

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

PRESORTED  
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US POSTAGE  
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CHEYENNE, WY  
PERMIT NO. 7

## NATIONAL

### Cellular Phones for Battered

**Women** (*Information originally published in the Wyoming Tribune Eagle*)

Upgrading your cellular phone and not sure what to do with the old one? Why not donate it to a national organization that helps battered women.

#### HOW TO DONATE:

Place the phone, battery and charger (if you still have it) in the mail and send to:  
CALL to PROTECT, c/o Motorola  
1580 E. Ellsworth Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Or drop your old phones at the Cellular One store in Cheyenne on Dell Range Blvd. next to King Sooper's.

Since CALL to PROTECT is a national organization, you cannot specify which community receives your phone. Keep in mind that even a cellphone that no longer works can possibly be refurbished for use.

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

CALL to PROTECT cellphones are pre-programmed to only dial 911 and a non-emergency number such as the local domestic violence shelter.

#### IS THERE A TAX BENEFIT?

- 4 - If you include a written request

with your name and address along with the phone, you will receive a tax receipt. The Wireless Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. You can determine the value of the phone.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Go to the CALL to PROTECT web site at [www.donateaphone.com](http://www.donateaphone.com) or call 888.901.SAFE for more information.

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### Wal-Mart Workers "Pay" for Cheap Prices

(*condensed from the Feminist Daily News Wire, December 9, 2002*)

The Feminist Majority Foundation joined the National Organization for Women (NOW), the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) and other progressive organizations in a Wal-Mart National Day of Action last month, protesting the retail giant's egregious employee policies.

Wal-Mart, the largest company in the US and the biggest retailer worldwide, has credited its tremendous growth in part to cheap product prices that have redefined affordability for American consumers. Ironically, the company's popularity and economic success have come at the expense of many among its million-plus employees who handle its 3,300 stores.

In early September, a US District judge in Atlanta awarded class-action status to a lawsuit charging Wal-Mart with gender discrimination by refusing to cover prescription contraceptives in its employee health plan. Filed by Wal-Mart service manager Lisa Smith Mauldin, the lawsuit sought declaration that the retailer's health plan is illegal. Roughly 400,000 women out of 1 million employees can join the lawsuit.

Women comprise 72 percent of Wal-Mart employees but account for only a third of its managers, according to a study by economist Marc Bendick. The same study noted that competing retailers staffed women in half of their managing positions. In *Dukes v. Wal-Mart*, seven California women, who at some point worked for Wal-Mart, are suing the company for employee gender discrimination. Betty Dukes, who was refused training and employment in "male" departments argued, "I can mix a can of paint. I want the chance to do it," reported the Nation.

Four in ten women shop at Wal-Mart weekly. UFCW international vice president Susan Phillips urged, "As women, we have tremendous power. WE control both sides of the cash register. We are the cashiers on one side and we are the customers on the other side. [W]e can change the economic future of women in America," according to the Nation.



## HEALTH

### Wyoming Races for the Cure

Since 1996, over 4,500 breast cancer survivors, family members, friends and Race enthusiasts have gathered in Cheyenne one morning in August to join in the fight against breast cancer. Together, they have raised over \$430,000.00. Of the money raised in Wyoming, 75% of net proceeds stays in Wyoming to fund local programs that provide early detection, mammography, screening, education and community outreach.

The remaining 25% of net proceeds goes to the Komen International Grant Program to help fund research. For more information on the Susan B. Komen Foundation's Race for the Cure, go to: [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org) or [www.raceforthecure.org](http://www.raceforthecure.org).

The 2003 Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure will be held on Saturday, August 16, 2003. The 2002 Race had 2,975 participants - their largest event to date. The 2002 Race net proceeds were over \$228,000.

This year, even if you're not a runner or walker, there are so many ways YOU can be one in a million & help eradicate breast cancer.

For more information, call 800.204.1332 or visit [www.wyrftc.org](http://www.wyrftc.org).

### Public Awareness Campaign

The WCWI is supporting an initiative being organized by the Wyoming Department of Health, Substance Abuse Division. The Substance Abuse Division will be implementing a coordinated statewide and community based public awareness campaign targeting women of child bearing age to address the harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco use.

For more information, please contact Safa Suleiman at 307.777.5480 or email at [ssuleima@aol.com](mailto:ssuleima@aol.com).

### Attention to Eating Disorders

Treatment for eating disorders is almost non-existent in Wyoming. People in Wyoming who are in need of such services must go to neighboring states such as Montana or Colorado to receive any help for their problem. The WCWI learned about this gap in the healthcare system in Wyoming at the the 3rd Annual Wyoming Women's Conference held in September 2002 in Casper.

The WCWI recognizes the need to raise the awareness around this issue and work with state and local health departments and public/private health organizations to move toward more comprehensive programming that incorporates eating disorders treatment.

The WCWI also understands that prevention and healthy eating habits are also critical in the early years of a child's development; therefore, school systems must be cognizant of the issues and ensure that school nurses are properly trained to recognize the signs of an eating disorder should a case arise.

### Health Committee Report

Virginia Romero-Caron, Chair

The WCWI continues to support Wellness in Wyoming (WIN). The coalition educates people to value health,

respect body sizes, enjoy the benefits of self-acceptance, engage in physically active living and enjoy healthy eating.

Shaping a Healthy Future II: A Rocky Mountain Conference on Weight Realities will be held in Jackson, WY on April 30 - May 2, 2003. For more information call toll free 1.877.733.3618, ext.2 or visit: <http://outreach.uwyo.edu/conferences/healthyfutures>

The WCWI will also sponsor a team for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in August.

### Women's Business Roundtables

#### WYOMING WOMEN

Sponsored by the Small Business Administration, local banks and the Wyoming Women's Business Center, Women's Business Roundtables provide monthly opportunities for women throughout Wyoming to network, share business expertise, and identify small business resources in their community. During lunch, generally provided at no charge by a local bank, guest speakers present topics of interest to businesswomen and existing and aspiring entrepreneurs. All Roundtables are held 11:45am - 1:15pm.

*Casper* - First Interstate Bank; 1st Wed, Ctc: Amy Lea 307.235.4210

*Cheyenne* - Wells Fargo Bank; 3rd Tues, Ctc: Regina Dodson, 307.632.3325

*Jackson* - Community First National Bank; Ctc: Amy Lea 307.235.4210

*Laramie* - First Interstate Bank; 3rd Tues; Ctc: Andrea Lewis 307.766.3985

*Sheridan* - First Interstate Bank; 2nd Tues, Ctc: Amy Lea 307.235.4210

### Inside This Issue

Health.....	1
Wyoming Women.....	1
Chair's Column.....	2
Legislative.....	2
Education/Employment.....	2
Community.....	3
National.....	4

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

### A New Year

2003 has arrived and winter along with it. With a turn of the calendar page I am reminded how quickly time seems to pass the older I get.

Each year I make New Year's resolutions. This year, I began thinking about the resolutions I would make for the Council if I had to.

My resolutions would include informing the residents of Wyoming about the number of women and children who live in poverty right here in Wyoming. I would also spread the word that many of these women and children are living in substandard housing. As the economy struggles to recover, those living below the poverty line are the hardest hit.

As I have gotten older I realize that resolutions are just lofty goals usually quickly forgotten without a plan of action. Each and everyone of us can affect change when we contact our legislators and senators at the state level as well as the national level.

Plan today to contact your representatives on at least one issue mentioned in this newsletter this session that will affect the women and children of Wyoming. If each of us contacts our representatives on just one issue before them this session we can affect change!

Michelle Aldrich, Chair

### WCWI Members

Michelle Aldrich (Judicial District 2)  
Marty Coe (Judicial District 5)  
Teresa de Groh (At-large)  
Mary England (At-large)  
Sherrill Helzer (Judicial District 8)  
DaNece Koenigs (Judicial District 6)  
Dr. Margaret Pilch (Judicial District 4)  
Merna Rierson (Judicial District 7)  
Nina Romero-Caron (At-large)  
Safa Suleiman (Judicial District 1)  
Jan Torres (Judicial District 3)

Wyoming Business Council Liaison:  
Diane Moser

[www.wyomingbusiness.org/women](http://www.wyomingbusiness.org/women)  
WCWI13@state.wy.us  
307.777.2800

## LEGISLATIVE

### Women in the Wyoming Legislature

*(Information from KGWN.tv and other sources)*

The number of women elected to the legislature increased by two, but Wyoming continues to be among the states with the fewest female legislators.

Two additional women will join the House, increasing the number of female lawmakers in the lower chamber to 11 out of 60 or from 15% to 18%. There was no change in the male/female ratio in the Senate and five of the 30, or 17%, of senators are women. Recently, however, April Brimmer Kunz was made president of the Wyoming State Senate, making her the first woman to be selected for that position.

There were 12 states with the same or lower percentages of female legislators before last year's election.

### Monitoring Legislation in 2003

The 2003 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature will convene on January 14, 2003. Several House and Senate bills have been filed and will be introduced during the session. The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues monitors bills that have an impact on women, children and families in Wyoming.

Some of the proposed bills that will be followed include:

#### *Health Care Commission*

AN ACT relating to health care; establishing a health care commission within the governor's office; providing for membership; authorizing an advisory board as specified; specifying duties; requiring the commission to submit its recommendations to the legislature as specified; authorizing the commission to hire a director and staff; providing an appropriation; providing for the termination of the commission, board and staff positions as specified; and providing for an effective date. Go to: [legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/titles/hb0046.htm](http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/titles/hb0046.htm)

#### *Nursing Education*

AN ACT relating to nursing education programs; establishing a Wyoming investment in nursing programs as specified; specifying eligibility criteria; providing pro-

cedures for application, administration and repayment of loans under the Wyoming investment in nursing program as specified; providing for appeals; requiring the Wyoming Community College Commission to coordinate the development and implementation of nurse education programs as specified; requiring the commission to coordinate internet or similar proprietary or common carrier electronic system courses to meet prerequisites for entry into nursing programs as specified; specifying conditions under which the Wyoming Community College Commission and the University of Wyoming shall fund additional teaching positions in nursing education programs; providing for a sunset date; providing appropriations; and providing for an effective date. Go to: [legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/titles/sf0022.htm](http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/titles/sf0022.htm)

*Regan's Safe Haven for Abandoned Newborns*  
AN ACT relating to children; providing a safe haven for a newborn child; providing for the termination of parental rights; authorizing rulemaking; requiring reports; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date. Go to: [legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/titles/hb0056.htm](http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/titles/hb0056.htm)

*Public Assistance POWER payments*  
AN ACT relating to public assistance and social services; amending amounts of monthly POWER payments to recipients as specified; and providing for an effective date. Go to: [legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/titles/hb0051.htm](http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/titles/hb0051.htm)

*Child Support Abatements*  
AN ACT relating to child support; increasing filing fees for claims for abatement of child support; providing for an objection and approval process for abatement claims; requiring abatements to first be applied toward any arrearages; clarifying requirements for abatements; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date. Go to: [legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/titles/hb0047.htm](http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/titles/hb0047.htm)

For more information on pending bills, visit: [legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/billsInfo.htm](http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2003/billsInfo.htm)

### Wyoming Legislative Process

Find out how it works at: [http://legisweb.state.wy.us/leginfo/legprocess\\_files/frame.htm](http://legisweb.state.wy.us/leginfo/legprocess_files/frame.htm)

**What is the Tech Prep Consortium?**

The Tech Prep Consortium is an initiative supported by the WCWI. The Consortium supports:

- (1) work-based learning for at-risk construction technology students;
- (2) integration of technology with math and science curricula at a MST Center; and
- (3) joint in-service training for classroom educators, including pre-service and in-service training for vocational, technical, academic, guidance and administrative personnel.

The Consortium actively encourages girls and women to enter the construction and trades vocations. High school and college counselors work to encourage females to enter non-traditional fields. Due to past efforts, 30% of all people completing the training at the Wyoming Contractors Association are now female. The Consortium was instrumental in having someone at the Women's Correctional Facility in Lusk trained to give the basic core curriculum to women in the facility who are interested in pursuing a construction career. This project will improve academic, career and technical completion, placement and retention of students by strengthening work-based learning programs.

Partners include Casper College, Habitat for Humanity, the WY Contractors Association, Natrona County H.S., Kelly Walsh H.S., Midwest H.S., Roosevelt H.S., St. Stephens Indian High School, Converse County H.S., Glenrock H.S., Campbell County School, the University of WY Casper Center, the WY Homebuilders Association, the Fremont County B.O.C.E.S. with 6 high schools represented, the WCWI, the Casper Employment Center, Casper Area Workforce investment Board, and the Wyoming Construction Careers Foundation.

The WCWI members are actively encouraging all high schools within the state to become members of the Wyoming Tech Prep Consortium. For more information, contact Merna Rierson at: [rierson2@attbi.com](mailto:rierson2@attbi.com).

**Woman of Distinction Awards**

The Woman of Distinction award is given each year to women who have had a significant impact on women and families in society today.

In 2002, the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues (WCWI) presented Denice Wheeler of Evanston the 2002 Woman of Distinction award during an awards ceremony, Friday, Aug. 16 at Little America in Cheyenne.

Wheeler is a former chair of the Wyoming Commission for Women and was a representative from Uinta County for 12 years. She is an author who won a national award with her book "The Feminine Frontier...Wyoming Women 1850-1900." She now presents workshops for conventions and organizations through the University of Wyoming.

Wheeler was also the first woman appointed by President Clinton as the Federal Chair of the Bear River Tri-State Water Commission.

"Denice is an excellent example of the women in Wyoming who give tirelessly to their communities and families," said WCWI Chair Michelle Aldrich. "We are honoring just one of many unsung women in Wyoming."

Nomination forms for the 2003 Women of Distinction Award is included in this newsletter or available at: [www.wyomingbusiness.org/women](http://www.wyomingbusiness.org/women)

**Home and Community Committee Report**

Merna Rierson, Chair

The Home and Community Committee is promoting an awareness of March as Women's History month. Activities to be observed statewide include programs about women on both public radio and public television. The exact line-up is still being discussed.

We also hope to organize future activities with the libraries throughout the state.

**Students Prepare for V-Day**

Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) is sponsoring *The Vagina Monologues* as part of playwright Eve Ensler's national College Campaign for the global V-Day project designed to raise money for domestic violence programs. The theme of the 2003 campaign is "Until the Violence Stops".

This is the first year WWCC is participating in the campaign which has already raised over \$2 million over the past four years. The University of Wyoming will also be staging a production of the thought-provoking play.

Each school must pledge a certain dollar amount to be accepted as a host for the play and campaign. Additional requirements for participating in the program are that students from the school are the actors and are involved in production, advertising and allied fund raising. Funds have to be given to a local program actively working to prevent violence against women. Hay Library is the primary sponsor at WWCC.

Other requirements for participating is that plays must take place on campus and be performed between 1/31 and 3/9/03. Tickets have to be sold, and the script must be presented as written; the title cannot be changed. The WWCC production will be held February 21.

For more information on V-Day, go to: [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org)

**National Women's Organizations**

Nat'l Organization for Women (NOW) - [www.now.org](http://www.now.org)

Nat'l Women's Political Caucus - [www.nwpc.org](http://www.nwpc.org)

Fund for a Feminist Majority - [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org)

Third Wave - [www.thirdwavefoundation.org](http://www.thirdwavefoundation.org)

National Association of Working Women - [www.9to5.org](http://www.9to5.org)