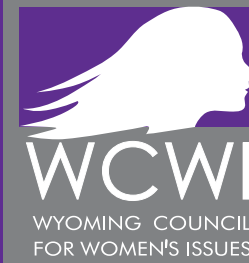




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WCWI News

Winter 2007 • www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org

Equality Initiatives launches new web site

Over the last year the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues has been involved with an exceptional group of community leaders in a process of establishing common ground around the true needs of and opportunities for supporting women and girls in our state.

Two "On Common Ground" gatherings have resulted in an exciting new initiative.

Equality Initiatives is a statewide awareness campaign designed to highlight not only the successes of women in Wyoming, but also the many difficult challenges facing the state's women and girls. It aims to heighten awareness of women's status in Wyoming communities and support the many agencies that work on this issue.

The newly launched Equality Initiatives web site explains that "Building better, healthier communities means that each member of that community is valued, both in thought and in action. But statistics in

Did you know that in the State of Wyoming:

- Women, on average, earn 30 percent less than men.
- Women-owned businesses rank in the bottom five nationally.
- 27 percent of all households are headed by a single female.
- Single mother families constitute 44.2 percent of all Wyoming families in poverty.
- Women are more likely to die from suicide than women in all but three other states.
- 21.9 percent of women between the ages of 18 and 64 are without health insurance.
- 18 out of 23 counties have been partially or completely designated as Health Professional Shortage areas.
- Only 14 of the 90 available legislative seats are currently held by women.
- Teens have sex earlier than the national average.

Information from Equality Initiatives web site : <http://equalityinitiatives.org>.

Wyoming indicate that the "Equality State" has a ways to go in achieving gender parity. Through conversations with representatives from the state's government, educational, service and social agencies, and later, with foundations who provide funds for deserving causes, we learned that improving awareness should be our first step in taking action."

WCWI will continue to be involved with this exciting new initiative and will continue to provide information about its progress in our newsletter, so stay tuned!

For additional information about the project, visit the Equality Initiatives web site at <http://equalityinitiatives.org>.

WCWI seeks nominations for 2007 Wyoming Woman of Distinction Award

The Wyoming Council for Women's Issues is accepting nominations for its 2007 Wyoming Woman of Distinction award. Nominations are due by March 31, 2007.

This is a "once in a lifetime" award and any or all of the following attributes should be considered when submitting a name for consideration: impact on women and/or families in the educational or employment sector; impact on women and/or families in community outreach; impact on women and/or families in health and wellness concerns; impact on women and/or families in legal issues.

If you know of a woman in your community who is deserving of this award, please nominate her. Complete information, including the nomination form is available online at www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org. The winner and nominees will be recognized this summer.

Pink Ribbon Day at WY Legislature



Photo by Wyoming Business Council Staff

First Lady Nancy Freudenthal addresses the Wyoming Legislature on Pink Ribbon Day on January 23, which creates awareness for breast cancer. For more information on the Wyoming State Legislature, visit <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.

Wyo Humanities Council's "Face of Family" film discussion slated for May

The Uinta County Public Library in Evanston will present the four-part "Faces of Family" film discussion series starting in May. Hollywood feature films that focus on issues affecting Wyoming families will be shown at the library on four consecutive Saturday mornings: May 5, May 12, May 19 and May 28.

Each showing will be followed by snacks and audience discussion led by Jan Maggard, MSW.

Next Equal Pay Day is April 24, 2007

By National Committee on Pay Equity

Each year, the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) organizes the national observance of Equal Pay Day to raise awareness about unfair pay for women and people of color in America. Equal Pay Day is observed in April to indicate how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year. It symbolizes the day when women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous week.

Wear red on Equal Pay Day to symbolize how far women and minorities are "in the red" with their pay. Visit www.pay-equity.org.

The series is sponsored by the Wyoming Humanities Council with funding from the We the People Initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, contact Victoria Foth Sherry at (307) 721-9246 or visit www.uwyo.edu/humanities.



March is Women's History Month

By National Women's History Project

Every March the National Women's History Project celebrates Women's History Month. The 2007 Women's History Month theme, "Generations of Women Moving History Forward," recognizes the wisdom and tenacity of the generations of women who have come before us and those who will follow. Recognition of the historic anniversaries of 2007 presents special opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate the courage, determination, and steadfastness needed to move history forward.

Visit www.nwhp.org to find out more.



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

February 14

"Women of Mystery" at 7 p.m. at Weston County Library in Newcastle.

February 15

"Women of Mystery" at 6 p.m. at Ten Sleep Public Library in Ten Sleep.

"Women of Mystery" at 4:30 p.m. at Clearmont Branch Library, Clearmont.

February 20

"Women of Mystery" at 6 p.m. at Ten Sleep Public Library in Ten Sleep.

March

March is Women's History Month. The 2007 theme is "Generations of Women Moving History Forward." Find out more at www.nwhp.org.

March 1

Equipoise Fund presents 2007 Atta Girl Awards in Laramie, WY.

March 14

"Women of Mystery" at 7 p.m. at Weston County Library in Newcastle.

March 15

"Women of Mystery" at 4:30 p.m. at Clearmont Branch Library, Clearmont.

March 31

Wyoming Woman of Distinction Award nominations are due. Visit www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org.

April 11

"Women of Mystery" at 7 p.m. at Weston County Library in Newcastle.

April 19

"Women of Mystery" at 4:30 p.m. at Clearmont Branch Library, Clearmont.

April 21

WCWI Meeting in Casper.

April 24

Equal Pay Day

May 9

"Women of Mystery" at 7 p.m. at Weston County Library in Newcastle.

May 31-June 1

Governor's Summit on Workforce Solutions at Snow King Resort in Jackson. Find out more at www.wyowdc.org.

Woman's Suffrage, Wyoming in the Van, all honor the youngest territorial sister

By Amy Williamson, President, League of Women Voters of Wyoming

The League of Women Voters of Wyoming recently published a new edition of "A Look At Wyoming Government," updated by Marguerite Herman. The book includes a chapter on women's suffrage, with information about the First Legislative Assembly of the Wyoming Territory in 1869, where legislators decreed that women could own property, earn the same pay as men for teaching, and have the right to vote and hold office. "Look" provides biographical and historical information about Esther Hobart Morris, Nellie Tayloe Ross, the first state court jury to include women, and many other women who played roles in the history of Wyoming's government. It also examines the reasons for some of these decisions.

New to this edition is a chapter about tribal governments on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

"A Look at Wyoming Government" contains reproductions of the original state constitution and the Act of Admission when Wyoming became a state; both documents are difficult to find.

New web site profits to support CLIMB Wyoming

By Jackson Hole News & Guide

Recently, the CLIMB Wyoming program created its own version of eBay in Jackson Hole called jBay, in which all of the proceeds go to support the program. It is similar to eBay, but without the auction aspect of the site.

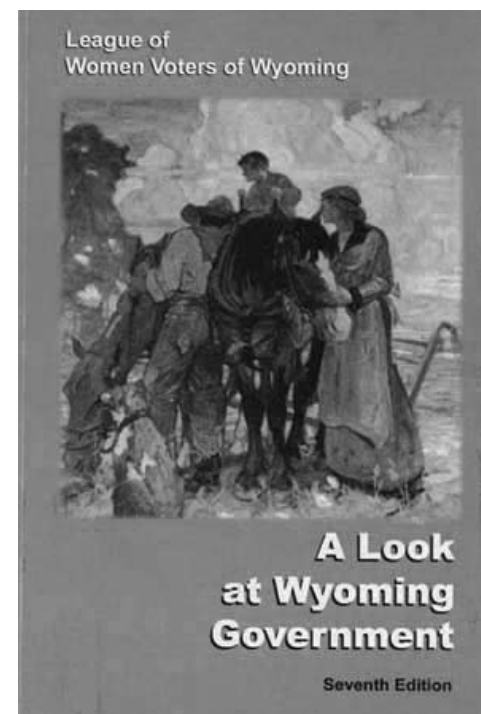
Jackson locals can donate and/or buy items including furniture, home furnishings, sports equipment and more. View the inventory online at www.jacksonholeradio.com and click

Health Update: January busy month for health issues

By Wyoming Health Council

January was Cervical Health Awareness Month and National Birth Defects Prevention Month.

Cervical Health Awareness Month is a time to highlight issues related to cervical cancer, HPV disease and the importance of early detection. To find out more about cervical cancer, visit the National Cervical Cancer Coalition online at www.nccc-online.org/awareness.php or the Centers for Disease Control



The book is available for \$15 plus tax, or in CD format for \$10 plus tax, from the League of Women Voters of Wyoming, P.O. Box 3887, Gillette WY 82717, by calling (307) 687-0188, or sknesel@hotmail.com.

on the Classified Ads link. Click on a specific item to find out if it is part of the program. To donate an item to CLIMB Wyoming's jBay program, call (307) 734-1416 to arrange a drop-off time.

CLIMB Wyoming is a program of Our Families Our Future, a Wyoming non-profit organization that works to train and place low-income single mothers in careers that successfully support their families. For more information, visit www.ourfamiliesourfuture.org.

(CDC) at www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical.

More information on National Birth Defects Prevention Month is available at www.nbdpn.org/current/resources/bdpm2007.html. Also visit the CDC site on birth defects at www.cdc.gov/ncbddd, which provides information about birth defects as well as developmental disabilities.

For more information on health issues affecting Wyoming women and resources, visit www.wyowomenshealth.org.

Television series celebrates women and girls in Wyoming

Mickey Babcock is working to create a television series that will celebrate girls and women of Wyoming. Babcock is the founder of the Equipoise Fund, whose mission is to energize and encourage the visibility, vision and voice of the girls and women of Wyoming.

Babcock has joined with award-winning Wyoming filmmakers Bonnie Kreps and Charles

Craighead to make the pilot for a proposed 13-part TV series featuring girls and women from all over Wyoming – their different lives, passions, and stories. The series will also include some historical Wyoming women, in collaboration with Dee Garceau-Hagen, a nationally recognized historian of women in the American West.

The theme is to publicly praise and honor

girls and women from across the state of Wyoming. The common ground is girls and women who speak their truth as they tell their stories of individual talents; of sustaining their family, their ranch, their community; of living in the landscapes of Wyoming.

For more information on the series, visit the Equipoise web site at www.equipoisefund.org.

Equipoise Fund recognizes WY women

By Equipoise Fund

The Equipoise Fund awarded the First Atta Girls awards to Deborah Clemens, Arden Lindsey and Sterling Hayden. The Atta Girl Awards recognize women for their contributions to vision, voice and visibility for women and girls in Wyoming.

The 2007 Atta Girl Awards will be officially presented on March 1 in Laramie. The event will be held in conjunction with an address by Marie C. Wilson, founder and president of The White House Project.

Ms. Wilson will also appear in Jackson on March 2, 2007. You can read more about Marie C. Wilson on www.oprah.com/rys/omag/rys_omag_200403_phenom.jhtml.

The Equipoise Fund's mission is to energize, enrich and encourage the visibility, vision and voice of the women and girls of Wyoming. For more information, visit www.equipoisefund.org.

Summit Award winners accept award



Photo by WCWI

The WCWI presented the 2006 Summit Award to the Carbon County Higher Education Kid's Campus Child Care Center on November 17 in Casper.

Chair's column: WCWI has a successful 2006, sets sights on 2007

I must say I feel the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues had a successful year 2006. My heartfelt THANKS to all Council members for all their dedication to making things happen!

The Council engaged in a strategic planning effort that galvanized Council members. We are increasingly organized and efficient as a result.

The Council held its first ever Nontraditional Job Fair. Thanks to fair organizers and participants, this event was a tremendous success.

The Council held a well-attended award luncheon for our 2006 Woman of Distinction, Ann Robinson, a former legislator from Casper.

Closing out the year, the Council and its partners presented the new Summit Award at the Wyoming Business Alliance annual convention.

The Job Fair and the award presentations all received a lot of publicity, for which the Council is grateful. A goal in having these events is to spread the word about what people are doing and what can be done to advance recognition and successful address of problematic situations that occur disproportionately with women.

The publicity received by these events exposed many people to a myriad of opportunities for careers and community activities that bring stability and security to women and families.

Looking forward into 2007, the Council is monitoring the legislative session for bills that will contribute to addressing the issues identified in the Council's survey of women living in Wyoming.

You can find information regarding bills of interest on the Council's web site (www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org).

Along the same lines, the Council will be seeking to collect information regarding efforts on the part of any group, agency or organization to address these same women's issues. The Council intends to keep these issues in people's minds as situations that need to be addressed.

The Council has also been working on publishing a new edition of its popular Legal Rights of Women in Wyoming handbook. Publication of the handbook should be completed sometime this year. Through generous donations of time and money, the Council is pursuing publication of a Spanish language version of the handbook for Wyoming's ever increasing Hispanic population.

We wish you a happy, healthy, and productive New Year!

-Teresa de Groh, WCWI Chair