer Elections

At this year's virtual conference we will be having our National Officer Elections for National NOW President and National NOW Vice-President. Check out election slates, **here**.

Voting by members who have been credentialed for the conference will be by electronic ballot. The candidate forum for the President will be held on July 24, 2021, and the Vice President forum will be held on July 25, 2021. The Elections Committee has provided the following documents for reference and action if needed: **Bylaws**: **Approved Proposed Bylaw Submissions**

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

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

NO CHAPTER MEETING IN JULY

Saturday, July 24 and Sunday, July 25; Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1; and Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8
National NOW Conference
See Article Page 4

Tuesday, August 3, 2021
Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting*
7:30 PM

Saturday, August 21, 2021
NOW-NJ State Board Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting*
See Article Page 4
Next State Board Meeting: November 13

Saturday, August 28, 2021
Chapter Garage Sale
See Article Page 3

Tuesday, September 7, 2021
Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting*
7:30 PM

*Register in advance for these meetings:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocO6trzooGdBrfHkpRVaoUez6hyYh98US
Zoom Meetings subject to change to in-person meetings at the Morris Plains Community Center. Visit chapter website for updates, www.morriscountynow.org

EQUALITY, PERIOD. NJ

Menstruation is a natural bodily function. There should be no shame or stigma attached to periods or the methods utilized to take care of one's needs.

Safe, quality period products should be made available and accessible in a non-stigmatizing manner to ALL menstruating individuals in New Jersey.

Equality, Period. NJ is a statewide coalition formed to advance Menstrual Equity in the state. Their mission is to remove Period Stigma, Period Poverty and barriers to Period Product access through policy change and advocacy. Coalition members reflect a wide scope of New Jersey populations that work on these issues, and include medical providers, legal experts, policy experts, community-based organizations, youth-led movements, and groups that fight for rights of menstruating individuals across the state. NOW-NJ is a member of the coalition.

Pending NJ Legislation:

Menstrual Products in Schools: NJ bills S692 and A3388 will provide access to free menstrual products to all menstruating individuals in NJ public schools.

Product Ingredients: NJ bills S2844 and A3611 require ingredients of menstrual products to be listed on the package.

Take Action by calling your legislators and asking them to support these bills.

Membership Application

Morris County NOW (NJ0200)
P.O. Box 394
Morristown, New Jersey 07963

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.

Morris County NOW
P.O. Box 394
Morristown, NJ 07963

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/mcnownj.

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.

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
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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

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