

MARCH 2023

## Letter from Your State League President

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Greetings all!

When I was last writing this report on New Year's Eve for our January newsletter, the 2023 Wyoming legislative session had not yet started--and now we are fast approaching the last day of the session. By the time you read this, the session will have ended. A lot has transpired in two months!

Like many of you, I have spent hours reading and/or listening to so many bills, amendments, media stories, weekly legislative summaries by our lobbyist, Marguerite, and by other partner/supporting organizations, trying to stay on top of what is going on at the capitol. This year, the state board established three priority issues on which to focus our energy and efforts. I found this very effective as it allowed us, as an organization, to have greater time be more knowledgeable about our priority issues and to more consistent in our messages when advocating for our positions.

In the 37 days of the session, there were 300 House bills and joint resolutions and 197 Senate bills and joint resolutions filed. With so many bills and resolutions being proposed in such a short time, it is hard to stay on top of all the happenings: the final versions of bills following amendments, what bills passed, failed, or were "left on the floor" or in the drawers of the House and Senate leaders. I am thankful for the regular, thorough, yet concise, updates and summaries about key legislation sent out by our lobbyist and by our legislative "groupies" leader, Margaret Brown, as well as our new bill tracker system. We had some successes - Missing Person Alert System passed, the UW Women's Studies programs were not defunded, Medicaid for Moms passed. But there were also disappointments - the passage of bills that make voting and the election process less accessible, the continued unavailability of health care for a significant number of citizens, and the "right to choose" is in jeopardy.

Of great concern is the lack of civil, respectful, ethical behavior and abundance of political grandstanding by some legislators, creating impediments and distractions to the carrying out of their duties as elected officials in our representative democracy.

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## Know What's Happening

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- March 3 Wyoming Legislature Adjourns
- March 8 International Women's Day
- March 16 LWWFC Annual Meeting: bylaws and election of officers on agenda, 6 p.m.
- March 19 LWVL Program Planning, Zoom, 3-5 p.m.
- Late March LWVCheyenne's Annual Meeting, TBD
- March 21 Angela Davis speaks at UW. WyoCast available. Look for article on p. 6, 4-5:30
- March 26 LWVL Annual Meeting, United Methodist Church, Hybrid, 2 p.m.
- April 3-7 First Amendment Awareness Days, UW. Look for email with more information and access codes.
- April 14 Convention reports due to Dee Buckstaff ([deebuckstaff@gmail.com](mailto:deebuckstaff@gmail.com)) 250-500 words in MS Word
- May 3 Who She Is showing on Zoom. Look for article on p. 6, 7 p.m.
- May 6-7 LWWVY Annual Convention, Gillette, Wyoming, See p. 6 for more info
- June 3 Next Newsletter Deadline
- June 22-25 LWWUS National Council, Las Vegas, NV  
More info at <https://tinyurl.com/j45wktaz>

## More What's Happening

### Monthly Events

**2nd Monday** of the month: Reports to state board due

**2nd Thursday** of the month: Campbell County League meets, 12 noon-1 p.m., Energy Capital Economic Center, 345 Sinclair St., Gillette or by Zoom. Contact Karin Ebertz, Vice-Pres., ebertzkarin@gmail.com or 307-660-1845 for more information.

Fremont County board meets, 6:30 p.m.

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

**4th Tuesday** of the month: Laramie League board meets.

**Last Friday** of the month: Casper League, noon, Crawford Room, Natrona County PL

Cheyenne continues with irregular meetings on Zoom.

### Letter continued

So, take a moment to whine, rant, moan about what did not go as hoped (but certainly not unexpected), despite our hard work and that of others. But then look to what we accomplished and what we can do to improve our efforts, enhance our image, and promote our values and positions in these highly polarized times. As Michelle Obama said "When they go low, we go high!"

I challenge you to be thinking about what you and other League members can do to move the League forward towards these ends. Come prepared to provide specific directions and ideas and to present these to our members at our state convention, May 6-7 in Gillette.

*Nancy Lockwood*  
LWVWY President

## LWVUS and LWVWY Are Moving to Club Express

At the 2022 LWVWY state convention Kate Swistowicz summarized options for LWVWY technology. One of the options, Club Express, provides email, calendar, events, financial and membership rosters. The board voted in July to migrate to this platform if funding was available. It is.

The vendor reports that 120 state and local leagues use this platform. LWVUS is moving to it also. The budget discussion at the 2022 LWVUS Convention reported, "Continued expansion of League partnership with Club Express

[will] automate dues collection" and "[R]evenue is expected to increase slightly in FY 2023 due to activation of the new Club Express system. The League will be receiving real-time payments for new and renewing members, in addition to the traditional post-membership PMP billings."

Kate Swistowicz, LWVFC, now chairs the tech committee and is leading the migration. You can contact the committee at [techteam@wyomnglww.org](mailto:techteam@wyomnglww.org)



# State Legislature 2023

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## Final Report on the State Legislature for 2023

--Marguerite Herman

The Wyoming Legislature ended the 2023 general session on March 3, with a gentle scolding from the governor about the number of model bills created by “think tanks” looking to score points in Wyoming, rather than Wyoming-driven legislation to solve Wyoming problems. Among the bills fitting that description were a set of gender-oriented bills: **SF117** the so-called “don’t say gay,” **SF111** (child abuse-sex change), **SF144** (sex change surgery for children) and **SF133** (transgender sports prohibition). The only one to make it to the governor’s desk was **SF133**, where it awaited his signature as legislators headed home.

Gov. Mark Gordon complimented the Legislature for passing a supplemental budget bill **HB1** with \$1.4 billion in savings, capturing Wyoming’s recent windfall in mineral revenue to produce investment income for the future. He vetoed 21 lines of the supplemental appropriation bill, and you can find that veto letter on the LSO’s bill page. The bill’s “digest” includes veto override votes by the Legislature.

Find a list of bills signed by Gov. Gordon here: <https://gov-ernor.wyo.gov/state-government/bills>

A high point for the session was **HB4**, the so-called “Medicaid for Moms” bill that continues postpartum care for new moms from 2 months to 12. The appropriation in the bill was Wyoming’s 50 percent match of \$1.9 million for one year of the extended coverage, which will be continued in the Department of Health’s regular budget. LWV Wyoming was part of a diverse, statewide effort to take this Interim Joint Revenue Bill to the finish line. Passage required several lawmakers who came into the session with a “no” on the record to change their minds, in response to the thousands of messages they received. Thanks to all of the League members who helped dispel misconceptions and show authentic Wyoming support.

A low for LWV and for voters statewide was **HB103**, to make people declare political affiliation and choose their primary election ballot before they know who is running. This bill was built upon the baseless assertion that crossover voting determines GOP primary results. Nevertheless, state Republican Party officials have made that the central piece of their platform for a decade. The new law also apparently prevents people from declaring party affiliation in NEW registrations during the 3-month blackout period. LWV Wyoming opposed the legislation as a wrongful restriction of voters’ franchise and an improper use of state elections to help a political party control election outcomes. Gov. Gordon noted some minor flaws and let it go into effect without his signature.

An issue that dominated 2022 campaigns was property tax relief for homeowners, and several proposals were considered to help people whose taxes rose sharply along with the appraised value of their homes. What finally passed

(**SJ3**) is a proposed constitutional amendment to create a separate property tax category for owner occupied primary residences, which are currently assessed with commercial and industrial property at 9.5 percent. It would be up to the Legislature to set the separate assessment rate for homes. The Legislature also passed **HB99** to enhance the current property tax refund program to offer some immediate relief. Some bills proposed to lower the residential assessment rate by 1 percent or 2 percent, but government entities that rely on property taxes raised the alarm of large budget shortfalls without a massive back-fill from the state. The amendment will be on the 2024 General Election ballot.

Other election changes of the 2023 session include **HB47** certification of county election equipment by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, **HB79** to add conceal carry permits to the list of approved voter IDs and **SF153** for post-election ballot audits.

The governor was correct to comment on the number of bills written for a national agenda that were brought to the 2023 session mostly by legislators from the self-described Freedom Caucus. They were sharply critical of House Speaker Albert Sommers for stopping several bills at his desk that were favored by the Wyoming Freedom Caucus and the national Freedom Caucus Network. Sommers issued a news release (<https://mailchi.mp/abd03fb90c7b/house-pass-es-bill-to-address-education-deficit-5402088>) to explain his handling of bills that were redundant, that appeared to be unconstitutional or that were contrary to Wyoming’s needs and principles. Sommers also spoke in support of standing committees that vetted and sometimes rejected bills.

The House speaker and Senate president exercise control over legislation that comes to their chambers – whether to introduce them and whether/where to assign their committee deliberation. After committee work, consideration is under the control of the two chambers’ majority floor leaders. We saw considerable lobbying just to get **HB4** to the Senate floor in the last days of the session. Each step in the process is an opportunity for politics (Wyoming and national) to influence a bill’s progress. Members of the House and Senate repeatedly tried to override the leaders’ discretion this session, including the unfortunate resurrection of **HB103** crossover voting from defeat in Senate Corporations. Under current rules, calling a bill onto the floor takes a majority vote in the 31-member Senate. It takes a two-thirds vote in the 62-member House, where the approximately 25 members of the Freedom Caucus often fell short. However, that number of votes (if they hold as a group) could be a major factor in which legislation gets heard in the 2024 budget session, where non-budget bills require a two-thirds vote just to be introduced.

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# State Legislature *continued*

## How Did Marguerite Horrify the Legislature?

In Legislative Report #8, Marguerite Herman, our legislative liaison/lobbyist, reported on her testimony in a committee hearing. "Proponents were horrified," she wrote. She believes it was item 2 which she later called "heretical."

She sent the following message to all representatives:

*Please vote "no" on SJ11 Convention of States – an idea whose time has NOT come.*

*The national League of Women Voters has a list of things that might make a Convention of States a workable idea. None is on SJ11.*

- 1. The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on.*
- 2. Representation at the convention must be based on population rather than one-state, one-vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed. Delegates represent citizens and should be elected by them and distributed by U.S. population.*
- 3. Voting at the convention should be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes.*
- 4. The convention must be limited to a specific topic. It's important to guard against a so-called "runaway convention," which could work on multiple issues that were not initiated by the states.*

*5. Only resolutions on a single topic should determine if you have enough states to call a convention. We've heard calls for a balanced budget and fixing the Citizens United loophole. What else? Counting state requests by topic ensures there is sufficient interest in a particular subject and enhances citizen interest and participation in the convention.*

She added in a personal email that 'I suspect the "horror" was in response to the LWV support for one-person, one-vote, proportional representation, which is our criticism of the Electoral College and which put us in opposition to the every-county-gets-a-House-seat in the Wyoming redistricting effort last year. Heresy! I told them my testimony was NOT going to be Wyoming-centric, but with a national view.'

You can read the LWVUS's position on national conventions in the [Impact on Issues 2022-2024](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf), just released as a pdf ([https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV\\_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf)). A further search for National Popular Vote Compact shows the LWV still supports this goal.

## *In Memoriam*

Since the last newsletter, two members,  
**Sherry Lowell, Campbell County,  
and Catherine Ryan, Laramie.**  
have left us.

The League of Women Voters of Wyoming extends its condolences to the families, friends, and fellow members of organizations they belonged to and supported. Both improved their communities and will be missed.

## Final Report on the State Legislature for 2023 *cont.*

The remaining business of 2023 is interim work by the standing and select committees, which will be determined by the legislative leaders who sit on the Management Council, scheduled to meet March 23 at the Capitol. These topics are assigned and funded with the intention of letting committees work thoroughly and deliberately and come up with well-written bills for the 2024 session. Committee bills will have to get the 2/3 introduction vote to be considered, like any other bills, but the Legislature traditionally gives weight to these proposals as being the product of lots of study and debate. That didn't happen often in the 2023 session, with the new legislators who came in with a pretty full agenda of their own. So, it was hard to gauge the value of all that interim time and resources.

The LSO website lists all bills and resolutions by chamber and by number and all action, including all amendments and votes. You also can search bills by subject matter, relying on the LSO's sorting system <https://wyoleg.gov/2023/Index/subjectindex.pdf>.

The second half of the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislature is the budget session, which convenes Feb. 12, 2024.



## News Briefs

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### LWVCC Hosts Conversations on Democracy Sessions

--Karin Ebertz

At our January meeting, LWV of Campbell County voted to partner with Wyoming Humanities to be the first community in the state to bring people together for a non-partisan discussion series based on the book, *Democracy Under Construction*. We decided to hold the sessions on three consecutive Saturday mornings in February and publicized our event through our Facebook page, the newspaper, an online news source and posters around town and at Gillette College. Wyoming Humanities provided the books which had historic essays from figures such as Lincoln, Emerson, de Tocqueville and contemporary Wyoming essayists like Rodger McDaniel, Pete Simpson, and Jeffrey Lockwood. We set up a sign-up table in the lobby of Campbell County Public Library where people could pick up the free books and a bookmark with the suggested readings for each week.

The readings were based on the themes Civic Health and Engagement, Political Participation and Confidence in Institutions, and Community and Personal Connections. Each session was facilitated by a local person skilled in keeping the dialogue flowing and giving everyone a chance to speak. Evaluations were given to all participants and sent to Lucas Fralick, the WH Program Coordinator.

Wyoming Humanities provided a \$250 stipend which was used for rental of the venue, coffee and rolls, and poster printing. An average of 18 persons showed up each Saturday. The conversations were thoughtful and cathartic as we shared our own experiences with civic engagement. Our last facilitator challenged us to think of ways to apply our new knowledge, or a way of framing conversations in today's polarized environment.



*Campbell County residents discuss democracy at Gillette College (photo by Karin Ebertz).*

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### Cheyenne Continues with Successful Projects and Plans More

--Roz Schliske and Susan Simpson

Cheyenne LWV met Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> by Zoom. Cheyenne's Voter Service Committee is considering changing the format for its candidate forums and moving to single Zoom interviews rather than group ones. Video interviews would be merged into a single file to be posted online. This would allow candidates to participate even if the forum date is inconvenient. Partnerships are possible with online media. No elections are expected in Laramie County in 2023.

Marguerite Herman, a member of the Cheyenne League, reviewed the state board's decisions about priorities for the 2023 session.

Plans include a cooperative event during the Civic Season, a program on MMIP, Wyoming Public Media Days of Dedication continuing on the second and fourth Wednesdays, an in-person annual meeting, and a seventy-second anniversary celebration in the fall.

# Convention Is Coming!

--Nancy Lockwood, Lynne Ipina, and Susan Simpson

The sixty-sixth annual LWVWY convention will be Saturday, May 6, and Sunday, May 7, in Gillette. The Fairfield Inn and the Technical Education Center at Gillette College are the locations. The call to convention came out this week. Room reservation information is there.

The agenda and the program are still being determined. Suggested speakers include representatives from vendors and Wyoming task forces.

Karin Ebertz, LWVCC VP, thanks Judie Semple, Sue Knesel, Nancy Lockwood, and Katie Morgan all for their help as she unexpectedly steps into the chasm left by Sherry Lowell.

Reports are due to Dee Buckstaff, VP ([deebuckstaff@gmail.com](mailto:deebuckstaff@gmail.com)) by April 14, 2023. They should be Word documents between 250 and 500 words. Photographs are welcome; include the name of the photographer.

From Local Leagues

Local League year end summary reports

Local League proposed directions to the state board

Local League proposed study items

Local League proposed state program positions (based on established studies or national positions)

Proposed Motions

From Treasurer:

Proposed state budget

From Committee Chairs:

Archives

Fundraising

Legislative Groupies

LOOK

Membership Recruitment

Newsletter

Policies and Procedures (renamed after Standing Rules were adopted)

Tech Team

Voter Girl

Voter Service

## Our bylaws outline what we can do:

### Article VIII. Convention

**Sec. 1 Place, Date, Call and Notification** A convention of the League of Women Voters of Wyoming shall be held annually. The time and place of the convention, which may be an in-person meeting, an internet meeting, or hybrid of the two, shall be determined by the Board of Directors. A virtual convention conducted through internet meeting tools shall constitute a valid alternative to in person convention and its votes shall be considered valid.

The President shall send the first call for the convention and solicit program recommendations to the presidents of local and provisional Leagues and units-at-large not less than two months prior to the opening date of the convention fixed in said call. Thereafter, the Board of

Directors may advance or postpone the opening date of the convention not more than two weeks from the date fixed in the first call, except in the case of a civil or League emergency, in which case the Board may alter the time, place, mode of meeting, communication, and interchange, or other Convention arrangements, as long as they deem most members able to accommodate the changes, up to a month in advance. A final call for the convention shall be sent by the President to presidents of local and provisional Leagues and units-at-large at least two weeks before convention.

**Sec. 2. Composition** The Convention shall consist of: the delegates chosen by members through the local Leagues, provisional Leagues, and the presidents of the units-at-large in the number provided in Sec. 4 of this article; the presidents of the Leagues and provisional Leagues and the presidents of the units-at-large or an alternate in the event the president is unable to attend; and the members of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of Wyoming.

**Sec. 3. Qualifications of Delegates and Voting** Each delegate shall be a member of the League of Women Voters in the State of Wyoming. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the convention, even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote. Visitors and guests will not be allowed to cast votes.

**Sec. 4. Representation** The members of the League of Women Voters of the United States who are organized into recognized local Leagues, provisional Leagues and units-at-large in the State of Wyoming shall be entitled to one delegate for the first 10 members and one delegate for every 5 additional members or major fraction thereof belonging to said local League, provisional League or unit-at-large **on January 31** of said year. The record in the state office of paid members shall determine the official membership count for this purpose.

[Here's the official membership as of 1/31/2023. Use these figures to determine how many voting delegates your League can have.

WY310 - MAL - 11 Primary

WY300 - Casper - 10 Primary

WY301 - Cheyenne - 22 Primary

WY303 - Laramie - 36 Primary, 5 Additional, 4 Student

WY309 - Campbell County - 17 Primary, 4 Additional, 1 Student

WY311 - Fremont County - 23 Primary, 6 Additional, 1 Student]

**Sec. 5. Authorization for Action** In odd-numbered years, the convention shall: consider and authorize for action the

**convention is coming continued next page**

## convention is coming continued

State Program; elect a President, Secretary and two Directors; adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal year; and transact such other business as may be presented. In even-numbered years, the convention shall: elect a Vice-president, Treasurer and two Directors; adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal year; consider program and implementation; and transact any other business as may be presented.

**Sec. 6. Quorum** A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates registered at the convention.

### ARTICLE IX

#### Nominations and Elections

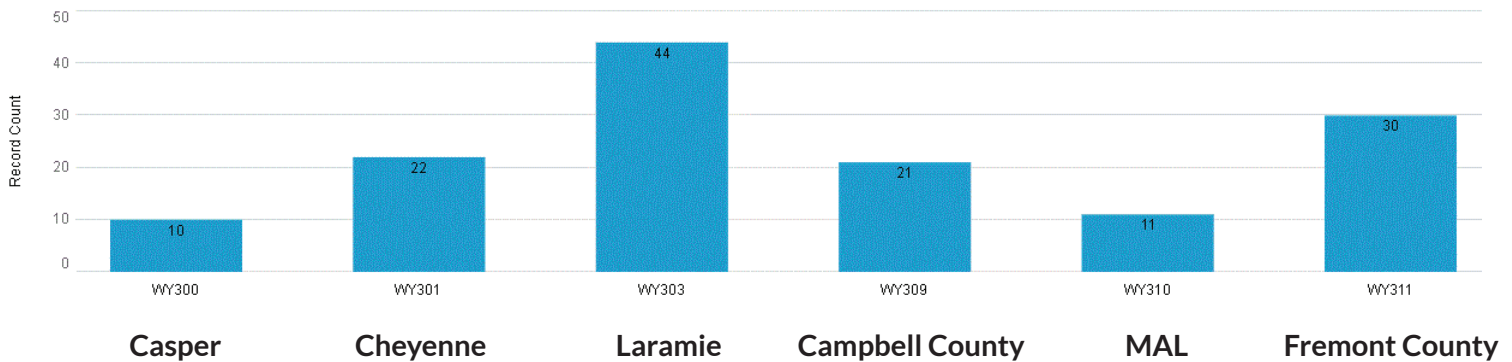
**Sec. 1. Nominations** Nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the convention, provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

**Sec. 2. Elections** An Election Committee shall be appointed by the president on the first day of the convention. The election shall be by ballot. When there is but one nominee for each office, it shall be in order to move that the secretary cast the ballot for every candidate [LWVWY Bylaws, Amended June 2021, p. 6].

This year, we will elect a president, secretary, and two board members, all for two year terms. The positions of board members might be a perfect entry point for those new to league leadership. Besides prepping for and attending board meetings, you can set your own expectations. In fact, we would welcome a visit to the next board meeting on the third Monday (email [info@wyominglww.org](mailto:info@wyominglww.org) for Zoom info).

The nominating committee is Lynne Ipiña and Amy Williamson of Laramie. Please suggest candidates to them or volunteer yourself. They can be contacted at [lynne.ipina@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.ipina@gmail.com) and [amykwilliamson@protonmail.com](mailto:amykwilliamson@protonmail.com), respectively.

## Active Members by League - 138 Total Count, March 3, 2023



## News Briefs

New! Standard format for naming documents – begin document names with yearmonthdate (e.g., 20230305). This format is not retroactive.

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LWVUS reports on Wyoming’s election activities: <https://tinyurl.com/2zltmel5>

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LWVUS Structure Transformation Plan information:  
From the LWVUS management site – November 2, 2022  
<https://www.lww.org/structure>

A study and assessment of the League begun in 2016 culminated in the Transformation Roadmap, introduced at the 2018 National Convention. This Roadmap was formulated with input from Leagues at all levels as an action plan for building a renewed, larger, and more unified and effective organization.

League leaders had shared that too much time and talent

are spent on duplicative administrative efforts that could be better spent on building our power through advocacy, education, and voter services. Following Convention 2020, a diverse group of local, state, and national leaders explored these challenges and solutions with an eye toward helping us more effectively pursue our mission. These leaders made up the LWV Structure Taskforce.

Many of the recommendations outlined in the Transformation Roadmap have been acted on over the past few years. The LWV Structure Taskforce developed the Structure Transformation Plan.

The League Structure Transformation Plan is an initiative to grow League membership in number and diversity, strengthen our grassroots power, and bolster our ability to empower voters and defend democracy.

In The League Update email newsletter of February 9, 2023, LWVUS president, Deborah Turner, announced the beginning of a new phase of the transformation plan: Fram-

*continued on page 9*



# Suffrage Celebration Banner Available for Local Leagues

--Robin Hill

The Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration banner is available for loan to Wyoming Leagues for appropriate events. The banner is a double complete copy of our poster, containing the image from the British suffrage publication that honors Wyoming's role in the history. There are two prints on sturdy material, so that they can be carried separately, or together for viewing both in front and in back.

The posters, in a long blue bag, are stored at the Wyoming Women's History House, under their management for display there, on the understanding that they will allow check-out by League organizations. The kit includes side support poles and a top pole, with loops that attach to the grommet holes.



Larry Haimowitz displays the Suffrage Celebration banner (photo by Hill).

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## LWVFC and LWVWY Sponsoring MMIP Film Showing

WHO SHE IS is a documentary that highlights lives of four women from Wind River in Wyoming caught in the MMIW [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women] epidemic in the U.S. By bringing these missing women to life on screen, through animation and first-person storytelling, the documentary aims to humanize the people behind the statistics. Audiences will learn each woman's loves and losses and will come to know their story. The full film run time is 37 minutes..

The film will be shown via an online platform on Wednesday, May 3, at 7-8:30 p.m. There will be a post film question and answer session.

Registration required. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Escudero at 301.219.1836 or Linda Barton at 307.349.1427.

--Wyoming PBS and Michelle Escudero

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## Angela Davis Speaks at UW and through WYOCAST

Please join the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research for a Distinguished Lecture by Angela Davis.

The event is free and open to the public. Dr. Davis will deliver her lecture at 4:00 PM in the Art & Sciences Auditorium, on the University of Wyoming campus. The lecture will also be live-streamed via WyoCast at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/svu743f8>.

Through her activism and scholarship, Angela Davis has been deeply involved in our nation's quest for social justice. Her work as an educator - both at the university level and in the larger public sphere - has always emphasized the importance of building communities of struggle for economic, racial, and gender justice.

Professor Davis' teaching career has taken her to San Francisco State University, Mills College, and UC Berkeley. She also has taught at UCLA, Vassar, the Claremont Colleges, and Stanford University. She spent the last fifteen

years at the University of California, Santa Cruz where she is now Distinguished Professor Emerita of History of Consciousness, an interdisciplinary Ph.D program, and of Feminist Studies.

This lecture is made possible by our major sponsors, the Department of English and the University of Wyoming Libraries, and our many co-sponsors, including African American and Diaspora Studies; American Studies; Arts & Sciences; ASUW; The Black Studies Center; The School of Culture, Gender, and Social Justice; History; Honors; Modern and Classical Languages; Philosophy and Religious Studies; The School of Politics, Public Affairs, and International Studies; and Wyoming Humanities Council.

--copied from the WIHR website

P.S. from the editor: LWVWY received an inquiry about tickets for this event. It's free.



# LWVWY Has Its Own Trolls Or Are We Overreacting?

Trolls used to be little sexless plastic figures with lots of unlikely colored upright hair. Now “An online troll uses the internet to **deliberately provoke or get a rise out of others**. Their actions can be a small-scale irritant or cause a major problem (<https://blog.hootsuite.com/how-to-deal-with-trolls-on-social-media/#:~:text=An%20online%20troll%20uses%20the,%2C%20attacks%2C%20or%20cyberbul-lies%20others.,> downloaded 3/5/23).



Here are some examples LWVWY has received:

“I see that on 1/8/2021, the US League of Women Voters "Urged" that President Donald Trump be impeached. I would like to know what the Wyoming's League of Women Voters stance is on Joe Biden. And, if known, what the US's League of Women Voters stance is on Joe Biden.”(10/31/22).

President Nancy Lockwood asked LWVUS for advice on responding. The answer from Karen Vix: “We advise not responding to this person.”

After the LWVWY mailed all legislators, the top five elected officials, and all LWVWY members, a copy of Nancy Lockwood’s op-ed on current proposed election legislations, Rep. Jeanette Ward replied, “And you claim to be non-partisan.....” We didn’t respond. Chuck Gray’s and Mark Gordon’s staff both said thank you.

And one of our members emailed the legislators about funding gender and women’s studies at UW and was blocked by Rep. JT Larson. She didn’t respond either.

Looking on the brighter side, we can be glad we don’t have obscene or violent trolls, though we do wish for informed inquiries.

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## News Briefs continued from page 7

ing the Future. This phase involves four key working groups. According to Dr. Turner, these groups will answer vital questions to guide the next phase of the work: the Business Model Working Group, the Data Working Group, the Functional Specification Working Group, and the League Capacity Working Group. Applications for these working groups were opened in early February and closed on February 24. More information about these groups can be found by clicking the group’s name.

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### WyCEN (Wyoming Civic Engagement Network)

In the spring of 2022, the state league entered a partnership with the newly formed WyCEN group. At the February 2023 board meeting, the board agreed to continue this partnership for 2024, agreeing we had benefited from the partnership, having received a \$5000.00 grant to use toward promoting voting, voter registration, and voter education.

In addition, WyCEN has offered to help the league with digital messaging and fundraising.

WyCEN has informed partner organizations of the opportunity to apply for a Digital Base-building Grant. WyCEN will offer partner organizations up to \$1000 of match funds to implement a digital base (membership) building campaign. Dee Buckstaff and Nancy Lockwood are reviewing the guidelines and application, which is due March 31 and will discuss this with the board at their March 20 meeting.

A WyCEN partner meeting is scheduled for March 9 where plans for 2023 will be discussed.

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Agnes Wright Spring’s work for women’s suffrage is the subject of an American Heritage Center blog post: <https://ahcwyo.org/2018/02/26/votes-for-women-remembering-carrie-chapman-catt-suffragist/>

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The LWVUS webpage about Wyoming republishes Nancy Lockwood’s op-ed on proposed Wyoming election laws at: <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/news-clips/league-women-voters-voting-law-bills-make-it-harder-carry-out-right-vote>

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National Council information is coming out. Each state can send three state representatives. This is not a business meeting where every league can send delegates –that happens at the biennial convention. The announcement says “This year’s Council will focus on framing the future through our ongoing transformation work and our moon-shot goal.

A team of expert facilitators will guide attendees through sessions focused on these topics. Work will be done in large and small group settings, and attendees can expect to leave Council with next steps and resources to bring back to their Leagues.”

When: Thursday, June 22 through Sunday, June 25.

Where: Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas, NV

For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/bdrbhw3>.