

League of Women Voters  
of Central New Mexico  
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## Taxes and Fiscal Policy To Be Topic of June 12 General Meeting

Richard L. Anklam, president and executive director of the New Mexico Tax Research Institute, will be the speaker at the June 12 General Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.

He will address the issue of tax policy, what is a tax expenditure budget, why is it important and why is it so hard for us to create one? He'll also talk about how we should evaluate tax incentives and tax expenditures, and what types of incentives does New Mexico currently have and are they effective.



*Richard L. Anklam*

The New Mexico Tax Research Institute is a member-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to good tax policy education in New Mexico.

Anklam has more than 24 years of state and local tax experience, having led two state and local tax

practices for Grant Thornton LLP, and KPMG LLP in their Albuquerque/Phoenix/El Paso offices. Both are international accounting and consulting firms. He worked for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department twice, where he most recently served as assistant secretary/director of Tax Policy.

Anklam began his career as a financial institution internal auditor. He is a CPA and recently served as chairman of the board of the New Mexico Society of CPAs where he was one of two New Mexico voting members of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants council. Until its recent legislative

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### Luncheon Costs to Increase

LWVCNM will start charging \$17 for the monthly luncheons beginning in June. For the past several years we were fortunate enough to hold the cost down to \$15. With the renewal of our hotel agreement for the next year, the lunch price has been raised. Our budget for the lunch has been in the red for over a year. We can no longer afford the deficit. With this new price we can pay for our guest speaker and still be within our budget. Thank you for understanding our dilemma.

*-- Andrea Targhetta*



Helen Wright, right, presents the Nominating Committee report at the May 3 LWVCNM Annual Meeting. Next to her is Andrea Targhetta, League President.

*(Photo by Brenda McKenna)*

### June Calendar

June 5	Voter Deadline
June 6 – 10	LWVUS Convention, Dallas
June 12	General Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
June 12	Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
June 14	Calendar Planning, 9:30 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  
***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).

### **LWVCNM Keeps Growing**

We have one more member, making the total 15 since January: The new member is **Janet Hansche**, 1050 Lagrima de Oro, Apt. 4319, Albuquerque, NM 87111, 291-3468, [janet.hansche@gmail.com](mailto:janet.hansche@gmail.com)

The proposed Westside Unit has been a catalyst for most of the new members who have joined. There are about a dozen others who have attended the meetings but have not yet joined. The interest in that group is contagious and seems to be growing. Our June 16 meeting on the third Tuesday will be at the Asian Bistro in Cottonwood Mall (G-217), 10,000 Coors Bypass Blvd., from 5-6:30 p.m. Besides appealing to the Westside, this unit meets the needs of working members.

We will also be meeting in July (third Tuesday) and the Brays have graciously agreed to be our speakers, one at each meeting; Olan's topic is Political Myth Busting and Jan will present the findings of our Drug and Alcohol Study.

-- Peggy Howell

### **LWVCNM Members Meet Iraqi Government Officials**

On April 22, five LWVCNM members -- Margaret Krahenbuhl, Meg Wente, Helen Wright, Don Goldfarb and Diane Goldfarb -- spoke with a group of seven Iraqi government officials about the League of Women Voters and what we do. This exchange, which was arranged by the Albuquerque Council on Foreign Visitors, was part of a U.S. State Department International Visitor Leadership

Program. The Iraqi visitors were in the U.S. for three weeks to learn about transparency in federal, state and local government. They had several interesting questions for us and seemed most interested in how our organization is structured and how we choose our leaders. We were told that the concept of organizations involved in civic engagement is not a familiar one to Iraqis.

-- Diane Goldfarb

## **President's Corner**

*By Andrea Targhetta*

Annual Meeting is over, new officers have been elected and the new League year begins. The election season is upon us, and we have already started! We helped Nob Hill Studios hold their first live stream of the Democratic Party Gubernatorial candidates and also aided the New Mexico Black Caucus in presenting their candidate forum. Primaries are June 3. Don't forget to vote!



Star Spangled Banner in American History Museum in Washington, D.C.

This month we celebrate our United States flag on Flag Day, June 14. I had the pleasure of actually viewing the Star Spangled Banner -- the actual flag which inspired the National Anthem. It is housed in the American History Museum in Washington, D.C., which is part of the Smithsonian Institute. As you enter the viewing room from the sunlit lobby, it takes a while for your eyes to adjust to the dimness. At first you look into the huge display window and see only a faint outline of something enormous lying flat, slightly tilted upward. As your eyes gather what little light there is, you realize that huge plane is holding what is left of our marvelous flag. Under diffused lighting, you can see the wear and tear on this magnificent emblem. In the presence of this historical banner one's inner rhythm begins to slow and solemn meditation sets in. It's nice to see flags flying everywhere on Flag Day, but nothing compares to the original!

## Calendar Planning Meeting

Did you ever wonder how we come up with the topics and speakers for our meetings? Did you ever have some issues or speakers you would like to hear, but were not sure who to talk to or how to arrange it? Come to the Calendar Planning Meeting scheduled for Saturday, of Lagrima de Oro in the Creative Arts Room. Coffee and munchies will be at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will last from 10 a.m.-noon.

. Everyone is invited. This is where we decide which topics to cover, suggestions for informed speakers and which meeting when the issue(s) will be discussed. There are a lot of slots to fill with up to four unit meetings per month. There is only the luncheon meeting in December and May through August.

Calendar planning is a three-step process. First, we identify topics or issues we think League members want to hear about. If you are there, you get your say. Second, we allocate the various topics to each month. Third, people suggest possible speakers for each topic. For five months we need one speaker for a topic, but for the other seven months we need four speakers per topic -- one for each unit meeting. For each month the topic is usually the same for all of the units, but differ-

ent speakers emphasize different aspects of it so the programs are not the same at each unit. This is especially true for complex issues, and what public policy issues aren't complex? However, occasionally the different units will focus on completely different topics. Usually one or several people take responsibility for getting the speakers for a particular topic.

Please come and help us plan next year's meetings. This is especially important for our new West Side unit members, who may have some new and different topics they want us to consider.

The meeting will be at the new La Vida Llena building on the corner of Juan Tabo and Lagrima de Oro, one block north of Montgomery. From the front entrance off Lagrima de Oro go straight back to the elevator, and the meeting room is on the second floor just left of the elevator. There are a few visitor parking places in front of the building, but there is a lot of parking on both sides of Lagrima de Oro and in the church parking lot just north. If you need additional information, call me on my cell 850-2402. See you there.

-- Olin Bray

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## June Meeting

*(Continued from Page 1)*

reorganization, he also served on the board of New Mexico's healthcare exchange, the New Mexico Healthcare Alliance. He is a graduate of the University of New Mexico's Anderson School of Management.

The meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E. Reservations for the lunch must be made by 10 a.m. on June 9. The cost of lunch is \$17. To make a reservation call the LWVCNM office at 884-8441 or email [lunch@lwvcnm.org](mailto:lunch@lwvcnm.org). Indicate if you want an alternate menu option.

## Tools You Can Use

We need to ask people to join to bring in new members. Sharing your personal story about what the League means to YOU and the impact the League has had in your life and on your community is the best way to convey the value of membership in the League. Stories are: Relatable, Memorable, Passionate, Compelling, Motivational. Very simply, when combined with an invitation to join the League, your story is your best direct outreach tool!

-- Marilyn Fifield

## Board Meeting Date Change

The board of LWVCNM usually meets on the first Thursday of each month in the offices of Sutin, Thayer, and Browne. This June, the board will be meeting on the second Thursday of the month, June 12, at 5:30 p.m. at the same offices. We remind you that the board does not meet in July. All members are welcome to attend board meetings

## Help Needed

Your league, LWVCNM, is looking for someone to organize our fund raising program. If you have had any experience in fund raising on a supervisory level, this is a great opportunity to hone your skills, form a committee, be directly involved in the heartbeat of the league, and help in the vitality and health of our organization. If you have had even a minimal exposure to fund raising, this would be a wonderful opportunity to broaden your horizons in this very important program. Fund raising involvement on any resume could enhance the content. LWV is known to have volunteer positions with transferable skills that can be used in numerous fields. Please call me or the office to volunteer assisting with this project.

-- Andrea Targhetta

## Book Review: *The Tea Party*

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*

*The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism* by Theda Skocpol and Vanessa Williamson, 2012, Oxford University Press, paperback, 259 pages.

This is the first serious analysis of the Tea Party phenomenon by two Harvard researchers. They used surveys, demographics, extensive interviews with grassroots leaders and attended Tea Party meetings in multiple states. It neither glamorizes nor demonizes the Tea Party but describes the people in it and how it works. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand what the Tea Party is, how it works and its effects.

The Tea Party consists of three distinct, relatively independent components, none of which speak for the other components. First, there are the grassroots organizations. The authors say there are about 800 of these local organizations, most with less than 50 members that meet monthly, usually for a presentation by a speaker. While there are a few state organizations, it is not a hierarchical organization with federal, state and local organizations with coordinated positions. Although many have credited these grassroots organizations with a major electoral effect, the authors find this puzzling since most of these organizations have no money, endorse no candidates and don't do voter registration and get out the vote activities, although many individual members may do some of these things. Some grassroots members are new to political activity, but many have long been active in other political organizations and have simply found a new home in the Tea Party. Much of the Tea Party visibility comes from the other two components.

The second component that uses the Tea Party label is a collection of independent, well funded, conservatively backed, small government, free market advocacy groups. These groups were around long before the Tea Party and are simply piggy backing on the Tea Party label to give their message more credibility and visibility. However, there is no direct connection between the large, well-funded organizations and the real Tea Party grassroots organizations, except that they may provide speakers for Tea Party meetings and subsidize travel to advocacy group events. The discon-

nect between these two components become obvious when you look at certain issues. The advocacy groups want smaller government – privatize social security, drastically change Medicare and reduce taxes. However, most of the grassroots members are older and economically well-off, but not wealthy. While they also want smaller government, they strongly support social security and Medicare. Surveys show that about two-thirds of Tea Party members favor increasing the payroll taxes rather than cutting benefits or increasing the retirement age. About three-fourths of all voters support increasing the payroll taxes to solve Social Security problems. Contrary to the common impression, grassroots members are not opposed to government benefits in general, only to benefits to those they consider undeserving. Medicare, Social Security and veterans' benefits are earned and should not be reduced.

The third component is the conservative media personalities who claim to speak for the Tea Party and give it a lot of publicity. They are even less connected to the grassroots than the second component. The authors have some interesting statistics about media coverage of Tea Party events.

The authors found two strong beliefs among grassroots Tea Party members. First, a strong reverence for the Constitution, at least what they believe is in it. Second, a real skepticism about expertise. Anyone should be able to read and understand the Constitution and what the founders intended.

There is a distinct schism in the grassroots between libertarians who want small government and few regulations and social conservatives who want small government but extensive regulation of social and religious behavior. In some grassroots organizations there is an uneasy truce between these two groups, while in other organizations one or the other groups dominate. In some cases one group started an organization, which was then taken over by the other group which led to two separate groups. This schism reflects a similar one within the Republican party. In fact, many grassroots members are long time conservatives, even more conservative than most Republicans. While many label themselves independents, there is a distinct Republican leaning.

The book is very interesting both for what it says about the Tea Party and for what it suggests about the formation and effects of political movements in general.

## Take This Challenge -- Get Up, Get Out and Get Involved

On May 10 the New Mexico Democratic Black Caucus hosted a lively Governor Candidate Forum. Below is an excerpt from the closing message given by Forum Coordinator Lovie McGee. We can all benefit.

“If you are sitting here today,” she said, “it means you want answers. You’re here on your own time because you care about this city, this community and this world. We want real solutions to the problems we face, not just bandages.

“If we continue to accept the current policies, things will remain the same: continued decline in the

quality of health and education with few opportunities. We don’t want that. We must help to make positive changes and develop new approaches. .

“Sometimes, the best thing a person can do with his or her life is to dedicate a portion of it to helping where help is needed. Volunteer to work for your favorite candidate, and to go to the polls on every election day. Encourage five friends to accompany you. Our vote is our voice!

“I leave you with this challenge: Will you sit by and do nothing? Or will you Get Up, Get Out, and Get Involved.” -- *Judith Binder, Forum Timekeeper*

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### League Booth at NOW Meeting

Our League has an excellent opportunity to staff an exhibit table at the National Organization for Women (NOW) conference June 27-29. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Albuquerque. The national league (LWVUS) is funding the table, so we may offer information about the entire League to all attendees. We need to educate these women of like-mind that LWV is a fantastic group to join no matter where they live.

Please call the office (505-884-8441) between 10 a.m.–noon or leave a phone message with your name, phone number and day you can volunteer. We would like at least a four-hour commitment to staff the table.

Dick Mason has agreed to be the lead on this project. You may call him (505-994-0685) with any

### May/June Forums

LWVCNM assisted with several forums in May.

The first, May 6 at Nob Hill Studios, was the streaming of their gubernatorial forum. Cheryl Haaker was timekeeper. Nob Hill Studios provided their own moderators, Joe Monahan and Andrea Quejada.

On May 10, the Democratic Black Caucus held a forum at the African-American Arts Center. They provided their own moderator. Judith Binder served as timekeeper.

On June 28, from 1-4 p.m., the Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) will hold a forum at the Unitarian Church at Carlisle and Comanche to educate the public on the privatization of charter public schools. Dick Mason will be moderator and Judith Binder will be timekeeper. Laura Stokes is the contact person.

-- Pam Harris

### LWVCNM Office News

I want to thank all our members who work so diligently keeping the office staffed throughout the year. Alice Brasfield, Carol Steeves, Diane Goldfarb, Helen Wright, Jo Porter, Judy Binder, Karen Gatlin, Leah Ingraham, Margaret Krahenbuhl, Meg Wente, Sharon Moynahan, Shelly Shepherd, Susan McKinstry and Terry Quinn and occasionally our president, Andrea Targhetta. Please join me in thanking each of them for their dedication to providing assistance to the community.

Karen Gatlin retired after many years of service and others are cutting back on the hours they work. With retirements, health concerns, travelling (some of these volunteers are vagabonds) and family commitments, scheduling can be a challenge.

The office staff arrives at 9:30 a.m. so that they can check the mail and phone messages prior to the office opening at 10 a.m. and leave shortly after noon. If you have the time to volunteer and would like to work in the office please contact me at: 505-450-1122 or [mageelwvcnm@gmail.com](mailto:mageelwvcnm@gmail.com). The office schedule is complete through June so the earliest opportunity for a new volunteer would be after July 1.

#### Summer Office Hours:

June 4-Sept. 1

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m.-noon

Closed: Independence Day & Labor Day

-- Margaret Guinn Magee

Administrative Coordinator

## Your Voters' Guide Needs You

As we get closer to the 2014 General Election your LWVCNM is gearing up to publish its umpteenth *Voters' Guide* and we need your help. Andrea Targhetta and Josephine Porter will be your co-editors, but we need lots of help at every step. Volunteers are needed for many specific tasks including:

- \* A Distribution Chair to organize calling the many distribution locations and help to organize the "Distribution Day" push to bring the Guide to the voters. (August.- October)

- \* Mailing assistance to get the questions and instruction out to the candidates. (August)
- Proof readers to meet at our publisher Automated Elections in Rio Rancho. (Middle to late September)

- \*Members to call the distribution locations to confirm they will be a distribution place for our Guide. (Late August-September)

- \* Distribution workers to deliver Voters' Guides (early October)

These are one-time projects in which everyone can participate. Please call the League office (884-8441) and leave a message with your phone number to volunteer.

### Questions for Voters' Guide

The *Voters' Guide* Questions Committee is seeking members and also input about what questions to ask the candidates. If you have a question or even a general area you want asked of the candidates, please send them to me at [joporter@nmia.com](mailto:joporter@nmia.com).

We try to design questions of general interest that help the voters of Bernalillo and Sandoval County decide how to vote. *LWVCNM Voters' Guide* is responsible for questions on the following races: U.S. Representative, Public Regulation Commission, Public Education Commissioner, District and Metro (Bernalillo) Judges, Magistrate Judges (Sandoval), State Representative, County Commissioner, Assessor, Sheriff, Probate Judge. WHEW. Obviously we need your help.

--Josephine Porter



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