

Wyoming Council for Women's Issues
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WCWI
WYOMING COUNCIL
FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES

WCWI NEWS

WINTER 2005

National Women's Council funds three new projects

From National Women's Business Council Newsletter "Engage" November/December 2004

The National Women's Business Council will be undertaking three new projects in 2005, focused on access to federal markets, barriers to business growth, and the impact of support for women's enterprise development. In each case, the Council has contracted with a woman-owned enterprise to assist in these efforts.

In addition to its projects for 2005, the NWBC released its newly redesigned Web site, which includes its new logo, tagline, an enhanced navigational tools. The new Web site, which can be found at the same URL www.nwbc.gov, includes all of the information from the old site plus expanded information.

The Online Women's Business Center is also online at www.onlinewbc.gov.

WCWI MEMBERS

Michelle Aldrich - Judicial District 1
Cynthia Chavez Kelly - Judicial District 2
Jan Torres - Judicial District 3
DaNece Day - Judicial District 6
Merna Rierson - Judicial District 7
Sherrill Helzer - Judicial District 8
Teresa de Groh - Judicial District 9
Jenny Ingram - At-large
Nina Romero-Caron - At-large
Mary England - At-large
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To be added to the WCWI mailing list, submit your mailing address to info@wyomingbusiness.org or call 307-777-2800

WCWI News is a quarterly print publication focused on news and information of value to women in Wyoming.

"Girl Power" comes to Wyoming

A grant from the Wyoming Women's Foundation will be used by the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues (WCWI) to bring a "Girl Power: Raising Healthy Girls" workshop to two locations in the state.

The workshop will be from 8:00 a.m. to noon on April 28 at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs and on April 29 at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne. The two locations give women from different sides of the state an opportunity to attend the workshop.

The workshop, authored by Lisa Sjostrom, a researcher for Harvard Medical School, is designed to educate those working with young girls on how to help increase self image. It is a dynamic workshop for school counselors, teachers, dieticians, nurses, mental health specialists and community agencies working with young girls.

Specifically, the workshop focuses on reducing the risk for disordered eating by increasing self-esteem, promoting body acceptance, providing leadership opportunities, and teaching a range of coping strategies to resist the cultural emphasis on unhealthy eating and dieting behaviors. Each participant will receive a copy of the curriculum focusing on self-esteem, promoting body acceptance, providing lead-

Accomplished program designer will share expertise on raising healthy girls

Lisa Sjostrom, Ed.M, Research Associate Harvard Medical School, is an accomplished writer, teacher, trainer and program



Sjostrom Lisa has worked with kids for two decades in K-12 classrooms and at Harvard University and Wellesley



ership opportunities emphasizing overall mental and physical well-being.

"Establishing positive self-image in young Wyoming girls is an important objective for the WCWI," said Michelle Aldrich, chair of the WCWI. "U.S. statistics show that 80 percent of girls in the fourth grade are dieting, which means that we must reach them as early as possible to help them."

Registration forms are available on the WCWI Web site. Completed forms and the registration fee of \$25 is due by April 1. If you would like more information, please E-mail: wcwi13@state.wy.us or visit www.wyomingbusiness.org/women.

College. Her areas of expertise include character education, risk and resiliency, bullying prevention, eating disorders prevention and gender equity. Lisa currently runs her own company called Helping Kids Thrive. Contact Sjostrom's company at lisa@helpingkidsthive.org.

Sjostrom's program is designed to give participants tools to implement a model prevention program for girls, emphasizing overall mental and physical well-being. Her "Girl Power: Raising Healthy Girls" workshop will be in Wyoming on April 28 in Rock Springs and April 29 in Cheyenne.

Nominations open for "family-friendly" Summit Award

The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues (WCWI) is accepting nominations for the Wyoming Summit Award until May 1, 2005.

At the Wyoming Business Alliance's forum, the WCWI partnered with the Wyoming Business Alliance, Wyoming Department of Family Services, Wyoming Business Council and Wyoming Department of Workforce Services to announce its annual Summit Award. The Summit Award will recognize those businesses which implement and practice "family-friendly work practices." The nominations will be reviewed by committee representatives and a Summit Award



winner will be selected. A winning business will be selected for this award annually. The award will recognize businesses that have successfully instituted programs or policies that broaden, strengthen and support their workforce.

"We believe that there are many businesses in Wyoming that are currently using creative and innovative ways to improve their workplace for employees and employees' families," said Michelle Aldrich, WCWI chairperson. "Our intent is to recognize those who have made employment conditions better in one or more of these areas."

To request a nomination form and specific guidelines call Michelle Aldrich at 307-760-6213 or access the information at www.wyomingbusiness.org/women. Honorees will be recognized at a special ceremony later in the year.

Wyoming Woman of Distinction nomination forms available

The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues (WCWI) is accepting nominations for its Wyoming Woman of Distinction award for 2005 until March 31, 2005. This is a "once in a lifetime" award for a Wyoming woman!

The nominee should have had impact on women and/or families in any or all of the following ways:

- in the educational or employment sector
- in community outreach
- in health and wellness concerns
- in legal issues

Any person or group may submit a nomination by sending a completed nomination form to the WCWI office. Forms are available from the WCWI Web site at www.wyomingbusiness.org/women or from any WCWI member. Honorees will be honored at a special ceremony in late summer or early fall. The nominee chosen will be asked to supply a photograph.



WCWI
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CHAIR'S COLUMN

After a whirlwind fall of election activities and the kick off of the new Wyoming Summit Award at the Wyoming Business Alliance Forum, we are preparing for a busy spring. The Wyoming Legislature is in town and there have been numerous bills filed for consideration. We are very fortunate in Wyoming to have a budget surplus, which is the envy of our neighboring states. Good stewardship and long-term planning will hopefully provide resources for our state residents for years to come.

Spring is always the time that the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues begins to think of our annual awards. We are currently seeking nominations for the Wyoming Woman of Distinction of 2005. We are also seeking nominations for the new Wyoming Summit Award, which will recognize Wyoming businesses that are practicing family friendly practices. We commonly think about family leave, on site childcare and flexible scheduling when we talk about family friendly practices. We hope to hear from single employees or businesses that provide family-friendly practices for single people. In addition, we hope to hear from single employees who may be struggling to care for aging parents or siblings with chronic illnesses.

After months of hard work by the Wyoming Business Council public relations department, our Wyoming Business Council liaison and the contractor, we have a new Web site that we hope will be more user friendly. The site will soon be published online, stay tuned for more details. We would love to hear from you and what you think about our any of our activities or projects.

Another big first for us is the Girl Power workshop that will be held in Rock Springs and Cheyenne this spring. We hope that anyone and everyone who works with pre-teens and teen girls will attend and catch the vision for helping to build self-esteem in our young women. Our Council members in Sweetwater county, Jan Torres and Nina Romero-Caron have worked very hard to bring this quality program to Wyoming.

As you can imagine, there is no shortage of committees, projects, or issues facing the women and children of Wyoming! Let us know how you might like to get involved!

Michelle D. Aldrich

Michelle Aldrich, MS
E-mail: Teachwyo@yahoo.com

America's Health: State Health Rankings 2004

By WIN Wyoming & WIN the Rockies

The *United Health Foundation*, in partnership with the *American Public Health Association* and the *Partnership for Prevention*, recently released state health rankings for 2004. The report in its entirety can be viewed at www.unitedhealthfoundation.org. Below are descriptions of risk factors and outcomes:

Infectious disease - number of AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis cases reported to CDC per 100,000 population.

Cardiovascular deaths - number of deaths due to all cardiovascular diseases, including heart disease and stroke, per 100,000 population.

Prevalence of obesity - percent of population estimated to have a body mass index (BMI) of 30.0 or higher.

Limited activity days - number of days in the previous 30 days a person indicated limited activities due to physical or mental difficulties.

Occupational fatalities - number of fatalities from occupational injuries per 100,000 workers.

Report highlights:

- The report begins with the World Health Organization's definition of health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Healthy outcome goals should include "a long, disease-free and robust life for all individuals regardless of race, sex, or socio-economic status." When it comes to years of potential life lost before age 75, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and Caucasians are below the national average, but African Americans and Native Americans are above the national average. Men on average have a life expectancy of six years less than women. Rates of heart disease, cancer and diabetes are higher in rural areas.
- The introduction of the report states that "individual genetic predisposition to disease" are impacted by the interactions of three areas: 1) personal behaviors, 2) the environment of the community in which people live, and 3) the policies

and practices of health care and prevention systems. It attempts to report on markers from all three areas.

- Wyoming ranked 28th out of the 50 states for a composite score. Of the 18 areas appraised, Wyoming ranked worse than the national average in ten areas, and better than the national average in eight areas. Wyoming ranked in the best ten states in four areas: cases of infectious disease (8th), cardiovascular deaths (9th), prevalence of obesity (10th) and limited activity days (10th).
- Wyoming's worst ranking (46th) came in occupational fatalities. Wyoming tied for the 46th and worst position with four other states (Mississippi, South Dakota, Montana and Alaska). Only Alaska had more deaths per 100,000 workers (15.3 compared to Wyoming's 13.4). Wyoming reported an increase in infant mortality rate from 6.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003 to 7.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2004. The state's ranking for infant mortality rate was 15th in 2003 and dropped to 34th in 2004.
- Prevalence of smoking in the Wyoming population over age 18 increased from 23.7 percent in 2003 to 24.6 percent in 2004. The 2004 rate was still significantly below the 1990 rate of 31.7 percent. The national percentage of adult smokers was 22 percent in 2004, compared to 30 percent in 1990.
- The report is a "call to action for people and their communities." In the foreword for the report, the three leaders of the organizations sponsoring the study stated the report convinced them more than ever of the importance of 1) individuals making responsible choices (not smoking, eating properly, exercising regularly), and 2) community leaders and public officials implementing health policies and programs that "result in environments conducive to optimal health promotion and disease prevention." Source: United Health Foundation, American Public Health Association, and Partnership for Prevention.

America's Health: State Health Rankings 2004 Edition, ©2004 United Health Foundation, Nov. 2004. Compiled by Betty Holmes, MS, RD, Senior University Extension Educator, University of Wyoming; bholmes@uwyo.edu

WCH presents Ordinary Lives: Memoirs of American Women

The Wyoming Council for the Humanities provides an opportunity for community members to read works of literature and to discuss a host of humanities issues through its Book Discussion Program. Each series consists of six books examining a specific theme relating to the humanities and local sponsor organizes a group of 10-20 readers, who meet to discuss the novels. WCH provides the books and pays honoraria and travel expenses for a humanities scholar to attend each discussion session. The Council also gives background information on the author and the work and helps raise questions in the discussion. Visit www.uwyo.edu/wch or contact the host groups:

- In Cheyenne, Laramie County Library, contact Troy Rumpf at 307-634-1032, x 123
- In Jackson, Jackson Hole Historical Society, contact Mary Gores at 307-733-9605
- In Pine Bluffs, Pine Bluffs Branch Library, contact Mary Cushing at 307-245-3646
- In Sundance, Crook County Library, contact Jill Mackey at 307-283-1006
- In Upton, Upton Branch Library, contact Renee Hossack at 307-468-2324

UPCOMING EVENTS

March is National Women's History Month!

Visit www.nwhp.org for more details!

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Wyoming Women's Business Center Roundtable in Jackson at Community First National Bank, 160 West Pearl Street, in the downstairs board room from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Discussion on "Your Responsibilities as an Employer." RSVPs are not required. Lunch and seating will be on a first-come first-served basis. Visit www.wyomingwomen.org.

Thursday, March 10, 2005

The Guerrilla Girls will appear at the University of Wyoming in Laramie at 7 p.m. in the Union Ballroom West. Guerrilla Girls are anonymous females who take the names of dead women artists as pseudonyms and appear in public wearing gorilla masks. In 20 years they have produced over 100 posters, stickers, books, printed projects, and actions that expose sexism and racism in politics, the art world, film and the culture at large, using humor to convey information, provoke discussion, and show that feminists can be funny. Sponsored by UW Women's Studies Program.

Thursday, March 31, 2005

2005 Woman of Distinction Award Nominations due. Visit the Web site at www.wyomingbusiness.org/women for more details.

Thursday, April 28, 2005

"GirlPower: Raising Healthy Girls" workshop from 8 a.m. to noon at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs. For more information, visit www.wyomingbusiness.org/women.

Friday, April 29, 2005

"Girl Power: Raising Healthy Girls" workshop from 8 a.m. to noon at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne. For more information, visit www.wyomingbusiness.org/women.

Sunday, May 1, 2005

2005 Summit Award Nominations due. Visit www.wyomingbusiness.org/women for more details.

Legislative Committee Update 2005

By Teresa de Groh

Welcome to the 2005 legislative session. Almost 400 bills have been introduced so far into the House and the Senate. We have looked over House bills 1 through 185 and Senate Files 1 through 102, as well as Joint Resolutions 1 through 5. Below, we have listed bills that may have particular interest to you.

The bills listed below are grouped into educational opportunities, employment practices, home & community, and legal rights & responsibilities. A grouping is also provided for bills that may be of interest to women and families involved in military services. Only the bill number and its title are given due to space considerations. You can view the complete bill language on the legislative Web site: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>. You can also access the Wyoming State Statutes on-line, which allows you to compare the bill proposal with the current law.

If you do not have Internet access, you can request paper copies of bills by calling the Legislative Services Office at 307-777-7881. A minimal fee is charged for copies. If you would like to provide your legislator with comments on a bill, you can contact them directly or call the Senate receptionist at 307-777-7711 and the House receptionist at 307-777-7852. If you simply want to encourage your legislator to vote a certain way on a bill (yes/no) you can send a message via the voter hotline: 1-866-996-VOTE (8683).

Education Opportunities

HB0085 Teacher shortage loan repayment program
HB0135 Nursing loan and grant program-amendments
HB0175 TANF increase
HB0134 Student loan repayment program
HB0050 Public schools-high school diploma endorsements
SF0046 Public school teacher incentive appropriations
SF0099 Nursing loan program-amendments
SF0102 Student grant assistance program

Employment Practices

HB0068 Minimum wage rate-tipped employees
HB0132 Barber licensing
SF0010 Firefighters-employment and appointments
SF0053 Wyoming Cosmetology Act
SF0093 Nursing practice act amendments
SF0068 Unfair employment practices-complaint deadline
SF0080 Unemployment compensation amendments
SF0082 Workers' compensation amendments

Home and Community

Health Care
HB0101 Long term care ombudsman amendments
SF0023 Health care education
SF0049 Department of health service providers
SF0065 Alzheimer's study

Family

HB0099 Marriage ceremonies
HB0184 Defense of Marriage Act
SF0100 Welfare benefits-eligibility

Taxes

HB0160 Sales tax on food exemption-sales tax increase
HB0007 Sales/use tax-removal of 4th cent
HB0014 Streamlined sales tax
HB0050 Homeowner's tax credit-county option

Community Development

HB0005 Severance tax distribution
HB0105 Community enhancement grants
HB0127 Local option revenue-cities
SF0047 School finance-amendments
SF0071 Wyoming community facilities program

Neighborhoods

HB0087 Sex offender registry
HB0094 Environmental health study

Legal Rights and Responsibilities

Children & Families
HB0054 Grandparents visitation rights
HB0060 Minor victims-release of names
HB0066 Illegal open house parties for minors
HB0076 Central registry of child protection cases
HB0120 Children in Need of Supervision Act-sunset
HB0122 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act
HB0159 Child caregivers-right to authorize care
SF0050 Soliciting minors
SF0026 Child exploitation-administrative subpoenas
SF0038 Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act
SF0039 Child protection amendments
SF0055 Child restraint-amendments
SF0059 Child support amendments
SF0090 Court ordered placements of juveniles-federal funds

Health Care

HB0074 Nontraditional medicine
SF0084 Medicaid buy-in eligibility

Insurance

HB0078 Motor vehicle insurance requirements

Victims of Crime

HB0022 Sexual assault examinations
HB0086 Victim notification by board of parole
HB0092 Rape shield law-immoral or indecent acts
HB0103 Victim impact statements
HB0168 Protective orders-duration

Military Services - All Subjects

HB0009 Uniformed servicemember's reemployment
HB0015 National guard education assistance
HB0044 National guard educational assistance trust fund
HB0046 Veterans' tuition waiver
HB0067 Life insurance-military exclusion
HB0073 Military service-motor vehicle registration
HB0084 Veterans' property tax exemption
SF0048 Veteran's surviving spouse

Children & families included in 04 Legislative Session

The 2004 Legislative Session included an initiative to improve the lives of Wyoming's children and families. The Wyoming Department of Family Services received \$200,000 from general funds to study identified needs and organize shareholders.

The DFS was authorized to collaborate with various agencies and shareholders to examine the use of public and private resources meeting the needs of children and families; recommend services for prenatal and early childhood intervention; review the judicial system and make recommendations for reforms that may enable courts to better meet the needs of children and families; examine how schools, community organizations, state agencies and the judicial system can work more closely together to enhance a sharing of resources and information to meet the needs of parents, children and schools; and other factors interfering with the success of children and families.