

DECEMBER 2023

Letter from Your State League President



The first word that pops into my head as I think about what the board has been up to the past few months is busy! The board adopted three legislative priorities for the 2024 legislative session. 2024 is a budget session, so it is a short and intense 20-day session; things happen quickly with so few days. The session begins February 12, 2024.

Our adopted priorities are:

1. Elections and Voter services
2. Constitutional issues, particularly related to property taxes and education funding
3. Governmental Accountability

At the December board meeting, the board approved a letter of support for the proposed Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) rule change clarifying what it means to be “engaged in the business” as a dealer in firearms which will match the provisions of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. This rule will ensure that individuals who sell firearms online or at gun shows are licensed and completed background checks before transferring guns,

and maintain records of transactions. Additionally, the rule change will ensure that dealers who have lost their licenses are no longer eligible to sell firearms to the public. This letter was sent on December 7.

In November, the Cheyenne League welcomed new citizens at a Naturalization Ceremony in Cheyenne, providing the new citizens with a copy of our state constitution, an informational brochure about voting, and a rose. State board members Nancy Lockwood and Margaret Brown also attended the ceremony. The board is looking into providing copies of our state constitution and the US Constitution to all new citizens at future naturalization ceremonies held in Wyoming.

The board is also considering purchasing “Vote” yard signs for local leagues to distribute. If your league is interested, please let Nancy Lockwood know how many you might want.

Further contributing to all this “busyness” are our many active committees that have been meeting at least monthly this fall and will continue to do so through the winter and into the spring.

continued on next page

Know What's Happening

Events 2024

- Jan 15 MLK Day
- Jan 21 14th Anniversary of Citizens United decision
- Jan 22 51st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade decision
- Feb 12 Budget Session Convenes, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 14 LWW turns 104
- Feb 20 Presidents' Day (Legislature doesn't meet)
- Mar 8 Legislature adjourns by midnight
- May 15 Last day for registered voters to change affiliation
- May 16 Crossover Voting Blackout Period begins
Filing to state office begins
- May 31 Filing for state office closes

June LWWUS National Convention,
Washington, D.C

Aug 20 Primary Election Day—residents may register today

Nov 5 General Election Day

Monthly Events

1st Monday State Board Meet by Zoom, 7-8:30 p.m.
(Contact Dee Buckstaff to attend)

2nd Thursday LWWFC board, 6:30-7:30

3rd Monday Campbell County League meets, noon

4th Tuesday Laramie League board, by Zoom and at the Wyoming Women's History House, 6:30-8:00

Last Friday Casper League, noon, Crawford Room, Natrona County PL

Cheyenne continues with irregular meetings on Zoom and in person.

STATE REPORTS

Annual Fund Report

Katie Morgan

We sent out our Annual Fund Campaign letter to current and former Wyoming League members earlier this fall. The Annual Fund solicitation is our only statewide fundraising effort on behalf of Wyoming League, and we greatly appreciate all of you who responded and donated.

If you didn't, we hope that you will consider LWV in your giving plans and support this effort. You have the option of donating to the LWV Wyoming Ed Fund (Tax Deductible) or to the Operating Fund (not Tax Deductible). Remember checks intended for the Ed Fund must be made out to LWV

Wyoming Ed Fund. You also have the option of donating to the Ed Fund online by clicking the "Donate" button at wyominglww.org or to the operating fund through Paypal on the same page.

You may donate anytime between now and the end of our fiscal year (March 31) to count towards this year's campaign. Thanks to Laramie members Margaret Brown and Cindy Elrod for their work on this project! Contact treasurer Katie Morgan, pksmorgan@msn.com, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Tech Report

Robin Hill

The League of Women Voters of Wyoming website has been transferred to a new platform, WordPress (still on the same host). Posts and pages are easier to produce and publish now! All local leagues have access to their own pages. We thank Kate Swistowicz for taking this on, and

following through. As always, local leagues are encouraged to contribute material themselves; many may have WordPress skills already. But help is still available at techteam@wyominglww.org. Email for log in credentials.

President's Letter continued

- **Voter Education:** Led by Susan Simpson, this subcommittee of the Voter Service committee is developing: a Voter Education Campaign to inform citizens about the election and voting process, especially targeting recent changes in our voting and election laws.
- **Legislative Liaison Committee:** Michelle Escadero chairs the committee working on how to track legislation related to our legislative priorities during the 2024 state legislative session and how to keep our members and other citizens informed about the bills related to our priorities and Actions to be taken.
- **Tech Team:** The tech team is continuing to research web-hosts and related communication tools and services; at this time our current website is through InMotion and is a WordPress site. Contact a tech team member for user id and password information for posting on the website. The state also has a Google account and state documents are to be stored in the associated State Google Drive account.
- **Bylaws and Standing Rules:** Led by Margaret Brown, the committee is working on reviewing and editing our Bylaws and Standing Rules (Policies and Procedures).

I am appreciative of all the time, energy, research, and thought you, our members, are putting into furthering the important work of the league. We are all volunteers with many responsibilities and interests. I am so thankful the league is a priority for all of us!

Best to all and Happy Holidays!

Nancy Lockwood

LWVWY President



Changes to the State Board

Brenda Lyttle, State Board Secretary, Resigns

Brenda Lyttle, elected state board secretary at our May 2023 State Convention, resigned from the board in early November. In her resignation letter she said, "It is very difficult for me to go back on my commitments..." She went on to say she was very involved in community theatre that rehearses on Monday nights when the board meets. In addition, when not involved with a show, she is often traveling with her husband. She further stated "It's not fair to...the board that I will be so unavailable." She wanted to give the board the opportunity to find a new secretary that does not have so many prior commitments.

The board is sorry to lose Brenda and we thank her for her service. We wish her well in her recent retirement and in her community theatre endeavors and travel.

State Board Secretary Needed!

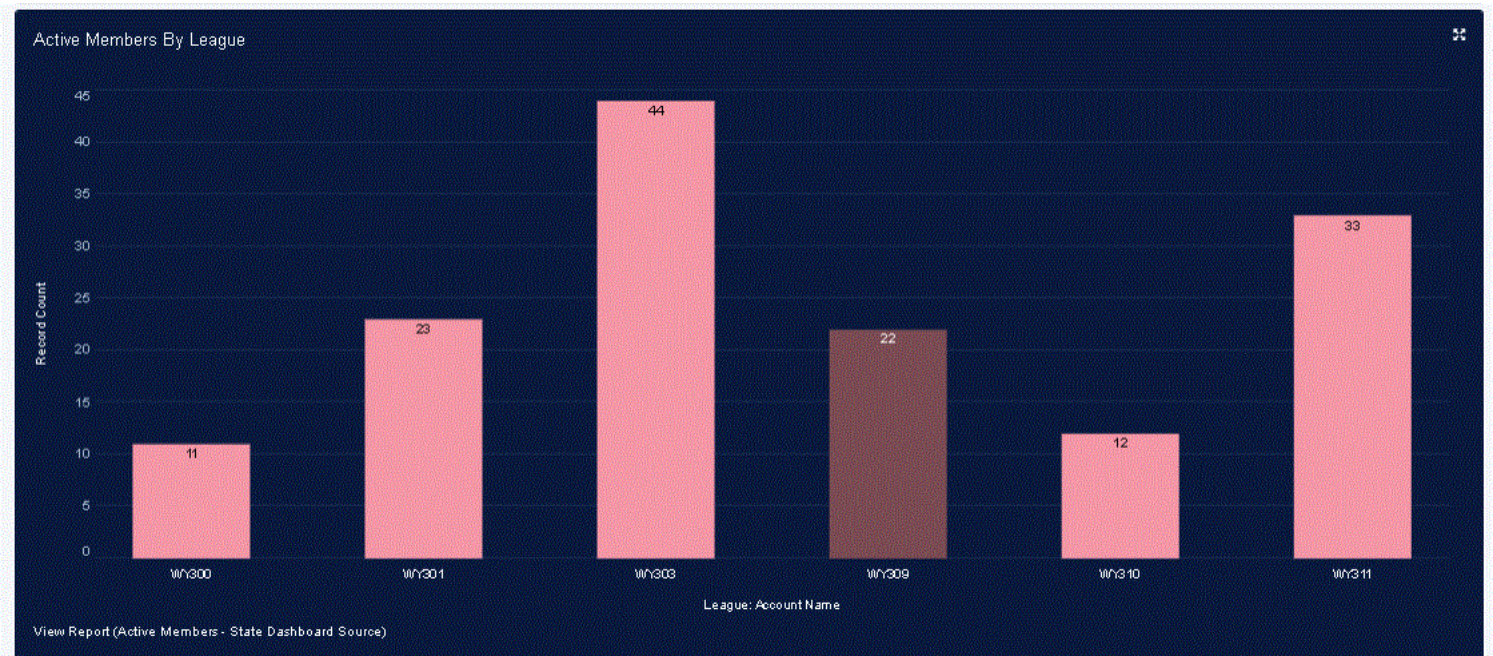
Brenda's resignation creates an opportunity for a member to step forward and become an officer of the state board, filling the remainder of Brenda's term. Serving on the board is a great way to learn more about the state league and to get to know other league members from around the state.

Board officers and elected directors serve 2-year terms with vacancies filled by board appointment. Brenda's vacated term as secretary ends in May 2025.

Please contact Nancy Lockwood, State Board President, if you are interested in being appointed to the board as secretary or would like more information about the position.

The state board meets on the first Monday of the month for an hour and a half. Meetings are recorded, and a reading committee reviews the draft minutes before the next board meeting.

Membership December 2023



WY300 - Casper (11); WY301 - Cheyenne (23); WY303 - Laramie (44); WY309 - Campbell (22); WY 310 - Members at Large (12); WY311 - Fremont County (33)

News From Cheyenne

Roz Schliske sent three articles and many photographs about events in Cheyenne since the last newsletter. They have been condensed.

Cheyenne Celebrates Its 72nd Anniversary

Cheyenne's league, the first LWV in the state, organized on October 12, 1951. Dues were \$3, and LWV Cheyenne had 71 members by December and 170 members by September 1952. COVID delayed the celebration until September 13, 2023, at the Cheyenne Country Club.

The Honorable Nancy D. Freudenthal, United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming, was the main speaker. She affirmed that America "remains a shining city on a hill" even in these troubling times. She added that being an American citizen is the "highest office in the United States." She also said that LWV was founded "in U.S. grounding values."

Treasurer Mary Keating-Scott wrote a history of the Cheyenne LWV. Actions included hosting booths to educate voters, purchasing a mimeograph machine, and supporting an election to determine Cheyenne's form of government. Roz Schliske created a souvenir booklet with many photographs, text of the history, and Mary Guthrie's introduction of Freudenthal which she distributed to members.

Cheyenne's Membership Drive Starts on Wyoming Day

LWV Cheyenne celebrated Wyoming Day, Sunday, December 10, with lunch and a meeting at The Office Bar and Grill.

Cheyenne and Laramie Members Attend a Naturalization Ceremony

November 7, 2023, LWVWY members welcomed sixteen new citizens. They distributed red roses, Wyoming Constitutions, voter registration information, and a vote pin to all. Our new fellow citizens came from the Dominican Republic,



Marguerite Herman congratulates a new citizen at the November naturalization ceremony in Cheyenne. Note Roz Schliske and Melissa Leger, fellow LWV Cheyenne members, immediately behind her, with roses and brochures. Former Albany County Clerk of Court Janice Sexton is further back in the crowd (Photo by Kelley Pelissier).



Nancy Lockwood, LWVWY President; The Honorable Nancy D. Freudenthal; and Rosalind Routt Schlinke, LWV Secretary and this newsletter's best correspondent, at the anniversary celebration (photo by Keren Meister-Emerich).

What is Wyoming Day? On Dec. 10, 1869, Wyoming Territorial Governor John Campbell signed legislation that explicitly granted women the right to vote and to hold public office. Cheyenne announced it had developed a new membership form and a flyer outlining the various ways members can support the League.

Guatemala, Peru, Canada, United Kingdom and Serbia, two from the Philippines and Vietnam, and six from Mexico. U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge Kelly H. Rankin presided. Both Judge Nancy Freudentahl and U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Gregory A. Phillips attended.

Some of the new citizens described their journey, often lengthy, to this day. They thanked their supporters and encouraged attendees to make America better. This is the oath they took:

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God" (<https://tinyurl.com/OathOfCitizenship>, 12/1/23).

The state board is investigating locations and dates for other naturalization ceremonies in Wyoming.

Committees/Forwarding Lists

December 5, 2024

Archivist: *Lead - Susan Simpson*

Bylaws/Standing Rules/Policies and Procedures, Bylaws@wyominglww.org: **Margaret Brown, Chair:** Michelle Escudero, Sue Knesel, Matthew Link, Katie Morgan, Susan Simpson, Nancy Lockwood, ex-officio.

Fundraising: *Lead - Margaret Brown* Lynne Ipiña

Home Rule: Lynne Ipiña, Matthew Link, Sid Walter, Katie Morgan, Susan Simpson, Jamie Egolf (no designated lead as of 12/6/23)

Legislative Liaison: legliaison@wyominglww.org: **Marguerite Herman**

Legislative Liaison Committee, LegLiaisoncom@wyominglww.org, info@wyominglww.org: **Lead - Michelle Escudero** Dee Buckstaff, Lynne Ipiña, Nancy Lockwood

Legislative Observers/Groupies (meets during legislative /special sessions) wyoleg@wyominglww.org: **Lead - Margaret Brown** Virginia Adler, Linda Barton, Jim Brown, Dee Buckstaff, Susan Dong, Reade Dornan, Jamie Egolf, Marguerite Herman, Lynne Ipiña, Sara Jane Johnson, Faith Jones, Karen Jerger, Angie Kinnaman, Sue Knesel, Judy Knight, Anne Ladd, Laurie Latta, Nancy Lockwood, Maurine Karabatsos, Alexander Muromcew, Katie Morgan, Devon O'Connell, Sandy Shuptrine, Susan Simpson, Gail Symons, Amy Williamson. Also info@wyominglww.org. Note: Some former LWWVY members continue on this committee.

LOOK (set up in 2016): **Knigh:** *Lead for publication decisions-* Judy Knight Robin Hill, Katie Morgan, Judy Semple

Membership Recruitment: *Lead - Kylie McCormick* Margaret Brown

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) and MMIP Tool Kit: *Leads - Michelle Escudero and Linda Barton;* Kate Foster, Liz Victor, Jamie Egolf, Kate Swistowicz, Nance Shelsta (a new member and LWVFC board member), Hannah Pogue - LWVCO Operations Director, Katina Frierson - LWVCO Communications, Nancy Lockwood, ex-officio (This list is incomplete; there are 335 people on the electronic version.)

Newsletter: *Lead - Susan Simpson*

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

Tech Team, TechTeam@wyominglww.org: **Lead - Kate Swistowicz** Robin Hill, Lynne Ipiña, Matthew Link, Katie Morgan, Susan Simpson, Nancy Lockwood, ex officio

Voter Service, VoterService@wyominglww.org: Convener - Susan Simpson Dee Buckstaff, Michelle Escudero, Lynne Ipiña, Judy Knight, Nancy Lockwood, Kylie McCormick, Katie Morgan, Kate Swistowicz, Kari Eakins if no one else

Voter Education Campaign SubCommittee: *Lead - Susan Simpson* Deb Buckstaff, Michelle Escudero, Marguerite Herman, Katie Morgan, Gail Symons To be invited Marissa Carpio, ESPCI Kate Foster, LWVFC; Rachel Martinez, WyCEN

Voter Girl: *Lead - Susan Simpson* Linda Barton, Margaret Brown, Reade Dornan, Mary Guthrie, Lynne Ipiña, Nancy Lockwood, Katie Morgan, Sid Walter, Lynne Williamson

Voting Methods, votingmethods@wyominglww.org: **Lead - Matthew Link** Robin Hill, Lynne Ipiña, Katie Morgan, Susan Simpson Also info@wyominglww.org

Wyoming Civic Engagement Network (WyCEN) Liaison: *Leads - Dee Buckstaff and Nancy Lockwood,* - Linda Barton, Michelle Escudero, Susan Simpson

Members interested in following allied organizations or LWWVUS Projects:

- Capital punishment, <https://www.facebook.com/WyoEndDP>: Reade Dornan, Katie Morgan, Nancy Lockwood
- Healthy Wyoming, <https://healthywyoming.org/> : Katie Morgan
- Equality State Policy Center, <https://equalitystate.org/> : Nancy Lockwood

League of Women Voters of Wyoming State Board December 4, 2023

OFFICE/TERM	NAME	EMAIL
President, 2023-25	Nancy Lockwood **	Board@wyominglww.org reaches all
VP, 2022-2024	Dee Buckstaff**	
Secretary, 2023–25	To be appointed	
Treasurer, 2018-2024	Katie Morgan**	
Dir. Elected 2023-25	Margaret Brown	
Dir. Elected 2022-24	Michelle Escudero**	
Dir. Elected 2023-25	Kate Swistowicz	
Dir. Elected 2022-24	Amy Williamson	
Dir. Appt. 2023-24	Jamie Egolf	
Dir. Appt. 2023-24	To be appointed	
Dir. Appt. 2023-24	To be appointed	
Dir. Appt. 2023-24	To be appointed	
Campbell President	KaKatie Remme Liz	campbellcty@wyominglww.org
Casper President	Kylie McCormick	casper@wyominglww.org
Cheyenne Chair	Kari Eakins	cheyenne@wyominglww.org
Fremont County Chair	Linda Barton	info@leagueofwomensvotersf.c.org
Laramie President	Lynne Ipiña	laramie@wyominglww.org

* Fiscal year is April 1-March 31 **Executive Committee 2023-24

Responsibilities/Off-Board Observers

Kate Swistowicz – Information Technology, techteam@wyominglww.org

Judy Knight –LOOK, je.judy@gmail.com

Matthew Link—Voting Methods, votingmethods@wyominglww.org , Home Rule Study

Marguerite Herman—Contract Lobbyist,legliaison@wyominglww.org

Susan Simpson—Archives and Newsletter, ssimpson307@gmail.com

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.