

FEBRUARY 2022

Letter from Your State League President



Happy New Year!

January is coming to a close and the February 2022 Wyoming Legislative budget session is fast approaching. As I prepared to write this, I took a look at our newsletter from two years ago when we were last gearing up for a legislative budget session and last year's newsletter before the 2021 general legislative session. I noted that

many of our legislative priorities persist. Our work towards Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy remains as critical today as it was when the league was founded 102 years ago.

At our January 2022 meeting the board agreed to continue with the legislative priorities identified in the Strategic Plan approved by the board in November.

Our 2022 legislative priorities are:

- Medicaid Expansion – also a priority in 2020 and 2021
- Redistricting in accordance with the census numbers – also a priority in 2020 and 2021
- Opposition to Voter Suppression legislation – also a priority in 2020 and 2021; as this is a budget session, there probably will be no proposed legislation regarding Voting

- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Right to Choose

Our lobbyist Marguerite Herman and our Legislative Committee, led by Margaret Brown, have been attending legislative committee meetings related to these areas of focus as well as other areas related to league positions. This work will continue as the session gets underway on February 14. Your efforts and assistance are also needed in advocating for our positions by contacting legislators and stake holders.

Other up-coming events:

State Convention -

Two years ago, we were planning to hold our State Convention in Cheyenne at the beginning of May. However, COVID and the ensuing pandemic resulted in a change in plans to a virtual State Convention for both 2020 and 2021.

At this time, we are hopeful that we will be able to hold an in-person convention this spring and have set the dates for April 30-May1. But, not knowing what COVID may have in store for us, we may again hold it by Zoom.

Letter *continued page 2*

Know What's Happening

2-14	Wyoming Legislature convenes for budget session
2-14	LWWUS's 102 nd birthday*
2-21	Next state board meeting
5-12 to 5-27	Candidates file for the primary election
4-30 to 5-1	State Convention, format/location TBD
6-23 to 27	LWWUS National Convention, Denver, CO
8-1	Voter Registration Closes for the Primary**
8-16	Primary Election Day
10-24	Voter Registration closes for the General Election***
11-8	General Election day

* LWWUS has created a toolkit with resources to support your event on the [102nd Birthday Action resources page!](#)

** Voters may register in person and vote the same day 8-1 to 8-15

*** Voters may register in person and vote absentee 10-24 to 11-7-2022.

2nd Monday of the month :
Reports to state league due

2nd Thursday of the month:
Fremont County board meets, 6:30 pm

3rd Monday of the month:
State board meets by Zoom, 6 pm
All members welcome.

3rd Wednesday of the month
Campbell County League meets at
12 noon

4th Tuesday of the month:
Laramie League board meets

Letter *continued from page 1*

National Convention –

This year the National Convention, held every two years, will be held both on-line and in-person in Denver, Colorado June 23-26. You can find information about the convention on the National League's Management website: <https://www.lww.org/manage-your-league/council-convention>

Primary and General elections –

The state board Voter Service committee is planning to put together a primary and general election Voters' Guide for State Office and Congressional candidates and an informational flyer on Judicial Retention. Please see the article "What's Happening" in this newsletter for dates related to the 2022 elections.

The committee is also considering an education campaign that shows voters what they need to do to register and to vote. The campaign would also provide information on safeguards against voter fraud. We hope to have the County Clerks participate in this initiative. Ideas for the campaign include a video or videos involving the clerks' demonstrating the process or the use of animations or flow charts.

Of note –

In January, the league was approached about supporting or becoming a litigant in a law suit related to filling the

Superintendent of Public Instruction position. The position became vacant following Jillian Balow's resignation to take another similar position in Virginia. The state Republican Party Central Committee, per legislation, is tasked with providing three candidates to the Governor who then selects the person to fill the position until the next election. However, legislation does not dictate what process the Central Committee may use in selecting the three candidates. The 16 plaintiffs in the law suit claimed the process used by the Republican Central Committee was unconstitutional, violating the federal and state constitution rule of "one person one vote."

Due to the LWVWY's nonpartisan status and the appearance of this lawsuit being a partisan issue, The Executive Committee of the board voted unanimously against becoming a litigant in this action.

Following our decision, US District Court Judge Skavdahl denied the motion,

Thank you all for the hard work you do in furthering the league's positions and mission.

Nancy Lockwood

LWVWY President

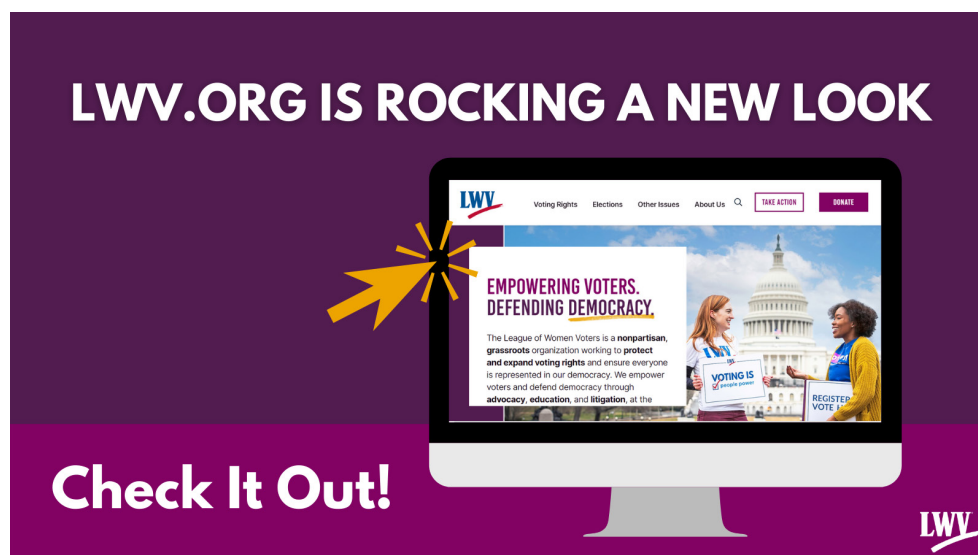
president@wyominglww.org

A Note from State Treasurer Katie Morgan

Thanks to all the Wyoming League members who supported our Annual Fund Campaign earlier this fiscal year. Remember, you can still do a contribution to the campaign if you didn't get a chance to donate earlier. The current campaign runs through the end of our fiscal year, March 31, 2022.

To donate to the general LWV Wyoming, send a check payable to LWV Wyoming to Katie Morgan, 412 S 10th St,

#A, Laramie, 82070. To donate to the Ed Fund, 501(c) (3) tax deductible donation, send a check payable to LWVWY Ed Fund to Katie. You can also donate via credit card online at LWV of Wyoming: Membership (wyominglww.org) and click on the Donate to LWVWY Button for a general donation, or Donate to Ed Fund Button for the tax deductible contribution.



The League Management Site is also being updated. We don't have a date for that. Image courtesy LWV.org.

Washington LWV President recommends a book about state legislatures

I have just finished reading *Outside Looking In: Lobbyists' Views on Civil Discourse in US State Legislatures*. <https://labs.wsu.edu/outside-looking-in/> It is masterfully done research involving more than a thousand state lobbyists and public agency legislative officers. They are specific about the degree of weakening of civility norms, the breakdown of capacity for bipartisan problem solving, and the shrinkage of the non-partisan space. What I most appreciate is its linking certain types of structures and 'rules' with this deterioration.

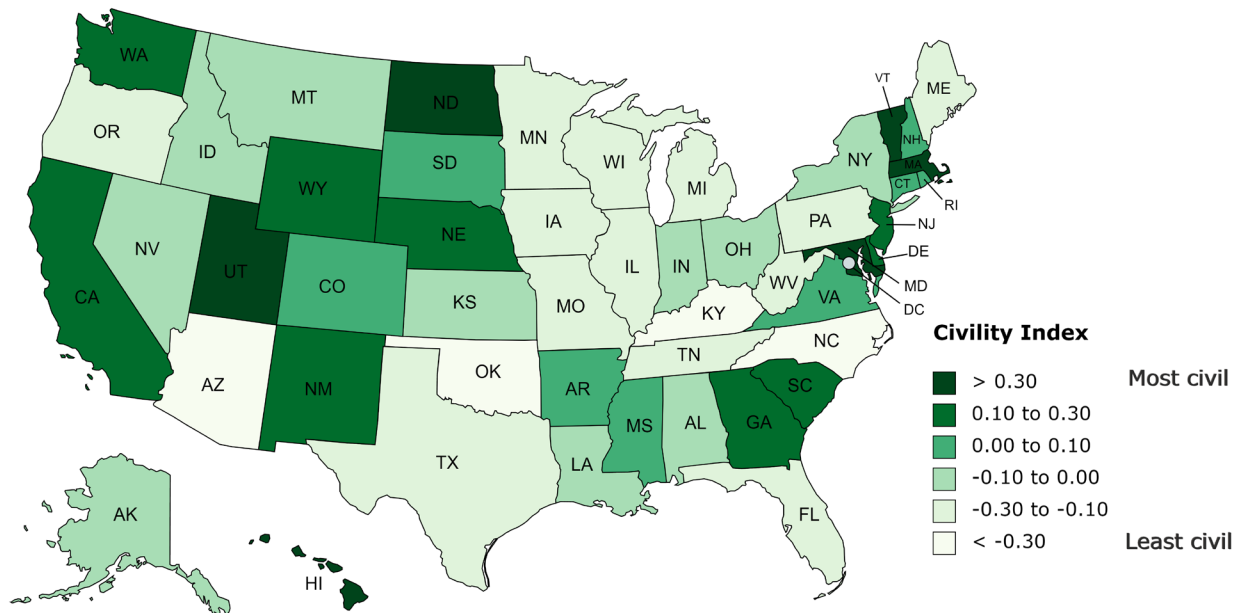
Some of the most insightful comments provided to the research team (more than a dozen scholars from 10 US universities) came from people lobbying their state legislatures for measures favored by their respective state LWV organizations. . . .

The findings of this research are valuable to both political scientists and public affairs practitioners (that's us). The authors have presented this research in several public affairs and legislative conferences....

The League's efforts to promote informed citizenship and fair and informative electoral civic engagement could be advanced by consideration of the survey findings from your state – and could be compared with other states.

From Lunell Haight, PhD., President, League of Women Voters of Washington email to LWV State Presidents.

Map of State Civility Index



Women's Suffrage Tidbits

Wyoming PBS's Caldera Productions has revised its *The State of Equality: Wyoming Women Get the Vote*, and it's available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neHJI0jH9zA>. DVDs are available at the Wyoming PBS shop.

Laramie member Sid Walter shared a link to this New York Times article about women's suffrage and the Spanish Flu: *How the Spanish Flu Almost Upended Women's Suffrage* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/28/us/spanish-flu-womens-suffrage-coronavirus.html?referringSource=articleShare>

And did you ever wonder about the difference between a suffragette and a suffragist?

The National Park Service has an answer: <https://tinyurl.com/y3zyuog8>

Upcoming Legislative Session

LWVWY Legislative Liaison Marguerite Herman will continue her weekly reports on this year's legislative session. Tech Team volunteer Kate Foster will email them to all members and post them on the state website wyominglww.org home page for easier access for the public.

Watch Marguerite's reports for updates on redistricting. There have been many changes.

People can learn about and participate in committee, House, and Senate meetings by going to <https://wyoleg.gov/> and following the various links.

League Reports

Campbell County League of Women Voters Hosts Speaker on Medicaid Expansion at Their Regular Monthly Meeting

By Sherry Lowell

Local League members were informed about Healthy Wyoming's grassroots campaign to involve businesses from every Wyoming county in Medicaid Expansion. Campbell County Healthy WY organizer, Vicki Swenson, invited our group to join her efforts as the first county in Wyoming to ask the business community to sign a letter to support Medicaid Expansion. Wyoming employers in large and small companies would benefit from having healthier more productive employees at work. Businesses could urge their Wyoming lawmakers to support the WY uninsured that include single moms, caregivers and women working at salaries below the poverty line. Swenson gave details on how to join the Zoom meeting that evening in which campaign materials and a list of community businesses would be shared.

Following the presentation, local League business entailed further work on ensuring Free & Fair Elections for 2022; introducing "Be A Voter" informational flyer which has been worked on by Christy Gerrits,

Secretary, and local elections official, Michelle Leiker, from Campbell County Clerk Susan Saunders; discussing ongoing redistricting in WY with member, Sue Knesel, who detailed what to expect at the upcoming February WY Legislative Session; information from member, Liz Victor, about chapter bylaws revision; and details from member, Jessica Diaz,

on her development of a local chapter website and how to keep it updated.

Swenson's presentation was sincerely appreciated by League members some of whom participated in her evening Zoom Meeting.

CCLWV meets monthly all year on the third Wednesday of the month at Noon for one hour. Lately, meetings have been held in the George Amos Memorial Building (GAMB) in Gillette. In case of inclement weather or COVID restrictions, meetings can be moved to Zoom format.

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



CCLWV Meeting on January 19, 2022. L to R: Sherry Lowell, President; Vicki Swenson, Speaker at meeting; Sue Knesel, front; Liz Victor, behind Knesel in red top; and Christy Gerrits, Secretary. Photo by Lowell.

Acting troupe to perform for historical society

By Rosalind Schliske

Secretary, Cheyenne League of Women Voters

A League of Her Own acting troupe, sponsored by the Cheyenne League of Women Voters, will kick off its 2022 season with a performance for the Laramie County Historical Society.

The group will perform an updated version of its new readers theater production called "An Afternoon with Esther," highlighting the life of Wyoming suffragist Esther Hobart Morris. The original play was featured last summer at a dedication of a plaque marking her Cheyenne home. That ceremony dedicated the first Wyoming marker on the National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT).

The free historical society performance will be 2 p.m. Sunday, February 20, in the Cottonwood Room of the Laramie County Library, 2200 Pioneer Avenue.

Morris came to South Pass City, a gold mining camp in Wyoming Territory in 1869, and was the first woman justice of the peace in Wyoming and the nation. Throughout her

life she supported the antislavery movement, suffrage and equal right for women.

Organized in 2019 to mark the 150th anniversary of Wyoming granting women the right to vote, A League of Her Own has performed its play "Wonderful Wyoming Women Voters" numerous times. Nominated by the Laramie County Historical Society, the play won first place in the fine arts category of the Wyoming State Historical Society's 2020 annual awards program.

For the 2021 Morris house event, the troupe wrote a new script focusing on Esther Hobart Morris. All the characters in the play knew Esther, played by Denise Burke: Julia Bright, of South Pass City, played by Rosalind Schliske; Theresa Jenkins, of Cheyenne, played by Debra Lee, and Amalia Post, of Cheyenne, played by Mary Guthrie. The narrator, played by Keren Meister Emerich, guides the characters in reminisces about Esther.

News From Fremont County

LWVFC announces Fremont County Clerk Julie Freese will lead a webinar on new voting rules on Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 6 p.m. by Zoom. Watch your email for access information.

Fremont County's third annual meeting will be Thursday, March 10, at 6 p.m. A speaker from the Equality State Policy Center will speak. State Senator Cale Case, chair of the state Corporations, Elections, and Political Subdivisions has been invited, but hasn't yet confirmed. The meeting will be hybrid, CWC Lander and Zoom.

Can You Help Educate Cynthia Lummis about the ERA?

Do you have an anecdote that shows the importance of ratifying the ERA nationally? Senator Cynthia Lummis needs to hear your story. She believe current laws are adequate for Wyoming residents—that what's some people have told her. You can write her at

<https://www.lummis.senate.gov/contact/contact-form/>.

Want to Learn More About League and Work with Others in the State?

Consider volunteering for a State Board office. The following vacancies are coming up:

Vice President, Treasurer, and two elected board positions for two year terms; terms begin following election at the State Convention.

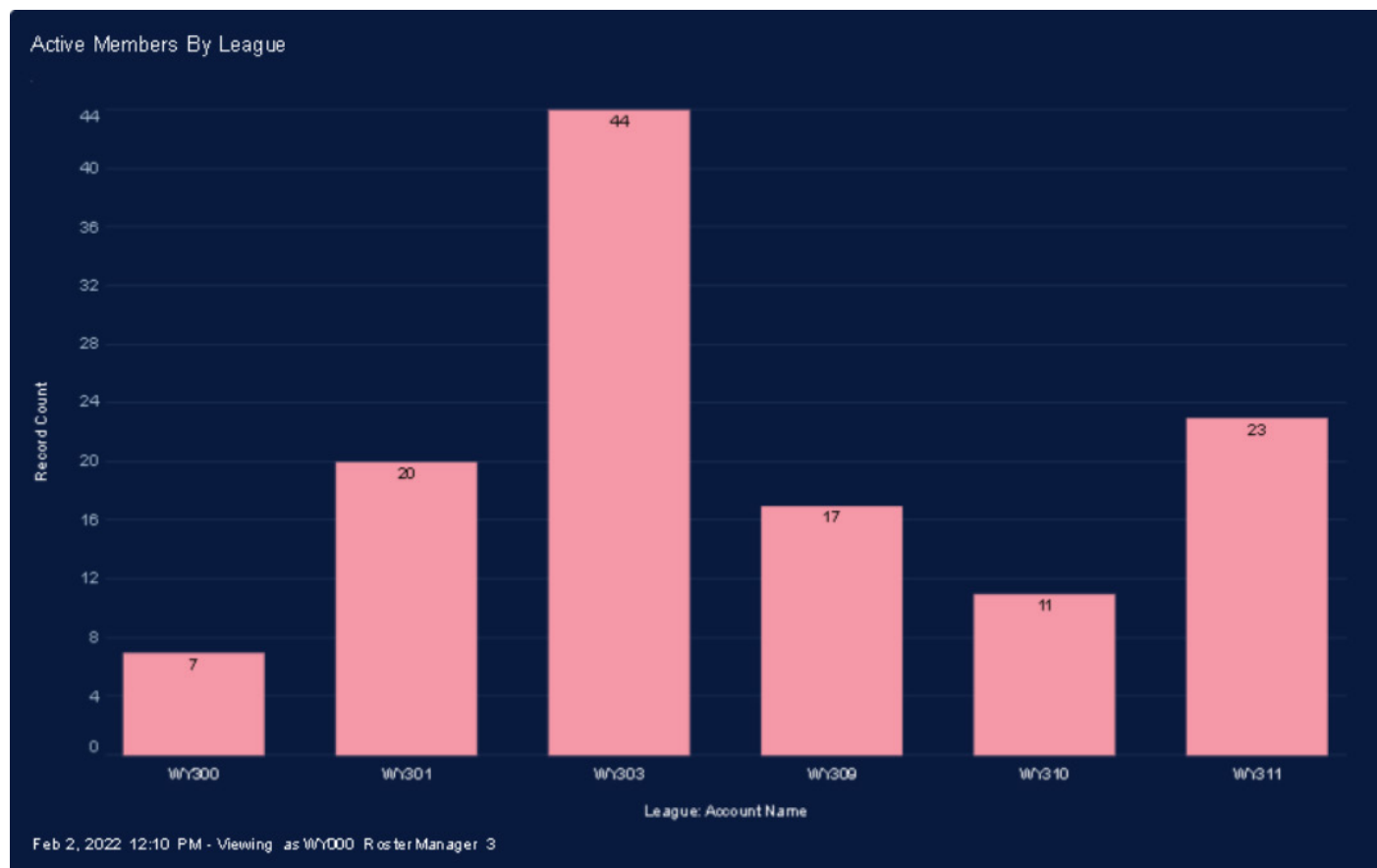
There are also four appointed one year board member terms. In an effort to have a diverse board, candidates are frequently recruited from younger members, less represented local leagues, or members at large.

All the presidents of local leagues are board members. If a local league president serves in an elected position, an appointed representative from the local league serves. If a local board has co-presidents, one can be named as the league representative.

The state board currently meets on the third Monday of the month at 6- 7:30 p.m. by Zoom. In recent years, the president has surveyed members to determine the best no conflict time.

LWVWY Membership Is Down This Year

League membership by league on Feb. 2, 2022.



WY000: State; WY300: Casper; WY301: Cheyenne; WY303: Laramie; WY309: Campbell; WY310: Members at Large; WY311: Fremont County

Committees/Forwarding Lists January 31, 2022

- **Archivist: Lead - Susan Simpson**
- **Bylaws (informal): Nancy Lockwood will convene.** Robin Hill, Katie Morgan, Mary Guthrie
- **Fundraising: Lead - Margaret Brown.** Lynne Ipiña
- **Legislative Observers/Groupies** (meets during legislative /special sessions) wyoleg@wyominglww.org : **Lead - Margaret Brown.** Linda Barton, Jim Brown, Dee Buckstaff, Reade Dornan, Jamie Egolf, Marguerite Herman, Lynne Ipiña, Sarah Jane Johnson, Sue Knesel, Judy Knight, Nancy Lockwood, Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan, Devon O'Connell, Susan Simpson, Amy Williamson. Also info@wyominglww.org and all members at large
- **LOOK** (set up in 2016): Knight: **Lead for publication decisions- Judy Knight.** Katie Morgan, Judy Semple, Robin Hill
- **Membership Recruitment: Lead - Kylie McCormick.** Margaret Brown
- **Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP): Leads - Kate Foster and Kate Swistowicz.** Jamie Egolf, Liz Victor, Kylie McCormick, Linda Barton
- **Newsletter: Lead - Susan Simpson**
- **Procedures and Policies (proposed): No Lead.** Standing Rules would be a part of this and are being worked on by Judy Knight, Sid Walter, Nancy Lockwood
- **Publication** (set up in 2016): **No Lead.** Sue Knesel has a draft in Google Docs. Sid Walter, Lynne Ipiña, Susan Simpson, Nancy Lockwood
- **Redistricting: Lead - Lynne Ipiña.** Reade Dornan, Jamie Egolf, Sherry Lowell, Dee Buckstaff, Keren Meister-Emerich, and Nancy Lockwood as time permits

- **Tech Front End (Website "appearance"): Lead - Lynne Ipiña.** Dee Buckstaff, Keren Emerich, Kate Foster, , Matthew Link, Katie Morgan, Linda Barton, Nancy Lockwood
- **Tech Team (back end),** techteam@wyominglww.org: **Lead - Rotates among members.** Kate Foster, Lynne Ipiña, Matthew Link, Nancy Lockwood, Katie Morgan, Susan Simpson, Kate Swistowicz
- **2022 Voter Service, 2022VoterService@wyominglww.org: Convener - Susan Simpson.** Lynne Ipiña, Judy Knight, Katie Morgan, Nancy Lockwood, Kari Eakins if no one else
- **Voter Girl ,** VOTERGirl@wyominglww.org: **Lead - Susan Simpson.** Reade Dornan, Margaret Brown, Mary Guthrie, Lynne Ipiña, Nancy Lockwood, Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan, Sid Walter
- **Voting Methods - Lead - Matthew Link.** Robin Hill, Lynne Ipiña, Katie Morgan, Susan Simpson
- **Women Power Democracy:** Need more direction from LWWUS. On Hold

Members interested in following allied organizations or LWWUS Project:

- Capital punishment, <https://www.facebook.com/WyoEndDP>: Reade Dornan, Katie Morgan
- Healthy Wyoming, <https://healthywyoming.org/> : Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan
- ? Better Wyoming: Possible partner for PPFM?
- Lynne Ipiña in regards to redistricting and using Outreach Circles (communication/organizing on-line "tool"), People Powered Fair Maps (PPFM)

Speak Up for Medicaid Expansion



To ensure they get lawmakers' attention, Healthy Wyoming is hosting a rally at the capitol on Feb. 14, the first day of the 2022 session.

Anyone interested in supporting Medicaid expansion in person at the Legislature is invited to join. Sign up to receive more details here. (information and photograph copies from BetterWyo.org, Better Wyoming's newsletter, Jan. 30, 2022. LWWVW is a part of Healthy Wyoming.)

From the Equality State Policy Center



Legislative Updates: Budget, Redistricting, and Medicaid Expansion

5 P.M. Thursday, February 10th

Register Here: <https://equalitystate.org/events/>

Wyoming League of Women Voters State Board February 2022

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	To be appointed	
Casper President	Kylie McCormick	casper@wyominglww.org
Cheyenne Chair	Mary Guthrie	cheyenne@wyominglww.org
Fremont County President	Linda Barton	info@leagueofwomensvotersfc.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

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 [counting] 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.

Group email lists:

board@wyominglww.org Reaches all state board members

wyoleg@wyominglww.org Reach everyone on the legislative junkies and members at large

techteam@wyominglww.org reaches the back end tech team

VoterGirl@wyominglww.org reaches those interested in a VOTERGirl program in Wyoming

2022VoterService@wyominglww.org reaches those on the state voter service committee

Each local league has its own distribution list not maintained by the state.

Leagues on Twitter: @LWV, @LeagueFremont

Leagues on Facebooks: League of Women Voters of the U.S., LWV Equal Rights Amendment, LWV OutreachCircleSupport-Group, League Leaders Today, League of Women Voters of Wyoming, Campbell County League of Women Voters, League of Women Voters-Casper, League of Women Voters Cheyenne, League of Women Voters of Fremont County, Laramie League of Women Voters,

YouTube: League of Women Voters, League of Women Voters of Wyoming, Cheyenne LWV. A search of League of Women Voters and a city or county name will bring up other Wyoming league's activities on newspaper or library websites.

Did we miss one of your outlets? Let us know at info@wyominglww.org.

LWVUS Liaison to LWVWY: Jessica Rohloff, jrohloff@lww.org

LWVUS Lobby Corps: Colleen Fenlon-White, cfenlonwhite@gmail.com