



Hands & Voices New Mexico

Spring 2016

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."

Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes!*

New Board & Staff in 2016!

All New! Hands & Voices New Mexico Chapter (HVNМ) is starting 2016 with lots of changes in Board membership, Board Officers, New HVNM Guide By Your Side (GBYS) Parent Coordinator, and New Executive Director!

- **Board Members!** Two of our current Parent Guides (PG), Rachel Gutierrez and Andrea Shije, joined our board in January. HVNM is fortunate to have these experienced PGs help plan and guide HVNM programs. Our current teen Advisory Board member, Chloe Madsen Keilers, resigned due to living out of state for college, and HVNM is actively seeking a new D/HH middle school or high school student to join us. Contact parentgroup@hvnм.org for information. *Thank you to all who serve!*
- **Board Officers!** HVNM held officer elections and have filled

all slots. Our new Board President is Ellie Gallegos Lee, Co-Vice Presidents Rachel Gutierrez and Andrea Shije, and Secretary/Treasurer continues to be Carol Clifford. *Thank you all for stepping up and helping drive the organization!*

- **Guide By Your Side Parent Coordinator!** HVNM GBYS program has a new Parent Coordinator, Carmen Armenta, effective January 1st. Carmen had been the Vice Parent Coordinator and is well-suited to take over the reigns. *Thank you Carmen!*
- **Executive Director!** HVNM has a new Executive Director effective April 1st, Carmen Armenta. Marjorie Madsen Keilers resigned due to moving out of state. She will continue to serve in an advisory capacity, help maintain the website hvnм.org, and continue editing the HVNM quarterly newsletter.

Best wishes and thanks to Marjorie and Carmen!

What do all these changes mean to you? Nothing! HVNM will continue our fantastic family-to-family events and programs. We have a wonderful year scheduled, an excellent infrastructure in place, and fabulous support from our friends, members, and stakeholders like you!

What should you do now?

Something! Continue your support:

- Donate your membership dues and other in-kind donations
- Attend HVNM events
- Participate in Facebook chats (second Wednesday of the month from 8:00 to 9:00 PM)
- Spread the word about HVNM to all your friends, students, D/HH children, professionals who work with D/HH children, D/HH adults, and.... Anyone and everyone!

** From David Bowie's "Changes."*

Stay in Touch!

E-mail:

parentgroup@hvnм.org

Website:

www.hvnм.org

Facebook:

www.Facebook.com/handsandvoicesnm

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/handvnm

Pinterest:

www.pinterest.com/hvnм

Join us for monthly Facebook Chats!

On the second Wednesday of every month, starting at 8:00 PM, Parent Guide Nicole Vacher, hosts a one-hour Facebook chat. Feel free to join us during that time, or follow up later with questions, thoughts, ideas.

Send in topics for future chats at any time!

We'd love for you to join us!

Please renew your membership today!

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Each One! Reach One! Teach One!

During our Strategic Planning session in late 2015, the HVNM Board and the HVNM GBYS Parent Guides all discussed how, while supporting our D/HH children and helping families to advocate for their needs, we all do a lot of educating--educating, not just our children, but also educators, friends, and even random strangers.

During 2016, we're going to use this space to share stories of how each one of us has reached one and taught (taught) one. We invite you to share your own similar stories via parentgroup@hvn.org or [facebook.com/handsandvoicesnm](https://www.facebook.com/handsandvoicesnm).

This quarter's story by Marjorie:

My family friend, whom I've known for many years, has heard the myriad stories of communication challenges faced by my daughter, Chloe. This summer Chloe attended a science camp on the east coast that necessitated her first unaccompanied air travel including a plane change. I shared with my friend all the anxiety I felt about changing planes in what many consider the busiest airport in the US and how was it going to work out??? (Note: It went fine! Read Chloe's blog, *Airport Adventures!*, at http://hearchloe.blogspot.com/2015_07_01_archive.html). Months later, my friend was traveling through the Atlanta Airport herself and barely heard her departure gate change over the loudspeaker. Fifteen minutes later she noticed that the departure board still had the old gate listed. Realizing that this was exactly the crisis I had feared and predicted, she went to the nearest gate agent and told them "you have to change the listing immediately! There are deaf and hard of hearing travelers that rely on this information!"

Shout out to my bestie, Maribeth, for reaching and teaching one at ATL!

2016 Membership

Please join Hands & Voices New Mexico Chapter!

Parent/Family: **FREE!**

Professional: \$40 per year

Institutional: \$50 per year

Benefits:

- Receive *The Communicator*, a Headquarters H&V quarterly newspaper
- Receive quarterly HVNM Chapter newsletter
- Information on workshops, resources, events
- Informational support for you and your family
- Opportunities for parents and professionals working together to help children who are D/HH

Thank you!

Board Members & Advisory Board

Carmen Armenta
President
Parent

Jenny Buehler
Parent

Carol Clifford
Secretary/Treasurer
Professional

Rachel Gutierrez
Parent
Professional

Ellie Lee
Professional
Deaf Adult

Marjorie Madsen Keilers
Parent
Hard of Hearing Adult

Andrea Shije
Parent

Donal Welch
Professional

If you have a personal story, ideas for future articles, or if know of upcoming events that would benefit out readers, please let us know:

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