

AUGUST 2021

Letter from Your State League President

July 29, 2021



Greetings,

I'm pleased to be our new State president, having been elected at our State Convention in June. I have been a member of the League of Women Voters of Laramie and Wyoming since April 1989, a date that is easy to remember as I joined and attended my first local league annual meeting shortly after the birth of our first child.

This past fall, I retired from the Albany County School District 1 where I had worked for 20 years as a Special Education Case Manager. Prior to working for the School District I worked from home as a mom to our 2 children and as a part-time contract employee for the Department of Family Services and for the University of Wyoming Department of Social Work.

Before having children, I was a social worker in Baton Rouge Louisiana and in Albany County Wyoming for their respective state Departments of Family Services.

I have an undergraduate degree in Biology and Psychology and a graduate Masters of Social Work degree.

I've been married for 39 years, and "in a relationship" for 44 years, all to the same person - having been high school sweethearts! We have two adult children, both living out of state; This past year, our daughter and husband made us grandparents with the birth of a wonderful baby girl who just turned 1.

I enjoy hiking, cross country skiing, and "fast" walking which has recently replaced running as I am listening to my body; when not out and about, I like to knit, bake, read, and to participate in church activities, and of course, the League of Women Voters!

Also newly elected to the state board at the convention are Kari Eakins from the Cheyenne league, Kate Swistowicz from the Fremont County league, both as Directors, and Sherry Lowell from the Gillette league as Secretary. We comprise a state board of ten elected and appointed members - four elected officers, three elected directors, and three appointed directors. In addition, each of our five local Wyoming league presidents or their representative sit on the board. Continuing on the board are Susan Simpson as Vice-President, having been appointed to fill the remaining term left by Linda Barton's resignation (she continues to serve on the board as the Fremont County league president), Katie Morgan, treasurer, Margaret Brown, director, and Jamie Egolf, Kate Foster, and Dee Buckstaff, all appointed directors. Welcome to all our board members!

For the second year in a row, the Convention was held virtually due to the continuing pandemic. We have several new league members and with the pandemic stretching into year two, many members have only "met" each other through Zoom. Of course, voice and video are not the same as getting to know one another through in-person connections, but I am thankful for the technology that allows us to see and hear each other across miles.

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Know What's Happening

- 2021**
- Aug 16 LWWVY board meet. Census Bureau releases the summary census data
- 2021**
- Feb 14 Wyoming Legislature convenes for budget session
 - May 12-27 Candidates file for the primary election
 - Jun 23 -27 LWWVUS National Convention, Denver, CO
 - Aug 16 Primary Election Day

- 1st Monday of the month:
Laramie league meets
- 2nd Monday of the month :
Reports to state league due
- 3rd Monday of the month:
State board meets by Zoom, 6-7:30
- 3rd Wednesday of the month
Campbell County meets at 12 noon

Electronic Voting

Opinion from R. Hill

Security threats to modern voting systems continue to trouble computing professionals. Recent computing news announced an article from well-respected researchers at MIT warning against online voting in old and new forms (forthcoming in the Journal of Cybersecurity). Here is a brief selection from the Introduction:

“Online voting systems are vulnerable to serious failures: attacks that are larger scale, harder to detect, and easier to execute than analogous attacks against paper-ballot-based voting systems. Furthermore, online voting systems will suffer from such vulnerabilities for the foreseeable future given the state of computer security and the high stakes in political elections.”

That about sums it up. But such a summary can be found in many computing articles of the last few years. The computing profession continues to express major concerns about various forms of voting that rely on electronic technology. Experts have condemned DRE (Direct-Recording Electronic) machines that fail to clearly show the vote recorded ever since they became popular as a fix for the problematic paper chads in Florida in 2000. One such expert is prominent computer scientist and League member, Barbara Simons, now Board Chair of the Verified Voting Foundation.

Yet the overall caution does not seem to gain traction. Consider a new proposal, voting on blockchain (the data technology that supports cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin).

On the face of it, voting seems like a great application of blockchain, due to the secrecy, verifiability, and persistence of data that blockchain offers. But anything that relies on programming alone can be gamed; that is, any mechanism that provides data attributes solely via code execution is subject to malfeasance by modification of that code. The MIT paper examines that very weakness and finds it alarming in the realm of voting.

Local election officials may not be technically sophisticated, and they are beset by many concerns that pre-empt the probing and investigation that lead to better system selections. Technical people are not known to be good at communication, especially the listening side, often meeting users’ attempts at explanation with nothing more constructive than a look of scorn. The article from MIT carried this title: “Going from Bad to Worse: From Internet Voting to Blockchain Voting,” a stark warning, but perhaps insensitive to election staff trying to make things easier. So mutual resentment develops. The chasm of understanding between election officials and tech experts remains broad.

The League of Women Voters, at all levels, would seem to be well positioned to take this on. I hope that the national League would take the lead in fostering dialogue between technicians and election officials, critical examination, and standards for testing, recording, audits, and other validation measures.

Redistricting and Gerrymandering: What Are People Saying?

Chris Melody Fields Figueredo, the Executive Director for the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (BISC), gave a talk titled “Unleashing Democracy through Ballot Measures” with Q&A following. Here is a link to the presentation.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I9kngQpud74qQN9FZggZTV8_vdcCbmmf?usp=sharing

Beth Malmskog, a math professor at Colorado College and former Laramie resident, gave a program on redistricting May 14, 2021, to the Laramie league. A link to her talk is here:

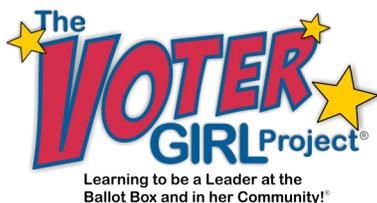
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5n4gUKNzrHw>.

She also introduced this site where we can redistrict ourselves and discover the challenges:

<https://www.secularhub.org/meeting/2020-10-03/Redistricting/index.html>

The US Census Bureau keeps us informed too: <https://tinyurl.com/ydm8bpjx>.

VOTER Girl Comes to Montana and Wyoming



Voter Girl, a program developed by the Kent OH league, to educate Girl Scouts about voting, has been the subject of a series of meeting between Montana and Wyoming League members this past year. Both have purchased a license. Montana is planning on trial run October 16 in Bozeman for Juniors and Cadettes. Wyoming League members are welcome to attend and see how it works.

Wyoming committee members decided to wait until the spring. Ohio’s model fit that more populated state. We’ve adapted to our different situation by having the sessions in single counties to avoid long travel times for younger, unvaccinated scouts. There are 379 Junior Girl Scouts in Wyoming with Campbell, Laramie, and Natrona Counties having the highest enrollment. The Cadettes total 237 with Campbell, Laramie, and Sweetwater being the most active.

Setting the Record Straight about Women's Suffrage

Revisiting ERA

By Judy Knight, Laramie LWV

On the 131st anniversary of Wyoming Statehood Day, July 10, 2021, the LWV of Wyoming invited people from around the state to participate in a round-table discussion online over the history and status of the federal Equal Rights Amendment.

The amendment was approved by Congress and sent to the states for ratification on March 22, 1972. It simply stated in its entirety: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

Wyoming ratified

Wyoming was one of the first states to ratify at the first opportunity, at the start of its 1973 Legislative session. "We can't call ourselves the Equality State anymore, if we fail to ratify" urged Republican Governor Stan Hathaway. Still, it wasn't unanimous, with 21 of the 62-member House of Representatives and 12 of the 29 Senators voting against ratification.

Thirty states had ratified almost immediately. Five more ratified by the time the unusual deadline congress had set, which was June 30, 1982. But that wasn't enough, 38 states are needed to ratify to reach the three-fourths required by the Constitution.

Much later, Virginia, Illinois, and Nevada ratified, so the goal of 38 states appeared to have been met. However,



Jubilant ERA supporters after the Wyoming legislature ratified the amendment in 1973 standing in front of the state capitol and perched next to Esther Hobart Morris

We recognize Albany County Senator David Hitchcock, Secretary of State Thyra Thomson, and Senator-to-be Lisa Kinney in the front row. Albany County Representative Sheila Arnold is standing behind them. Cheyenne LWV member and MDW award winner, Wavis Twyford, is to the right of Kinney. Wyoming State Archives Photo.

there were two major complications. Five of the original 35 states voted to rescind their ratifications—Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, South Dakota and Tennessee. There is no provision in the Constitution for a state rescinding its vote. The U.S. Supreme Court would need to weigh in on whether they could do that, and the court has not ruled upon that issue.

Even if the Court said the state's initial vote stands, there is still the issue that the deadline has expired. In 2020 Virginia ratified—38 years after the deadline. The Constitution doesn't require a time limit, and no proposed amendments had one until 1917 when the "Prohibition" amendment was sent to the states. But the Court has ruled that Congress does have the authority to set a time limit.

What's the problem?

LWV historians may remember that for a time, the LWV opposed any discussion of an Equal Rights Amendment. The League had worked hard for special regulations regarding women and children in

the workplace—regulations that would be illegal under ERA.

The long history of the fight for women's right to vote dominated most of the political action in the past. For a time, it wasn't even clear that women were citizens, but rather the "subjects" of their citizen-spouses, much like slaves were considered.

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Setting the Record Straight *continued*

Wyoming's Territorial Constitution was unique in giving women the right to vote and to hold office in 1869—the first in the nation to do so. But the right was not absolute, the courts ruled that women could be denied service on juries, and other laws were enacted in Wyoming that treated women differently than men, despite suffrage. Yet the Wyoming Constitution does state in Article I, Section 2 that: "...In their inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, all members of the human race are equal."

Discussion consensus

When the group of 15 people came together in July of 2021, to talk about ERA, there seemed to be clear consensus that in that group, at least, men and women would rather give up the right for protective legislation in favor of equality under federal law. There was discussion on why this should be a federal law, rather than leaving it up to the 50 states to regulate as it is now.

Discussion leader Meaghan Todd, who teaches government at Laramie High School, pointed out that because the Supreme Court sets its own docket, they may have avoided taking up cases that deal with ERA. They can pick and choose what they feel is critical for them to rule upon.

Even the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, long a champion of women's rights, stated that she felt it would be better to begin all over again than to revive any ruling on the validity of ratification of the 1972 ERA proposed.

"Gender" an issue?

Many issues that were fodder for opponents of ERA back in the 1970s have evolved into non-issues now. Women are serving in the military, even inching into combat roles.

Bathroom designs are changing to accommodate individual preferences—at least in many schools and government buildings.

An unaddressed issue from the round-table discussion was whether the wording of a new proposed ERA amendment should substitute "gender" for the word sex. There were just two sexes back in the 1970s—men and women. Now there are other options that society is becoming adjusted to.

One discussion participant, former LWWY state president Susan Simpson (and current board Vice President), said that she had talked with an aide to Wyoming U.S. Senator Cynthia Lummis recently when the issue of ERA was brought up. The aide suggested that the Senator would like to hear Wyoming people's examples of why ERA is needed for them now. Lummis was a supporter of ERA when she was in the U.S. House but is not so sure now if it were to come up again for a vote in the Senate.

Using case studies

This discussion came about because of a program of the LWV of Greenwich Connecticut that facilitates bringing High School government teachers from across the country to participate in a Harvard University Institute. Participants are trained on techniques to utilize case studies in teaching government, as a way of energizing students in civics classes. State Leagues were invited to nominate a teacher to participate, and LWWY nominated Ms Todd in 2019 for this all-expense paid training. One commitment that the LWV and the teacher agreed to, was to host a public meeting like this, on one of the 20 case studies that the Harvard group has developed—ERA was their choice for this program.

Louisa Swain

In Laramie on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, A League of Her Own acting troupe served as hostesses at the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebration of Louisa Swain's voting. She was the first woman in the world to cast a ballot in a municipal election where women both vote and hold office.

Unmasked for the photograph are from left seated Keren Meister-Emerich and Rosalind Schliske. Standing from the left are Mary Guthrie, Denise Burke, and Debra Lee.



Governor Mark Gordon issued a proclamation on the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment August 18, 2020.



With the Governor from the left are members of A League of Her Own acting troupe: Denise Burke, Keren Meister-Emerich, Rosalind Schliske, and Mary Guthrie.

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I think we were all expecting to be out of the pandemic by now, but with the numbers of fully vaccinated individuals plateauing below what is needed to slow the transmission rate of the virus to an acceptable safety level and the emergence of the Delta variant and the likelihood for further variants, one wonders when, even if, we will return our former lives. It is easy to become negative, angry, even despondent.

Yet as league members, we need to look to our principles and positions for ways to combat pessimism and polarization. We champion civility, respect, and scientific data. Through these means, let us all work to overcome disinformation and to promote rational, critical thinking. With this in mind, I hope, our 2022 State Convention will be an in-person meeting!

As the president, I am excited to lead the board in looking at ways of operating to increase the involvement of all Wyoming league members in board initiatives and thereby providing greater time and opportunity for the board members to coordinate and act upon recommendations from our members:

- Develop state league policies and procedures to include a publication policy for social media as to what gets posted and where and who does the posting
- Utilize committees to be the leaders in carrying out the state league's resolutions, directives, proposed study

items, and activities related to state and national positions, bringing forward recommendations to the board.

- Consider new committees to include -
 - A By-law committee to review our by-laws and bring forward recommendations to the board for ways the by-laws can be amended to improve the state league's effectiveness and efficiency
 - A Membership recruitment and retention committee
- Assure all committees have a "point person" who reports to the board and to whom the board reports back to and sends relevant information
- Encourage members from each local league to serve on state committees

To these ends, I am extending a call to our statewide members to join a committee! A list of current committees is included in this newsletter along with the committee "point person".

I also encourage us all to invite others to join the league to grow our numbers as we work towards a better Wyoming!

Nancy Lockwood
President, League of Women Voters of Wyoming

Notes from Council

Report for LWVUS 2021 National Council held virtually June 24-27, 2021

By Sherry Lowell

An average of 170 participants attended each main session.

The Main Sessions were fast paced with engaging speakers who provided interesting and pertinent information. The Break out Rooms that followed them delved deeper into the topic, allowed us to make comments and answered our questions in a small group setting.

Pre-session on June 16 kindled excitement for the upcoming Council. There were 52 participants in Cohort 3 that night. In one of five breakout rooms, I visited with women from around the US who were for example, educators, 30-yr League members and one who was interested in visiting Wyoming.

Thursday, June 24: The topic this evening was “How to Remain Non-partisan in Hyper-partisan Times”. Our speaker was Wade Henderson who said, “You have to be able to run with the foxes and with the hounds”, i.e., find ways to work with the other side while maintaining focus on your intended goal.

President Turner made the point that League members need to listen to (people in our area), then acknowledge you heard them. She said that the League stands for “Issues & Values”.

Virginia Case commented, “Who’s not at the table? Hence, not represented” in our local and state Leagues.

Friday, June 25: At 1 p.m., Sagacity Walker (he/him) laid out DEI perspectives. “When reaching out, let your listener (audience) know that “I hear you, even if your journey is different from mine.” Linda Meloy believes that “there is a place for introduction to DEI in preschool age children.” S Walker presented slides explaining three types of racism: Individual/Internalized; Institutional (within/between institutions); and structural racism. Dominant culture is a huge influence on the private beliefs and implicit biases within each. With local League outreach, make sure that it is seen as Genuine.

At 2:30 p.m., Leadership Development was urged, especially adapting to new leadership models which meld the experience of long-time members with the fresh viewpoint of younger members as they explore, fail, then grow. Carefully reflect whether certain practices or dress are relevant to the goals of today’s League.

Saturday, June 26: At 12:30 p.m., in this Main Session we learned “Communication & Digital Strategy” from Sarah Courtney. “Messaging is the voice of the League”. Issues, Democracy & facts = Non-partisan. Lean into what is good for the voters. A fact statement may include mention of one of our current political parties. Kayla Vix stressed that social media is NOT private, so treat photos, comments, etc. as you would a “professional or work” account. Celina Stewart dealt with legal questions, such as, “Is the legal

party affiliation with a political party? Also, does the litigation partner understand the League and its stance? When preparing memos for legislative work, READ carefully for possible bias before sending it out.

At 1:30 pm, some of the nine participants in breakout room were from New York, Alaska, South Carolina, Montana and Wyoming. Several had experienced being branded as left or right wing. Lowell commented that providing equal access to candidates in forums to present their views is worth the effort to keep League’s good name in the community.

Topic of the next main session at 2:30 p.m. was “Building Our Power Together as an Organization? For 2020-24, the US League plan is toward “Advancing Clear Strategic Focus”. Trabian Shorters presented “Asset Framing” in 7 key thoughts: mental models turn on behavior; change behavior that we tell ourselves; define communities by their aspirations; it is an equity skill; engage people from ALL sides; talk about people’s ability to rise above their deficits; and balance our perceptions.

At 4:30 p.m. workshop, “D.C. Statehood: Thorny Questions” was the topic. 9 participants heard from current D.C. residents about the 220-year-old quest to become a state and make their own decisions. The Federal district could be no greater than 10 square miles and has NO licensed living property in it. We should care because D.C. has been taxed and supports the U.S. government; it has more residents than Wyoming and Vermont combined. “Douglas Commonwealth” is the proposed name of this state. With the passage of S.51, the nation would still have a Federal District defined and the 700,000 D.C. residents would be enfranchised citizens.

At 5:30 p.m., I attended the reception and networked with 95 participants. Dee Buckstaff was part of my group that night.

Sunday, June 27: At 12:30 p.m., the main session began with four questions posed through a DEI lens: How might threats and opportunities look differently to the groups we are trying to help? Who will be impacted by our actions? Ask our partners for valuable feedback— “How did this go for you?” Whose participation is necessary? The process takes: Time, trust, transparency, sharing power & responsibility, and mutual accountability. Participants said: “Leave our expectations at the door” and “Show up at area groups whether by Zoom or in person”.

“Outreach Circle” tool was discussed. LWVUS purchased a subscription to the service which other non-profits use as well. Leagues from Maine to Alaska use this tool for member Action Alerts and friend banking. Training for this app is available from national.

Report continued next page

Report for 2021 LWVUS National Council meeting

By Lynne Ipiña

The 2021 LWVUS National Council meeting took place June 24-27. A four-screen picture of our group is posted at

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2021-national-council-highlights> along with the highlights. The national board is contemplating how to best share the sessions with full membership; every session was recorded.

Sherry Lowell (Gillette), Dee Buckstaff (Jackson), and I were together in many sessions, and near the end we were in the same discussion group (Cohort 13). The cohort structure meant that we spent lots of time speaking with a smaller group. The meeting was really well-organized, and with hindsight, I can appreciate why an online meeting had a \$150 registration fee.

Report *continued*

Vote411.org has new features: Voting table with each state's voting methods; expanded Spanish content which includes candidate responses in Spanish; and Voter Guide software (a huge upgrade).

Convention ended with a pep talk invitation to Denver, CO, by LWVCO President Karen Sheek for 2022 Convention with in-person and virtual options. June 23-27, 2022.

Respectfully submitted, Sherry Lowell, Campbell County

Footnotes: All times given are in MDT

WY Attendees: Dee Buckstaff, Sherry Lowell, Kate Swistowicz & Lynne Ipiña

Notes from the LWV Council, June 2021

By Dee Buckstaff, MAL

The Council opened with a land acknowledgement and a link to find out the names of the native tribes that are linked to land. <https://native-land.ca>

Dr. Deborah Turner spoke about various triumphs of the past year for the League of Women Voters. She mentioned the Transformation Road Map and the steps the League has undertaken to put into place the planning that has gone on. Part of that is the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies that are now being followed. She mentioned some exciting news is coming during the Convention next year related to a big project the League will be taking on, so if you can attend it, plan on it.

The Keynote was given by Wade Henderson, from the Leadership Conference. He spoke of working in collaboration with other organizations and finding ways to set up coalitions. His main principle is to work on developing a relationship with others, even those you may not agree with, because you can find common ground somewhere. He spoke of the need to continue to fight for free and fair elections and voter rights.

On Friday, I attended "Powering Democracy Through Our DEI Lens"

DEI stands for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion.

DEI is not a silo- it is integrated into the entire person/organization/community. The lens refers to who is involved or impacted and it is important to think about intended and unintended outcomes of decisions and whether a policy or decision aligns with the vision intended. The approach is to think about what changes can be made to make things more equitable. One program at the LWV is Women Power Democracy, and there are four things emphasized; Truth Project, Expand the Brand (this is GOTV efforts, Vote411),

Democracy Defense Fund, and the People Powered Fair Maps to eliminate gerrymandering.

DEI applies to all LWV programs.

In terms of social justice and advocacy, climate change, immigration, gun safety, etc, the idea is to promote authentic work with partners. When working with partners we need to think about; 1, whether the partner will help diversity, 2, decide how we will show up, 3, and is what we and they ask reasonable or doable, 4, what are the risks?

There was discussion about what collective leadership looks like- that it gets away from a top-down model to shared responsibility and decision making to a broader accountability. It takes trust, transparency, and mutual accountability to share power. The key to DEI is to look around and see who isn't at the table and should be. Asking for feedback from partners should help you figure out if what you are interested in providing is wanted and helpful, and provides for some accountability. To mobilize and identify partners, you may need some resources and materials. The League has resources and wants to help.

My Cohort Group was led by Jessica Rohloff, who wears many hats in the National organization. She is Wyoming's link to the National Board and now she has my phone number in her phone so if we have any issues we can contact her via text on my phone and it won't be blocked.

We can use Jessica Rohloff as a resource and to bring our own issues up to the National Board. She can also be a person to bounce ideas off and she wants to be a partner for us and provide any help we might need.

I attended a session called, "Remaining Non-Partisan in Hyper-Partisan Times". We were reminded that nonparti-

Notes *continued next page*

san is NOT nonpolitical. Issues are not partisan, Democracy is not partisan, Facts are not partisan. We should emphasize the INCLUSION part of DEI. Working with elected officials can be challenging because of misunderstanding of the meaning of nonpartisan. We should use our elected officials to advance our advocacy priorities. We can work with electeds to lift up our efforts to promote voting and voter needs, and this is not partisan- it is an issue. It is trickier when politicians are candidates. We can still use relationships with candidates, we just have to be sure we don't focus

on the candidate- that the focus is the issue we are advocating for. It is also tricky to know when a politician is a candidate. Basically, the League sees this as the period of time a politician is actively campaigning. There was some talk about empty chair debates and the fact that we cannot host those for Federal candidates. There is some gray area as to whether we can have empty chairs during local and state forums and we need to check WY laws to see if it is mentioned anywhere. The National League recommends we simply do not host any empty chair forums.

The following are slides that summarize what was presented during this talk:

2021 national council

Remaining Nonpartisan while working in Coalitions and Partnerships

- Coalition and partnership work is vital to power building
 - We can't do everything
 - We need each other to build the needed power to win
- Leagues should always remain nonpartisan, and determine which activities are League appropriate
 - Consider the size of the coalition and diversity of members participating and invited
 - Determine which activities are League appropriate
- Issues are nonpartisan
 - Important to stand in solidarity and allyship
 - Defending democracy includes fighting against systemic racial injustice and inequalities

BUILDING OUR POWER TOGETHER

2021 national council

How Nonpartisanship Shows Up in Legislative Arena

- Are the coalition partners all non-partisan or bi-partisan?
- Would partnering with the suggested partners compromise LWV's nonpartisan policy in events or meetings at state capitol?
- Is your coalition partner seeking a similar outcome (e.g. protect voters, expand voter access)?
- Are communications nonpartisan in nature and does LWV have influence to ensure language doesn't support or oppose candidates?

BUILDING OUR POWER TOGETHER

REMAINING NONPARTISAN

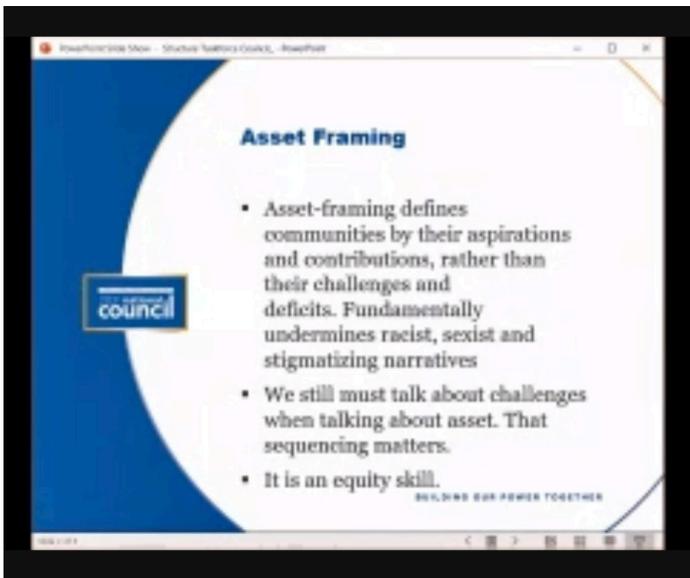
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      Q1{Are you supporting or opposing an elected official?} -- YES --> A1[UH OH. This is partisan activity.]
      Q1 -- NO --> Q2{Are you partnering with a political party?}
      Q2 -- YES --> A2[YIKES. Partnering with politicians is partisan activity.]
      Q2 -- NO --> Q3{OK! Are you publicly supporting/opposing an "issue" based on an LWV position?}
      Q3 --> A3[You're all GOOD! Avoid language that supports/opposes individuals. Focus on the issues.]
      Q3 -- NO --> A4[HMM. All LWV actions must be tied to a position. While not partisan activity, it's not in alignment with LWV policy.]
    
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During a Break Out Session, we discussed how to stand up and talk for the League during public meetings. It was emphasized that we should state we are League Members, and state the policy or position of the League, that we are nonpartisan and do not support parties or individual candidates. One idea someone put out was to ask reluctant candidates, "Why wouldn't you show up for your job interview?" In another state, they asked high school students to reach out to reluctant candidates to express their interest in hearing what the candidate has to say because they will be influencing the student's future. It was also suggested that we receive permission from our local and state Presidents before planning any formal comments on issues.

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Jessica Rohloff spoke of Asset Framing:



This is a way to implement DEI practices. The goal is to engage everyone, which strengthens equity, and the value is placed on people, keeping the focus on positive possibilities for working through solutions.

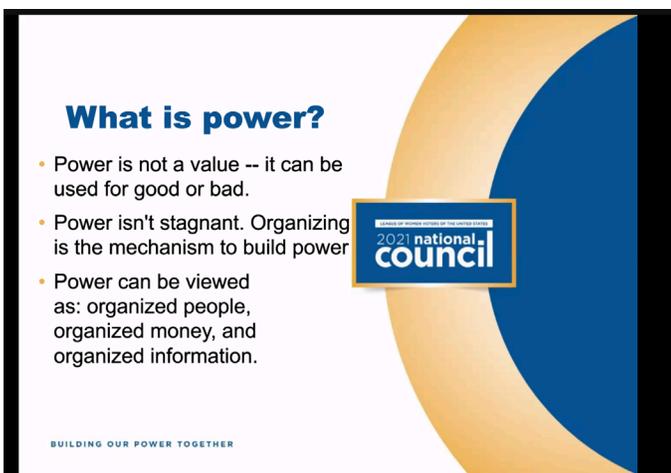
During a break out session, we spoke of what would it look like if we turned the membership process on its head. The idea is that right now someone applies for membership through the local group, which then sends money to national. What if it was changed so that someone can become a member and the money is collected at national and sent down to state and local- what would that look like? I talked about our efforts to include the ability to pay on our website, and some of the issues that had been discussed during the website group meetings and how we had looked at different platforms but didn't want to spend so much more

money for something different. There was talk about having websites that would be provided by National and lots of problems and issues that individual state and local Leagues would have if National took over. My take was that small Leagues might welcome the help from National but large Leagues want to stay independent.

Workshop called, "Working with Unfriendly Legislatures"

There was a national map put on screen that showed State Legislatures according to parties. Only one state was split- MN, and one other is nonpartisan- NE. The League has guidelines we can access that give us ideas on approaching individuals and groups to promote our advocacy positions. They also would be happy to provide some training or presentations if we want.

What is power?:



With an unfriendly legislature, which might be highly partisan, divided, under the influence of special interest groups and dark money, and whose individuals may have a preconceived notion of LWV and may just be toeing the party line, and may have a lack knowledge or interest in League issues. Create an action plan by assessing causes, create reasonable goals and decide what progress looks like, keep an open door and foster a relationship with individuals at the State Capitol.

Soft power is subtle and can be expressed as invitations to league events, working behind the scenes to find common ground, and maintaining regular contact. Hard power is when you lay down the line and put on the pressure. These are highly visible efforts like press releases, phone banking, rallies and town halls, and writing letters to the editor and op-ed pieces.

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Power mapping was introduced:

What is Powermapping

- Powermapping is a visual tool used to identify individuals positioned to create social change
- Why?
 - Helps visualize and identify:
 - Key targets (ie key decision-makers)
 - Who you need to influence
 - Who can influence your target



BUILDING OUR POWER TOGETHER

How to Powermap

1. Develop your goals!
 - What is the change you are seeking?
2. Assess the landscape!
 - Who are the players already in this space? Who is missing?
3. Identify your target(s)!
 - Who are the decision-makers?
4. Map influence to target!
 - Who has relationships with the target in ways that can influence the target?
5. Determine relational power lines
 - Take a deeper dive into reviewing your powermap to assess if there are any indirect connections (ie family members or other personal network connections)
6. Target priority relationships
7. Make your plan!
 - What steps do you need to take to move forward?

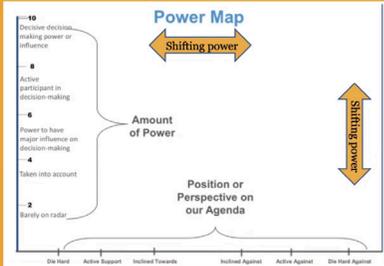


BUILDING OUR POWER TOGETHER

The Sunday session was a reintroduction of some of the previous sessions. The DEI one I attended previously was the first bit of discussion. The next topic was using Outreach Circle. I admit I didn't listen closely to this because it appears to be an online way to reach members and get out information like calls to action. If we want to avail ourselves of this we can ask for training from National. There are State Fact Sheets tied to the 2020 survey that went out to members, and some of those are on the National website. There was discussion of the impact of programs, and grants made available to state and local organizations.

Thank you for allowing me to attend! I enjoyed it. Respectfully submitted, Dee Buckstaff, MAL

Example of a Powermap



BUILDING OUR POWER TOGETHER

Steps to Lobby



2021 national council

BUILDING OUR POWER TOGETHER

Who Was Our League President?

**Who was our league president in 1960?
Where are our bylaws?**

Have you ever had a question about your local league's history? Cheyenne league members have been researching for the upcoming 70th anniversary of Cheyenne's LWV founding at the Wyoming State Archives in Cheyenne.

Do you know which past president had a box of minutes, correspondence, and publications in her attic or basement—until her children threw it away after she died or her basement flooded and everything molded? Those years are forever lost.

There's a useful, safe place for your local and state league records where researchers can access them, league members can refer to them, and students can learn about Wyoming history.

The American Heritage Center at UW holds the papers of the state league.

The Wyoming State Archives collects local league histories.

What do they collect? Annual financial reports, budgets, bylaws and revisions, clippings about the organization, officer correspondence, directories, handbooks, minutes, member rosters, newsletters, organization charts, publications, press releases, reports, scrapbooks, speeches,



Keren Meister-Emerich, Joanne Cornelison, Marguerite Herman, Kelley Pelissier, Mary Keating-Scott, and Roz Schliske at the state archives investigating Cheyenne's history. Wyoming State Archives Photo.

and topical files. They all have a home at archives. Material is stored in acid free boxes in temperature and humidity controlled environments.

Judy Knight reports that a researcher used the Laramie league files to determine when rosters and minutes stopped using Mrs. John Smith as a woman's name and started using Mary Smith.

Making Democracy Work Presentation at Gillette City Council

Below is a link to the clip of the presentation at the council meeting on July 6th.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12iIFe8YGhXYEFTErYhPOyn717joH2GJv/view?usp=sharing>



The award winners with the Gillette City Council and mayor at the MDW reception.

Campbell County Hosts Forum for Community College District

On August 17, 2021, Campbell County voters will decide two issues: whether to form a new college district and elect seven Trustees in the event the vote for college district passes. At the Campbell County LWV regular meeting on May 19, 2021, members agreed to organize a candidate forum ahead of early voting starting on July 2nd. By June 8th, 23 candidates had entered the race for the seven Trustee positions on 2021 Gillette Community College District Board of Trustees. CCLWV contacted all of them with "Save the Date" letters and emails. All 23 responded and 22 were available to participate in the June 28th Candidate Forum. The race was on to formulate four separate seatings of candidates' groups in order to complete the process in one night. Seating groups were named for Gillette College campus buildings.

The formulation of meaningful forum questions was a collaborative effort by Gillette College Vice-President Janell Oberlander, our local League members and others. Informing our potential voters of the date and time of the forum was accomplished by news releases to WYO File, Facebook ads, GPA-TV (Gillette Public Access TV) bulletins, emails, local newspaper print and online editions and local radio station spot ads.

On the night of the forum held at the Gillette City Council Chambers, our League provided greeters of candidates and the public, moderators, timers and water bottle donations. Both the Campbell County League of Women Voters and

GPA-TV sponsored the event. CCLWV believed this forum was a way for our voting citizens to learn more about the candidates who aspired to represent them and a stimulating discussion ensued for two and one-half hours.

Following the forum, League received comments of appreciation from local voters who had accessed the videos of candidates in GPA-TV Archives in order to knowledgeably complete their ballots. The forum aired several times before the election. DVDs were also made available free at the Gillette and Wright Public Libraries for checkout by patrons.

The League was responsible for preparing questions, notifying candidates, and scripting. GPA-TV's Jeremy Harder and Geno Palazzari were incredibly valuable when evaluating questions because of their wide experience with the various boards and events in the community. They developed a template for a script for the evening. It is because of Jeremy and Geno that our Voter Forums are so professionally produced, and the League always looks good.

Currently, Gillette College is a two-year community college in Gillette, Wyoming. The college is operated by the Northern Wyoming Community College District in Sheridan, WY.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Sherry Lowell, CCLWV, President at 307-689-8637 or email at rslowell@yahoo.com.

Wyoming League of Women Voters State Board August 2021

Office/Term	NAME	EMAIL
President, 2021-23	Nancy Lockwood **	president@wyominglww.org
VP, 2020-22	Susan Simpson**	vp@wyominglww.org Filling an unexpired term
Secretary. 2021-23	Sherry Lowell**	secretary@wyominglww.org
Treasurer. 2018-2022	Katie Morgan**	treasurer@wyominglww.org
Dir. Elected 2021-2023	Kari Eakins	
Dir. Elected 2020-2022	Margaret Brown**	mld@wyominglww.org
Dir. Elected 2021-2023	Kate Swistowicz	
Dir. Elected 2020-2022	To be appointed	Filling an unexpired term
Dir. Appt. 2021-22	Dee Buckstaff	
Dir. Appt. 2021-22	Jamie Egolf	
Dir. Appt. 2021-22	Kate Foster	
Dir. Appt. 2021-22	To be appointed	
Campbell Representative	Liz Victor	campbellcty@wyominglww.org
Casper President	Kylie McCormick	casper@wyominglww.org
Cheyenne Chair	Mary Guthrie	cheyenne@wyominglww.org
Fremont County President	Linda Barton	info@leagueofwomenvotersfc.org
Laramie President	Lynne Ipiña	laramie@wyominglww.org

* Fiscal year is April 1-March 31 **Members of the Executive Committee 2021-22

Off-Board Observers

Robin Hill – Information Technology
 Judy Knight as time permits
 Matthew Link—Voting Methods
 Kelley Pelissier
 Amy Williamson—International Relations

Notes:

The 2021 bylaws as amended state “In the case of local leagues with co-presidents, the local league may designate one to be the voting member.”

Quorum is figured by voting directors and Local League representatives expected. If a position is vacant at the start of the meeting, that slot does not figure in the total.

IEAs of 8/12/21

Board@wyominglww.org reaches all board members.
 wyoleg@wyominglww.org reaches all legislative observers.
 techteam@wyominglww.org reaches the state tech team.

Social Media

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

LWVUS Pages and Contacts

Website: lww.org
 Member website: <https://www.lww.org/league-management>
 Twitter: @LWV
 Facebook: LWV Equal right amendment Group
 LWV New Media Group
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/leagueofwomenvoters/>
 Jessica Rohloff, jrohloff@lww.org, our board liaison
 Anne Hefter, hefterach@aol.com, Lobby Corps rep for Wyoming

Committees/Distribution Lists August 2021

- * **Legislative Observers/Groupies** (meets during legislative /special sessions): Lead - Margaret Brown Linda Barton, Jim Brown, Reade Dornan, Jamie Egolf, Marguerite Herman, Robin Hill, Lynne Ipiña, Sarah Jane Johnson, Sue Knesel, Judy Knight, Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan, Devon O'Connell, Susan Simpson. Dee Buckstaff.
- * **Redistricting**: Lead - Lynne Ipiña Reade Dornan, Jamie Egolf, Sherry Lowell, Dee Buckstaff. Nancy Lockwood as time permits.
- * **Voter Girl**: Lead - Susan Simpson Reade Dornan, Margaret Brown, Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan, Sid Walter. Nancy Lockwood, Mary Guthrie.
- * **2022 Voter Service**: Convener - Susan Simpson Lynne Ipiña, Judy Knight, Katie Morgan, Nancy Lockwood, Kari Eakins if no one else.
- * **Tech Front End** (Website "appearance"): No Lead Dee Buckstaff, Keren Emerich, Kate Foster, Lynne Ipiña, Matt Link, Katie Morgan, Linda Barton.
- * **Tech Team** (back end) - meets every other Monday: No Lead Kate Foster, Robin Hill, Lynne Ipiña, Matthew Link, Susan Simpson, Kate Swistowicz.
- * **Bylaws** (informal): No Lead Robin Hill, Katie Morgan, Nancy Lockwood, Mary Guthrie.
- * **LOOK** (set up in 2016): No Lead Morgan, Semple, Hill, Knight.
- * **Publication** (set up in 2016): No Lead Sue Knesel has a draft in Google Docs. Walter.
- * **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)**: Leads - Kate Foster and Kate Swistowicz Jamie Egolf.
- * **Membership Recruitment**: Lead - Kylie McCormick
- * **Fundraising**: Lead - Margaret Brown
- * **Procedures and Policies (proposed)**: No Lead Tech Team for tech policies maybe?
- * **Archivist**: Lead - Susan Simpson
- * **Newsletter**: Lead - Susan Simpson
- * **Women Powered Democracy**: Need more direction from LWVUS. On Hold.

Members interested in following allied organizations:

Healthy Wyoming: Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan

Capital punishment: Reade Dornan, Katie Morgan