

## Upcoming Events

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration:** Tuesday, July 4, 2017, LWV-Laramie will have a Freedom Has A Birthday booth from 10 am to 2 pm, at Washington Park, in Laramie. More details on Page 2 of this document.

**Board Meeting:** August 14, 7 pm, Albany County Commissioners Office, basement of Albany County Courthouse\*

\*Note this a change from the first Monday due to the Orientation Retreat scheduled for August 6; there is also a possibility the County Commissioner's room will not be available; if the location changes notification will be provided by e-mail

**LWV-Laramie Annual board-retreat:** Sunday, August 6, 2017, 2 pm to 4 pm, Jamie Egolf's lodge in Snowy Range, Laramie. More details in CoPresidents letter of this document.

**Presentations of research on Global issues:** Student and staff presentations on their research on global issues, at the Albany County Public Library, Centennial branch, July 12 and August 30, 2017, at 5:30 pm ([garrison@uwyo.edu](mailto:garrison@uwyo.edu) for more info)

## Co-President's Message

At the annual meeting in April, the gavel was passed from one co-chair, Robin Hill to another, Nancy Lockwood, with Terri Rittenburg agreeing to continue as the other co-chair for another year. While Robin ended her term as co-president, she will not get to rest on her laurels as she was elected Vice President to fill the remaining one year of the un-expired VP term that Nancy vacated when she was elected President! In addition, Megan Richardson was elected as Secretary, Jamie Egolf and Devon O'Connell were elected as directors, and Jean Garrison was re-elected to another term as a director. Leaving the board were Mandira Sanyal, Secretary, Amy Williamson, Director, and Jo-Carol Ropp, Director. A big "shout out" to all – those newly elected or newly elected to a new position, and those leaving the board for their service!

Please refer to the listing in this newsletter of our current board of directors, both elected and appointed officers, as well as those who have agreed to be an Observer or to take on a Portfolio assignment.

We are hoping that some of the portfolio assignments will form committees in order to increase League's service to and visibility in the community while providing an opportunity for members to become more actively involved with the League! In particular, Membership and Voter Service are in need of committee members. If you'd to help out in one of more of the portfolio areas, please contact the Portfolio chair.

Our Observer Corp also has vacancies. Please contact Judy Knight ([je.judy@gmail.com](mailto:je.judy@gmail.com)) if you would like to be involved as an Observer for one of our community's elected or appointed boards, councils, or commissions.

This year, we plan to:

- Re-establish more frequent (perhaps quarterly) Unit (member) meetings and public meetings with an emphasis on Portfolio presentations particularly as the issues relate to our local community.
- Move forward with our Study Item, "The feasibility of increasing our County Commissioners from 3 to 5 members", as approved at the Annual meeting, unless the board wants to table this item due to other more pressing issues or changing priorities.



Wishing You And Your  
Family a Happy and  
Safe July 4<sup>th</sup>

- Create an easy-to-follow guide regarding ballot referendums and initiatives that could be posted on our web site.
- Consider hosting public meetings on such topics as:
  - Special ballot “elections”
  - Special districts – What are they? Why do we have them?
  - Civility
  - Water Regulation
  - Immigration
  - Health Care
- Create New Member packets
- Update/review our Non-partisan policy

**To help “kick start” us on our way to conquering the above list and to provide us with renewed excitement and energy we are having a membership retreat – Orientation/Reorientation to the League of Women Voters for All members, new and old alike**

**Date:** Sunday August 6, 2017

**Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 PM

**Location:** Jamie Egolf’s lodge off Hwy 130 in the Snowy Range – take the Barber Lake road turn off and head up the road.

Please bring a snack or beverage to share.

***Nancy Lockwood and Terri Rittenburg,  
LWVL co-presidents 2017-2018***

### **LWV of Laramie Freedom Has a Birthday (FHAB) Booth - July 4, 2017, 10-2, Washington Park**

The League is again having a booth at Laramie’s annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, FHAB. The County Clerk’s office will have staff at our booth to register voters.

**We will have members working shifts as follows, and welcome more helpers:**

**Set up – 9:15 AM -10:00 AM:** Nan & Jeff Lockwood, Judy Knight, Jo Carol & Steve Ropp

**Shift 1 – 10:00 AM-12:00 PM:** Lynn Ipina, Judy Knight, Mandira Sanyal (11-12:30), Nancy Lockwood

**Shift 2 – 12:00 PM-2:00 PM:** Sonya Moore (until 1), Judy Snoko (1-2)

**Booth take down – 2:00-2:30 or so:** Sid & Ollie Walter, Judy Knight

**Devon O’Connell, Susan Simpson, and Megan Richardson have indicated they can help, but have not selected times yet.**

The following people have indicated they will provide “supplies” as follows:

Jean Garrison – Canopy/Awning

Sid Walter – tables and chairs – Lockwoods can pick these up and bring over.

Judy Knight – table(s)

Katie Morgan – General booth supplies, prizes, citizenship/government questions (and answers!) The County Clerk’s office should still have our banner which we loaned to them.

Nancy Lockwood- additional chairs (if needed), tape, scissors, mallet for hammering in canopy stakes

**Please let Nancy Lockwood know if you can help out.**  
307-721-2081, 307-399-9080, nanlockw@gmail.com

***Nancy Lockwood  
LWVL co-presidents 2017-2018***

### **State Convention 2017, Report**

A sincere thank you to all Laramie LWV members and friends who helped us host the 2017 LWVWY Convention May 6th and 7th. All four Wyoming Leagues were represented, with 28 registrations. Special guests included Jessica Rohloff, our national league Board Liaison for Wyoming. She gave a presentation on current LWVUS goals, directions and initiatives and how we as local league units and individuals can have input. Marjorie Beal, MLD (Membership and Leadership Development Program) Shur Fellow from Colorado led a workshop during Saturday’s lunch, a well-received potluck provided by Laramie members. More than 40 members and guests attended the Saturday evening banquet. Dr. Anne Alexander, UW Vice President for Academic Affairs for Undergraduate Education gave the keynote address. Generous donations – and bids - from local league members and convention attendees enabled us to raise more than \$800 for LWVWY at the evening’s silent auction. Convention attendees also gave generously for a gift to the Laramie Animal Welfare Society in honor of outgoing LWVWY State President Amy Williamson, in recognition of her decade of leadership service. The hard work and efforts of Laramie

members to make the convention a success are much appreciated.

**Katie Morgan,  
LWVL Treasurer**

### Observer Reports

**Albany County Tourism Board (Katie Morgan):** Although many counties in the state are seeing a decrease in their revenue from the Lodging Tax due to the economic downturn, Albany County has seen a slight increase over last year's income (around 3%). The board has worked out an agreement with the state to providing staffing for the Lincoln Monument visitor center this summer. The state was discontinuing their funding due to budget cuts, but Albany County was able to step in under a new agreement. They felt it was important to the county to have summer staffing on site.

**Ivinson Memorial Hospital Board Of Trustees (Katie Morgan) :** The hospital is proceeding with the restructure and move to a 501(c)(3) status. Trustees have met with the County Commissioners to discuss any concerns they might have and the county attorney is doing her review of the proposal. One main question that came up was if the hospital will still provide the indigent care it currently does as part of the Hospital District. IMH will continue to receive funds through the district mill levy and sees no change to its current policy on provision of indigent care. The new Medical Office Building is coming along as scheduled with an anticipated August move in schedule. Public tours will be offered at that time.

### LWV-Laramie July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration

JOIN US ON TUESDAY, JULY 4TH, 2017  
TO CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

10 AM – 2 PM  
WASHINGTON PARK, LARAMIE  
LWV-LARAMIE BOOTH

If you would like to volunteer  
contact: [nanlockw@gmail.com](mailto:nanlockw@gmail.com)

### Call For Observer Corps for : Laramie Planning Commission

The Laramie LWV needs an observer for the Laramie Planning Commission. This group is important to observe because they are not just an advisory group to City Council -- they make the final decisions on some city planning issues that come before them. Below is information about who they are and when and where they meet. Contact Judy Knight at [je.judy@gmail.com](mailto:je.judy@gmail.com) if this interests you.

At the June 12 Commission meeting, Laramie LWV member Jamie Egolf gave public comment, representing herself, asking that the Commission develop by-laws that would be more permissive and less unwelcoming when citizens contact members outside the formal commission meetings. The commission, after much discussion, referred the matter to City Planner Derek Teini for him to revise the current by-law on "ex parte" communications.

Ex Parte contacts are "contacts between individuals seeking to influence a decision on a Planning Commission matter outside the meeting forum." A controversial part of the by-laws further states that "Members shall attempt to avoid ex parte conversations and communications concerning any possible proposal which may be heard by the board." This can be interpreted to mean that informal conversations with commission members they run into in the grocery store, for example, should be avoided. The City staff is more concerned about being sure that these contacts are reported to the full board if and whenever new information is presented to the board member, so that lawsuits regarding influence peddling can be avoided.

**Laramie Planning Commission :** Open for LWV Observer Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 4:30 p.m. Council Chambers, City Hall  
*Appointed:* Chair: Kaye Willis 2017; Members: Randy Vickers 2017, Kathe Carlton 2017, Brandon Reynolds 2018, Justin Piccorelli 2018, Benjamin McKay 2018, Jim McGrath 2019.

### Call For Observer Corps for : Albany County Commissioners

LWV Laramie is in need of someone who could be our observer for County Commission meetings. This is a high-priority group for us to have an observer attending,

especially since we have a study item that was voted on at our annual meeting in April, on whether or not to go from a three-member commission to a five-member one. Contact Judy Knight at [je.judy@gmail.com](mailto:je.judy@gmail.com) if even one meeting a month would be a possibility for you. Training to be an observer takes about 15 minutes--the person wears a LWV button but does not speak for the LWV at the meeting. You are just there to observe and to report any concerns/observations to Observer Coordinator Judy Knight.

**Albany County Commissioners** : Open for LWV Observer(s)

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of every month, 9:30A.M. Courthouse, Commissioner's Room  
*Elected.* Chair: Tim Chesnut (D), 2018. Members: Heber Richardson (R), 2018; Terri Jones (R), 2020

## LWV-Laramie Annual Board Retreat

AUGUST 6, 2017  
2 PM – 4 PM

JAMIE EGOLF'S LODGE  
SNOWY RANGE, LARAMIE

BRING A SNACK OR DRINK TO SHARE

[contact:nanlockw@gmail.com](mailto:contact:nanlockw@gmail.com)

## LWVUS Impact

Several of you purchased a copy of the current LWVUS Impact on Issues at state convention.

Katie Morgan still has a few copies available on a first ask basis. They are \$10 a copy.

Please contact her at [pksmorgan@msn.com](mailto:pksmorgan@msn.com) if you wish to buy one.

## Board Meetings

LWV-Laramie board meetings are public. Come join us and share your comments.

Contacts: [nanlockw@gmail.com](mailto:nanlockw@gmail.com)  
[tritt@uwyo.edu](mailto:tritt@uwyo.edu)

## History Corner Charter Schools & LWV

### Brief National History

Twenty-five years ago, the school district in Winona, MN opened the first publicly funded charter school in the nation. Today, Minnesota has 165 public charter schools that enroll over 50K students. Nationwide, 6800 public charter schools enroll over 3M students.

The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>) gathered data for the AY 2013-2014. There were 33,619 private schools, enrolling just over 4.5M students. In this same year, it's estimated that 98,817 public schools (charter and not-charter) enrolled 50M.

Public charter schools were a mainstay of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. If a school consistently failed to meet its "Annual Year Progress", NCLB suggested it become a public charter. Students enrolled in any "failing" school could transfer to any school, private or public charter, at public expense.

Fast forward to 2017, and Betsy DeVos, the current Secretary of Education, advocates for more charter schools. President Trump promised \$20B in block grants to States to help fund attendance at charter schools (vouchers).

The story of Indiana illustrates how those \$20B might be spent. Vice President Pence oversaw the largest state voucher program in the nation. Noting that cost estimates are controversial calculations, the Indiana program spent \$131M for the 33K students. A majority of these 33K students never attended a public school, of any kind.

Nationwide, public charter schools have an uneven record. A 2013 Stanford study of public charters used a 26-state survey, finding that roughly a third of the students in public charters improved. The promising aspect is that these improved students were from a low income sub-population. Wyoming data was among the state data not included in this study.

(<http://credo.stanford.edu/documents/NCSS%202013%20Final%20Draft.pdf>)

### Brief Wyoming History

The first charter school in Wyoming was Laramie's Snowy Range Academy (SRA). It opened in 2002 as a public charter school with only the lower grades, but is now a K8 school.

As a public charter, the local school district has oversight responsibilities, but governance and budget are independent of the District School Board. Bus service, special services, and internet services are provided by the School District. Tuition for each student is paid to SRA rather than the School District, and SRA students take the state-wide proficiency assessment as do other public schools.

Fort Washakie opened Wyoming's second public charter in 2002. This high school was dissolved in 2012, allowing the District to create a K12 school. In a neighboring District, Arapaho opened a public charter high school in 2005.

Laramie welcomed a K6 public charter school, the Montessori School, in 2011. Cheyenne's first public school is the PODER School, launched in 2013.

Originally K8, PODER school is growing to a full K12 by 2020. This completes the list of four charters existing in WY. In addition, Wyoming has public online academies. The two largest academies are the Wyoming Virtual Academy (WYVA) and the Wyoming Connections Academy (WYCA). The first is a public school "program" of Niobrara County SD #1 (Lusk) whose curriculum is aligned with the host District but delivered by the K12 Corporation, formed in 1999. Starting in Colorado Schools, WYVA was in Wyoming by 2005.

WYCA is delivered by Connections Education, but offered by Big Horn County SD #1 (Cowley) and its teaching center is in nearby Cody. WYCA started in 2008.

### LWV Position

The LWV has declared a position on charter schools.

Basically, the League reiterates the responsibility of local school boards for both public and private charters.

Nonetheless, the LWV Education Committee on Privatization of Government Services, Assets, &

Functions published a 2011 cautionary study, and posted a summary article on the League website

(<http://lwv.org/content/subcontracting-public-education>) about EMOs. EMOs are private (for profit)

groups that subcontract with a school district to take over some/all of the schools in that district. Typically, the EMOs promise a list of future improvements while reducing costs to the District. Some of the savings are realized as EMO profit. This article notes that EMOs accounted for 20% of all charter schools in 2007. The documented broken EMO promises are legendary.

Not included on the LWV site are the non-profit CMOs.

The National Alliance of Charter Schools estimates that during the five years 2010 – 2015, the number of

charters involving either a CMO or EMO grew from 15%

to 41%. KIPP Schools follow the CMO model, and have

been the most successful of the CMOs. Administrators in CMOs earn salaries comparable to those in EMOs, and

both are comparable to salaries of upper university administration.

*Lynne Ipiña*

*Laramie LWV member*

**LWV Website**  
**[www.wyominglwv.org](http://www.wyominglwv.org)**

Check for updated documents, including  
newly Adopted Program, Adopted  
Budget, and Policies and Procedures,  
for 2017-2018

Contact: [rkayhill@gmail.com](mailto:rkayhill@gmail.com)

Office	Member (term end)	Portfolio and/or other appointment	Observer Corp. Assignment
<b>Co-President</b>	Terri Rittenburg (2018)		
<b>Co-President</b>	Nancy Lockwood (2019)	Voter Service Committee	
<b>Vice President</b>	Robin Hill (2018)	Membership, Web Master, Communications	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Katie Morgan (2018) **		Hospital Board, Tourism Board
<b>Secretary</b>	Megan Richardson (2019)	Voter Service Committee	
<b>Elected Directors</b>	Jamie Egolf (2019)	Natural Resources	
	Cindy Elrod (2018)	Immigration, Local MLD coach	
	Jean Garrison (2019)	International Relations, Local MLD coach	
	Lynne Ipiña (2018)	Education	School Board
	Devon O'Connell (2019)		
	Martha Pheneger (2018)	Human Resources	
<b>Appointed Directors (one year appointments)</b>	Judy Snoke (2018)		City Council
	Sid Walter****	Natural Resources	
<b>Off-Board Appointments</b>	Margaret Brown****	State MLD Coach	School Board
	Mandira Sanyal	Voter editor	
	Susan Simpson*	Backup secretary	
	Catherine Ryan	Mental health issues	
	Judy Knight (2018) ***	Voter Service, Observer Corps Coordinator, backup secretary, State MLD Coach, Membership committee	
	Jo Carol Ropp	Human Resources	

LWVUS Liaison: Jessica Rohloff, [jrohloff@lwv.org](mailto:jrohloff@lwv.org)

Laramie LWV e-mail address: [laramie@wyominglwv.org](mailto:laramie@wyominglwv.org)

\*State League President

\*\*State League Treasurer

\*\*\*State League Secretary

\*\*\*\*State League Director

LWV of Laramie  
Voter Editor: Mandira Sanyal  
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 343-2540 or Email [tritt@uwyo.edu](mailto:tritt@uwyo.edu); Co-President Nancy Lockwood at Email [nanlockw@gmail.com](mailto:nanlockw@gmail.com)