

JULY 2020

WYOMING VOTER



A Report on State Convention and the Year

LWVWY held its first Zoom convention in May 2020 with 29 delegates present.

We missed so much not seeing each other in person and having those lively exchanges before and after the business sessions, but on the whole, the Zoom technology worked amazingly well considering that most of us are amateurs. Remembering to unmute is my bugaboo. Everyone's patience is much appreciated. Several attendees liked having the one day meeting.

We had five minute breaks before the hour and an hour for lunch. Everyone in the state received the convention notebook a week before the meeting; nine people reported reading it before the meeting. Reports, bylaws changes, resolutions and motions were all prepared ahead of time to keep the meeting moving. The convention minutes will be on the July 23 board agenda.

See the letter to Ed Buchanan on p. 9 about some of the resolutions the members approved.

Officers for FY21 are listed on page 11.

This year the state board's standing meeting date is the fourth Thursday of the month, beginning July 23 at 5:30. The board met six times in FY20 and five times each in FY19 and FY18. All members are welcome to attend. The meeting are Zoomed; material is posted ahead of time on the private/member side of the wyominglww.org website. If you don't have the user name and password to access the private side of the website,

email a request for both to info@wyominglww.org and include a cell phone number or a second email address so the access information can be sent more securely.

Remember to check wyominglww.org/News for information. Your local league can post information there easily. Instructions with screen shots are at https://www.wyominglww.org/private/Tech_Instructions/.

Next year's convention will be in Cheyenne; the proposed tour of the state capitol is on the agenda. The date is not set.

Thank to Linda Barton, Robin Hill, Lynne Ipiña, Judy Knight, Keren Meister-Emerich, and Kelley Pelissier for their help before and during convention. Any successful convention is a group effort. Also Mary Guthrie and Sherry Lowell for volunteering to be the reading committee.

Looking back over the past year, I see successes and near misses: We have a new league in Fremont County. Our membership is growing; we can become more effective. Our legislative efforts contributed to stopping efforts to limit people's ability to change their political affiliation easily. Expanding Medicaid and abolishing the death penalty may be wins next year. We're participating in Vote411.org again this year, and every newspaper in the state received a copy of the Voters' Guide to the federal races either from the state or local leagues, depending on the town. I got a phone call from an absentee voter in London wanting access to information about candidates. We do a good job, and people know it.

Susan Simpson

President, League of Women Voters of Wyoming

2020 Events

July 23 LWVWY State Board Meeting by Zoom at 5:30 pm

And from the Secretary of State's website:

Request Absent ballot	July 2 – August 17, 2020
Voter Registration Closes: Pre-Primary	August 3, 2020
Primary Election	August 18, 2020
Voter can Request Absentee Ballot	September 18 – November 2, 2020
Registration Closes: Pre-General	October 19, 2020
General Election	November 3, 2020

August 18 Centennial of 19th Amendment ratification



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

Wyoming Leagues Educating Voters About the Candidates

Here's information on candidate forums across the state, pasted from press releases or emails:

Campbell County is ahead of all of us. It's held its two primary forums already.

State House and Senate: <http://ec4.cc/fj337ebe>

U. S. House and Senate: <http://ec4.cc/fj659fb4>

The Casper League of Women Voters and Natrona County Public Library will co-host a County Commissioner candidates forum Thursday, July 16, 6:30-8 PM at the Ramkota Inn in Casper. Since there are six Republicans competing for two positions, and no Democrats, the Primary will determine the winners, barring unforeseen write-ins. The Ramkota has a meeting room that can accommodate up to 100, properly social distanced.

The Cheyenne League of Women Voters (LWVC) is once again hosting its popular candidate forums for those running in a contested primary for local Legislative and County Commission races; as well as for those competing in nonpartisan primary nomination Mayoral and City Council contests. These candidate forums will be held virtually via the Zoom webinar format. The forums will be moderated by the LWV. General pre-prepared questions will be asked of all candidates by the LWV and attendees will be able to submit live questions for the candidates to be asked by the moderator. All local citizens and voters are invited and encouraged to attend.

STATE SENATOR 06 – Republican

Tuesday, July 14, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

STATE SENATOR 08 – Republican

Tuesday, July 14, 7:40 – 8:40 p.m.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE District 07- Republican

Wed., July 15, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE District 10 – Republican

Wed., July 15, 7:40 – 8:40 p.m.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 12 – Democratic

Thursday, July 16, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 42 – Republican

Thursday, July 16, 6:40 – 7:40 p.m.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 43 - Republican

Thursday, July 16, 7:50 – 8:50 p.m.

County Commissioner Candidates – Republican

Tuesday, July 28, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

NONPARTISAN OFFICIALS TO BE NOMINATED BY THE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

City Council (Ward II)

Wednesday, July 29, 6:30 – 7:30

City Council (Ward III)

Wednesday, July 29, 7:40 – 8:40

Cheyenne Mayor

Thursday, July 30, 6:30-7:30

City Council (Ward I)

Thursday, July 30, 7:40-8:40

(even though all 4 candidates go forward to General)

When: This is a recurring webinar: July 14, 15, 16 and 28, 29, and 30, 2020 beginning at 6:30 PM Mountain Time

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81300842766> Webinar ID: 813 0084 2766

Fremont County has produced a Voters' information Guide: <https://files.constantcontact.com/03791a30801/bcb8a0cd-ccb3-4d75-b325-7ece2d41bf99.pdf>. The voter guide will be an insert in the Riverton Ranger, Lander Journal and Dubois Frontier. It will also be on County 10 as a digital piece. We will also post it through Constant Contact, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter. It will be in the Sunday, August 16th papers.

Laramie is also zooming its forums. There will be no live streaming or audience. They are scheduled for these dates:

Wyoming House Districts 13 and 45

Thursday July 9, 7:00 PM

Wyoming House District 14

Thursday July 16, 7:00 PM

Wyoming Senate District 10 and House District 46

Thursday July 23, 7:00 PM

Wyoming House District 47

(includes parts of northern Albany County and parts of Carbon and Sweetwater Counties)

Thursday July 30, 4:00 PM

City Council and Clerk of District Court

(Candidate Statements Only)

Thursday August 6, 5-6 PM

County Commissioner

Thursday August 6, 7 PM

Recordings will be on LWVWY's YouTube; LWVL's Facebook and website, <http://wyominglwv.org/Elections/elections.html>; and Albany County Public Library's website, <https://www.acplwy.org>. Plans are underway to run forums on the city's public access TV channel as well.

Teton County's MAL (Members At Large): We have no information now. They are usually posted on the Teton County Library's website.



Vote411 has information about elections across the country.

Special Projects

By Susan Simpson, LWVWY President

Get Out the Vote

I attended a webinar July 9 about getting out the vote (GOTV). Personal contact is proven the most successful method to increase turnout. I am going to ask the board and you all to agree to our holding GOTV events where we call registered voters in Wyoming and encourage them to vote. This project could be an hour commitment or an all day. It's one where all members can participate. Fewer than 50% of the voting age population in Wyoming voted in the 2018 General Election. How much could we increase that number? Let's all get on board with this effort which is fundamental to our mission and our democracy. I hope the board and you will agree.

VOTER Girl

LWV Montana and Wyoming are exploring a two and a half hour event called VOTER Girl., a caucus topic at convention. Girl Scouts attend and can earn a badge while learning about democracy. LWV members lead the sessions. It has been very successful in other states and

councils. We still don't have information on troop locations in Wyoming and Montana, but there are 8,075 GS in both states. Are any of you interested in this? Sid Walter, Linda Barton, and I attended one meeting. There have been others, and I have notes if you're interested. We're told it's a way to recruit new and younger members too. COVID-19 presents difficulties, but the program is in its fourth year and the curriculum is inventive I think. Brownies learn to march for instance. There was a photograph at the caucus; they were waving paper towels tubes with crepe paper ribbons and holding signs "Vote." Very cute. The scouts receive yellow roses to give to people who commit to vote.

Suffrage Documentary

Sophie Barksdale, Caldera Productions, emailed in February about The State of Equality, the documentary about women's suffrage in Wyoming. It's still posted on Caldera Productions YouTube. There's also a shorter version of 20 minutes that broadens the film's focus to women's suffrage in the West. It can be purchased at the Wyoming PBS store. Its debut was a major part of the celebration in Cheyenne Dec. 10.



Keren Meister-Emerich, LWV Cheyenne, was the Zoom master for the Wyoming convention. Shown are some members in attendance. Photo by Ipiña

Looking in On Other Leagues

By Lynne Ipiña, LWV Laramie

Local leagues and their members suffer from isolation: they rarely get out of their own space. This article is intended to disrupt that condition for LWVWY readers. Let's begin by looking to two neighbors, Utah and Colorado.

A local league is back! Their Utah Valley league had been dormant since 1990s so once again, Utah has 5 local leagues. Their state league joined other state leagues asking the LWVUS to include "climate emergency" as one of the Making Democracy Work® areas for emphasis for 2020. LWVUtah seems focused on a very few issues, something the LWVWY has discussed doing. Their state website shows off at least one-a-year studies on an attractive page. Like

the LWVWY reached out to LWVCO on the voting methods, so too the Utah league joined the LWVUS's ERA campaign to persuade senators to help remove the time-limit on the ERA amendment. LWVUS awarded \$5000 to support those efforts.

LWVCO is quite different from the smaller leagues LWVUtah and LWVWY. A few examples include their having 19 local leagues, hosting many events, working on multiple propositions simultaneously, and having a 21-member committee called the Legislative Action Committee. Included are a Director of Action & Advocacy and a Legislative Liaison.

This list of events and actions taken by other leagues confirms the merit of actions LWVWY has or might take in the future.

Alabama: host informational online session on Absentee Voting
Colorado: holds frequent webinars, and the next is at 6:30 on July 30. Colorado's SOS will discuss Voting & elections security.
Davis CA area: On June 24 they hosted a forum "to educate voters about how our current healthcare model impacts local care access, affordability and community health."
Henderson County NC: awards & funds a yearly \$500 student prize
Kansas: challenge the law requiring Documentary Proof of Citizenship to register to vote (they won!)
Michigan: sues the state of Michigan over access to absentee ballots
Michigan: partners with MLive Media with its 8 different MI publications
Minnesota: issue a statement of support for BLM
Greencastle, IN: among others who joined MN "in calling on law enforcement officials to provide transparency during this investigation and to seek justice for George Floyd, his family and his community."
Oxford Mississippi: sponsor showing new political film "Win, Lose or Draw Straws" at a June drive-in film festival
St. Petersburg FL: commission an outdoor mural about voting in a low-turnout part of their city
South Carolina: lobby for more access to absentee ballots
Tennessee: commission busts of 3 "suffrage heroes" from TN to highlight TN role in passing the ERA amendment. The busts replaced that of a Confederate general.

Membership Report

LWVWY has grown to 126 members from 103 we had last year. That's a 15.5% increase. Credit for the increase goes almost entirely to Linda Barton and the Fremont County League that she has helped spearhead into existence. The Fremont County League has been officially recognized, but its members are still counted as "members at large"—a bit of a time lag since the LWVUS staff were so busy lately with organizing convention and its aftermath communications. We're patient.

Totals are from the 2020 roster listings (in parentheses are numbers from January 2019) on the LWVUS database as of July 16, 2020 are:

Casper: 7 members (9)

Cheyenne: 23 members (23)

Laramie: 48 members (46)

Campbell County: 15 members (16)

Members at Large (including Fremont County): 33 members (9 in 2019)

LWVUS Convention

Perspectives on the LWVUS Convention, on Zoom, June 25-27, 2020

From Past Attendees and First Timers

Harvard Case Method Study Institute

A new way to teach government history

by Judy Knight, Sherry Lowell, and Sidney Walter

(LWV Board Members, and LWV Laramie and Campbell County)

One of the “caucus sessions” at LWVUS 2020 National Convention was one that was on Tuesday, June 23. There were nearly 400 participants on a ZOOM videoconference with Dr. David Moss, a professor in the Harvard Business School.

ZOOM Worked

Among those participating were Sherry Lowell, Judy Knight, and Sidney Walter. It was amazing to see how well the technology worked for this event.

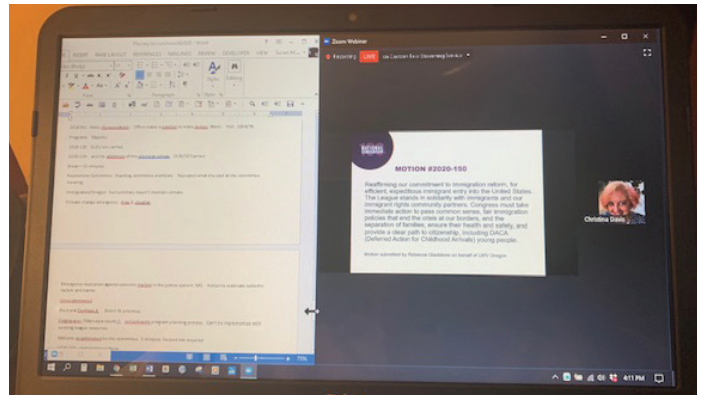
It extended nearly an hour longer than planned because there were so many questions; the moderator had us all “muted” until we raised a “hand” icon indicating we had a question. Our names then moved to the top of the participant’s list in the order in which hands were raised. There was a slight delay as the LWV “host” Dr. Deirdre Kamlani “unmuted” us, but everyone with a question did get a chance to speak.

Appropriate for teaching civics

In 2008, Dr. Moss pioneered this tried-and-true method for teaching business and law students as he pioneered a class for Harvard undergraduates using the case study approach to teach government economics. It proved enormously popular, and he realized that it might work in American high schools to revitalize American civics history education.

Dr. Kamlani is a member of the Greenwich, CT LWV, and realized that there was a good partnership opportunity with the League for nominating local teachers to receive the training from Dr. Moss and his team. She received a grant for a pilot project that in two years has brought teachers from 28 states to Harvard for 3-day weekend training, using the case studies that Dr. Moss has developed.

The Wyoming LWV took up the challenge of finding a Wyoming high school teacher to nominate. Meaghan Todd, who teaches Advanced Placement Government at Laramie High was nominated by the Wyoming LWV and was selected to attend. The expense-paid scholarship in summer 2019 involved spending a weekend at Harvard—she was probably in the last group to attend these training sessions in person.



Christina Davis, Special Projects Manager, LWVUS, managed the Zoom convention. Photo by Simpson.

Now, it is more likely that the training in future years will be given in a virtual classroom.

As of 2019, over 250 teachers (including 100 LWV-nominees) from 35 states have received the training and give it high marks when they put it into practice in their classrooms.

What makes it unique?

In the case study approach, all students read a 20-30-page description of the historical issue in U.S. government, called “the case.” There are 22 that have been prepared by the Harvard team; trainees pledge to use four or more in their classrooms. Topics range from the debate over the Equal Rights Amendment all the way back to the “Federal Negative,” (whether or not to give the Federal Government the right to override states in issues of indebtedness, foreign trade, etc.) as the U.S. Constitution was being developed.

After reading the arguments for and against whatever the issue is in the case study, the students debate it in class. After attending the training, Meaghan Todd invited Lynne Ipiña and Judy Knight to observe in her classroom the students debating Alexander Hamilton’s proposal to establish a national bank. What might have been a dry and dull topic became highly animated as students wrestled with “states’ rights” and the huge incentive that Hamilton offered, namely, that the Federal Government take over the indebtedness each state incurred in fighting the War of Independence.

After listening to Dr. Moss explain the case study technique, Sherry Lowell was impressed that the technique engages students and has been shown to strengthen student’s critical thinking skills. Judy

LWVUS Convention continued

Knight liked the fact that the Moss approach teaches “history in the present tense,” making it come alive for students, in a way that they don’t forget because it is story-based. Sidney Walter said after hearing the presentation she wanted to be able to bring Dr. Moss to Wyoming to get every high school history and government teacher involved.

Interested? Next Steps

In revamping the program to save money and make it possible to continue despite COVID-19 disruptions, in the future there will not be a limit on how many can attend the virtual training from each state. Each League can nominate teachers directly by submitting their names (and the name of their high school) to Dr. Deirdre Kamlani at league.rsvp@gmail.com. She will continue to be the liaison between the Harvard team and the League of Women Voters.

A Brief Report

Margaret Brown, State Board and LWV Laramie

I was pleased that the LWVUS convention accomplished what business needed to be done with 1200 people participating (watching) via Zoom. It’s amazing what we can do when we have to do it! I am so impressed with our CEO, Virginia Kase. It was delightful to watch her in action in a variety of ways. It

Nominees should be active high school teachers who teach U.S. history, government or civics. They should be willing to use at least four of the case studies in their teaching (view the list of cases at the website www.cmi.org (for Case Method Institute for Education and Democracy). The Leagues nominating them should be prepared to organize a public event in which one of the case studies will be under discussion.

In Laramie, we were all set to have a public program over the case called “Democracy and Women’s Rights in America: The Fight over the ERA” (1982). Then the pandemic reached Wyoming, and our March 30, 2020 event got put on hold. But we hope to reschedule it as soon as we can, and would be happy to talk to anyone in the LWV of Wyoming about nominating teachers for this program.

makes her messages to all of us more meaningful. The many caucuses and webinars before the Convention are mostly available for watching, and I WILL get caught up with the ones I missed. There’s so much information and food for thought and ideas from other Leagues to take advantage of by us!

Brief report on LWVUS Convention 2020

Sid Walter, State Board and LWV Laramie

A panel that included Muriel Bowser, Mayor, Washington, DC; Alejandra Castillo, CEO of the YWCA-USA; Allison Riggs, Interim Executive Director and Chief Counsel for Voting Rights at Southern Coalition for Social Justice (and newly-elected LWVUS board member); and Valerie Jarrett, board chair of When We All Vote, kicked off the 2020 Convention in appropriate fashion—talking about the importance of every United States citizen over age 21 having the right to vote and the importance of our doing just that. Mayor Bowser was in her home, casually dressed, seated by a window overlooking a Washington street. Valerie Jarrett greeted us in her stark white kitchen graced with white orchids in cache pots. The others on the panel were in home offices that somehow looked familiar, as they weren’t too different from what we’ve been seeing over the past few months as we all have been inviting others into our homes to conduct business over Zoom or similar platforms. Theirs may have been tidier than some, obviously.

LWV’s CEO Virginia Kase served as host for this panel, and she, too, was in her home, introducing herself to all of us in a relaxed setting. It was a wonderful way to give the official welcome to the Convention.

Sites mentioned by Ms. Jarrett included voteathome.org.

org and whenweallvote.org. Ms. Castillo spoke passionately about racial and social justice. Mayor Bowser talked about the impending US House vote (HR 51) to be taken the following day granting statehood to The District. [Note: the bill passed, but will meet stiff opposition in the US Senate. See **Impact on Issues** for the League’s position on this matter.]

I attended several caucuses (a couple in the form of Webinars) and was most impacted by Climate Migration and Climate Emergency, All Hands on Deck! It isn’t news that the US doesn’t give our current and continuing climate emergency as much attention as is warranted. I won’t belabor the point.

In the comfort of your own homes, I encourage you to watch a video found at lww.org/sheisme. Another worth watching is Perfect36themusical.com.

I don’t recall how many League delegates and guests normally attend a biannual Convention, but this year, due to its accessibility via Zoom, there were many thousands sitting in. Voting Delegates numbered something around 1200, but participants at one point numbered 5,000 and more. Now that’s impressive!

LWVUS Conventions are stimulating and informative, and not to be missed if at all possible.

LWVUS Convention 2020 Comments:

By Susan Simpson, LWVWY President and LWV Laramie

This year's was the third national convention I've attended, one in Washington with Sid, one in Chicago by myself, and one by Zoom in my basement. To have seven Wyoming members attend, at least three of them first timers, was the biggest benefit of the Zoom convention. It almost makes me want to suggest continuing with Zoom meetings periodically once capacity to talk privately with one another is added.

The plenary sessions were inspiring as usual—Deborah Ann Turner's and Virginia Kase's addresses particularly. The discussion was lively, the parliamentary procedures educational, and the caucuses varied—some very useful, others less so. The technology was relatively smooth. We're all improving our skills. The most dispiriting part was not being able to talk with people from all over the country and to compare notes with other Wyoming attendees during the sessions.

I attended caucuses on fostering diversity, improving coordination with the Lobby Corps, hosting successful forums, improving health care, and starting a VOTER Girl program with Girl Scouts. I also participated in the Virtual Lobby Day supporting the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA). I haven't heard back from our senators. Lynne Ipiña created a supporting Twitter bomb with fireworks.

Board Source, an online group for EDs and board members, was a caucus topic. I have signed up for it if you're interested in seeing typical discussions. I've found it better for larger organizations than our leagues.

I also attended the resolution committee meeting. The committee approved these resolutions:

- Oregon's reaffirming our commitment to immigration in light of climate change caused migration (LWVWY concurred at its convention)
- Missouri's calling for racial justice for black people (this was first presented in the Leagues Leaders Google Group which I don't check often.

Another Viewpoint

By Link Kirkbride

I thought it was really a remarkable unique experience being able to attend the first National LWV zoom convention with hundreds of people from all over country. It was a level playing field as far as the low cost, ability to observe, and participate in voting and polls. It was an honor to be a part of the 100th anniversary of League where lemonade was made from lemons in this time of Covid 19. There were moments of technology awkwardness but by and large, it was professional and went smoothly. We witnessed the convention adopting a New Mexico federal land study and position as a national position,

I missed the notice about it, so did not bring it to your attention.)

The resolutions committee did not approve a resolution that reaffirmed abolishing the Electoral College, saying it was not a priority issue for the League this time. It is a LWV position. I don't think this reasoning was well-explained. It was presented at the business meeting and approved by the delegates there.

[What are League priorities? <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/2020-legislative-priorities-guidance-leagues>]

The two concurrences Wyoming approved at its convention were also approved at the national meeting:

- New Mexico's on the transfer of federal public lands
- Voter Representation/Electoral Systems . Matthew speaks more about in his section.

These will go into the new Impact on Issues 2020-2022, not yet available.

Recordings of the major events are at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzd5f5VyMYrtCZKM3dYXQ> Listen to Kase and Turner if you can't listen to all of them.

The LWVUS provides many resources for local leagues and members available on the League Management site. Search "webinars" and 21 titles come up. Search "Tool Kit" and 12 links appear. You can also search your subject. There is also a monthly Community Call, "a designated space where Leagues can continue deepening their connections among Leagues across the country and serving as a critical time for discussions and learning." The organizing group is sponsoring LWVUS, has expanded its staff and is expanding training and advocacy as a result.

which was a first. League members were united in their hope and efforts to keep the election process open and fair for all. I certainly was impressed with national staff, officers past and future and all board members.

It was fun to "dialogue" a bit with Wyoming attendees and only wish we could have processed a little more together. But it was a long day and most were anxious to have an adult beverage. Thanks to all who attended—it truly was a unique opportunity and all in all, I hope they will do a zoom convention again.

A First Timer's Perspective

By Sherry Lowell, State Board and LWV Campbell County

Caucus comments: "Rebuilding Trust" Tuesday 4 pm MDT

Take action at two levels to effect a change: 1) Work on systemic structural level issues: and 2) on behavioral and cultural levels.

The building of trust gives potential voters a basic belief that their vote cast will count.

Focus on pre-bunking and not debunking.

Convention:

League must educate, activate and motivate citizens to VOTE.

Also, League's non-partisan nature still allows members to have opinions, and we can call out the bad actors.

League should promote inter-generational interaction where young and old contribute experience, willingness and knowledge.

A First Timer's Perspective

By Linda Barton, LWV Fremont County

While the technical aspects had to be worked out in the beginning, the participation in a true parliamentary procedure was extremely interesting. I particularly liked the pre-convention webinar on engaging the youth vote. This was an in-depth look at how two other leagues dealt with trying to encourage and increase the youth vote. As I am sure this is a typical occurrence around the country, getting some practical methods was very enlightening. What was good to hear is that it isn't easy. I have already looked into specific social media where the kids go....and it's not Facebook. I learned that Snapchat is a particular favorite as is Instagram. Since we had a plan in place,

what we know is that it was too late in the year and COVID was the main issue. We now are armed with more information than before and we will modify to meet new strategies.

I also enjoyed watching and learning about the Resolution process, which helped to give me much needed understanding. It was a great experience and gave me the motivation to consider researching some ideas that could be ready by 2022. The keynotes were excellent and definitely offered inspiration. All in all, I am glad that I attended since it gave me a much larger perspective beyond the local leagues."

Another First Timer's View

By Matthew Link, LWV Laramie

Cybersecurity

While the organizers themselves didn't put this forward, I was encouraged by some participants on the meeting addressing the insecurity and data commodification of communications platforms like Zoom. I was delighted to hear some others than myself push for Leagues to adopt free and open source software at an organizational level. One person I conversed with mentioned that they have been using Jitsi Meet for local League meetings for a while now. This is one of the Zoom alternatives I've been wanting to test out with some people.

Resolutions Committee Meeting

A resolution on reaffirming the League's support for electoral college abolishment was rejected by the committee on some sort of procedural grounds that I didn't quite understand. I'm sure I wasn't the only one.

Voter Representation/Electoral Systems

I was excited to finally get in contact with some of the people who organized this nationally. They even had me draft a statement of support (basically telling my story of how I came to the League and why being at

the front of issues of electoral reform can drive new membership) to be used on floor of the convention later when the resolution was actually to be voted on. Was also delighted to find voting method reform advocates with deep knowledge about methods other than "ranked choice voting". A League member from St. Louis, Missouri mentioned that they've supported a referendum that's going to be on their ballot this year on whether or not the city will move to Approval Voting for local elections.

Sadly, due to time limitations I never got the chance to give my little argument of support on the convention floor. The speaking queue must have filled really fast! But I was struck with a warm fuzzy feeling when this resolution was voted in favor with an overwhelming majority (1064 support to 79 opposed). The League of Women Voters has until now never had at a national level a position on alternative voting methods, and this invigorates me with hope for the social change that I would like to see. I hope to continue working with the rest of you to make voting method reform a reality in Wyoming.

The Honorable Ed Buchanan

Wyoming Secretary of State

BY Email:

Dear Secretary Buchanan:

Thank for your support of voting by mail in this time of pandemic. I hope you saw our letter praising your efforts in the Sunday, June 14, Casper Star Tribune.

We encourage to you to take additional steps to encourage and support more citizens voting without impediment or shame. The League of Women Voters at its recent convention approved resolutions that we believe with help attain that goal:

1. That the Wyoming Legislature adopt legislation establishing online voter registration in Wyoming, understanding that clerks would continue to verify a registrant's eligibility to register and vote before adding an applicant to the rolls and recognizing that the current paper-based system is inefficient and labor intensive.

2. That the Wyoming Legislature adopt legislation allowing County Clerks to establish a permanent absentee voter list allowing voters who have not moved or changed their registration to receive their ballots routinely.

3. That the Wyoming Legislature adopt legislation to propose rules to test the applicability of risk limiting audits in Wyoming for statewide elections since our new voting machines allow for such audits and to encourage greater confidence in election results

4. That primary elections, currently held on the first Tuesday after the third Monday in August, be moved to the second half of June to provide more time for absentee vote counting, for possible runoff elections, for candidates to make their cases and voters to make their decisions, and for risk limiting audits.

We hope you can support these resolutions as designed to make voting more accessible, verifiable, and efficient. Our goal is to increase voter participation and confidence in our electoral system. We know it is yours too.

Sincerely

Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration

December 2019 to September 2020

1869
Wyoming

1893
Wyoming, New Zealand, Colorado

1896
Wyoming, New Zealand, Colorado, S. Australia (1894), Utah, Idaho, W. Australia (1900), New South Wales

1902
Wyoming, New Zealand, Colorado, S. Australia (1894), Utah, Idaho, W. Australia (1900), New South Wales, Tasmania (1904), Queensland (1905), Finland, Norway

1907
Wyoming, New Zealand, Colorado, S. Australia (1894), Utah, Idaho, W. Australia (1900), New South Wales, Tasmania (1904), Queensland (1905), Finland, Norway

1908
Wyoming, New Zealand, Colorado, S. Australia (1894), Utah, Idaho, W. Australia (1900), New South Wales, Tasmania (1904), Queensland (1905), Finland, Norway, Washington (1910), California

1911
Wyoming, New Zealand, Colorado, S. Australia (1894), Utah, Idaho, W. Australia (1900), New South Wales, Tasmania (1904), Queensland (1905), Finland, Norway, Washington (1910), California

1912-13
Wyoming, New Zealand, Colorado, S. Australia (1894), Utah, Idaho, W. Australia (1900), New South Wales, Tasmania (1904), Queensland (1905), Finland, Norway, Washington (1910), California, Tasmania, N. S. Wales, Oregon, Kansas, Arizona, Alaska

OBJECTIVE:
To honor our local contribution to history and foster broader recognition of it beyond our state, and to encourage research and advocacy on the right, privilege, and responsibility of the vote.

WYOMING
HOME OF THE WOMEN'S VOTE.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WYOMING
www.wyomewomenvote150.wyominglwv.org/
www.travelwyoming.com/wyoming-womens-suffrage
League of Women Voters of Wyoming:
info@wyominglwv.org

Illustration from the British publication "Votes for Women" Vol. vi (new series #275), Lawrence, F. and Lawrence, E. eds, June 13, 1913. • The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, shelfmark N. 2474 b. 2, Vol. VI, No. 275 (opp. p. 59).

What's Happening With Wyoming Newspapers?

by Susan Simpson

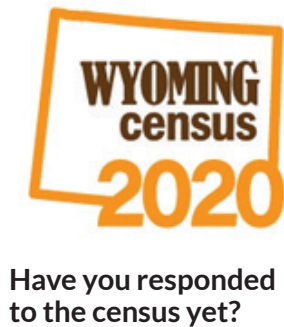
When I sent our Voters' Guide on candidates for U.S. Congress out to Wyoming newspapers that belong to the Wyoming Press Association, I learned how many are owned by a larger company. APG of the Rockies publishes the Tribune-Eagle, Boomerang, Rawlins Times, and the Rocket Miner, among over 50 others, for instance. Some reporters were furloughed in Laramie, and their building is for sale. The Casper Star-Tribune is not going to publish on Mondays and Tuesdays starting August 24 ; online updates will continue. The Boomerang stopped publishing on Tuesdays starting in June, and it has not published on Mondays for a long time.

For an excellent perspective, see how it's happening elsewhere:

The Last Reporter in Town Had One Big Question for His Rich Boss

His newspaper has withered under a hedge fund. His industry was in turmoil even before a pandemic. But Evan Brandt won't stop chronicling his town.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/10/us/alden-global-capital-pottstown-mercury.html?smid=em-share>



Copy of sign carried during march in Laramie

A sentence in the Voters' Guide is incorrect:

"The League of Women Voters of Laramie (LWVL), in a 50-year partnership with the Laramie Boomerang, prepared this Voters' Guide for the August 218, 2020, Primary Election. You may carry it with you into the polling booth on Election Day."

A corrected guide has been distributed to all members and newspapers and posted on the website, FB, and Vote411.org.

Thanks to the librarian who reported this.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WYOMING - 2019-2020
Revised July 2020

Officers		
President 2019-2021	Susan Simpson*	president@wyominglww.org
Vice President 2020-2022	Linda Barton*	VP@swyominglww.org fremontcty@wyominglww.org
Secretary 2019-2021	Judy Knight*	secretary@wyominglww.org
Treasurer 2020-2021	Katie Morgan*	treasurer@wyominglww.org
Elected State Board Members		
2019-2021	Jim Brown *	casper@wyominglww.org
2020-2022	Margaret Brown	mld@wyominglww.org
2019-2021	Marguerite Herman	cheyenne@wyominglww.org
2020-2022	Sherry Lowell	
Appointed State Board Members		
2020-2021	Jamie Egolf	
2020-2021	Kate Foster	
2020-2021	Sid Walter	

*Members of Executive Committee

Off Board Roles		
Wyoming Voter Publisher	Mary Bower 1164 Apache Laramie 82072	marybower@bresnan.net 307-742-4229
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	Kelley Pelissier	cheyenne@wyominglww.org
Fremont County	Linda Barton	fremontcty@wyominglww.org
Laramie	Lynne Ipiña Nancy Lockwood	laramie@wyominglww.org

Facebook: @WyoLWV
 Website: wyominglww.org
 Email: info@wyominglww.org
 Twitter: #LWVWY

DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD AND OTHER BOARD PROJECTS IN FY 21

AREA	CHARGE	MEMBERS	REPORT DATE	COMMENTS
Finance				
Audit FY 20 books		Volunteer Please	When COVID restrictions end	
Reading Committee	Read and prepare convention minutes for approval	M.B. Guthrie, Lowell	Before September 2020 board meeting	Approved and posted
Budget	Prepare FY 21 Budget.	Executive Committee Morgan	Named 2 months before convention and draft distributed one month before.	FY21 budget revised to reflect changes in WY and US conventions
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	Ongoing	Board reactivated this committee in February 2020
LOOK Revision/ Editing	After recommendations, Revise LOOK	Ask for volunteers in	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.	Knesel, Walter (Hill to post)	1. Posted on Google Docs for comment by item number. 2. Report next board meeting after 2-4-20 Postponed	IT Team has list of retentions for email.
MDW Award	Present award to Kathy Wright and publicize	Kelley Pelissier and Roz Schliske	Spring 2020-When COVID permits, in Cheyenne	
Membership				
Encourage new leagues		All members	Ongoing	

AREA	CHARGE	MEMBERS	REPORT DATE	COMMENTS
Voter Services				
Letter re campaign finance reform HB67		Susan Simpson		
Write media re election issues—procedures, machines, etc.		Susan Simpson		
Fighting voter suppression	Keep abreast of and oppose any proposed legislation which would make voting (by mail, absentee, or at polling places) more difficult for anyone in Wyoming, including showing ID at the polls even if one is on the list of registered voters, limiting registration times/access, or limiting polling places.”	All Members	Ongoing	
Observe interim meetings	Observe meeting in locations other than Casper, Cheyenne, Laramie or as Herman requests.	Ask for volunteers to report to Herman.	Ongoing	LSO has made it easy to learn about and to view committee meetings. This is no longer limited to people in the cities where the meeting is.
State Convention				
April 2020	Identify hotel, speaker, banquet etc.	Cheyenne	Totally revamped per COVID	Board has approved registration fee, contracts not signed.

Cancelled

AREA	CHARGE	MEMBERS	REPORT DATE	COMMENTS
Projects				
WWSC (Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration)	To develop and coordinate LWWY events	Hill,*Kirkbride and Brand. Additional volunteers welcome.	Ongoing—COVID stopped most activities. The year ends with celebrating Swain's vote in September.	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-Emerich		
People Powered Fair Maps	Participate in the LWWUS education project	Lynne Ipiña	Final report due May 15, 2020, to LWWUS	
Standing Rules	Review former standing rules for updates	Knight, Walter	2020 Convention--delayed	These were last discussed in 2012 and need to be up dated.
Campaign Principles Revision	Modify to provide room for name and date, create consistent format	TBD	2020 convention—delayed, will take to board.	
Possible DEI Actions	Local leagues		2020 Convention—postponed until 2021	M. Beal workshop at 2019 convention to be reported on in 2021