



Wyoming Council for Women's Issues
 c/o Wyoming Business Council
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 Cheyenne, WY 82002

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WCWI congratulates 2006 Woman of Distinction Award nominees

The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues is pleased to announce the nominees for the Woman of Distinction Award. This "once-in-a-lifetime" award recognizes a woman who has had significant positive impacts on women and families.

Council members have enjoyed learning about the accomplishments of each nominee and will announce the winner in early fall. A luncheon recognizing all of the nominees will follow in October.

Nominations are due to the Council each year by March 31. If there

is a woman in your community who deserves recognition for her achievements, we encourage you to nominate her. More information is available at www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org.

Nominees include: Darlene Elliott, Sheridan; Ray Fleming Dineen, Cheyenne; Frances Harris, Casper; Faith Jones, Powell; Lindi Kirkbride, Meriden; Susan Knesel, Gillette; Diane Noton, Encampment; Dossie Overfield, Cody; Mary Randolph, Cheyenne; Ann Robinson, Casper; Elaine Roth, Gillette; Laura Schmid-Pizzato, Rock Springs; Frances Schultz, Sheridan; Rhonda Shipp, Cody; and Lynne Whalen, Casper.

Lusk Faces of Family Links Niobrara County Library and Wyoming Women's Center

The Wyoming Council for the Humanities and the Wyoming Department of Family Services will present the final series of Faces of Family this fall in Lusk.

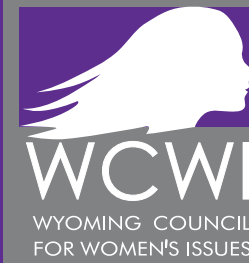
On September 11, September 25, October 9 and October 23, at 6 p.m., members of the general public at the Niobrara County Library and a group of inmates at the Wyo-

ming Women's Center will simultaneously watch a popular Hollywood film.

Audiences at the two sites will then be connected by audio hookup to share a conversation about what family means to them, and how communities view their responsibilities to families in need. The films in the series dramatize challenges facing many Wyoming

families, such as lack of health insurance, foster care and low income jobs. The program is free and open to the public and includes a meal beforehand.

Contact the Niobrara County Public Library for more information or visit the Wyoming Council for the Humanities web site at www.uwyo.edu/humanities.



WCWI News

Summer 2006 • www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org

Central WY College celebrates ETSS Graduates

CHEYENNE - Central Wyoming College (CWC) recently celebrated the accomplishments of 21 graduates from three wage disparity training programs the college developed in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Employment and Training for Self-Sufficiency program.

The Employment & Training for Self Sufficiency Program funds training opportunities for families who have at least one child and meet minimum income requirements. The training funds are geared to providing employment and training opportunities that help individuals develop skills to enter high-demand occupations that offer better wages. The program is designed to decrease gender wage disparity in Wyoming by providing females with training in non-traditional occupations. It is also intended to decrease the number of individuals who must work multiple jobs to survive.

Lynne McAuliffe, Director of Customized Training for CWC said, "These 21 women participated and completed training in programs as diverse as Construction Trades, Information Technology Systems



Photo by Wyoming Department of Workforce Services

Jeff White, Employment and Training for Self Sufficiency Program Manager congratulates ETSS graduates.

Support and Information Technology Office Support."

Participants in the Construction Trades program engaged in an eight-week course designed to train women to work in the traditionally male-dominated construction industry, with long-term career opportunity wages in the \$10 to \$25 per hour range. Ann Lincoln, one of this year's graduates, said, "I am extremely enthusiastic about this new job. I have applied with the Bureau of Indian Affairs many times over the last few years. I feel that the Construction Trades program provided me

with the skills needed to be considered as an applicant."

The Information Technology Office Support program was a six-month long course designed to train women in the technology industry and the IT System Support program was an 18-month long course designed to train women in the areas of hardware maintenance, operating systems (including training in A+ and A++) and Cisco systems certification.

Cassandra Duran, a graduate of the Information Technology Office Support program, said, "This program has made the information technology horizon brighter for me."

Participants in all three training programs were selected by a cross-functional team consisting of a case manager, program administrator, employer liaison and lead instructors. Candidates for the programs were initially reviewed for income eligibility requirements based on the Federal Poverty Level income rates. They were then screened for aptitude, interest and basic skill levels in math required to be successful in the program training.

Non traditional job fair planned for Wyoming girls

The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues will host the first non traditional job fair for 9-12 grade girls throughout Wyoming on October 24 at Casper College. The conference is free to attend.

In 2003, the WCWI was involved in the Wage Disparity Study done for the Wyoming State Legislature. One of the suggested methods to help close the wage disparity between women in Wyoming and their male counterparts was to encourage women to seek higher paying jobs that are traditionally filled by men. An additional concern was that female students were shying away from careers in the area of math and sciences, which have traditionally resulted in higher paying jobs.

Students and teachers will have an opportunity to visit with community college representatives, Gear-Up coordinators, industry trade association and apprenticeship program representatives. Each attendee will be able to select 5 workshops from dozens of choices. The workshop will also offer a moderated panel discussion with lunch featuring women who are currently working in nontraditional jobs.

Make sure that the young women in your community are included. For more information on how you can participate please contact Dr. Michelle Aldrich at teachwo@yahoo.com or Jan Torres at jtorres@wwcc.cc.wy.us.



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
 Cynthia Chavez Kelly - Judicial District 2
 Jan Torres - Judicial District 3
 Maureen Neavill - Judicial District 4
 Kim Capron - Judicial District 5

Julie Simon - Judicial District 6
 Merna Rierson - Judicial District 7
 Sherrill Helzer - Judicial District 8
 Teresa de Groh - Judicial District 9
 Jenny Ingram - 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 12

Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure begins at 8 a.m. at the Capitol in Cheyenne. Visit www.komenwyoming.org.

August 15

WCH's "Women of Mystery" Series begins in Laramie. Visit www.uwyo.edu/humanities for more information.

August 22

Wyoming Primary Election. Get out and vote!

September 11

WCH's "Women of Mystery" Series begins in Wright. Visit www.uwyo.edu/humanities for more information.

September 11

WCH's Faces of Family Series at 6 p.m. at Niobrara County Public Library in Lusk.

September 15

WCH's Faces of Family Series at 6 p.m. at Niobrara County Public Library in Lusk.

October 9

WCH's Faces of Family Series at 6 p.m. at Niobrara County Public Library in Lusk.

October 20

Wyoming Woman of Distinction Award luncheon at the Petroleum Club in Casper.

October 20-21

WCWI meeting in Casper, location TBD.

October 23

WCH's Faces of Family Series at 6 p.m. at Niobrara County Public Library in Lusk.

October 24

WCWI will host the first nontraditional job fair for Wyoming 9-12 grade girls at Casper College.

November 7

Wyoming General Election. Get out and vote!

November 16-17

The Wyoming Summit Award winner announced at the Wyoming Business Alliance Outlook 2006 Forum at the Parkway Plaza in Casper.

Election Update: How to make a difference in future of Wyoming

The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues is encouraging everyone to make a difference and vote. The Primary Election is August 22. The General Election is November 7.

In order to register to vote, you must meet the following qualifications:

- 18 years of age on Election Day;
- US Citizen;
- Resident of Wyoming and the precinct in which you register;
- Withdraw voter registration from any other jurisdiction, if applicable;
- Not be a convicted felon or adjudicated mentally incompetent;
- Present a valid Wyoming Driver License if you have one and if not, provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

How do I register to vote? There are three ways to register to vote in Wyoming:

1. Register in person
 - Voters may register to vote in the office of the county clerk or town clerk within their county of residence.
 - Voters may also print out a form on line from the Wyoming Secretary of State's (SOS) web site (<http://soswy.state.wy.us/election/vote.htm>) and hand deliver the form to the county clerk in their county of residence. The form must be signed in front of the county clerk.
2. Register by mail
 - Voters who are not currently in

Update from Legal Rights & Responsibilities Committee

By Kim Capron

After several years and two previous printings, WCWI is in the process of updating and re-printing the Legal Rights of Women in Wyoming Handbook. With a new and improved format, and additional information we think the handbook will be more useful than ever for Wyoming's women. Watch for information on ordering the "new & improved" version in up-coming newsletters.

This legislative session WCWI will be utilizing both this newsletter and the WCWI web site (www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org) to provide updates on legislative activities that

Wyoming or who cannot go to the county clerk's office may register to vote by mail. A voter registration form and instructions can be obtained online at the Wyoming SOS web site.

3. Register at the polls on Election Day
 - Wyoming allows qualified voters to register at the polls on Election Day. Bring an acceptable form of ID to the polls (for example: driver license, passport). NOTE: Wyoming is exempt from the federal "Motor Voter" law and DOES NOT offer voter registration at the Driver License Division.

Do I need to re-register to vote every election? You do not need to re-register to vote in 2006 if you voted in the 2004 general election. You need to re-register if:

- You moved to a different county;
- You did not vote in the 2004 general election.

If you moved within the county to another precinct or changed your name, you must notify the county clerk.

Where do I go to vote? If you have questions about where to vote, contact your county clerk. A list of county clerks can be found online at the Wyoming SOS web site - <http://soswy.state.wy.us/election/vote.htm>.

For information on the election, visit <http://soswy.state.wy.us/election/election.htm>.

are important to Wyoming's women and families. We will also be developing "white" papers on legislative issues that we feel are of particular importance to women and families. The information will be passed directly to the governor's office to ensure that he is kept abreast of the issues WCWI feels most directly affect Wyoming families.

According to the US Census web site, women comprise 49.6 percent of Wyoming's population, but only 14 percent of Wyoming's state legislature. The best way to make sure your voice is heard by the people who influence Wyoming law is by VOTING!

Employment Practices Update: WCWI to announce Summit Award winner in November

By Pamela Downing

Nominations closed July 31, 2006 for the Wyoming Summit Award. This award will recognize a business that, in the last year, broadened its workforce by implementing programs and policies that enabled progress toward an equitable and diverse workforce from under-represented populations.

The winner will be announced at the Wyoming Business Alliance Outlook 2006 Forum in Casper. This forum is scheduled for November 16 - 17 at the Parkway Plaza. The WCWI, Wyoming Business Alliance, Wyoming Department of Family Services, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services and the Business Council sponsor this award.

Wyoming Council for the Humanities sponsors discussions on women mystery writers



LARAMIE - This fall, The Eppson Center for Seniors in Laramie and the Wright Branch Library in Wright will host "Women of Mystery," a new reading and discussion series in the Wyoming Council for the Humanities' Reading Wyoming Program.

"Women of Mystery" begins with a film about the three writers included in the series, Sue Grafton, Marcia

Muller and Sara Paretsky.

Participants will read and discuss "F is for Fugitive," "The Shape of Dread," and "Tunnel Vision" during the next three meetings. All of these books feature tough, smart, female private investigators solving crimes that involve social issues.

The programs are free and open to

people of all ages. Books are available for participants to borrow.

The program in Laramie starts August 15. Call 307-745-5116 for more information. The program in Wright starts September 11.

Call 307-464-0500 for more information on the Women of Mystery program.

Upcoming Conference: Girl Bullying! The Unknown Faces of Girls- Bullies, Victims & Bystanders!

CASPER - The Girl Scouts of Wyoming in partnership with the Ophelia Project will present the conference, Girl Bullying: the Unknown Faces of Girls- Bullies, Victims & Bystanders on November 17-18 at Casper College in Casper.

The conference will include workshops, guest presenters, discussions. Topics include Cyber-Bullying, Bullying's Brutal Facts, Girls in the Middle, Steps for Social Change, Creating Safe Environments,

What You Can Do and more. This conference is for educators, parents/guardians, counselors, health care professionals, youth activities leaders, legal professionals, childcare workers, coaches, community leaders and more.

Registration materials will be available August 15. For more information call 800-359-0227, e-mail antibullying@girlscoutswyoming.com, or visit the web site, www.girlscoutswyoming.com.

Chair's column: Defining the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues

The VISION of the WCWI is: to improve the quality and equality of life for women in Wyoming.

The MISSION of the WCWI is: to focus on the needs and concerns of women in Wyoming.

WCWI's areas of focus are established by state statute: educational opportunities, employment practices, home & community, and legal rights & responsibilities.

The WCWI had a facilitated planning session in April that developed our vision and mission. During the planning session, council members established goals and objectives for pursuing our vision. The planning session and work by council members afterward promoted develop-

ment of a more focused organization and work program. You will see results of this effort already in this newsletter.

The Educational Opportunities Committee is organizing a job fair to be held in October. The Home & Community Committee is gearing up to present the Wyoming Woman of Distinction award.

The Employment Practices Committee is working to promote the Summit Award; this is a new award now in its second year.

The Legal Rights and Responsibilities Committee is pushing to get women involved in the legislative process, either by voting or running for an elected office. See other articles in this newsletter for more details on committee activities.

The WCWI has committed itself to improving its communications with women in Wyoming. The WCWI plans to improve our use of the media and have a greater presence at conferences and conventions in the state in order to provide information about the needs and status of women in Wyoming.

I am very proud of the Council's members for the dedication they have shown to women's issues and the time and effort they have put forth in making this organization more effective in its mission and achieving its vision. All Council members are volunteers and are deserving of our heart-felt thanks.

-Teresa de Groh, WCWI Chair

