



League of Women Voters  
of Central New Mexico  
2315 San Pedro NE, Suite F-6  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
(505) 884-8441

Andrea Targhetta  
President  
(505) 792-1148

Chris Burroughs  
Voter Editor  
(505) 306-8163

# The Voter

League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
July 2013

LWVCNM homepage: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

## Amanda Johnson of ACLU to Speak at July General Meeting

Amanda Johnson, field organizer for the ACLU of New Mexico, will speak on marriage equality at the July 11 General Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. The meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E.

Johnson has also served as a legislative intern for Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, an advocate for immigrants' rights at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition. She was

a weekly op-ed columnist for the *Tufts Daily* newspaper. In addition, Johnson spent a semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina, studying and leading workshops for underprivileged youth. She joined the ACLU in July 2012 after graduating from Tufts University with a degree in international relations.

Johnson will be speaking on the "Why Marriage Matters New Mexico" campaign. She will give an overview of the current strategies to win marriage equality in the state and contextualize New Mexico in the wake of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions and a growing national momentum towards LGBT fairness and equality. Johnson will also talk about the ways that New Mexicans can get involved at this pivotal moment in history for the LGBT community, and how to have compelling conversations with individuals who might be on the fence about marriage equality.

The cost of the lunch is \$15. Telephone your reservation to the League office by 10 a.m. July 8 at (505) 884-8441 or email a reservation to [lunch@lwvcnm.org](mailto:lunch@lwvcnm.org).

## LWV Mental Health Study Has Begun

There was an enthusiastic response to our first Mental Health Study Committee meeting, which was held June 15 at the home of Jan and Olin Bray. So far most of the committee members are from Albuquerque, but it is hoped that more members from other parts of the state will join. There have been many articles in the news this past month about N.M. Project (the Project ECHO Model) expanding the reach of Mental Health providers and outreach being the key for state's health care reform efforts. It is important for the League to be up to date on the many changes now being considered.

The research questions derived from the notes of the June 15 LWVNM Mental Health Study meeting are as follows:

1. Existing resources

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### July Calendar

July 5	Voter Deadline
July 6	LWVCNM Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
July 9	Mental Health Study, 5:30 p.m.
July 11	General Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
July 20	LWVNM Board Meeting, 11 a.m.

**League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
Board Meeting**

**1st Thursday of each month  
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Browne,  
6565 Americas Parkway NE**

Program Committees

***Drug Policy***

Jan Bray

***Mental Health Study***

Jan Bray & Shelly Shepherd

All League members are invited to all unit meetings, committee and board meetings.

The *Voter* is published on partially- recycled paper each month by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. It is also distributed via email.

**Member Leadership Training**

Three members from LWVCNM will take part in the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program conducted by LWVUS. Marilyn Fifield, Cheryl Haaker and Andrea Targhetta have registered to attend the training July 9-10.

This program is working in 41 states and the District of Columbia. The goal is to have the program active in all 50 states by the end of 2013. The MLD Program is founded on the principles of utilizing and growing the partnership among the local, state, and national levels of League, and to strengthen and grow the League from the grassroots up. You will be hearing more about what we learn. -- *Andrea Tharghetta*

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**Welcome New Members**

Barbara Pease, 884-2511

Lee D. Lockie, 310-487-4129

Sharon Higgins, 881-9149

**Presidents' Corner**

*By Andrea Targhetta, LWVCNM President*

In his inaugural speech last January, President Obama made reference to our Declaration of Independence. "What makes us exceptional -- what makes us American -- is our allegiance to an idea, articulated in a declaration made more than two centuries ago." He also referenced three major events in our collective human rights history -Seneca Falls, Selma and Stonewall.

This idea, that all men are created equal, became the cornerstone for the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848. Four women, Lucretia Mott, Martha C. Wright, and Mary Ann McClintock who were Quakers, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a new resident of Seneca Falls, put together a two-day convention for women and men who believed that protecting individual freedom involves group action.

These human rights activists, as we know them now, based their statement of individuality using the Declaration of Independence as a model. The Declaration of Rights and Sentiments was primarily written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, starting the women's rights and suffrage movements. There are 15 "injuries" listed in this document, and I urge you to look them up (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/senecafalls.asp>) and read how far this nation has come in giving women the rights they warrant just for being "one portion of the family of man." Let's look back at July 19-20, 1848 and remember how lucky we are here in America. -- *Andrea Tharghetta*

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***Voters' Guide Needs Help***

Election day for Mayor and the City Council is Oct.r 8 this year. Josephine Porter has sent a LWVCNMTopics request for many small jobs needed to make the *Voters' Guide* a success. Please email Josephine Porter or call (Phone number is in handbook.).

Otherwise, call the office 884-8441 to sign up for *Voters' Guide* tasks. We really need help to put out this well respected publication, so think about volunteering your time.

## Mental Health Study

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2. What happens to people who are dangerous to themselves or others? Is there a specific target or general rage? How do you tell if someone is dangerous? What role does drug use and self-medication play in this issue? What is currently being done with regard to suicide prevention and the danger of others being killed out of anger before the person takes his/her own life?

3. What are the evidence-based treatments and best practices and standards of care?

4. What coordination between providers or agencies exists? What coordination is needed?

5. What triage mechanisms are being utilized? What triage mechanisms are needed?

6. What can be done to minimize stigma? What is the impact of reluctance to get care?

7. What part does stress management play as a part of mental health and as a critical link between physical and mental health?

8. What public and private funding is avail-

able? What funding is missing? What are the effects of the Affordable Care Act on funding and organizing mental health care?

9. What are the priorities of mental health care in NM?

10. What statistical and other analysis is available?

11. How does NM compare with the rest of the US for standards of mental health care?

12. How can we leverage resources and innovative technologies such as telemedicine and Project ECHO?

13. What outcomes can this study provide in the areas of public education, legislative recommendations, analyses and updated positions?

If this area is of interest to you, please consider joining with us in examining this important area. Feel free to contact Jan Bray at (505) 292-7270 or ohbray@nmia.com or Shelly Shepherd at (505) 296-1238 or shelly@shepdesignassoc.com. The next meeting will be July 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Jan and Olin Bray, 7041 Prairie Ct. NE in Albuquerque.

-- Shelly Shepherd

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## Highlights of May 18-19 LWVNM Convention

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico Convention was held May 18-19 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Drive, Las Cruces, N.M. The following are some highlights from the meeting:

\* Susan Wilson, liaison from LWVUS who was in Las Cruces from California, gave a welcoming address.

\* Cheryl Haaker, LWVNM treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. Haaker said that contributions are below expectations and declining. This applies to both the Operations and Education funds. LWVNM does not fundraise, so as not to cut into local Leagues' donor bases. However, as a result, nearly all income must come from the "per member payment" (PMP). Member numbers have suffered a constant decline in recent years. This year's PMP is \$858 less than in 2012. In the area of expenses she discussed *La Palabra*. Haaker said the board has done a great job in decreasing the costs of publishing *La Palabra* by drastically reducing the number of copies printed and mailed

and using email (via Constant Contact) for most of the issues. The Convention issue of *La Palabra* was sent in hard copy only to those who did not have email addresses on file in the LWVUS database.

\* Haaker gave the budget report. The budget committee expected the budget to stay about the same or decline somewhat over the next few years. After looking at the trends, the committee felt this might be "irrational exuberance." The budget assumes no increase in membership and an increase in the State PMP in 2014-15, from \$12 to \$13/member.

\* The Convention delegates voted in new officers. Officers and directors elected included Meredith Machen, president; Richard Mason, vice president & action chair; Chris Burroughs, secretary; and Cheryl Haaker, treasurer. Directors include Judy Williams, program; Linda Moscarella, membership; Carol Tucker Trelease, fund raising; Lee Lockie, natural resources director.

\* A two-year Mental Health Study to be  
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# Convention Highlights

July, 2013

*(Continued from page 3)*

coordinated by the LWVCNM was approved.

\* Approved the extension of the Alcohol Study and the Land Use Study for two years.

\* Convention delegates approved the concurrence with LWVGLC's Affordable Housing Position and concurrence with LWVGLC's mental health position.

\* Convention delegates approved a LWV-CNM motion that the judiciary position be updated.

\* The following directions were given to the Board: There is such a great partisan divide in the country. As a result, the Board was urged to put an emphasis on an open primary; Secretary of State ruled that the *Voters' Guide* is partisan. We must push to keep *Voters' Guides* in polling places. We need to make sure that candidate advertising is not allowed in *Voters' Guides*; LWVNM must be getting out more doing public education activities. LWVNM needs to continue League day at the Legislature; League members should go in pairs and talk to legislators.

# Notes from Voter Services

On Wednesday May 29, Cheryl Haaker gave a Timekeeper Training workshop at Gayle Prinkey's apartment, The Towers Apartments. It was attended by Gayle Prinkey, Andrea Targhetta, Marilyn Fifield, Mary H. Smith, Sue McKinstry and Pam Harris. It was a lot of fun with lots of laughter as we all kept our eyes glued to the stop-watches and learned the procedures and special tips of timekeeping.

On Friday, May 31, Pam Harris and JoAnna Zipperian attended a Naturalization Ceremony from 10 a.m.-12:30pm at the Albuquerque Convention Center, East Complex. There were 171 happy, excited people being naturalized. Pam and JoAnna handed out Voter Registration forms and stressed the importance of voting.

