

## PRESIDENT

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Happy New Year! It is so wonderful to see the tremendous effort everyone has made over the past few months to participate in our advocacy programs and sign up for our social action teams. Now that we have laid the groundwork, we are ready to roar into 2020.

On the brink of an impeachment trial, a global conflict, the potential end of Roe v Wade and of course, critical state and national elections, we are focusing on making our voices heard and asserting the power of women to bring about change. That is the theme of our March 1 Annual Awareness Luncheon. And that is what we are kicking off this month with the state legislature back in session.

We encourage all of you to rally behind efforts to pass gun violence protection laws, to ratify the ERA Amendment and especially, to roll back restrictive reproductive rights laws which would be triggered if Roe is gutted. At our January 21 general meeting, you will hear state legislators discuss their strategy for getting bills passed and find out what you can do to help.

This also is the month that NCJW launches its *Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote 2020* campaign to register and educate voters so we can *Get Out the Vote* (GOTV). Our Section will participate in the national campaign and we are asking members to join our action team to plan and execute voter engagement events.

Meanwhile, we continue to develop plans to expand our community services, to advocate for asylum seeking detainees, to support victims of sexual and domestic violence and to establish the state's first rape crisis, rape healing center. A few have questioned whether our agenda is too broad and ambitious. The answer is that it reflects the priorities and initiatives set by National and mirrors the expressed interests of so many members. With a membership roster of over 500 in our Section, there certainly is abundant woman power to carry out our social action and advocacy agenda. The dangerous times call for all of us to ramp up our voices. We do not have the luxury of remaining on the sidelines.