



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

# The Voter

January 2017

League of Women Voters of Laramie

## Upcoming Events

**Next Board Meeting: February 6 at 7 pm, Albany County Commissioners Room, Albany County Courthouse**

**Program Planning Meeting: February 26, 3 pm – 5 pm Potluck Snacks, 2527 Overland Road, Laramie**

**Annual Meeting : April 22, 8 am, Methodist Church, 1215 Gibbons, Room 104, Laramie**

**State Convention : May 6 - 7, AmericInn, Laramie**

### Co-Presidents' Message

After a contentious campaign season, the nation faces an alteration in course and tone in the executive branch of the U.S. Government. The League will continue to provide steady support to the principles of democracy and the promotion of informed voting.

For the Laramie Leagues, important dates coming up include :

- February 26, Program Planning (2527 Overland)
- April 22, Annual Meeting (Methodist Church)
- May 6-7, State Convention, (AmericInn, Laramie)

The Nominating Committee headed by Nancy Lockwood, seeks willing candidates. Please say 'yes' if asked to run for a position!

Since Laramie is hosting our state convention this year, we could use some help in organizing details as the date draws near. If you're willing to help out, please contact co-president Terri Rittenburg at [tritt@uwyo.edu](mailto:tritt@uwyo.edu) or 307-343-2540.

*Robin Hill and Terri Rittenburg,  
LWVL co-presidents 2015-2017*

### League Board Meetings are Public !

Invite your friends and prospective members to the League's board meetings. It is usually held once a month on the first Monday. Email any board member for info.

### Program Planning Meeting

February 26, 3 to 5 pm

We will review our Program Positions and plan issues to focus on/study for next year !

We will discuss the budget for next year !

New board member nominations

.....etc.

## Legislature Is In Session

The Wyoming State Legislature meets this spring for a full session, which convened on January 10. Information can be found on the Legislative web pages at :

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/LSOWEB/>

Important pages include "Legislator Information" (how to contact) and "General Information," with a link to the page "How to Participate During the Legislative Session."

*Robin Hill,  
LWVL co-president*

## Membership and Leadership Development An Update

Jessica Rohloff, LWVUS Director, Wyoming Liaison, attended the most recent Wyoming state MLD (Membership and Leadership Development) conference call. She asked us to use the LWVUS terms for our work towards Making Democracy Work: Protecting voters, reforming money in politics, and educating and engaging voters. She also told us that the two internal priorities for the LWVUS this year were restructuring and rebuilding after reorganizing and retrenching.

Jean Garrison and Cindy Elrod are the local coaches. Judy Knight is a state coach, and Margaret Brown is the state liaison. The goal of the program is to increase membership and keep the LWV effective.

*Susan Simpson,  
LWVWY MLD Coach*

## Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration

The first meeting of the Governor's Council for the Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration, a group convened by virtue of Governor Mead's Executive Order, will be held on January 27 in Cheyenne. The original organizations that formed the Steering Committee are now the Executive Committee of that Council. The additional groups represented, as stated in the Order, are the public, the Governor's office, the Secretary of State's office, the Association of County Clerks, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

We are quite pleased to have the Governor's support in this way. I note, however, that this effort is a citizens' initiative rather than a State project. General announcements and publicity should be forthcoming soon in various media. If you wish to serve on the League subcommittee for this celebration, let me know.

*Robin Hill,  
LWVL co-president*

## LWV Education Fund

We are still in the giving season, and that includes supporting causes we approve. Hopefully, League is one of them! Any and all gifts are welcome, and at any time of the year. Many folks like to take advantage of federal tax-deductible gifts, and most charities and other causes have created a corporate structure to facilitate that under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Those corporations are exempt from paying federal income tax and gifts to them may be deducted from the donor's taxable income to the extent determined by the donor's circumstances. The designation carries one downside, which is that the amount of each year's income which is spent on lobbying to promote or change legislation at any level (city up to national) is quite restricted. League

struggled with this problem for some time, and the solution was to make the LWV Education Fund a 501(c)3 corporation, but the League itself is a slightly different variety of tax exempt entity, being organized as a corporation under Section 501(c)4 of the Internal Revenue Code. It pays no taxes on its income, but gifts to it are not deductible from the donor's federal taxable income, and it has no restrictions on the percentage of income it spends on political lobbying.

Why all this extremely boring information? When you give that gift to League, you may not deduct it unless you make your check payable to LWV Education Fund and send it to your local or state League treasurer to send in to LWV US to deposit on our local and state Leagues' accounts there. Why? State and local Leagues are subsidiaries of LWV US, a 501(c)4 corporation. Some large state and local Leagues have formed their own Ed Fund 501(c)3 corporations and manage them; no Wyoming Leagues have chosen to do that, so we each have an account within the LWVUS Ed Fund to which we can deposit gifts written to our Ed Funds, or money each League decides to put into that account to save up for use on Voter Service or education projects or other allowed activities. So if you want the League to be able to use your gift for any lobbying, make your check to your League and do not try to take it as a tax deduction. If you want the deduction, make your check payable to your League's Ed Fund and let the treasurer mail it in with the appropriate form. Not sure? Well, why not give one gift to your League's Ed Fund and one to the League??? (As a former treasurer, local and state, I am full of such excellent suggestions!)

*Amy Williamson,  
LWVWY State Board*

## Board Member Elections

Nominations Due : March 6, 2017

Election : April 22, @ the Annual Meeting

Positions Open :

- CoPresidents
- Secretary
- 3 Directors
- 2 Appointed Directors

Nominating Committee :

- Nancy Lockwood
- Lynne Ipiña

## Annual Meeting

April 22, 8 am

We will adopt our Proposed Program for next year !

We will adopt the budget for next year !

Board member vacancies will be filled  
.....etc.

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## Issue On Transfer Of Public Lands

At the February 26 (Pot Luck) Program Planning meeting that will be at 2527 Overland from 3-5 p.m., I intend to propose a new Wyoming LWV study, with the expected outcome of developing a state position on the transfer of public lands from the Federal government to the State of Wyoming, by the time of the state convention in 2018.

The way program planning works, we as a local LWV, make suggestions for programs that we would like to see for study and action at both the state and national LWV levels. We make the recommendations, they go to the respective board of directors, who make the decisions on what to propose as “approved” program items on the agenda for conventions where program is adopted (and/or amended) by member delegates. LWVUS has already set its agenda for the coming year, with a focus on protecting the vote, voter education, and money in politics, all aspects of “Making Democracy Work”, which is, incidentally, a trademark LWVUS owns.

A new study is always controversial, as the LWV already has positions on a wide range of issues, and our agenda is crowded. This proposed study would be under our existing Natural Resource category of program positions (see <http://www.wyominglwg.org/issues> and click on the link for the pdf version of LWV of Wyoming State Program).

Keep in mind that if we did adopt a position, it would need to focus only on actions of the Wyoming Legislature and Executive Departments, not on influencing the US President or Congress – to do that would require a LWVUS study and position.

To my knowledge there have not been any general public policy or social issue groups like the LWV who have taken a stand on this issue. Please let me know if you are in touch with any

such groups besides those in sportsmen’s or environmental communities.

I have prepared a resource background paper for this study which I will be circulating at the Program Planning meeting – I would be happy to send it to anyone who requests it in advance, just email me at [je.judy@gmail.com](mailto:je.judy@gmail.com).

*Judy Knight,  
LWVLaramie Member*

## Observer Reports

Margaret Brown reports that the new school board members appear to be very engaged, are asking thoughtful questions at meetings and seem to have been quite well oriented to the actions and authority of the board. As you read in the paper, Lawrence Perea, a veteran of at least two previous terms on the board, has been selected to fill the seat of Ruth Castor, who has had to resign. A major project is developing a strategic plan for the district. They have given a survey to all parents, staff and Middle School and High School students. In January they spent several hours with the consultants as the document is under consideration. There is enthusiasm by the school principals where dual language programs have been implemented in kindergartens, and plans are underway to expand to 1<sup>st</sup> grade next year. Snow day make up will be April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our observers for City Council, hospital board, and transportation authority have not given me any specific thoughts, though they continue to attend meetings and wear the “LWV” button so the members know that we are there.

Observers for the County Commission are still needed. They meet on the first and the third Tuesday mornings usually at 9 a.m. (often public hearings are scheduled prior to the actual

commissioner's meeting call to order, so time could be later).

The meetings are recorded, and posted on line at [www.co.albany.wy.us/commissioners.aspx](http://www.co.albany.wy.us/commissioners.aspx).

However, there is really no substitution for being in the audience at the meeting, wearing a LWV button. No written report is required, unless there is something that you would like the LWV members to know that has not been reported in the newspapers and other social media, as with the comments above by Margaret Brown.

It would be nice to have two people commit to being observers for county commission so they can each take one meeting a month, or trade off as necessary. The LWV is very happy to have observers at any other group that spends county or city money—we observe any special district, or governmental body that any member is interested in. Airport Board, Civic Center, Tourism Board, Public Library, UW board of Trustees, etc. are all groups that we could and in some cases have had observers attending -- especially if you think you would like to apply to become a member of that board or commission, this is a good way to find out how they operate. Just contact Judy Knight, observer coordinator for the Laramie LWV at [je.judy@gmail.com](mailto:je.judy@gmail.com).

*Judy Knight,  
LWV CoOrdinator Observer Corps*

### History Corner : Bells Of St. Mathews

For almost 100 years the residents of Laramie have heard the bells of St. Matthew's Cathedral chime the "Westminster Quarters". Although building St. Matthew's was begun in 1892, it remained uncompleted until 1916.

Then, in memory of his late wife Jane, local banker Edward Iverson gave the church a large

sum to complete the original architectural plans by finishing two smaller towers and enlarging the front tower to 135-feet with a clock plus a set of 11 bells inside it.

The bells which Iverson purchased were tuned in a manner to let them play essentially any song or piece of music. Together they weigh about 15,000 pounds. The more elaborate tunes are played from the keyboard of the cathedral organ connected by electric wires which were added in 1925 by Ernest Skinner, the organ builder. When their installation was complete in late August 1917, the head of the crew of bellmen played five concerts for Laramie residents on September 1-3.

The bells were played in concert on two special occasions. First, on September 1, 1920, to mark the adoption of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on August 18<sup>th</sup> which gave women the right to vote. Prior to the beginning of the music, Dr. Grace Raymond Hebard, a lifelong suffragette who had a particular interest in women's contributions to the discovery and settlement of Wyoming and the West, climbed up the tower and rang the largest bell at exactly one minute before 11 o'clock. The bell was kept ringing for 5 minutes. Then the concert commenced with the playing of *America* followed by several spiritual songs. Second occasion was on September 20, 1922, Edward Iverson's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, in recognition of his gift of the bells.

The bells of St. Matthew's are still heard today. Organist at the cathedral for national and local occasions, Punch Williamson, frequently plays more elaborate music. A special tolling of the bells is sounded on Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>. And *Ragtime Cowboy Joe* and *Home on the Range* are heard during Jubilee Days Parade.

A special centenary concert is anticipated this September – just one more opportunity to hear the bells of St. Matthew's in their full glory – bells which were also used to celebrate Women's Suffrage in 1920.

Sources: Kim Viner's article published as *Laramie's Living History* on Saturday September 17, 2016; it was written for the Albany County Museum Coalition, a group that promotes interest in local cultural and natural history. And WyoHistory.org A Project of the Wyoming State Historical Society.

*Cindy Elrod,  
LWVL Local MLD Coach*

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Look for League of Women  
Voters of Wyoming or Laramie  
League of Women Voters

**Next Issue Of LWVL VOTER Newsletter**

March 2017 (mid month)

Proposed Program Of Study 2017-2018

Proposed Budget 2017-2018

Nominations for Board

Annual Meeting and State Convention Details  
.....etc.

Submit your articles for newsletter to:  
[rkayhill@gmail.com](mailto:rkayhill@gmail.com)  
by end of second week of March

<b>co-President</b>	Terri Rittenburg (2017)
<b>co-President</b>	Robin Hill (2017)
<b>Vice President</b>	Nancy Lockwood (2018)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Katie Morgan (2018)
<b>Secretary</b>	Mandira Sanyal (2017)
<b>Elected Directors</b>	Amy Williamson (2017)
	Cindy Elrod (2018)**
	Jean Garrison(2017)**
	Lynne Ipiña (2018)
	Martha Pheneger (2018)
	Jo-Carol Ropp (2017)
<b>Appointed Directors</b>	Judith Snoke (2017)
	Sidney Walter (2017)
<b>Off-Board</b>	Margaret Brown - MLD liaison*
	Susan Simpson, Backup secretary, communications, MLD Coach*
	Judy Knight - Observer Corp Co-ordinator, Backup secretary, community forums, MLD Coach*
	Catherine Ryan Mental health issues

LWVUS Liaison: Jessica Rohloff, [JRohloff@lww.org](mailto:JRohloff@lww.org)  
 Laramie LWV e-mail address: [laramielwv@wyominglww.org](mailto:laramielwv@wyominglww.org)

\*\* Local MLD Coach;                      \* State MLD Coach

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**LWV of Laramie  
Adopted Program 2016-2017**

**1. Planning**

- a. Support a master plan for the city, and support county planning and zoning. (adopted c. 1985)
- b. Support adequately funded, diverse recreational activities and open space. (reworded 2010)

**2. Government (unless noted, positions date to 2000 or earlier)**

- a. Support city council/manager form of government.
- b. Support election of Laramie City Council members from three wards of three councilors each. (adopted 2011)
- c. Support measures to minimize conflicts of interest by elected officials. (reworded 2010)
- d. Support a process of filling vacancies on both appointed and elected boards and commissions in Albany County which includes an open application and interview process, a choice from the applications submitted, materials and training to prepare them to serve. In addition, for elected boards, support a process that ensures voter choice even in the case of unexpected vacancies. (reworded 2014)
- e. Support maintaining and increasing City and County revenues. (restored 2015)
- f. Emergency Preparedness: Support policies and programs to ensure that people in Albany County can be adequately notified and aided in the event of local emergencies in order to assure their health and safety. (adopted 2008; reworded 2010, 2011)

**3. Human Resources (unless noted, positions date to 2000 or earlier)**

- a. Support comprehensive physical and mental health care and planning for community health needs. (reworded 2011)
- b. Support educational efforts in areas including, but not limited to, stewardship of democracy, affirming diversity, disability awareness, literacy, parenting/life skills, discipline/respect, health care and sexuality, conflict resolution, anti-violence, and dangers of substance abuse. (reworded in 2010)
- c. Support affordable full-time, after school, drop-in and sick-child care for preschool and primary school age children in Albany County. (adopted in 2000)
- d. Support income-sensitive housing in Albany County, with an emphasis on needs of the very low income and special needs populations. Support the development of minimum standards of health, sanitation, and safety in rental housing. (adopted 2002, "income sensitive" added in 2008, reworded 2011)
- e. Support smoke-free workplaces in the community. (adopted 2004)
- f. Support employment and housing practices that do not allow discrimination.

**4. Crime (unless noted, positions date to 2000 or earlier)**

- a. Encourage the coordination of local service efforts in the areas of crime prevention, early intervention and treatment services. (adopted 1994)
- b. Encourage community efforts to emphasize the connection between substance abuse and both personal injury/accidental death and crime in Albany County. (reworded 2011)

**5. Transportation**

- a. Support adequate bus service to meet the needs of the community. Support adequate funding to maintain this service.
- b. Support multi-modal transportation in Albany County, with adequate provisions and enforcement for safe pedestrian, bicycle, bus and automobile traffic. Support bike path marking and maintenance. (adopted 2006; reworded 2010, 2011)
- c. Support convenient and reliable public access to interstate and intra-state transportation by public carriers. (adopted 2005)
- d. Support a transportation master plan for Laramie and Albany County with annual review and provision for adequate input by local citizens. (adopted 2006, reworded 2011)



LWV of Laramie  
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PO Box 601  
Laramie, WY 82073



**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LARAMIE LWV**

If you receive this newsletter and are not already a LWV member, we welcome you to join. Fill in the information below and mail it to Katie Morgan, Treasurer, to begin your annual membership. When you join the Laramie LWV, you are also joining the LWV of Wyoming and LWVUS, which connects you with members all over the country and you will receive their publications. Check out the Laramie and Wyoming LWV at [www.wyominglwv.org](http://www.wyominglwv.org) and LWVUS at [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org).

**LWV Laramie Membership form** (Membership open to any citizen of voting age)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE AMOUNT ENCLOSED

\$60.00 (single person annual membership), \$90.00 (two persons residing at the same address)

\$30.00 (student annual membership)

**Mail to:** Laramie LWV Treasurer Katie Morgan  
412 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., A, Laramie, WY 82070

**Questions?** Call Co-President Terri Rittenburg at (307)-343-2540 or Email [tritt@uwyo.edu](mailto:tritt@uwyo.edu); Co-President Robin Hill at (307)-742-2259 or Email [rkayhill@gmail.com](mailto:rkayhill@gmail.com)