

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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I am honored to stand in solidarity with all of you to fulfill our mission of improving lives and protecting rights and freedoms. I look forward to working together to lead the fight for social justice in our community. We begin the new year just as we ended the last—with a call for action. Whether it is by engaging in public protests, holding elected officials accountable, registering and getting out voters or by volunteering for community service such as tutoring, assisting teens who aged out of foster care and aiding immigrants seeking asylum, we invite and encourage every member to stand up and be counted. With so much at stake in these troubling times, we hope no one will remain on the sidelines. We are all about empowering women to exercise their power.

Under its dynamic new national leadership, NCJW is beginning a new chapter. The organization is aggressively moving forward from awareness to advocacy and action with priorities that include reproductive health, rights and justice, the federal courts, voter engagement, gun violence protection, civil rights, immigration and refugees, gender-based and sexual violence. Every section is being encouraged to follow National's lead. To provide organizing skills for grassroots advocates, National has launched a special series of monthly webinars called *Lead!* on such topics as social media organizing, cutbacks to Title X programs and how racist voter suppression leads to reproductive rights restrictions. [We encourage everyone to register for the next webinar.](#)

Our own section has spent the last few months moving into the digital age with the launch of online payments and social media platforms, thanks to our talented and enthusiastic new digital strategist, Alejandra "CiCi" Dashe. Your board has been busy laying the foundation and developing a blueprint for a social action plan. We look forward to sharing it with you and enlisting your input and involvement at our first general meeting September 17th.

At the same time, we have been building partnerships across the progressive community and together with Arizona Jews for Justice, Stand Indivisible, LUCHA and other organizations, we have co-sponsored protests to demand an end to the inhumane treatment of refugees seeking asylum. Our July protest at ICE headquarters garnered the attention of several media outlets and after our August 6th protest, I was among four representatives invited to meet with Sen. Kyrsten Sinema's chief of staff to address concerns that the senator was not speaking out against the administration's immigration policies. Our actions and visibility not only are bringing praise from National and recognition in our community but also drawing new members. Among the nearly two dozen who have joined in the last months, so many say that they are looking for a way

to channel into action their outrage and frustration over what is happening in this country. NCJW AZ is the perfect platform. Let's move forward together to expand our platform and its reach.

[Meet Sheila Katz, NCJW's New National CEO](#)