

FEBRUARY 2020

Letter from Your State League President



Greetings, all!

We're excited that Fremont County is joining us and thank Linda Barton for all her work. Thank you too to Margaret Brown, who went with me to Lander and Riverton and home through ice and wind. The Wyoming LWV has 111 members as of January 31, 2020. It's an election year, so we have work ahead of us. I hope everyone will partici-

pate. Voters depend on us.

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan—we don't support parties or candidates. Those who speak for the League--Your local and state organizations--stay nonpartisan and are registered as unaffiliated voters.

All leagues should have nonpartisan policies. Other members can speak their minds, work on campaigns, run for office, and donate to political parties, but **not** as LWV members. I encourage us all to behave in a nonpartisan manner at League events—No heavy sighs or eye rolling at comments you disagree with. I'm told the Natrona County Republican

Women won't use the LWV Casper's government directory because they think all League members are Democrats. That's a shame on several counts. They're denying themselves useful information and engaging in inaccurate stereotyping.

With the budget session starting Feb. 11, I encourage you all to communicate with your legislators about issues you care about. The League will be communicating too. If you wonder what a League position is, look at your [Impact on Issues](#) or state program (both are available online). Your local league has positions too. We'll post those on the website if you send them in. It's a good place to share the news.

The state board at its November meeting named these legislative priorities for the year:

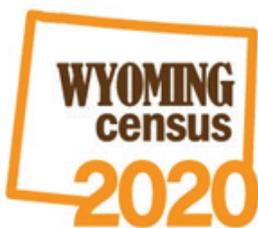
Voter Protection; Census; Redistricting. Other legislative priorities are 1) funding, 2) Medicaid expansion 3) Election Integrity as in voting method reform, including back up paper ballots. National LWV is studying a concurrence on voting methods. Matthew Link has been presenting programs about the state.

LWVWY Convention is May 2-3, if you have suggestions for programs or workshops, please let me know. Remember that April 17 is the deadline for resolutions, reports, etc. That gives our vice-president Kelley Pelissier time to compile, format, and print the convention book all recipients receive. The book is also posted on the private or member side of the website (wyominglwv.org/).

Here are some ideas for promoting the census:

Five Things to Do Right Now

1. Add a link to the [2020 Census website](#) on your website
2. Activate social media with the U.S. Census Bureau [Face-book](#) page, [Twitter](#) feed, [YouTube](#) channel, and [Instagram](#) account. Be sure to tag your own social media posts with the hashtag #Census2020
3. Add a message to your email signature that your organization supports the 2020 Census and a complete count in Washington
4. Put up Census 2020 flyers and posters at your place of work
5. Send an e-blast to clients and constituents that the census is hiring; host a recruiting event



Thanks to the LWV Campbell County for judging the Making Democracy Work Award nominations. More on the awards ceremony is coming. And thanks to Katie Morgan who braved the summit and attended the Women's March in Cheyenne in January. We need to be telling our story.

Susan Simpson

President, League of Women Voters of Wyoming

Know What's Happening

Go to <http://www.wyominglwv.org/news> for more news from throughout the state. The state IT team is glad to post items for you, their address is info@wyominglwv.org.



You can also find us on Facebook:
League of Women Voters of Wyoming

Stay Up-to-Date

Remember to visit the League of Women Voters website at

www.wyominglwv.org

for legislative updates, letters to and from our federal delegation and more!

In League Notes

Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration Report Robin Hill

The sesquicentennial of Wyoming's Suffrage Act has come and gone, celebrated by a hardy group in Cheyenne, and also with scattered events across the state. On December 10th in Cheyenne, attendees, including the Governor's Council, paraded to the Capitol in the morning, heard from the Governor and other dignitaries during the morning, helped visitors throughout the day, and enjoyed talks about the Four Sisters sculptures, the history of the women's vote here, and the skit "Wonderful Wyoming Women Voters." In the evening, we viewed two premieres -- first, of the song "Circle of Light" by Anne Guzzo and Ann McCutchan, sung by the UWyo Women's Chorus, Bel Canto, and second, of the "The State of Equality" documentary by Wyoming PBS. The day wound up with a cocktail party.

While the crowd was enthusiastic -- I had friends come from out of town-- it was limited. A Tuesday in December does not bring out the masses. As far as I can tell, we are still struggling to gain significant national recognition for Wyoming's accomplishment in its historical setting. But we ourselves can be proud, even as we gain greater appreciation of the ins and outs of the history.

We continue to list suffrage-related events on the Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration calendar on the Public Projects page at <https://wyowomensvote150.wyominglww.org/>

<<https://wyowomensvote150.wyominglww.org/PublicProjects.html>> as does the UW Office of Engagement and Outreach on their calendar at <http://www.uwyo.edu/engagement/statewide-events/suffrage.html> for university-related programs. We welcome your programs and hope that you will mention the listing to others. Approved programs receive posters and a few commemorative coins (the precious metal versions can be ordered at suffrage-coins.travelwyoming.com). Many events are taking place across the state, as we know, and that's great, whether they make it to our calendar or not!



Members of the Cheyenne LWV in their costumes on December 10, 2019 at the Wyoming Capitol suffrage celebration, in the historic Territorial Chambers of the Wyoming Capitol after their original play "Wonderful Women of Wyoming." From left to right they are: Rosalind Schliske, Debra Lee, Keren Meister-Emerich, Denise Burke, and Mary Guthrie.

The main activities of January have been the Laramie League's presentation on voting methods, given in Gillette and Casper, and described elsewhere. The presentation will be given again in Laramie on February 13th, explaining how voting affects democracy and showing alternative ways to cast and count votes, in order to better make democracy work.

Our large banners are available to borrow, and suffrage posters are available to distribute.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Best wishes from the Wyoming LWV, always working to improve voter access and awareness.

100 YEARS LWV

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy. Restoring Accountable Districting.
<https://wyominglww.org/>

Women Power the Vote

Lynne Ipiña, Laramie, LWV Co-President, worked with a printer to design postcard to send to all 90 Wyoming state legislators and our Washington delegation to celebrate our suffrage national centennial.

In League Notes continued

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR PARTNERS THROUGH THE YEARS

BY Marguerite Herman and Lindi Kirkbride.

The League of Women Voters sets its own priorities and objectives, but the League in Wyoming has found it useful to work with a range of groups to achieve goals on the state and local levels.

Below is a list of groups we have worked with in the past few years, based on our own agendas but recognizing common interests. The list, which may not be exhaustive, was compiled by LWVWY members who have lobbied for the LWVWY.

ACLU Wyoming
Witness to Innocence
AARP
Wyoming Nurses Association
Wyoming Medical Society
American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
Wyoming Hospital Association
Catholic Diocese of Cheyenne
Greek Orthodox Church of Cheyenne
Wyoming Interfaith Network
Wyoming Primary Care Association
Wyoming County Commissioners Association
Wyoming County Clerks Association
Wyoming Press Association
Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty – Wyoming Chapter
Equality State Policy Center
Wyoming Business Alliance
Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



Mary Guthrie of the Cheyenne LWV presented a program on “Women Who Made a Difference” in Wyoming on December 9, 2019 at the Wyoming State Museum. She livened up her talk by changing hats as she told about each of the women she featured.

In Memorium

Former Casper mayor and Laramie League member, Kathleen Dixon, died October 15, 2019, in Casper. She was a LWV Woman of Distinction in 2001. Our sympathies to her family and friends. She is remembered fondly in both Laramie and Casper.

State League Dues

The state league has just adopted dues for this fiscal year of \$60 for the first person at an address, and \$30 for the 2nd family member at that address. A third member at that address will pay \$20. These dues only apply to people who are not members of a recognized local league. In LWV jargon, they are called LWV Wyoming Members at Large.

Local Leagues set their own dues and decide on any “breaks” for certain membership categories such as students, and/or second or third members at the same address. Each Local League’s dues structure is posted on the website, which is wyominglwv.org

2020 Events

February 14 100th Anniversary of the LWVUS’s creation
Women Power the Vote campaign

April 17 Deadline for suggestions for programs or workshops and written resolutions, local league committee reports for the convention book.

May 2-3 LWVWY Convention Cheyenne

June 25-28 LWVUS National Convention, Washington, D.C.

August 18 Centennial of 19th Amendment ratification

First Tuesday of the month, 5:30: Standing date for a state board conference call. Board does not meet every month. Check News for the next meeting. Members welcome to attend. Email president@wyominglwv.org for access numbers. Agendas and documents are posted on the private side of the website.

Local Leagues Report

Campbell County LWV

The Campbell County LWV has had a busy fall and start to the New Year. We had an organizational meeting in October. The November meeting, we planned to partner with the Campbell County Rockpile Museum in a premiere showing of Wyoming PBS documentary, *The State of Equality; Wyoming Women Get the Vote*. The program was held on December 10. The attendance was about 45 community members, we handed out posters and buttons. The museum made buttons from the suffragette era.

January 7, we hosted *Civics 101: Impeachment* presented by Doug Dumbrell. We learned about U.S. Constitution and the procedures for the impeachment and removal of a President as well as the legal basis for applying those provisions. Poster looked cool. It was filmed and rebroadcast on GPA-TV. Attendance was about 70 people.

Thanks to the wonderful team from Laramie we hosted on January 16, for a free education program and interactive workshop on voting methods, led by Matthew Link, a graduate student at UW. Link described several alternative voting methods, explain the reasoning behind them, and provide a chance for people to try them out.

Coming up February 18 we will be hosting a Presidents Day program about who really was Harry Truman with the Friends of the Library. By Sue Knesel

Casper LWV

On January 18, the Casper chapter of the League of Women Voters and Natrona County Public Library co-sponsored an interactive workshop on "Considering Alternative Voting Methods to Enhance Democracy" presented by Matthew Link under the auspices of the State League. The program was part of the Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration of 100 Years of Empowering Voters. Although the turnout was disappointing, discussion was lively and the mission of the League of Women Voters was highlighted in a segment on KCWY TV13 news beforehand and afterward via a televised interview with participating League members. As a result of the publicity, the Casper League received unsolicited donations from three community members in support of its "good work." By Jim Brown

A Fremont County League Is Coming Back!

Two from the Wyoming state LWV (President Susan Simpson and Membership Chair Margaret Brown) traveled to Lander and Riverton recently to see what interest there is in forming a Fremont County LWV. What they found was an enthusiastic group in both places, eager to talk about LWV! Look for the report from Linda Barton who served as the chief organizer for the two events in January. With 16 members so far, they are well on their way to meeting the requirements to become a local LWV. We look forward to welcoming them to the LWV of Wyoming!!!!

Fremont County continued next page

Cheyenne LWV

The Cheyenne League is proud that its nominee for the Making Democracy Work award, Brigadier General (retired) Kathy J. Wright, has been honored as the recipient. In addition to her distinguished career in the military, it is her more than 25 years in a leadership role as director, committee member, and volunteer for Girls State that moved the Cheyenne League to nominate her.

Most in keeping with the Making Democracy Work award, Ms. Wright serves as the instructor for the Girls State political science course at Laramie County Community College. In this class, Wyoming young women attending Girls State have the opportunity to learn about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, so that they may understand and participate in the functioning of their government, and understand the responsibilities they will assume as adults. As the Girls State legislative coordinator, she also involves current and former legislators to mentor and provide the young women with hands-on experience in writing and passing a bill through the Legislature.

The Cheyenne League is planning the award ceremony on either March 25 or April 1 in Cheyenne. More information will be provided to League members and we hope that many from other communities will join us in honoring Ms. Wright.

The Cheyenne League of Her Own Acting Troupe presented its original play, "Wonderful Wyoming Women Voters," in the historic Territorial Chambers in the State Capitol during the December 10 festivities celebrating 150 years of women's suffrage in Wyoming. The newly restored chambers was a fitting venue for the historic presentation, and very well-received by those attending. The Troupe was asked to make two additional presentations in February in Cheyenne, one to the Ewing T. Kerr Chapter of the American Inns of Court and another to the Laramie Co. Historical Society on February 16 at the Laramie Co. Library.

The Cheyenne League is finishing preparations to host the League of Women Voters of Wyoming Convention, which will be held May 2-3 in Cheyenne, with convention sessions to be held at the Historic Plains Hotel, and a tour of the Capitol planned. By Kelley Pelissier



Linda Barton speaking in Riverton



Susan Simpson (white hair) and Margaret Brown (right edge) in Lander

Fremont County *continued*

In January 2020, after consulting with the Wyoming League of Women Voters, we began working to develop a Fremont County League of Women Voters. I had always been interested in joining a League because of the great work it has done for 100 years. We did not have a League in Fremont County since 1970 and I felt that we needed one. There are only 4 local leagues in the state; Cheyenne, Laramie, Casper and Gillette. Nothing close to this side of the state. Once I retired end of July 2019, I thought this would be a great opportunity to get involved.

To date, we have hosted 2 meetings, one in Lander on January 9th and one in Riverton on January 16. Both meetings were well attending with about 75 peoples from the two locations. At the Riverton meeting, we had Julie Freese, County Clerk, and Margie Irvine, Chief Deputy Clerk, in attendance to discuss the new voting process for Fremont. We are the only county whose Commission is divided into 5 districts, making things more complicated. We are currently working with people in Ft. Washakie, Ethete, and Dubois to ensure that the entire county has the opportunity to learn more about the League and participate if they choose. As we continue our outreach, we are also working diligently to create our organizational structure that includes By-Laws and other documents to become an official League. We currently have a Facebook account at: <https://www.facebook.com/FremontCountyLWV/>. We encourage folks to visit our site.

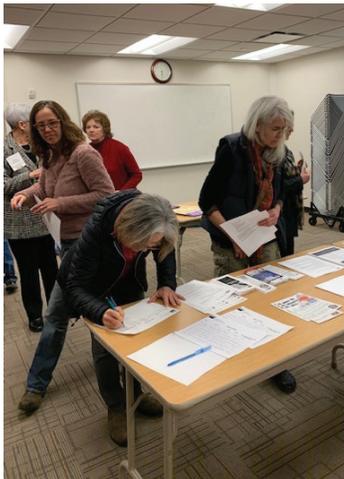


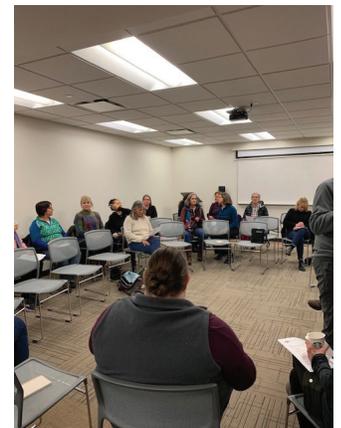
Table display—Lander



Folks taking notes and signing up in Lander



Fremont County Clerk Julie Freese and deputy clerk Margie Irvine spoke to the Riverton meeting about election laws and changes to come.



Lander organizational meeting

The Fremont County League was represented at the Women's March in Lander on January 18th and got many more folks to sign up. We currently have a distribution list of over 100 women, men and young people. Anyone woman, man, youth 16 and over can join LWVFC as well as non-U.S. citizens. The League is non-partisan and does not support any candidate or party. The League does advocate for positions and provides voter information that people need when making informed voting decisions. We will be providing candidate forums, voter guides and pro/con information on local and county bills or propositions but not promoting one way or another. We will get out the vote, drive voters to polling centers if they need and generally support the county clerk. We also intend on working on the 2020 Census as Fremont County is one of two counties whose data was underreported. This leads to less funding coming into the county. The other county was Sweetwater.

On March 4, several League members will be working the pledge phones for PBS at Central Wyoming College in Riverton from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Join us to learn more about the newly forming League! Feel free to reach me at email or cell phone below.

Linda Barton, 307-349-1427 or lbarton949@gmail.com.
By Linda Barton

Note from Susan Simpson: The LWVFC will apply to the state board for recognition and then to the national board. The organization has to have a nonpartisan statement and identified leadership. Right now, LWVFC has 14 members. The state will maintain the roster and manage finances until they are firmly established.

Laramie LWV

The Laramie League voted to study and come to consensus on increasing the number of County Commissioners from the present 3 to 5 members. On March 30 we will have a presentation by Meaghan Todd, history and government teacher at Laramie High School, on the Equal Rights Amendment. This will be a discussion using the case study method of instruction from a workshop Meaghan attended last summer at Harvard. The popular program is open again for summer 2020 for Leagues to nominate an educator to participate—contact the Laramie LWV if you know of a teacher who would be interested in this all-expense paid weekend trip, thanks to arrangements made by the LWV of Stamford, CT. Matthew Link and a committee from the Laramie LWV is drafting a statement on Voting

Method Reforms that will be presented to the LWVWY at our annual convention in May. Developing a concurrence on this topic was one of the new program issues from Convention 2019. Matthew has presented workshops on the topic in Casper and Gillette in early January 2020. Thanks for the generous teamwork of both the Gillette and Casper Leagues. Lynne Ipiña has been compiling a memorandum on instances where the LWV has been mentioned in national and local press media. Anyone who would like to receive it should contact the Laramie LWV. Lastly, the Laramie League designed valentines that they will soon distribute to our 90 state legislators and a few other elected officials. The valentines are intended as a reminder of our interest in their work and how they might follow our work. By Judy Knight

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WYOMING - 2019-2020
Bolded Text Is Revised

Officers		
President 2019-2021	Susan Simpson*	president@wyominglww.org
Vice President 2018-2020	Kelley Pelissier*	VP@swyominglww.org
Secretary 2019-2021	Judy Knight*	secretary@wyominglww.org -
Treasurer 2018-2020	Katie Morgan*	treasurer@wyominglww.org -
Elected State Board Members		
2019-2021	Jim Brown *	-
2018-2020	Margaret Brown	mld@wyominglww.org
2019-2021	Marguerite Herman	-
2019-2020	Sherry Lowell	-
Appointed State Board Members		
2019-2020	Jamie Egolf	
2019-2020	Sid Walter	-

*Members of Executive Committee

Off Board Roles		
Wyoming Voter Publisher	Mary Bower	-
State MLD Coach and Cheyenne	Margaret Brown	mld@wyominglww.org -
League Web Team/ Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration	Robin Hill	info@wyominglww.org wyowomensvote150@wyominglww.org
Local MLD Coach: Laramie	Cindy Elrod	-
Legislative Liaison	Marguerite Herman	LegLiaison@wyominglww.org
LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS/Representatives		
Campbell Co.	Sue Knesel	campbellcty@wyominglww.org
Casper	Jim Brown	casper@wyominglww.org
Cheyenne	Chris Muth	cheyenne@wyominglww.org
Laramie	Lynne Ipiña Nancy Lockwood	laramie@wyominglww.org

LWVUS Liaison: Jessica Rohloff, LWVMN, jrohloff@lww.org
 LWVUS Lobby Corps: Carole Conors, caroleconors@verizon.net
 Facebook: @WyoLWV
 Website: wyominglww.org
 Email: info@wyominglww.org

Corrections

The date for the state legislature's convening was incorrect in the August 2019 newsletter, and Kelley Pelissier attended a Management Council meeting in the interim, not the Corporations committee.

Are You Getting All the LWVWY Communications?

State communications come from info@wyominglww.org. Add it to your contact list to ensure you receive the legislative reports and newsletters.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD AND OTHER PROJECTS IN FY 20

AREA	CHARGE	MEMBERS	REPORT DATE	COMMENTS
Finance				
Audit		Volunteer Please	Before convention 2020	
Reading Committee	Read and prepare convention minutes for approval	K. Morgan, S Lowell	Before convention 2020	Approved and posted
Budget	Prepare FY 2021 Budget.	Executive Committee	Named 2 months before convention and draft distributed one month before.	
Nominating Committee	Prepare a slate for convention		Convention 2020	This is not required by the bylaws and has been unsuccessful in past. Need candidates for VP, Treasurer and board.
Fundraising				
Names and reasons to donate for corporations	Help create an effective mailing list	All members	Ongoing	As we increase our activities, we need additional funding to support them. Fundraising is increasingly important.
Letter to corporations	Send targeted letters to corps. in the state	M. Brown*, Knesel, Simpson and Walter	This project continues to need support.	Consider inducements (Leg. Update, Choosing a Candidate in Wyoming).
Publications/Public Awareness				
LOOK Study	Examine more feasible approach for LOOK	Katie Morgan, Robin Hill, Lynne Ipiña and Susan Simpson	Report at 2020 convention	Board reactivated this committee in February 2020.
LOOK Revision/ Editing	After recommendations, Revise LOOK.	Ask for volunteers.	TBD	No volunteers have come forward.
Publication policy	Develop policy on public/private publications, social media, etc. legislative report, email, Action alerts from US and WY, state message, guidelines for posting.	Sue Knesel, Sid Walter (Hill to post)	1. To be posted on Google Docs for comment by item. 2. Report next board meeting after 2/4/20.	IT Team has list of retentions for email.
MDW Award	Present award to Kathy Wright and publicize	Kelley Pelissier and Roz Schliske	Spring 2020	
Post Past Resolutions on the web site		Robin Hill		Done

AREA	CHARGE	MEMBERS	REPORT DATE	COMMENTS
Membership				
Encourage new leagues/new members		All members	Ongoing	
Post info on interim meetings		Ask for volunteers to report to Herman	Ongoing	For web site/FB. No action so far.
Update membership application form with dues and student dues		Local leagues need to determine.		Reminder on September 2019 agenda.

Voter Services

Choosing a Candidate in Wyoming	Distribute color copies/ask \$25 for candidate to distribute	Susan Simpson		Also provided a b/w version Done. \$75 received?
Fair Campaign pledge	Distributed to candidate, collect responses, publicize	Susan Simpson		5 candidates responded and were listed on Facebook.
Letter re campaign finance reform HB67		Susan Simpson		
Letter to Wyoming Promise		Susan Simpson		Mailed June 24, 2018. No response.
Publish a Primary Voter Guide for the 7 state wide offices		Judy Knight, Jamie Egolf		Result published in Voter 411.org at no charge. Distributed to all media. Printed in Laramie and Rawlins papers.
Write media re election issues—procedures, machines, etc.		Susan Simpson		
Observe interim meetings.	Observe meeting in locations other than Casper, Cheyenne, Laramie or as Herman requests.	Ask for volunteers to report to Herman.	Ongoing	Since Herman attends legislative interim committee meetings in Cheyenne and tries to get to Casper, we could post dates of interim committee meetings and ask for observers throughout the state. We need a volunteer to post/ or ask Robin Hill to post meetings and volunteers to observe. This would be ongoing. To whom would observers report?

State Convention

April 2020	Identify hotel, speaker, banquet etc.	Cheyenne		Board has approved registration fee, contracts not signed.
------------	---------------------------------------	----------	--	--

Projects				
WWSC (Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration)	To develop and coordinate LWWVY events	Hill,*Kirkbride and Brand. Additional volunteers welcome.	Ongoing	Contact Robin Hill
Study on state boards and commissions		Anderson, Brown, Hill, Jennings, Simpson* were contacts in 2015 minutes. Ask for volunteers.		Suspended
Programs on constitution convention issue		Any volunteers?		On hold until more public interest
State study on presidential caucus Vs. primary		Keren Meister-Emrick		
Concurrence study on alternative voting methods		Matthew Link	March 20, 2020 deadline to LWWUS	Two programs in Laramie, media coverage; 1 program in Casper, media coverage; 1 program in Gillette
People Powered Fair Maps	Participate in the LWWUS education project	Lynne Ipiña	May 15, 2020 to LWWUS	
Standing Rules	Review former standing rules for updates.	Knight, Walter	2020 Convention	These were last discussed in 2012 and need to be updated.
Campaign Principles Revision	Modify to provide room for name and date, create consistent format	TBD	2020 Convention	
Information on past coalitions/partners		Marguerite Herran	In this newsletter	
Possible DEI Actions	Local leagues		2020 Convention	M. Beal workshop at 2019 convention to be reported on in 2020.

* conveners