

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS**

P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

Phone: [940-692-8498](tel:940-692-8498) (President Kaye Holland)

Web Page: [www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls](http://www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls)

# **VOTER** *for January 2017*

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**Jessica Cartwright, Executive Director, National Alliance Mental  
Illness (NAMI), Wichita Falls**

**Wednesday, January 4, at Luby's Cafeteria.**

**Go thru lunch line prior to noon call to order.**

"NAMI Wichita Falls 101"

This month's program will continue to advance our mental health study.

NAMI Wichita Falls 101 will cover information about NAMI Wichita Falls, common mental illnesses, and what you can do to promote mental health awareness and stigma reduction.

Jessica Cartwright is the Executive Director for NAMI Wichita Falls, the local nonprofit affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The mission of NAMI WF is to improve the lives of individuals and family members affected by mental illness through support, education, and advocacy.

Jessica's journey with mental illness is through her mother who was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder and severe depression. Her mother died by suicide in 2008 as a result of mental illness. As Executive Director, she is able to share her lived experience with others through free nationally-recognized NAMI presentations and programs, which help promote mental health awareness, reduce stigmas, and improve suicide prevention.

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## **MEMBERSHIP!**

**Know someone who is interested in how government works?** Why not invite them to visit a meeting and to become a member? Most of us became members because someone asked us.

The League Year runs from July 1st to June 30th. Individual member dues remain at **\$60** per member. Dues for a family (couple) are **\$90**. Per Member Payments (PMP) required by the State & National Leagues require us to remit virtually all of these dues on to them. Therefore, donations from members, friends, & others are essential for us to issue Voters Guides during each election season. If you haven't renewed your membership for this year, please do! Your League needs you!

Either bring your dues (and contributions) to a meeting, or mail to the treasurer at our P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308. Make checks payable to LWV-Wichita Falls.

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### **MENTAL HEALTH STUDY**

At the annual meeting, we approved a study on mental health. Ashley McErlean, LMFT-A, agreed to chair this study. At the last meeting, we passed around a sign up sheet for those interested in participating on the study committee. If you were not at the last meeting and want to take part, please contact Ashley at [ashley.mcerlean@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.mcerlean@gmail.com). We will be having meetings soon.

#### **Mental Health in Wichita Falls**

Scope: This study will review the mental health issues in Wichita County, with a focus on the issues mental health problems bring to the community as well as the types of available treatment and their efficacy.

Focus: The following areas are within the scope of the study.

- The specific mental health concerns within Wichita County
- The impact of mental health issues on government agencies and the community as a whole
- Treatment facilities and options within Wichita County
- Funding sources for mental health treatment
- Gaps in mental health screening and treatment, if any
- Laws or regulations that impact mental health screening and treatment

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**THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT..... Kaye Holland**

Happy New Year. Hope you all enjoyed your holidays and welcome back to a new League year. We are continuing on our local study of mental health issues. Please be ready to meet on this important study.

In addition to our own local activities, we start the 2017 year with the Texas Legislative Session opening on January 10, 2017, in Austin. The League of Women Voters of Texas is already studying what the legislative priorities will be and advocating on studied positions. The LWV-Texas selected three priority issues for the upcoming session:

- voter rights and election laws, focusing on online voter registration and redistricting
- health care, focusing on women's health and expansion of Medicaid
- public education

The LWV -Texas is preparing to visit with Texas legislators in the upcoming Lobby Days, January 30-31. All leagues are encouraged to send members to attend and meet with their own state legislators.

Looking forward to seeing you next week.

Kaye

**Bring a friend to our meeting on January 4.**

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***Feel free to forward this VOTER to your friends & associates.***

***Feedback to Penny Miller at [pdmiller.lwv@gmail.com](mailto:pdmiller.lwv@gmail.com) or [940-867-9761](tel:940-867-9761)***