

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

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WCWI  
WYOMING COUNCIL  
FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES

# WCWI NEWS

## SPRING 2005

[www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org](http://www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org)

## WCWI finds new home on the Web

CHEYENNE - After months of planning and development, the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues (WCWI) launched its new Web site in the Spring of 2005. The new WCWI Web site is located at [www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org](http://www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org).

The site is designed to make information on the needs and concerns of Wyoming women more accessible, including information on employment practices, educational opportunities, home and community and legal rights and responsibilities.

### Information on Human Services available online

Connect Wyoming offers an online directory called Pathways Plus with over 3,400 human services programs operating in the state of Wyoming.

Visit <http://wind.uwyo.edu/connect> or call 307.766.2996 or TTY: 307.766.220 to connect to Pathways Plus.

## WCWI MEMBERS

Michelle Aldrich - Judicial District 1  
Cynthia Chavez Kelly - Judicial District 2  
Jan Torres - Judicial District 3  
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  
Diane Moser, Wyoming Business Council - Liaison 307-777-2800  
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To be added to the mailing list, submit your mailing address to [info@wyomingbusiness.org](mailto:info@wyomingbusiness.org) or call 307-777-2800

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

## Governor releases Self-Sufficiency Standard

CHEYENNE - Gov. Dave and First Lady Nancy Freudenthal released the Wyoming Self-Sufficiency Standard, a report that can help guide public and private sector policies and actions by determining how much income working families need to make ends meet in Wyoming.

The Wyoming Standard charts the actual cost of living and working in each of Wyoming's 23 counties and on the Wind River Reservation. It measures how much a family must earn to pay for housing, food, child care, health care, transportation, taxes and other basic necessities-without public assistance or help from family and friends. Costs are based on the presence of one or two parents, the age and number of children in each household, and where the family lives. It also measures the impact of subsidies from employers and governmental agencies on families' incomes.

The report was produced through a partnership between the national organization Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) and a Wyoming advisory committee that

included Nancy Freudenthal and 20 Wyoming experts in areas of social services, government, and business. Research was conducted by Diana Pearce, Ph.D., University of Washington, author of the report.

In the 35 other states where a self-sufficiency standard has been developed, it has been used as a tool for designing public policy, counseling low-income families, setting eligibility guidelines for government assistance and informing employers about the adequacy of the wages they offer.

The advisory committee for the Wyoming Standard recommends using this information in raising awareness about the costs to families and communities when wages are insufficient; developing Wyoming's high-wage jobs sector; encouraging public supports such as food stamps to be used as a step toward self-sufficiency; and providing access to job training and education programs for higher-paying jobs. Visit <http://wyoming.gov/governor/policies/people.asp> for more information.

## City building museum to honor Wyoming women

LARAMIE - A "history house" that will honor Wyoming women who have made world-wide, national or statewide history is undergoing construction in Downtown Laramie.

In addition to the museum, a plaza and a statue of Louisa Swain, the world's first woman voter, were built in front of the future "history house" site and dedicated in September 2004. The sculpture, entitled "The Franchise," has the inscription: "The title 'The Franchise' refers to the recognition and bestowal of the right of women to vote under full civil equality to men. In 1869, Wyoming became the first state or territory to grant this right. This act was inspirational to both the women's suffrage movement and to the cause of civil rights throughout the nation. The nineteenth amendment of the United States Constitution would not be ratified until 1920 - fifty years later. 70 year-old Louisa Swain became the world's first woman voter when she cast her ballot one block from this site on the morning of September 6, 1870. This memorial commemorates and celebrates that historic event."

The Foundation for Laramie, Wyoming, a nonprofit corporation, began its "Campaign for the Historic Women of Laramie and Wyoming" in 2001 for the purpose of honoring historic women. These women included the world's first woman voter, the first woman to be subpoenaed to serve on a court jury and the world's first woman bailiff. All of these historical events took place in what is now Downtown Laramie, just blocks from the plaza and "history house."

The "history house" is scheduled for dedication in September 2005.

## Program gives women experience needed to earn a livable wage

CHEYENNE - The Climb Wyoming programs offered through Our Families Our Future help to train female heads of household and young mothers to get jobs.

The Climb Wyoming Female Heads of Household program helps women obtain training in non-traditional careers such as construction craft and truck driving. This extensive job training program provides the opportunity for single mothers to gain training in demand occupations. Participants learn the skills they need to succeed in non-traditional careers and gain access to life skills workshops, counseling and a net-



work of peer support. Participants develop new job skills through extensive hands-on training; receive job placement assistance and guidance; and gain the confidence to make positive life choices.

Climb Wyoming for Young Parents provides young mothers with comprehensive life and job skills training, GED preparation and work experience in jobs that earn a livable wage. The program serves income eligible young, single mothers for four to five months and includes: job skills training, life skills training, job placement, group setting, allowing participants to find support among their peers, personalized GED tutoring and group and individual counseling.

For more information on these programs, visit the Our Families Our Future Web site at [www.ourfamiliesourfuture.org](http://www.ourfamiliesourfuture.org).

## University at Albany State University of New York study finds people of color underrepresented as leaders in state governments

ALBANY, NY - The number of people in top-ranking, state government appointed positions is disproportionately low compared to their numbers in the population, according to *Democracy Unrealized: The Underrepresentation of People of Color as Appointed Policy Leaders in State Governments*, a report released by the University at Albany State University of New York's Center for Women in Government and Civil Society.

While the 2000 Census showed that women and men of color constitute 32 percent of the population, in 2004 they held 16 percent of top-ranking executive positions appointed by the nation's

governors. People of color considered in the report reflect the U.S. Census groupings of African American, Latino, Asian American/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Native Alaskan.

According to the study, Wyoming had only one female minority appointed policy leader and no male minority appointed policy leaders in 2004. However, Wyoming had more total female appointed policy leaders than any other state in the Rocky Mountain region. The entire report is available online at [www.cwig.albany.edu/democracyunrealized.pdf](http://www.cwig.albany.edu/democracyunrealized.pdf).

CHAIR’S COLUMN

As I finish my fourth year as the chairperson of the Council and prepare to welcome our newly elected chairperson, Virginia (Nina) Romero-Caron I have mixed feelings. We have accomplished some huge projects. During the last four years we completed a Women’s Legal Handbook and are currently preparing an updated version. The Wage Disparity Study was completed, as was the survey of 1,000 women in Wyoming to discover the issues that are affecting them and that they are most concerned about. We have been able to send nearly every Council member to the National Association of Commissions for Women’s annual conference. The Wyoming Woman of Distinction award has experienced a renaissance. The Wyoming Summit Award has been announced and will celebrate the initial recipient this year in collaboration with 4 other agencies and groups. At the end of April we will host a national speaker focusing on empowering girls for those who work with them. We hosted Larry Kirkwood at the American Heritage Center with several other groups, which focused on body image. We also have recently launched our new web site.

While we have completed lots of projects, worked with many groups and organizations there is more to be done. We cannot rest on our laurels but must work to continue meeting the needs of women and children in Wyoming. We have begun conversations with other women’s organizations and groups in Wyoming and must continue to collaborate and work together. I will continue to work in assisting the Council in identifying issues of concern to women and helping to respond to those concerns. Alone it may seem impossible, but when addressed by a team of individuals or a community it may be accomplished easily.

Michelle D. Aldrich

Michelle Aldrich, MS  
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Race for the Cure® registration available online

CHEYENNE - Registration is available online for the annual Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure ® at [www.komenwyoming.org](http://www.komenwyoming.org). This year is the tenth anniversary of the Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure ®. The race will be held in Cheyenne on August 20, 2005.

This year’s honorary chairs are Dr. Jeff and Lynne Carlton and Suzanne and Jack Preiss. Former First Lady Sherri Geringer and Susan Thomas, wife of U.S. Senator Craig Thomas, are co-founders of the Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure®, and they will return to help kickoff the tenth anniversary race.

As owner/operators of McDonald's restaurants for the past 23 years, Suzanne and Jack Preiss have followed the philosophy of giving back to their community. Jack has served two years on the Wyoming Board of Directors for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. McDonald’s of Cheyenne, Laramie and Rawlins became sponsors of the race in its first year and on

Health News: USDA revamps Food Pyramid

By the USDA MyPyramid Program

WASHINGTON - Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns unveiled MyPyramid, a new symbol and interactive food guidance system. “Steps to a Healthier You,” MyPyramid’s central message, supports President Bush’s Healthier US initiative which is designed to help Americans live longer, better and healthier lives. MyPyramid, which replaces the Food Guide Pyramid introduced in 1992, is part of an overall food guidance system that emphasizes the need for a more individualized approach to improving diet and lifestyle.

MyPyramid incorporates recommendations from the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which was released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in January. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans provide authoritative advice for people two years of age and older about how proper dietary habits can promote health and reduce the risk of major chronic diseases. MyPyramid was developed to carry the messages of the dietary guidelines and to make Americans aware of the vital health benefits of simple and modest improvements in nutrition, physical activity and lifestyle behavior.

The MyPyramid symbol represents the recommended proportion of foods from each food group and focuses on the importance of making smart food choices in every food group, every day, based on individual nutritional needs. The pyramid illustrates: Personalization, Gradual improvement, Physical activity, Variety, Moderation, Proportionality.

The new food guidance system utilizes interactive technology found on the Web site [www.mypyramid.gov](http://www.mypyramid.gov).



August 20, 2005 will have been feeding race participants for ten years.

Up to 75 percent of the net revenue raised through the race will stay in Wyoming communities and help those who battle breast cancer through education, screening and treatment programs. The remaining 25 percent goes to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Award and Research Grant Program.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation was founded in 1982 on a promise made between two sisters -Nancy Brinker and her dying sister, Susan G. Komen. Over 20 years later, the Komen Foundation is a global leader in the fight against breast cancer through its support of innovative research, meritorious awards and community-based outreach programs. Today we celebrate the power of a promise and how a single person’s vision can make a difference in the lives of millions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21-22, 2005

League of Women Voters will hold their state convention at Fort Washakie and Lander. Contact [jingram@lariat.org](mailto:jingram@lariat.org) for more information.

Monday, May 30, 2005

Memorial Day

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

Get That Government Contract training session will be from 6-8 p.m. at the Albany County Public Library in Laramie. Topics will include the steps involved in preparing to sell to the federal government, registrations and certifications required, various methods the government uses to solicit bids, and special services offered to Wyoming businesses. Contact the WWBC at [wwbc@uwyo.edu](mailto:wwbc@uwyo.edu) or 307.766.3084.

Thursday, June 9, 2005

The Wyoming Women's Business Center will hold a roundtable with attorney Don Fritzen's presentation “Business Organization Types in Wyoming” from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., in Laramie at First Interstate Bank, 221 Ivinson, in the lower-level meeting room. RSVP by Monday, June 6 at [wwbc@uwyo.edu](mailto:wwbc@uwyo.edu) or 766-3084.

Sunday, June 19, 2005

Father's Day

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Riverton will host a town meeting and call-in show with Governor Dave Freudenthal on Wyoming Public Television called, "A Wyoming Conversation Statewide Forum" at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 30.

Monday, July 4, 2005

Independence Day

Sat., August 20, 2005

The annual Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure will take place in Cheyenne. This is the tenth anniversary of the Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure. Visit [www.komenwyoming.org](http://www.komenwyoming.org) for registration and additional information.

Legislative Committee Update 2005

By Teresa de Groh

The legislature had a busy year, as always. In the House, 349 bills were introduced. The House enrolled 137 of those bills into acts and the Governor approved all but two. Only one of the 13 Joint Resolutions introduced made it to adoption. The Senate dealt with 175 introduced bills; 114 made it into enrolled acts. The Governor approved all Senate enrolled acts, using a line item veto to modify a few. As before, and as promised, we are providing a list of new legislation that may have particular interest to you.

The statutory changes listed below are grouped into *educational opportunities, employment practices, home & community, and legal rights & responsibilities*. A grouping is also provided for legislation that may be of interest to women and families involved in military services. The original bill number, the Enrolled Act number, and its title are given. Space limitations preclude us from providing a summary of each act. You can view the complete language of the statutory changes on the legislative website: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.

If you do not have Internet access, you can request paper copies of legislation by calling the Legislative Services Office at 307-777-7881. A minimal fee is charged for copies.

<b>Education Opportunities</b> HB0085/HEA 0132 Teacher shortage loan repayment program HB0175/HEA 0126 TANF increase HB0329/HEA 0118 Executive training institute/graduate school of business SF0046/SEA 0078 Public school teacher incentive appropriations SF0099/SEA 0089 Nursing loan program-amendments SF0122/SEA 0110 Higher education endowments SJ0005/SEJR 0002 Financial education	<b>Neighborhoods</b> HB0087/HEA 0110 Sex offender registry HB0094/HEA 0085 Environmental health study
<b>Employment Practices</b> HB0132/HEA 0032 Barber licensing HB0253/HEA 0130 Apprenticeship programs SF0010/SEA 0053 Firefighters-employment and appointments SF0053/SEA 0039 Wyoming Cosmetology Act SF0068/SEA 0040 Unfair employment practices-complaint deadline SF0080/SEA 0083 Unemployment compensation amendments SF0082/SEA 0077 Workers' compensation amendments SF0093/SEA 0097 Nursing practice act amendments	<b>Legal Rights and Responsibilities</b> <i>Children &amp; Families</i> HB0060/HEA 0082 Minor victims-release of names HB0066/HEA 0038 Illegal open house parties for minors HB0076/HEA 0010 Central registry of child protection cases HB0120/HEA 0031 Children in Need of Supervision Act-sunset HB0122/HEA 0065 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act HB0237/HEA 0121 Child protection HB0251/HEA 0122 Child support abatement-weekends defined HB0314/HEA 0137 Guardians ad litem HB0325/HEA 0069 Tribal identification card HB0349/HEA 0108 Temporary guardianship for children SF0026/SEA 0024 Child exploitation-administrative subpoenas SF0038/SEA 0005 Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act SF0039/SEA 0108 Child protection amendments SF0050/SEA 0023 Soliciting minors SF0055/SEA 0016 Child restraint-amendments SF0059/SEA 0017 Child support amendments SF0109/SEA 0046 Public schools-use of asthma medication by pupils SF0137/SEA 0056 Disestablishment of paternity
<b>Home and Community</b> <i>Health Care</i> HB0101/HEA 0072 Long term care ombudsman amendments HB0223/HEA 0128 Suicide prevention HB0275/HEA 0084 Methamphetamine initiative planning study HB0293/HEA 0133 Illegal drug manufacturing-precursor chemicals HB0308/HEA 0136 Methamphetamine initiative (Sub #1) HB0338/HEA 0099 Department of health review HB0340/HEA 0114 Mental health and substance abuse systems SF0023/SEA 0059 Health care education SF0049SEA 0064 Department of health service providers SF0065/SEA 0092 Alzheimer's study <i>Family</i> SF0100/SEA 0100 Welfare benefits-eligibility <i>Taxes</i> HB0014/HEA 0003 Streamlined sales tax <i>Community Development</i> HB0277/HEA 0131 Wyoming partnership challenge loan program SF0047/SEA 0061 School finance-amendments SF0071/SEA 0114 Wyoming community facilities program SF0118/SEA 0044 Wyoming business ready community program	<i>Health Care</i> SF0084/SEA 0065 Medicaid buy-in eligibility <i>Insurance</i> HB0078/HEA 0022 Motor vehicle insurance requirements <i>Victims of Crime</i> HB0086/HEA 0011 Victim notification by board of parole HB0103/HEA 0012 Victim impact statements HB0201/HEA 0120 Crime victims service providers funding SF0129/SEA 0088 Crimes and offenses-voyeurism <b>Military Services – All Subjects</b> HB0009/HEA 0001 Uniformed servicemember's reemployment HB0015/HEA 0004 National guard education assistance HB0067/HEA 0021 Life insurance-military exclusion HB0084/HEA 0040 Veterans' property tax exemption HB0189/HEA 0106 Veterans home study SF0048/SEA 0031 Veteran's surviving spouse SF0159/SEA 0109 National guard youth challenge program