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## Project Echo Topic of Aug. 14 General Meeting

Project Echo, a modified type of telemedicine that links rural primary care providers with specialists who are not available locally, will be the topic of the Aug. 14 League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico meeting.

### About Project Echo

There has been a lot of talk about how health care can be delivered to more people in a rural, underserved states like New Mexico. Technologies such as telemedicine are part of the answer. The original telemedicine model electronically linked patients at a remote site with a provider at a different location. This allows patients to be seen near their homes when there are no local providers.

Project Echo, developed by the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, modifies this model. It assumes there is a primary care provider locally with

the patient and the telemedicine links this provider with specialists who are not available locally. This version of telemedicine provides more specialized diagnosis and care rather than just primary care. It also provides a teaching tool to upgrade the skill and expertise of local providers. It may also reduce the sense of isolation some providers feel in remote areas that causes them to move to more urban areas, which increases our access problems in rural areas.

Project ECHO dramatically improves both capacity and access to specialty care for rural and underserved populations. This low-cost, high-impact intervention is accomplished by linking expert interdisciplinary specialist teams with primary care clinicians through teleECHO™ clinics in which the experts co-manage patient cases and share their expertise via mentoring, guidance, feedback and education. This enables primary care clinicians to develop the skills and knowledge to treat patients with common, complex diseases in their own communities which reduces travel costs, wait times, and avoidable complications.

Reservations for the lunch must be made by 10 a.m. Aug. 11. The cost of lunch is \$17. for members and \$20 for nonmembers. To make a reservation call the LVWCNM office at 884-8441 or email [lunch@lwvcnm.org](mailto:lunch@lwvcnm.org). Indicate if you want a vegetarian meal.



LWVCNM President Andrea Targhetta, left, and Josephine Porter share some laughs during the July General Meeting when a fire drill interrupted a discussion about need for volunteers to help with the upcoming *Voter's Guide*. The meeting's guest speaker was Tobi Elizabeth Ives, New Mexico State Film Office senior manager of production. (Photo by Brenda McKenna)

### August Calendar

Aug. 5	Voter Deadline
Aug. 7	Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 14	General Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
Aug. 19	Westside Unit, 5 p.m.
Summer office hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m.- Noon.	

**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

***Mental Health Study***

Jan Bray & Shelly Shepherd

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

The *Voter* is distributed via email and can be accessed online at our website [www.lwvcnm.org](http://www.lwvcnm.org).

## **Westside Meeting Aug. 19**

Thank you for responding to my query regarding the best meeting day for our Westside Unit. Of those who responded, two persons cannot come on the third Tuesday and three of our regular attendees can only come on that day. Therefore, we will continue to meet on the third Tuesday, 5-6:30 p.m. Our next meeting will be Aug. 19 at Chow's Asian Bistro, at 10,000 Coors Bypass Blvd in the Cottonwood Mall. Chow's is at the outside entrance on the second floor level between Macy's and Penney's. If you enter the mall through Macy's, go to the second level and Chow's is the first right after you exit into the Mall

Our program for the August meeting will be a report of the Drug and Alcohol Study which LWVCNM was involved in for several years. Our speaker will be the chair of that study, Jan Bray. She will tell us what was discovered and what LWVCNM decided should be done.

*-- Peggy Howell*

## **President's Corner**

*By Andrea Targhetta*

### **APD Forward Campaign**

In April of this year, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) sent Mayor Richard Berry a 46 page document outlining the civil investigation of the Albuquerque Police Department's (APD) use of excessive force. LWVCNM has joined with other community organizations and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in a coalition campaign that will focus on a long-term effort to ensure that APD fully complies with a negotiated consent decree to cure the issues noted in the letter.

APD Forward first seeks to gain a decree which will address all the issues stated in the DOJ's letter. A court-ordered federal monitor or team will be overseeing compliance, and this campaign wishes to maintain a highly-visible focus on carrying out the policing reforms. APD Forward is also focused on the city's capability and willingness to fully fund the reform measures. The implementation of the consent decree should be sustainable and fully funded initiatives are imperative.

Our Albuquerque Police Department has many respectable, proficient people. The citizens of Albuquerque need to regain trust in their law enforcement. This community-driven campaign hopes to bring about better police relations and recover trust in the APD.

I am asking all our members to join this campaign and volunteer wherever you feel comfortable. Even if you only join online, the act of joining shows the public, the police department, the DOJ and the city of Albuquerque administration that many individuals are concerned and are supporting and keeping an eye on this effort. You may access the online sign-up at: <http://apdforward.org/join> and read more about this undertaking.

## **Voter Services Report**

A venue has been found for the Sept. 23 forum for Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor and Attorney General. It will be at the African American Performing Arts Center on the New Mexico Expo grounds. Many thanks to Pamela Herndon of the New Mexico Black Caucus. The New Mexico Black Caucus will be cosponsoring the event, along with LWVNM. The time is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dick Mason is the contact person, Diane Goldfarb will be moderator.

A Naturalization Ceremony was held on Friday, July 18 at the Albuquerque Convention Center, East Wing, 2nd floor.

*-- Pam Harris*

# LWVNM Holds Concurrence Meetings on Draft Natural Resources

*Editor's Note: The following is a letter from the League of Women Voters of New Mexico regarding concurrence meetings on its draft Natural Resources position. The LWVNM concurrence discussion will be held Sept. 11 during the regular luncheon unit meeting.*

The state League is revising its process for adopting new positions because so many of them are outdated. The LWVNM Natural Resources Committee is pioneering the new approach. Using positions from LWVUS, other state Leagues, findings from the state study of land use and our experience as lobbyists, we have developed a position to replace the current one. This is a draft. It has been presented to the state board, but we are not ready to ask that they adopt it. We are now engaged in meeting with the local Leagues for a discussion similar

to a consensus meeting. However, instead of consensus questions, we offer the draft for concurrence. In this new approach, League members are invited to read the draft critically, ask questions and inform us if they note omissions or if they disagree with the substance. We record the comments as we do at consensus meetings. We have now met with the Santa Fe County and Los Alamos Leagues and look forward to meeting with members of the Central New Mexico League on Sept. 11. We will visit the Greater Las Cruces League on Oct. 20. After the meetings the committee will discuss the comments and make adjustments to the draft as necessary before returning to the state League to ask for adoption. If you are unable to attend on Sept. 11, you are welcome to send comments to me at [bfcalef@gmail.com](mailto:bfcalef@gmail.com). -- Barbara Calef

## Draft LWVNM Natural Resources Position

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that government should promote and ensure responsible stewardship of our natural, human, and cultural resources, particularly in the face of growth and development. An essential prerequisite for protecting our resources is to require comprehensive analysis of the environmental and fiscal impacts of applications before issuing a development permit.

### **Environmental Justice**

The League believes that government must conduct its programs, policies, and activities in a manner that promotes equity and affords fair treatment, accessibility and protection for all residents, regardless of race, age, culture, income or geographic location.

### **Land Use**

The League finds that the responsible management of our land is critically important to ensure the long-term health and well-being of all New Mexicans, to protect the resilience of our urban and rural communities, and to preserve habitats and natural landscapes for the continued viability of all species.

The League further notes that land use is inextricably linked with other important issues (such as water, energy, food, transportation, air quality, and climate change). Strategic planning at the local, regional, and state levels must not consider land use in isolation. Government subsidies for development should only be approved when the benefit to society justifies

the cost and outweighs any detriment to the natural environment. The League believes that, as the responsible steward of our land use resources, state government should

1. revise land use planning, zoning, and subdivision statutes to assure an adequate water supply;
2. require comprehensive planning by local governments
  - i. plans must be updated on a regular basis;
  - ii. plans must be consistent with regional water plans;
  - iii. zoning and subdivision ordinances must implement the plans;
  - iv. state government must provide oversight, technical assistance, and funding to assure that all communities are able to comply;
3. assure coordination among key state agencies responsible for stewardship of our state's resources;
4. improve communication and coordination between Native American communities and federal, state, and local government in New Mexico;
5. adopt policies to ensure that all future road projects take into account the needs of all people, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and

## Natural Resources Position

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- those using public transportation;
6. encourage local communities to use innovative planning and regulatory techniques; and to incorporate measures to conserve energy, integrate transportation planning, consider availability of water and other resources;
  7. assure the quality of the environment for people of all economic levels;
  8. preserve open space and natural habitat for wildlife; identify and regulate areas of critical concern including fragile areas, wildlife corridors, historic areas, riparian habitats, and natural hazard lands.

Transparency and public participation in decision-making must be part of the process at all levels of government.

Eleven percent of the land in New Mexico is controlled by the State Land Office (SLO). The LWVNM believes that the SLO should model transparency and accountability in its actions and should include local communities in decision-making. The State Legislature should assure that the State Land Commissioner has the support needed to maximize profits and minimize administrative costs, while protecting the environment.

### Transportation

The League believes it is important to integrate transportation into land use planning. To reduce vehicle miles traveled, it is essential to encourage alternatives to the single occupant vehicle. Thus, the League supports government decisions to

1. improve public access to mass transit, especially to link workplace and neighborhood destinations; and
2. improve public access to alternative forms of transportation such as cycling and walking.

The League calls for government agencies responsible for transportation planning to reach out to the general public to improve public participation in transportation-related decisions. All future road projects should take into account the needs of all people.

### Agriculture

The LWVNM recognizes the vital contribution that New Mexico farmers and ranchers make

to our health and welfare by supplying us with food and promoting a vibrant economy for the state. LWVNM urges the state to work with the industry to promote research and education about more sustainable agricultural practices. As stewards of our natural and human resources, we must preserve healthy local ecosystems for future generations.

The LWVNM asks the State of New Mexico to

1. provide funding to educate farmers and ranchers about the advantages of biodiversity on their property;
2. promote cooperation among neighboring farmers to share equipment and develop more integrated farming practices within local ecosystems;
3. provide training programs on sustainable farming and ranching practices;
4. adopt specific subdivision and zoning criteria to preserve agricultural lands;
5. provide assistance to institutions of higher learning within the state to integrate sustainable agricultural practices into their curriculum;
6. regulate the management of livestock and crops to prevent contamination of soil, air, and water;
7. encourage farmers and ranchers to cooperate with wildlife managers to actively restore riparian habitat and natural stream flows.
8. provide more funding for the Cooperative Extension Service for the support of local agriculture.

### Air Quality

The League supports programs that protect clean air. Effective air pollution controls should be implemented for both stationary and mobile sources of emissions.

The New Mexico Environment Department is the chief regulatory agency responsible for air quality protection in the state. It is important that the public has access to the regulation development process and that the subsequent permitting and enforcement ensure that air quality is protected from incremental deterioration. Permitting and enforcement must be performed in a transparent manner.

### Water Quality

The League supports stringent regulations to protect ground and surface water quality from pollution that can impact human health as well as

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## Natural Resources Position

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species populations and diversity. Such regulations must be strictly enforced.

### Water Supply (Adopted 2010)

#### Waste Management

The League supports policies that

1. reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of waste materials;
2. ensure safe treatment, transportation, storage and disposal of materials that cannot be reused or recycled in order to protect public health and air, water and land resources;
3. involve state and local governments and citizens in siting proposals for treatment, storage, disposal and transportation of materials;
4. ensure that polluters pay the full cost of remediation.

#### Climate Change

The scientific evidence is clear that our climate is changing and that human activities that result in the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases are a significant factor in the heating of the planet, as evidenced by the rise of drought and wildfires in New Mexico. The League supports

policies and incentives that reduce these greenhouse gas emissions by promoting greater energy efficiency; by developing clean, renewable energy sources; and by encouraging further research on alternatives to the combustion of fossil fuels for energy. New Mexico industries should be required to pursue carbon reduction strategies. The League also believes that government should educate the public about how to reduce individual carbon footprints and should offer incentives to do so.

#### Energy and Mining

The League supports

1. environmentally sound resource extraction and power production;
2. strong measures to promote conservation of energy and water;
3. rigorous regulation and enforcement to prevent mining and drilling activities from contaminating surface or ground water or the surrounding landscape;
4. taxes on resource extraction and energy development in order to assist communities with associated infrastructure costs;
5. adequate bonding and reclamation taxes on mining and drilling activities to fund clean-up operations in the event of abandonment by companies.



Two NOW attendees pose behind LWVCNM members Elaine Gusch and Cheryl Haaker who are staffing the LWV table.

## Report on the NOW Conference

The National Organization of Women Conference was held at the Hyatt Hotel in Downtown Albuquerque from June 27-29. The LWVCNM sponsored and staffed a table in the Atrium of the Hyatt. The National League paid the table fee and sent printed materials and chocolate candy. The purpose was to attract (the chocolate helped!) new members to New Mexico Leagues. We signed in many people at our table, including 30 people from New Mexico. Almost everyone knew about the LWV and thanked us for “all we do for voters.” They had heard of the *Voters' Guide* and praised the League for this contribution. We asked people to join our organization. We gave them our applications, our Voters' Key, and more chocolates. The energy at this event was amazing. There will be a Women's March On Washington for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in mid-September. Albuquerque has a local chapter of NOW which will work on raising awareness of women's issues. Thanks to all who worked the table! It was great fun.

-- Marilyn Fifield

## Book Review: *Capital in the Twenty-first Century*

Editor's Note: Book Review -- This review of an important public policy book is a regular feature in the *Voter*. by Olin Bray, Author of ebook, *Political Incompetence: What's Wrong With Our System and How To Fix It*

*Capital in the Twenty-first Century* by Thomas Piketty, 2014, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, hardcover, 577 pages (plus notes).

Piketty is a French economist who believes that economists often look at a little data and develop elaborate theories, which they then manipulate for policy decisions without really looking at enough data. His focus is on the inequality of income distribution and capital and the role of capital distribution on income. His analysis involves data on 20 countries and in some cases goes back to 1700 -- data which he and his fellow researchers recently developed. The book concentrates on the dynamic relationship between capital and income and the structure of inequality, with the last section focusing on policy implications.

Many of our economic theories and policy debates are based on illusions rather than reality. For example one myth is that economic growth rates of three to four percent per year are the norm. While world output has grown at that rate from 1950 to 2012, that is an anomaly, not the norm. It was caused by Europe's recovery after WW II and by developing countries (such China, India, Korea, and Taiwan) catching up with productivity in the developed countries through the diffusion of technology. Looking at the developed countries since 1700, growth has averaged in the 1 to 1.5 percent range except in the post war period 1950 to 1970 when it peaked at 4 percent for Western Europe and 2.3 percent for the US. Since that peak it has declined to the norm of 1.5 percent for both Western Europe and the US in 1990 to 2012. (The average growth from 1913 to 2012, which included two world wars, was only 1.6 percent.) However, he points out that over time even a 1 percent real growth rate is significant. Over 30 years a 1 percent growth rate means income goes up by a factor of 1.35, and at 2 percent it doubles. That growth in total income says nothing about the distribution of that income.

Income comes from two sources -- labor and capital. The key metric he identifies is a ratio of

$r$  to  $g$ , where  $r$  is the rate of return on capital and  $g$  is the economic growth rate. When  $g$  exceeds  $r$ , which is rare, income tends to be more equitably distributed. However, when  $r$  exceeds  $g$ , which is the norm, capital tends to accumulate in fewer hands and generates more income, which is more inequitably distributed. Since 1700  $r$  (the rate of return on capital, whether land in the early period or financial capital now) has averaged about 5 percent, and much higher in some periods, while  $g$  (the economic growth rate) has averaged about 1 to 1.5 percent. He contends that a solution to this inherent long-term inequality is a global tax on capital, although he does not believe this will occur. He says that a progressive income tax and other government policies helped reduce the skewed income distribution, but that since the 1980s policies have made these taxes much less progressive and led to greater income inequality. He contends the real purpose of estate taxes is to prevent the massive accumulations of wealth (capital) and the income that it generates in a few families, which can then have major impacts on the policies such as lower income and estate tax rates among others.

Since about 1950 in the U.S. total tax revenue (federal, state, local, sales, and property taxes) has leveled off at about 30 percent, while in Europe the leveling off occurred at about 1980 at about 50 percent. In most developed countries about a quarter to a third of national income goes to support social programs -- about half of that for education and health care and the other half for replacement income and transfer payments. In Europe government pays about three quarters of the cost for education and health care, while in the U.S. it is only about half. In the second category pensions are the major component with unemployment being a much lower percent (about 1 to 2 percent of national income), while income support payments are even less. In the U.S. since unemployment benefits are lower and more limited, those percentages may be different.

While a very dense book with a lot of information, it is very readable and well worth the effort. It should be required reading for Congress and candidates and many government officials.

## LWVNM Mental Health Study Committee meetings – May and June

May 25 meeting: There has been a great deal of media attention in the area of what could be called “the mental health crisis in New Mexico” when a year ago the State Human Services Department announced that 15 New Mexico providers that treat mental illness and substance abuse showed overbilling, mismanagement, and possible fraud. Many refer to this as the “behavioral health services takeover.” Recent articles were discussed, and study items were divided among the attendees. Jan Bray has done considerable research at the Medical Library to use as a basis of study and has identified areas worthy of attention. There was an interest in learning who the current providers are, their responsibilities and where does CYFD “fit in.” Aftercare was discussed as an area to look into, as well as tracking homelessness.

June 26 meeting: Sen. Bill O’Neill attended the meeting. He expressed concern that 15 behavioral health services were put out of business due to “possible fraud” and put out of business without due process. Realizing that the committee needs to be “nonpartisan” and study all positions, he felt that what happened was an outrage. He believes that the Legislature has “given its power away.” He discussed that organizations have been formed such as “New Mexico to save Behavioral Health.” Sen. O’Neill argued for an “Extraordinary Session” regarding the mental health situation, which would require three-fourths of the Legislature to agree. He said that the Governor has indicated she had to proceed this way because of “Obamacare” and did not have a choice.

Sen. O’Neill serves on the Behavioral Health Subcommittee as well as on many other mental health boards and subcommittees, including the bipartisan committee to revise the criminal code. There is also a committee of legislators, city and county officials and behavioral health people such as Saint Martins working on mental health

issues. He discussed the possibility of “geriatric parole” for senior citizens that are not a danger to the public, and he feels that most people do not know about behavioral health or why they should care. He indicated that he does not believe the general public is aware that the ongoing interim committees are working all year long and are open to the public. The Legislature works all year long as well. He mentioned the article in the *Journal* regarding the need to find housing for the homeless mentally ill following release from jail.

Focusing on the 2015 session, many of the bills that did not go through in 2014 will be proposed, as well as others. There was a subcommittee meeting July 24. He mentioned that Liz Thompson will be the chair of the Behavioral Health Study Committee and Rep. Debbie Armstrong (District 17, Edward Sandoval’s former district) are very supportive in working on mental health issues, and these may be individuals that the study committee may wish to contact. He also mentioned that training for teachers in spotting signs of stress would be useful.

Many members of the LWVNM Mental Health Study Group attended the Behavioral Health Meeting with Michelle Lujan-Grisham on Friday, June 27. There was later some negative feedback from individuals in the mental health field that this was a “staged” production and politically oriented. The public provided nearly three hours of testimony regarding disruption, discontinuation of services, and dangerously long waits for services. The testimonies did not appear fabricated but are hard to express. I personally do not know how these families deal with their plight. The professionals that spoke talked about the “climate of fear” among professionals in the field. Many dedicated mental health professionals have decided to retire or leave the state. This is a big problem for our veterans who need to receive the professional and experienced service that they deserve. -- *Shelly Shepherd*

## Clerk Addresses Voter Registration Misinformation

The County Clerk's Office has received multiple complaints since early June regarding third-party voter registration agents at a variety of locations across Albuquerque, including various Walmart stores and the Bio Park, alleging that these individuals are providing false and misleading information to voters about voter registration requirements and so-called "proxy voting."

The complaints allege that voter registrars are telling potential voters that in order to vote they must re-register every two or five years, depending on the information provided in the complaint. This is not true. Once an individual is registered to vote, they remain registered to vote unless they both move and cease to vote in New Mexico. Even then, they are only removed from the rolls after a lengthy and comprehensive outreach process has been conducted pursuant to federal law.

Additionally, individuals are being advised that unless they re-register to vote, their vote will be considered a "proxy" vote and will not be counted. There is no such thing as a "proxy vote" in

New Mexico.

"I am very concerned that incorrect and misleading information is being disseminated to the public by individuals who are supposed to be assisting voters in ensuring they are registered, or that their voter registration is up-to-date," says Bernalillo County Clerk Maggie Toulouse Oliver. "Registered third-party voter registration agents should only be providing information that is true and correct. If voters have questions about voting in Bernalillo County, they should call our office at 468-1291 or visit our website at [bernco.gov/clerk](http://bernco.gov/clerk)."

The County Clerk's Office has reported the complaints to the Secretary of State's office, which is charged with overseeing third-party voter registration agents in New Mexico. The County Clerk also said, "If individuals are found to be deliberately providing false information to voters or potential voters, this is a very serious issue." I (Andrea Targhetta) am confident that our own CNM third-party registrars are doing a fine job, and we take pride in correctly giving out information.

-- *Andrea Targhetta*



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