

JANUARY 2023

Letter from Your State League President



Happy New Year!

I am writing this on New Year's Eve as I await the arrival of some friends of ours who are coming over to help us close out 2022 and ring in 2023. A low-key evening of conversation, games, football viewing, decadent dessert, and celebratory libations. A nice way to end a busy holiday season and busy election year before jumping back

into League work. With the opening of the 2023 legislative session just 10 days away, I am both excited and anxious about the work that lies ahead of us.

With so little time between the November General Election and the start of the 2023 legislative session, the December state board meeting was dedicated to establishing our legislative priorities. While the league has policy positions on many issues and all are important, we are a

small volunteer group whose time is limited. We agreed to focus our legislative advocacy and support efforts into three areas:

1. Voting Methods and Open Primary elections
2. Funding for Education and schools, Health Care, and legislative pay equity
3. Missing Persons Alert – a broader system than Amber Alert to include adults and to be available on the reservation.

Marguerite Herman will again lobby for us under the direction of a board appointed legislative liaison committee. Committee members are Dee Buckstaff, Michelle Escudero, Nancy Lockwood, and Lynne Ipiña.

Letter continued next page

Know What's Happening

- Jan 10 Wyoming Legislature convenes (full calendar here: (<https://wyoleg.gov/docs/SessionSchedule.pdf>) 1-2 pm Healthy Wyoming rallies on capitol steps. [Sign up here to let us know you're coming.](#)
- Jan 17 LWWUS: Planning for LWV birthday events. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2lozf2mg>
- Jan 18 LWWUS: Legislative Outlook ,118th Congress. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2lozf2mg> 7-8 p.m. A Light on the Legislature," See article on p. 2
- Jan 22 Women's March, #BiggerThanRoe
- Jan 23-24 SHAPE Wyoming Grassroots Lobbyists Training, Cheyenne "Attendees will learn how to share their stories, leverage their community power, and advocate for their issues. There will even be time to lobby on January 24th. Register now at www.equalitystate.org/shape2023."
- Feb 14 LWV turns 103
- Feb 20 Presidents' Day. Legislature will not convene
- Feb 22 [2022-24 Impact on Issues](#) Introduced. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2lozf2mg>
- Mar 3 Wyoming Legislature adjourns
- May 6-7 LWWVY State Convention, Gillette
- Jun 22-25 LWWUS National Council, Las Vegas, NV (3 state level leaders can attend) More info at <https://tinyurl.com/2j88vtk3>

Letter continued

The committee will provide direction to Marguerite regarding our legislative efforts and assist in engaging and informing our members and partners in furthering our legislative priorities. In addition, the committee hopes to work with our LWWUS legislative contact staff member in utilizing a bill tracking system, Quorum.

Marguerite will provide the board with at least weekly updates and Kate Swistowicz will send these reports out to our members. In addition, we have asked Marguerite to provide members with communication templates and talking points to use when contacting legislators about our priority areas. Kate S. will also send these out to our members.

If you are interested in serving as a lobbyist for the league in future legislative sessions, please try to spend some time at the Capitol this general session to learn about the process and meeting key people involved with the legislative work.

During this General Legislative session, please take the time to actively engage in the League's work to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. Contact your legislators and talk with other Wyoming citizens about the league's legislative priorities.

Nancy Lockwood

Nancy Lockwood, LWWVY President

More What's Happening

2nd Monday of the month :

Reports to state board due

2nd Thursday of the month:

Campbell County League meets at 12 noon

Fremont County board meets, 6:30 pm

3rd Monday of the month:

State board meets by Zoom, 6 pm

All members welcome.

4th Tuesday of the month:

Laramie League board meets

Last Friday of the month:

Casper League, noon, Crawford Rm, Natrona County PL

Cheyenne: irregular meetings on Zoom



A Light on the Legislature for LWWVY Members

Want to learn more about the state legislature? On Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7-8 p.m., there will be a Zoom workshop on the legislative, how it works, and how LWWVY members can find information, attend meetings, and contact legislature.

People should prepare by reading [A Citizen Guide to the Wyoming Legislature](https://www.wyoleg.gov/docs/CitizenGuidebook.pdf) (<https://www.wyoleg.gov/docs/CitizenGuidebook.pdf>). Register by emailing info@wyominglww.org to receive Zoom access codes.

You will receive a handout before the session. The meeting will go longer if there are questions.

Margaret Brown and Susan Simpson are conveners.

State Voter Service Activities

The state league received a \$5,000 grant from WyCEN, the Wyoming Civic Engagement Network, for creative voter education. The funds were used for the design and printing of the table tents and coasters and partial support of Fremont County's general election voter guide. The Casper League distributed coasters for the primary. A sample is shown.

Nancy Lockwood and Susan Simpson reported on LWVWY voter service activities at post-election webinars with WyCEN members. The written report follows:

League of Women Voters of Wyoming 2022 General Election Voter Service Efforts

All Voter Service events are nonpartisan and educational for voters. The LWV does hold positions on issues, but does not endorse candidates or parties. It has not endorsed measures in recent election cycles.

Candidate forums: Face to face or Zoom forums were held in Albany, Campbell, Fremont, Laramie, Natrona, and Teton Counties, sponsored by individual leagues in cooperation with public libraries, community and commercial radio stations, and some print media. Recordings are posted on Facebook, YouTube, or other sponsors' websites. These are not debates; candidates receive the same questions and answer them, but don't respond to one another. We don't have counts for the number of views for those events.

Letters to the Media: LWVWY President wrote letters distributed through the Wyoming Press Association summarizing voter registration and absentee voting laws.

Vote411.org: This website is a project of the League of Women Voters of the US. The state, Casper, Cheyenne, and Laramie Leagues paid to participate. Leagues can input information about races and measures, create questions for candidates, input candidate information, and communicate with them asking for information and answers to the questions.

Candidates can upload photographs, contact information, and answer questions. They can edit their answers until primary or general election day. Electors can see their local ballots, compare information on candidates side by side, and see information on measures and judicial retention.

The Casper Star-Tribune and the Laramie Boomerang printed Vote411 responses. The Jackson Hole News and Guide used some of the material. We offered it to other newspapers, but none used it.

Our Vote 411 effort had two weaknesses, one internal and one external. We didn't have enough members working on the back end. Our candidate response rate was low, an average of 72.75% with a range of 58% to 96%.

The Fremont County LWV distributed paper copies of their voter guide to all mailing addresses in Fremont County before the general election.

Google Analytics: Voters from all 23 counties used the Vote411 website. The final report shows 8,609 individual users had 10,989 sessions on the site viewing an average of 3.56 pages for an average of 2:59 minutes. We don't have

median or mode information.

The figures for 2018 were 3,397 individual users for 4,139 session averaging 2:53 pages and 1:57 minutes on the site.

Coasters/Table Tents: WyCEN funded coasters and table tents with QR codes to the Wyoming Secretary of State's website and Vote411. Laramie and Jackson distributed coasters and table tents to 45 establishments in Laramie and 20 in Jackson—bars, restaurants, churches, organizations (law firm, optician, nonprofits). We don't have a count for Cheyenne, but know they were distributed at the public library, the Women of Distinction luncheon, Dept. of Workforce Services, and a brewery. Casper distributed its coasters for the primary and its and the state's for the general. Campbell County also distributed them, but we don't have reports on the distribution for either league. We had 46 hits to the SoS Elections page and 198 to Vote411 between Sept. 20 and Nov. 8.



Swain Building Renaming

By Rosalind Schliske

Secretary, Cheyenne League of Women Voters



People attending the renaming of the 1932 federal building to the Louisa Swain Federal Office Building Oct. 27, show off the new sign. From left: Sen. Cynthia Lummis, Cheyenne League members Mary Keating-Scott, Bonnie Harrison, Marguerite Herman, Mary Guthrie (behind her is Kelly Pelissier), Rosalind Schliske, Denise Burke, Kari Eakins, Wyoming Women's History House Executive Director Mary Mountain, and Gov. Mark Gordon (Photo by Keren Meister-Emerich).

The Cheyenne League of Women Voters participated in the renaming ceremony of the 1932 federal building in Cheyenne to the Louisa Swain Federal Office Building. It honors of the first woman in the world to cast a ballot in an election on Sept. 6, 1870, giving her equal rights as men.

At the ceremony on Oct. 17, the League distributed commemorative coins with Swain's image.

Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., who was the driving force in the passage of public law 117-120 to rename the building at 308 W. 21st St., traced Swain's journey from an orphanage in Charleston, S.C., to her settlement in Laramie to her death in Maryland. Swain "was specifically chosen to cast the first vote because she was an upstanding woman," Lummis explained, "and because the women in Laramie knew it was a historic event."

Leigh Anne Bunetta, regional counsel for the Rocky Mountain region of the General Services Administration, noted the Neoclassical-style structure was part of its small inventory of historic buildings. But she surprised the audience when she said it was the only federal building in Colorado, Montana, North and South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming that was named for a woman. The building, designed by noted Cheyenne architect William Dubois, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

Also speaking was Mary Mountain, executive director of the Louisa Swain Foundation, who announced a reenactment of Swain as part of the Wyoming Women's History House's Sip 'n' Savor program is now on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIN3GIX3zzU>.

News Briefs

☆ Legislative Issues

The legislature announces “A Citizen Guide to the Wyoming Legislature,” a 24 page PDF with information about the legislature in general, this session, maps, decorum, committee meetings, and legislative processes. It’s at <https://www.wyoleg.gov/docs/CitizenGuidebook.pdf>

The legislative calendar this session is at <https://wyoleg.gov/docs/SessionSchedule.pdf>.

The Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is mailing a copy of the book An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz to all legislators before the session according to its December newsletter. A cover letter with legislative priorities will also be included.

☆ Members

Congratulations to Mary Guthrie and Keren Meister-Emerich who were nominated to the 2022 Women of Influence annual recognition sponsored by the Wyoming Business Report and the APG of the Rockies newspapers. Both are Cheyenne LWV members. Mary was recognized for Lifetime Achievement as an attorney and Keren in the Nonprofit Section for her work with the Cheyenne LWV.

Casper LWV president Kylie McCormick was on the front page of the “To Do” Section of the Wyoming Tribune Eagle on December 3 (p. C1) in an article announcing her talk at the Laramie County Library. She’s quoted as saying “He [T.A. Larson, author of History of Wyoming] shouldn’t be the standard narrative on women’s suffrage in Wyoming.” Her talk is scheduled for Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. at the library.

☆ Abortion

The state executive board approved co-hosting an event in Jackson with Chelsea’s Fund, a Wyoming abortion fund. It was a pro-choice voting event Friday, November 4, at Soluna Cafe from 4-6 p.m. Voters could chat with local and state candidates and elected officials. LWV supports “the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices” (Impact on Issues 2020-2022, p. 55). Further info on Chelsea’s Choice is online at <https://www.chelseasfund.org/>.

The Wyoming Supreme Court declined to certify the case calling the state abortion trigger law into question. The case was sent back to Melissa Owns, 9th Judicial District Court Judge in Teton County.

Here are two news stories about the issue: https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/cops_courts/wyoming-supreme-court-declines-to-hear-abortion-case/article_44d4887a- and <https://cowboystatedaily.com/2022/12/22/wyoming-supreme-court-declines-to-hear-abortion-lawsuit/>



HD22 Forum , Old Wilson School House

At the HD22 Candidate Forum at the Old Wilson School House, Dee Buckstaff reports, “Near the end of the evening two moose walked by the windows and we all had to spend a moment enjoying the encounter” (Courtesy photo).

Why Is It Called Vote411?

Here's more than you may have wanted to know, a download from Wikipedia:

An **N11 code** (pronounced *Enn-one-one*) is a three-digit telephone number used in abbreviated dialing in some telephone administrations of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP). . . .

N11-numbers are used to access to special services. For example,

This US road sign reminds drivers and passengers about 5-1-1 service.



2-1-1: Community services and information [This is a state-wide nonprofit in Wyoming.]

3-1-1: Municipal government services, non-emergency number

4-1-1: Directory assistance

5-1-1: Traffic information or police non-emergency services [Wyoming has this.]

6-1-1: Telephone company (telco) customer service and repair

7-1-1: TDD and Relay Services for the deaf and hard of hearing

8-1-1: Underground public utility location (United States);^[1] non-emergency health information and services (Canada)

9-1-1: Emergency services (police, fire, ambulance and rescue services)

(4-1-1 and 6-1-1 are commonly used within the United States, but not officially assigned by the Federal Communications Commission.)



988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: in use in the US and scheduled to be used in Canada starting November 30, 2023^[2]

9-8-8 had been adopted as the number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, to go into effect on July 16, 2022, but was later renamed the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline on July 15, 2022.

[“N11 code.” Wikipedia. 12/27/22. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N11_code.]

2022 Election Report: At a Glance

The 2022 midterm elections demonstrated the power of women, young people, people of color, and all voters who care about democracy.

Across the country, the League of Women Voters powered the elections. 750+ state and local Leagues registered voters, trained volunteers, served as poll workers, and organized to get out the vote!

The following data represents a snapshot of our impact in the 2022 midterm elections as of November 10, 2022.



LWVWY State Board January 2023

OFFICE/TERM	NAME	EMAIL
Pres. 2019-23	Nancy Lockwood *	president@wyominglww.org
VP 2022-24	Dee Buckstaff*	vp@wyominglww.org
Sec. 2021-23	Sherry Lowell*	secretary@wyominglww.org
Treasurer. 2022-24	Katie Morgan*	treasurer@wyominglww.org
Dir. Elected 2021-23	Kari Eakins	
Dir. Elected 2021-23	Kate Swistowicz	
Dir. Elected 2022-24	Michelle Escudero	
Dir. Elected 2022-24	Amy Williamson*	
Dir. Appt. 2022-23	Margaret Brown	mld@wyominglww.org
Dir. Appt. 2022-23	Jamie Egolf	
Dir. Appt. 2022-23	Susan Simpson	
Dir. Appt. 2022-23.	To be appointed	
Campbell Representative	To be appointed	campbellcty@wyominglww.org
Casper President/Representative	Kylie McCormick	casper@wyominglww.org
Cheyenne President	Mary Guthrie	cheyenne@wyominglww.org
Fremont County President	Linda Barton	info@leagueofwomenvotersfc.org
Laramie President	Lynne Ipiña	laramie@wyominglww.org

*Members of the Executive Committee board@wyominglww.org reaches all

Off-Board Roles

Kate Swistowicz – Information Technology, techteam@wyominglww.org

Matthew Link – Voting Methods, votingmethods@wyominglww.org

Marguerite Herman – Legislative Liaison@wyominglww.org

League Distribution Lists, Social Media, Resources

Group email lists:

board@wyominglww.org reaches all state board members

wyoleg@wyominglww.org reaches 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

LegLiaisonCom@wyominglww.org reaches a new committee discussed on p. 1

League Groups on Twitter: @LWV, @LWVEdFund, @Vote411, @LeagueFremont

League Groups on Instagram: LWV, LWVFCWY, Vote411

League Groups on Facebook: League of Women Voters of the U.S., LWV Equal Rights Amendment Group, LWV OutreachCircleSupportGroup, League Leaders Today, League of Women Voters of Wyoming, Campbell County League of Women Voters, Casper League of women Voters, League of Women Voters Cheyenne, Fremont County League of women Voters, Laramie League of Women Voters, Vote411, LWV New Media

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

LWVUS Liaison to LWVWY: WyomingToniMonettetmonette@lww.org

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

Committees/Forwarding Lists

Jan. 2, 2023

Archivist: Lead - Susan Simpson

Bylaws : Nancy Lockwood will convene Matthew Link, Kylie McCormick, Sid Walter, Amy Williamson

Fundraising: Lead - Margaret Brown Lynne Ipiña

Legislative Liaison Committee: Dee Buckstaff, Michelle Escadero, Lynne Ipiña, Nancy Lockwood.

Legislative Observers/Groupies (meets during legislative /special sessions) wyoled@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, Anne Ladd, Nancy Lockwood, Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan, Devon O'Connell, Susan Simpson, Amy Williamson. Also info@wyominglww.org.

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 Mary Haper, Polly Hinds, Sophie Komornicki, Liz Victor.

Newsletter: Lead - Susan Simpson

Procedures and Policies (proposed): No Lead - Standing Rules have been adopted.

Publication (set up in 2016): **No Lead** Sue Knesel has a draft in Google Docs. Sid Walter, Lynne Ipiña, Susan Simpson, Nancy Lockwood

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 - Kate Swistowicz** Kate Foster, Robin Hill, Lynne Ipiña, Matthew Link, Nancy Lockwood, Katie Morgan, Susan Simpson

2022 Voter Service, 2022VoterService@wyominglww.org: **Convener - Susan Simpson** Dee Buckstaff, Lynne Ipiña, Judy Knight, Katie Morgan, Nancy Lockwood, Kylie McCormick, Kate Swistowicz, 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 , Linda Barton, Lynne Williamson

Voting Methods - Lead - Matthew Link Robin Hill, Lynne Ipiña, Katie Morgan, Susan Simpson

Women Power Democracy: Need more direction from LWVUS. On Hold.

Members interested in following allied organizations or LWVUS Projects:

Capital punishment, <https://www.facebook.com/WyoEndDP>: Reade Dornan, Katie Morgan

Healthy Wyoming, <https://healthywyoming.org/> : Sherry Lowell, Katie Morgan

Civic Engagement Network (WyCEN): Dee Buckstaff