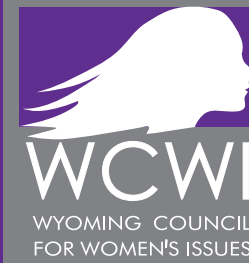




Wyoming Council for Women's Issues
 c/o Wyoming Business Council
 214 West 15th Street
 Cheyenne, WY 82002

PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 US POSTAGE PAID
 CHEYENNE, WY
 PERMIT NO. 7

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



WCWI News

Summer 2007 • www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org

WY Woman of Distinction '07 celebration set

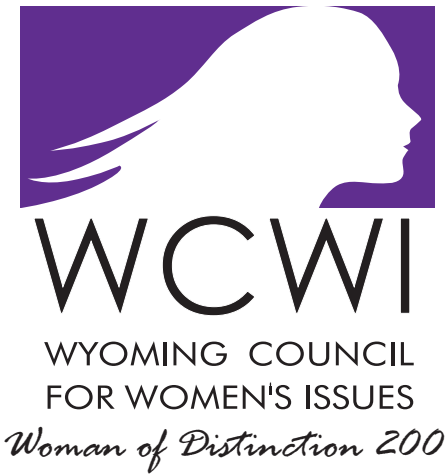
CASPER - The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues (WCWI) will honor the 2007 nominees for the Wyoming Woman of Distinction Award during a luncheon at Little America in Cheyenne on Sept. 7.

The nomination process opens each year in January, and the deadline for nominations is Mar. 31.

Look for an ad in the Aug. 2 edition of The Casper Star-Tribune celebrating the nominees and highlighting their accomplishments. The Wyoming Woman of Distinction is a "once in a lifetime" award given to a woman who has performed extraordinary service for the benefit of women and families in Wyoming. WCWI will announce the winner in late August.

Information about the award and nominating materials are available on WCWI's Web site, www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org.

For more information about the award, contact Diane Moser at the Wyoming Business Council at 307.777.2848 or diane.moser@wybusiness.org about attending the awards luncheon. Reservations are required and the cost is \$20 per person.



2007 Women's Business Expo to provide opportunities for growth

The 2007 Women's Business Expo, scheduled for Oct. 19-20 at Northwest College in Powell, will focus on bringing business women together to provide opportunities for personal and professional growth through leadership, education and relationship building.

Saturday's Expo will also feature Microsoft and the very latest in business technology. The Expo evening dinner on Saturday will feature Microsoft's Kristin Rhodes, Director for Higher Education for the West and Central regions. Rhodes joined Microsoft in 2000 with a background of sales and various work in the technology world. She is the current Chairperson for the NWCET (NSF's National Workforce Center for Emerging Technologies) and a member of Washington State University College of Education's Advocacy Board.

"This year's Women's Business Expo is shaping up to be better than ever", said Business Expo Chairwoman Robbi Welch. "We've expanded this year's Expo to include a very special Friday evening event. 'Martini's And Makeover' will provide a venue for women to enjoy a relaxing evening to focus on themselves. Manicures, pedicures, and massages will be offered, along with makeup tips and techniques, introductions to exercise opportunities and fashion."

Women owned and/or operated businesses will have the opportunity to apply for a resource table where they can share valuable business experience and advice.

The Expo will host workshops throughout the day. Topics include: limited budget marketing, success or failure, taming your computer gremlins, and more.

Additional information can be found on the Women's Business Resource web site at www.womensbusinessexpo.org, or from either the Powell Valley Chamber of Commerce, www.powellchamber.org, or Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, www.codychamber.org.

The keynote speaker is Megan Duckett, owner of Sew What? She began her business in 1992 to fulfill the need of theatrical drapery and stage curtains. These 'tourability' fabrics are used by Maroon 5, Sting, Rod Stewart, and Avril Lavigne. Duckett has 33 employees and recently moved to a 15,000 sq ft building in Rancho Dominguez, CA.

"Please join us for a wonderful and fun Business Expo this year", encourages Welch. "We want to see a diversity of women come together to learn, relate, and share their business experiences!"

Wyoming to Race for the Cure in Cheyenne this August

The 12th Annual Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure® will take place on Aug. 11 at the Wyoming State Capitol in Cheyenne. Registration for the event begins at 6:30 a.m. The 5k run and one mile walk start at 8 a.m.



Over 2,000 participants, volunteers and spectators are expected at this year's event, which is open to everyone who wants to help in the fight against breast cancer and join in the promise to eradicate it as a life-threatening disease.

The Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure® raises awareness and funds to help eradicate breast cancer as a life threatening disease by advancing research, education, screening and treatment. In the United States in 2006, an estimated 215,990 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, 40,110 will die; additionally 1,450 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer, 470 will die.

The Wyoming Race for the Cure provides funds for local outreach and educational programs, mammography screening and treatment programs. Seventy-five percent of the net proceeds from the Race stay in Wyoming. Twenty-five percent is donated to the National Susan G. Komen for the Cure exclusively for national research and grant rewards.

In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement. Today, Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures.

This year's chair for the Race is WCWI's Pamela Downing. The co-chair is Trish Becklinger while honorary chairs are Dr. John Barraso and Bobbi Brown. This year's honorary survivor is Jill Jensen.

For more information on the Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure®, call 307.637.RACE or visit www.komenwyoming.org.

New to this year's Race for the Cure series is the "I AM THE CURE" program. "I AM THE CURE" is the Race for the Cure's new rallying cry. The program urges women to take an active role in their own breast health, and reminds women that they play an important role in finding a cure.



WCWI News is a quarterly publication focused on news and information of value to women in Wyoming. To be added to the mailing list, call 307-777-2800.

Visit www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org for more information.

WCWI Members

Michelle Aldrich - Judicial District 1
 Jenny Ingram - Judicial District 2
 Jan Torres - Judicial District 3
 Maureen Neavill - Judicial District 4
 Kim Capron - Judicial District 5

Julie Simon - Judicial District 6
 Lori Clifford - Judicial District 7
 Sherrill Helzer - Judicial District 8
 Teresa de Groh - Judicial District 9
 Donna Whitson - At-large

Suzey Delger - At-large
 Scarlet Skorcz - At-large
 Pamela Downing - At-large
 Diane Moser - Wyoming Business Council Ex-officio Member

Calendar of Events

August 3-4

American Cancer Society Relay For Life at Kelly Walsh H.S. in Casper. Open ceremonies start at 6 p.m., Luminarias at 9 p.m. Visit www.cancer.org.

August 5-7

Snowy Range Nonprofit Institute will teach skills in fundraising, volunteer management, publicity and board development at the UW campus.

August 11

Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure in Cheyenne. For more information, visit www.komenwyoming.org.

August 27

"Women of Mystery" book discussion group at 12 p.m. in Big Piney Branch Library. Free. Contact the library at 307.276.3515 to register and borrow a book.

September 13-14

Wyoming Library Association's Convention 2007 will take place at the Little America Hotel in Cheyenne. For more information, visit www.wyla.org.

September 14-15

Wyoming Women's Expo will be held at the Casper Events Center. Visit www.wyoming-womensexpo.com.

September 24

"Women of Mystery" book discussion group at 12 p.m. in Big Piney Branch Library. Free. Contact the library.

October 12

2007 Nontraditional Career Day: "Open the Door to Your Future" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs.

October 13

WCWI meeting in Rock Springs.

October 19-20

2007 Women's Business Expo at Northwest College in Powell. Visit www.womensbusinessexpo.org.

October 29

"Women of Mystery" book discussion group at 12 p.m. in Big Piney Branch Library. Free. Contact the library.

November

The 2007 Summit Award winner will be announced at the Wyoming Business Alliance's Wyoming 2007 Forum.

November 26

"Women of Mystery" book discussion group at 12 p.m. in Big Piney Branch Library. Free. Contact the library.

New Wyoming Humanities Council Film Discussion Series to include gender issues

This fall the Wyoming Humanities Council presents Border Lines, a film discussion series exploring some invisible borders in American life through the lens of popular Hollywood movies.

Public libraries will host the series in Cheyenne, Gillette, Laramie, Lusk, Riverton and Rock Springs, while the BOCES Education Center will sponsor the series in Evanston. Jackson will also serve as a host site. Each program begins with a free meal, followed by the film showing and audience discussion.

"North Country" (R, 2005) starring Charlize Theron, Woody Harrelson and Frances McDormand, and directed by Niki Caro (Whal-erider), explores gender issues in the workplace. It is based on the book Class Action: The Story of Lois Jenson and the Landmark Case That Changed Sexual Harassment Law.

When Josey Aimes takes a job at a Minnesota steel mine, the harassment from male miners proves as harrowing as the physical dangers. She confronts the abuse, but none

of the other women will join her case for fear that things will only get worse. As her family, friends and reputation suffer, she must weigh the risks of crossing borders.

Other films in the series are "The Terminal," starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones; "Lone Star," starring Chris Cooper and Kris Kristofferson; "Mississippi Masala" stars Denzel Washington and Sarita Choudhury; and "Smoke Signals" (1998), the first film written, directed, and acted entirely by American Indians.

Major funding for Border Lines is provided by the We the People initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, contact the Wyoming Humanities Council at 307.721.9243.



WYOMING
HUMANITIES
COUNCIL

Equality Initiatives to research wage gap and women's economic opportunities in Wyoming

By Kim Capron
Wyoming Council for Women's Issues

Equality Initiatives (EI) is a statewide awareness campaign designed to highlight the successes of women in Wyoming, as well as the many difficult challenges facing the state's women and girls.

The Wyoming Community Foundation and the Wyoming Women's Foundation serve as the fiscal sponsor of Equality Initiatives.

EI will launch a statewide media campaign in April, 2008 called, "What's good for Wyoming's women and children, is good for Wyoming communities."

In the meantime, EI will be gathering research with a gender focus on issues surrounding the wage gap in Wyoming, which is the worst in the nation, and related topic areas such as childcare, healthcare and economic opportunity for women in Wyoming.

EI initiated its grassroots educational campaign and sustainable funding campaign



across the state in June, 2007. In the next two years, EI will build grassroots partnerships and bring awareness to Wyoming of vital issues affecting women. For example, over a quarter of Wyoming families are headed by a single female and 50 percent of the families in poverty are single female households.

Once the Wyoming community is fully aware of challenges faced by Wyoming's women, EI will support and pursue policy decisions which benefit Wyoming communities.

Please contact EI if you are interested in working to educate the statewide community on the value of closing the wage gap to Wyoming's economy, family, and businesses.

Visit www.equalityinitiatives.org or contact Sarah Mikesell Growney, Equality Initiatives Program Director, 307.587.6146 or e-mail sarah@equalityinitiatives.org.

Nontraditional Career Day 2007 just around the corner

On Oct. 12th, Western Wyoming Community College is teaming up with The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues to present the 2007 Nontraditional Career Day. Girls in grades 9-12 from around Wyoming will be able to learn about career opportunities in science and natural resources; arts and communication; business and information technology; engineering, manufacturing and industrial technology; health and related services; as well as social and human services.

Girls will have the chance to meet with nontraditional business representatives and attend a special presentation by guest panelists on the opportunities women have in nontraditional careers. The day will include door prizes, give-aways and a free lunch. Among the highlights of the day will be keynote speaker, Kim deGroh, a NASA senior materials research engineer.

Women's Wellness at Wyoming Migrant Health serves uninsured women

Submitted by Cathy Florian
Wyoming Migrant Health Program

The Women's Wellness Program at Wyoming Migrant Health in Powell serves women who are uninsured and or low income, and migrant or seasonal farm workers.

The program began with funding from the Avon Foundation in 2005, and has also received funding from Wyoming Department of Health's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program since 2006.

The counties in the Big Horn Basin served by

the program are Big Horn, Park, Washakie, and Fremont.

A yearly wellness exam is an important part of a woman's "prescription" for good health and a mammogram is a vital part of early breast cancer detection. These services include a clinical breast exam, pelvic exam and a pap smear, which should be a part of every woman's preventive healthcare. Many women neglect these important steps due to the financial inability to pay for these life saving services.

In addition to these services, the program

The Nontraditional Career Day is a result of the Wage Disparity study funded by the Wyoming State Legislature several years ago. One area identified by that study not being formally addressed statewide was the need to inform and educate young women about nontraditional careers in hopes that they would be more likely to study those career fields and seek employment.

The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues Education Committee is working to help young women see that they can truly, "learn to earn and live in Wyoming." There are high paying jobs in Wyoming for women unfortunately these careers are not normally the ones readily chosen by women.

For more information or to register for this event please visit the Web site at www.wycc.wy.edu/careerday.

also provides women's health education, case management and referral for further care as needed.

The staff at Women's Wellness also works with existing programs in the area to help the client further in meeting her annual wellness exams.

For more information contact: Women's Wellness at Wyoming Migrant Health at 146 S. Absaroka Street, Powell, WY 82435; 307.754.5252 or Toll Free 877.754.5252; e-mail mhprogram@qwest.net or visit the Web site at www.wyhc.org.

Chair's column: Summer Update - WCWI updates its key message

Last year, in the summer newsletter, I summarized the results of the Council's facilitated planning effort. At that time, the Council had developed a mission statement, a vision statement, goals, and objectives. The entire effort was aimed at focusing the Council's energies in order to be more efficient with our time and money while more effectively serving people in Wyoming.

Council members have done an excellent job of pursuing each goal, with its accompanying objectives. Each Council Committee has one major event each year that is the focus of committee work. These events have been successful and have flourished as a result of improving our focus.

The Council as a whole has continued the planning and organizational effort begun in earnest one year ago. One of these efforts has been improving communication.

The Council has been working on a Communications Plan, which has resulted in an overall key message for the Council, as well as key messages for each of the committees. The Council's key message is:

Women Focus - Wyoming Benefits

This message speaks to the many aspects of what the Council does. We are women focusing on issues within the state for the benefit of the state of Wyoming. We are people, focusing on women's issues, for the benefit of the women in Wyoming. And when we focus on getting something done, all of Wyoming benefits. Benefits to the women in Wyoming accrue to families, communities, and the state.

Wyoming lags behind most other states in the proportion of women with health insurance and the average wage women are

paid compared to men. Lack of adequate child care continues to be a top issue for women in Wyoming and directly affects whether or not women can choose to work outside the home and what types of jobs they can take. This affects their access to health insurance. Half of Wyoming's population is female. It is no wonder that helping women achieve equal status will bring stability and benefits to families, communities and the state. It is a wonder that such a large proportion of our population continues to suffer these inequities.

Women Focus - Wyoming Benefits; we hope that it reminds you and others of the importance of continuing pursuit of equal status and opportunities for women.

-Teresa de Groh, WCWI Chair