



Published for members of the Wyoming Historical Society

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69th Annual Meeting of the Society a Success

Special thanks to the **Platte County Historical Society** for hosting the annual meeting over the weekend of September 9th. In addition to conducting the business of the Society a variety of tours and educational talks were held that highlighted Platte County and the downtown historic district.

During the general membership meeting it was announced that new members to the Executive Committee are **Andrea Lewis**, Pinedale; **Heidi McCullough**, Douglas, and **Jessica Flock**, Laramie. Outgoing board members, **Leslie Waggener**, **Vickie Zimmer** and **Jonita Sommers** were recognized for their long-standing commitment to the Society.

The members also approved the slate of officers for the Wyoming Historical Foundation, including **John Waggener**, Laramie; **Ann Noble**, Cora, **Judy Musgrave**, Sheridan; and **Kristi Wallin**, Cheyenne. They are joined by board members **Jeremy Johnston**, Powell; **Charlene Busk**, Gillette, and **Rick Robbins**, Wheatland. **Pinky Ellis** of Casper was recognized for his participation as a Foundation board member for a decade.

Award winners were recognized for their projects ranging from books to activities to tours and youth activities. The list of recipients is on pages five and six, and can also be found on the Society's website at www.wyshs.org.

Members from eleven chapters, **Albany, Campbell, Converse, Fremont, Goshen, Johnson, Laramie, Natrona, Park, Platte** and **Weston** were on hand to assist in guiding decisions about the future of the Society, including everything from developing a new brand to strategic planning and restructuring of dues. Participants all agreed on the need to recruit new members and develop capacity

building that will improve and enhance our short- and long-range goals.

Previously the Society received a grant from the **Wyoming Humanities Council** to assist in developing upgrades for both of our websites. Steve Foster, the Society's webmaster, is working on upgrading the sites from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9. This work will allow the Society to make changes in how the site(s) function. Some of the updates will include a chapter resource page to include "how to" ideas. Additionally, more strategies will be pursued to improve the Awards program, such as electronic submissions. In other conversations it was agreed to pursue a new logo for the Society and to remove the word "state" from the Society's title. Actions are being taken with the Secretary of State's office to officially reflect this change, but in the meantime we will begin using Wyoming Historical Society. Discussion was also continued about creating a standardized due structure and working toward a strategic planning session.

Immediate past president, **Leslie Waggener**, prepared an article that includes some member comments based on the last two issues of *Wyoming History News*. Leslie's summary can be found on page three.



Outgoing president, Leslie Waggener and Linda Fabian, Executive Secretary.

(Photo by Mark DeLap)

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**Visit www.wyshs.org and
"like" us on Facebook****From the
President. . .**

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Wyoming Historical Society president this year. I extend a very special thank you to **Leslie Waggner** for all of her hard work as President. Your shoes are going to be hard to fill! I also want to extend a special note of gratitude to thank the **Platte County Historical Society** for hosting an amazing meeting. The rainy weather impacted the planned outdoor activities, but they did an excellent job of adjusting. Although I was looking forward to an antique tractor hayride to see and hear about all the fascinating murals painted in Wheatland, I was able to explore on my own and view the murals while I was protected from elements by my car.

Many important topics were discussed during the Executive Committee and General Membership meetings. Specifically, **Cheryl O'Brien** and her task force looked at the issue of dwindling Society membership and recommended six short-term and three long-term focus areas to begin work. Further details are included in this newsletter. Additionally, the Executive Committee has started working on the short-term tasks, including an updated logo and online resources for the Chapters. The Executive Committee will continue to work through the critical issues raised in the last two newsletters.

The Society's budget was approved with some adjustments.

The Wyoming State Legislature provides the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources pass through funds to the Society to help publish *Annals of Wyoming*, and to support Wyoming History Day. The amount of funds from the legislature went from \$90,000 to \$70,000 for the upcoming biennium. That, combined with lower membership numbers, forced us to make budget cuts. Money was transferred to help make up most of the shortfall in the Wyoming History Day funds, but WyoHistory.org funding did take a hit. I encourage any of you who enjoy reading the articles in WyoHistory.org or who would like to support Wyoming History Day further to consider including even a small donation to them when the fall non-event fundraiser begins.

The Executive Committee is hoping to make it easier for new members to join and, eventually, for all members to pay their dues online. The latter process will take some negotiating as chapters are charging different dues ranging from \$3.00 per year up to \$15.00 per year. The Executive Committee will work with the chapters to develop a more standardized dues structure.

I plan to continue hosting virtual meetings with Chapter representatives. These meetings have proven to be an effective platform for fostering communication and collaboration and making recommendations to the Executive Committee. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to let Linda or me know. I look forward to collaborating with you all. It's amazing to meet with a group of people who love history as much as I do.

Cindy

WHS members share their thoughts and ideas

By Leslie Waggener
WHS Past President

A number of Wyoming Historical Society members shared ideas and points to consider after reading the August and September issues of *Wyoming History News* which focused on the state of the Society and growing a more vibrant WHS, respectively. A comment that hit home for me was this one: “Fundamentally, I do wonder sometimes why we bother? Does anyone really care whether an organization like the WHS folds? Or, moving up the food chain, the Daughters of the American Revolution, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, or Society of the Cincinnati? Seriously, would anyone miss us? I really do wonder when it takes so much energy to find a person willing to sample our product.” These are important questions for all of us to consider. If we care about our Society, how can you and all of us in ways big or small help grow a more vibrant WHS? The following comments were shortened for brevity:

Member from Albany County: Three suggestions: (1) AmeriCorps/VISTA or AmeriCorps Seniors is what WHS should investigate for Executive Director because people changing careers or retiring from executive positions can bring experience that fits the Society’s needs. No financial outlay, which would help our budget; (2) Does WHS lobby the Wyoming Legislature? If not, can a Society member or Executive Committee member be asked to do so? Do chapters write to their respective legislators whenever it’s a budget session? To make legislators aware of our programs, can they be put on the newsletter mailing list? and (3) Is there a statewide organization or coalition to join to learn how they approach the legislature or other tricks-of-the-trade regarding member recruitment and other short- and long-term action items?

Another member from Albany County: I appreciate the research of sustaining the WHS --- we can do it!

Member from Fremont County: Hi Leslie, you and others did such a great job on your last two special editions of *Wyoming History News* on the “State of the WHS” and moving forward to “Growing a Vibrant WHS.” What a thoughtful, im-

portant, and responsible message to leave for us all as necessary and positive changes are considered!

Member from Laramie County: I want to let you know that I had so many thoughts in reading the last issue of *Wyoming History News*. Among them, I would love to see a renewed partnership with Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources.

Member from Sheridan County: I enjoyed reading “State of the WHS.” This is a reminder that it takes a team to keep a state historical society intact and the counties represented.

Another member from Sheridan County: After reading the August and September 2022 *Wyoming History News*, I gave some thought to the decline in membership and came up with the following comments. The membership has normally been an older age demographic, of which I am at 81. The WHS will suffer from mortality without engaging younger members. One suggestion is to mail copies of both issues to the history departments of the University of Wyoming and state community colleges that offer history degrees. You have younger students who are actually interested in history, which seems to me to be rare in this day and age. Let the departments know that the WHS has a special membership rate for students (\$20) and encourage the faculty and students to get involved.

Member from Tennessee: I met with two history professionals in Tennessee to see if they could make any suggestions on increasing membership, hiring an executive director, and funding sources. Their advice, along with some of my own: Make it personal when recruiting new members. Let them know they’re preserving their own stories because they too are part of Wyoming’s rich history. Recognize current events at chapter meetings. Maybe a new diner opened on a site with ties to the past and will become part of local history. A personal touch is needed on the part of WHS leadership to encourage each chapter’s growth. A state-level leader could, for example, stop by the courthouse to make introductions and raise awareness that local history is important. Include local politicians as Society members and Executive Committee members. They’re potential sources of funding at the local level and can advocate at the state level. Give each mayor or state elected official a free membership and send them the newsletter. If they don’t read it, someone in their office may.

(Continued on page 4)

(Members Share Their Thoughts/Tennessee continued from page 3)

As each chapter grows, it's noticed and seen as important to the community. Advertise to local media for the time, day, and place of a chapter meeting or event. News outlets are looking for stories every day. Consider nearby schools, community colleges, and UW, especially the history departments, for students to assist with projects. Could also be the source for an executive director. In hiring an executive director, even part-time, it is important to hire a historian who knows the public aspects of the job to create the growth of membership. The American Association for State and Local History is a resource for assistance in several aspects, including grants and advice.

Member from Virginia: This month's newsletter (September *Wyoming History News*) makes it two in a row. Bravo! I have some observations. (1) Genealogy is the big winner right now. Invite a genealogist to do a presentation, and members and non-members will come. Invite members who have done genealogy research to "tell their story." Devote a column every month in *WHN* to members who can trace their ancestors to Wyoming. (2) Open meetings with music. There are thousands of musicians in this country, and it is always amazing how many are willing to play for little more than publicity. There are local musicians in every town. This will attract the youngsters.

Member from Atlantic City: Meeting you and all the members of the WHS was an eye-opening time! So many fascinating people are members and I am so honored to meet you and them! The convention was so much fun and I learned so many things and came away with new perspectives.

Leslie concluded, "As a longtime member and immediate past Society president, I believe all of us care about our Society, as shown by the many in-depth comments from members, which are being presented in their entirety to the WHS Executive Committee and Wyoming Historical Foundation. It's my hope that we can keep the positive momentum going."

Editor's Note: The Executive Committee is moving forward with the many initiatives Leslie created during her term as president. A Strategic Planning session is being discussed so that short-and long-term action items can be achieved. Chapters will be encouraged to participate.

Heard on the Historical Trail—Your place for chapter news



The **Weston County Historical Society** hosted its fall 2022 Trek on September 24th. Members enjoyed learning about the history of rural schools and schoolteachers on the Cheyenne River plus much more. To learn more about the chapter's activities email m_jording@yahoo.com.

Congratulations to the **Platte County Historical Society** and member **Kay Kuhlmann** for her successful creation of "Growing Up at the Sunrise Y: 1917-1967." The first person dramatizations were delightful and the entire cast is to be congratulated.

"A Sissy in Wyoming" is a triumph of will; a cry for courage; and a remarkable Cowboy State love story spanning fifty years," explains playwright Gregory Hinton. The tour travels to Cheyenne's Lincoln Theatre (3 pm, Oct. 2); the Sheridan Public Library (4 pm, Oct. 3); the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody (6 pm, Oct. 4); The National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson (6 pm, Oct. 5); Rock Spring's Broadway Theater (6 pm, Oct. 6); Central Wyoming College in Riverton (6 pm, Oct. 7); Casper College (6 pm, Oct. 8); and the Douglas Public Library in Douglas (2 pm, Oct. 9). The performance is sponsored in part by the Society.

The **Hot Springs County Historical Society** will host "Asa Mercer and The Banditti of the Plains" on Saturday, October 8th at the museum beginning at 2 p.m. WHS member **Clay Gibbons** will be the speaker.

On October 13th at 6:00 p.m. the **Friends of Camp Douglas** will host a program titled "Dear Sirs: A Personal Journey Through World War II 75 Years Later" at the historic American Legion Hall in Douglas. Visit <http://dearsirsfilms.com> for more details.

The **Albany County Historical Society** recently enjoyed a program about the history of original surveys that established the Colorado-Wyoming state line. For October programming email **Jessica Flock**, at thepaddlehouse@gmail.com.

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The Wyoming Historical Society recently held its 69th annual meeting in Wheatland, hosted by the Platte County Historical Society. One of the highlights of the meeting is recognizing individuals and organizations who have developed a program, a book or a project that demonstrates significant contributions in preserving the state's history.

Jane Gebhart, chair of the Society's Awards Committee said interest in the history of Wyoming continues to increase each year. "With changing times, we have expanded the Awards program to recognize blogs, Facebook pages, and other electronic forms of celebrating history, in addition to the traditional awards for publications, fine arts, preservation, and youth activities." She added, "The Society's awards program opens many opportunities to recognize the efforts of others in promoting Wyoming's rich legacy." Following are award winners for 2022:

Publications: Non-Fiction Books

- 1st Place *Public Waters: Lessons from Wyoming for the American West*, by Anne MacKinnon, Casper.
- 2nd Place *Cockeyed Happy: Ernest Hemingway's Wyoming Summers with Pauline*, by Darla Worden, Denver.

Publications: Self-Published

- 1st Place *Wyoming History in Art*, featuring historical narratives by Jeremy Johnston, Powell.

Publications: Reference

- 1st Place *Teepee Lodge: The Fordyce Years*, by Judy Slack, Big Horn.

Publications: Fiction

- 1st Place *Burning Ground*, by David A. Galloway, Springboro, Ohio.

Publications: Newsletters

- 1st Place *Kokora Kara*, a newsletter published by the Heart Mountain Foundation, Powell.

Publications: Newspapers

- 1st Place *A Piece of History* by the Newsletter Journal and KateLynn Slaamot, Newcastle

Publications: Magazines

- 1st Place *Yellowstone History Journal 2021* published by the Museum of the Yellowstone/Yellowstone Historic Center

Publications: Pamphlets

- 1st Place *The Mining Town of Kirwin* by Alex Deselms and Amy Phillips.

Publications: Calendars

- 1st Place *2022 Calendar of Star Valley History*

Chapter Award

- 1st Place Weston County Historical Society for utilizing Zoom technology in presenting programs and electronic file transcriptions.

Maurine Carley Historic Preservation Award

- 1st Place Daren Downs for renovating the Craig Chevrolet Garage, Newcastle.

Outstanding Historic Preservation Project

- 1st Place Barbara Townsend for her work in preserving two Atlantic City, WY cemeteries.

(Continued on page 6)

Awards continued from page 5

Audio/Visual Tours

1st Place *Meeteetse Stories* by Amy Phillips.

Social Media

1st Place Albany County Historical Society Facebook page by Kim Viner.

Activities Award (three first place awards)

1st Place Heart Mountain Augmented Reality Tour by Jon Awakawa, Fitchburg, MA.

1st Place Northeast Barn Tour by the Campbell County Historical Society

1st Place Wheatland Historic Preservation Commission for success in getting the Wheatland downtown listed as a Downtown Historic District.

Chapter Award

1st Place Weston County Historical Society for utilizing Zoom technology in presenting programs and electronic file transcriptions.

Maurine Carley Historic Preservation Award

1st Place Daren Downs for renovating the Craig Chevrolet Garage, Newcastle.

Outstanding Historic Preservation Project

1st Place Barbara Townsend for her work in preserving two Atlantic City cemeteries, Atlantic City, WY.

Mabel Brown Cumulative Contribution Award

1st Place Betty Petranek, Newcastle, for her longstanding contributions and commitment to Wyoming history.

Henryetta Berry Award

1st Place Wind River Heritage Center for its efforts in encouraging young people to learn and share Wyoming history.

Young Historian, Grades 3-5

1st Place Ashlyn Hatheway for *My Dream*, Newcastle.

2nd Place Brooklyne Hoffman for *Indian Villages*, Newcastle.

3rd Place Shelby Smith for *Native American Tribes*, Newcastle.

Young Historian, Grades 6-8

1st Place Maggie Hicks and Halle Mickelsen for *Not a Drop to Spare*, Wheatland.

2nd Place Lily Anderson, Carly Robertson and Haidyn Sisson for *Wichowayake*, Wheatland.

3rd Place Josefina Blain for *Coal Slurry Competes in the Coal Market*, Cody.

Junior Activities, Grades 3-5

1st Place Landon Riebel for *10 Native American Facts*, Newcastle.

2nd Place Kaylee Lambert for *Indian Village*, Newcastle.

3rd Place Isabel Parsons for *My First Buffalo Hunt*, Newcastle.

The Society seeks nominations that reflect outstanding work in preserving and interpreting Wyoming history. Awards are divided into seven main category groups. An Awards Manual can be found online at www.wyshs.org, or contact Society headquarters at 307-322-3014 or linda@wyshs.org. Nominations must be received by April 30th of each year.

WYOMING HISTORY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2-Cheyenne. *A Sissy in Wyoming*, 3 p.m., Lincoln Theatre. See below for other dates and towns or visit uwyoedu/ahc/simpson.

Oct 3—Sheridan. Sheridan Public Library, 4 p.m.

Oct 4—Cody. BB Center of the West, 6 p.m.

Oct 5—Jackson. Natl. Mus. of Wildlife Art, 6 p.m.

Oct 6-Rock Springs. Broadway Theatre, 6 p.m.

Oct 7-Riverton. Central Wyoming College, 6 p.m.

Oct 8-Casper. Casper College, 6 p.m.

Oct 9-Douglas. Library, 2 p.m. All performances are free and open to the public.

October 13-Douglas. *Dear Sirs* at the American Legion, 6 p.m. Email heidiho2202@yahoo.com.

October 13-Laramie. A book talk and author signing for *Out Here On Our Own* by J. J. Anselmi, American Heritage Center, 3 p.m.

October 27-Casper. History of the Sorenson Ranch, 6:30 p.m., Library.

*This calendar is not all-inclusive and does not include some events listed in *Heard on the Trail*.*

Wyoming History News welcomes information about events of interest to the general membership and guest. Information should be sent at least a month in advance and reach the WHN editor by the 15th. Send items to linda@wyshs.org.

Heard on the Trail continued from page 4

WHS members **Starley Talbot** and co-author **Linda Fabian** will be guests of the Guernsey VFW on October 13th to talk about their book *The History of the Wyoming Capitol*. The event begins at 4 p.m. and is open to the public.

The **Wyoming State Museum** is partnering with the Cheyenne Hispanic Festival Committee to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with events and programs through October 15th. For more information about the celebration google Hispanic Heritage Month/Wyoming or call the museum at 777-7022.

On Thursday, October 27th the **Natrona County Historical Society** will host a program about the Centennial Sorenson Ranch. The event will be held at the Natrona County Library beginning at 6:30 p.m. Email robinlbroumley@gmail.com for more details.

Through December 15th the **Museum at the Big-horns** in Sheridan is hosting numerous programs and exhibit, including *An Artist Goes to War: WWI through the eyes of George Ostrom*. To find out more email info@themuseumatthebighorns.org.

The **Historic Bishop Home's** Fall exhibit features its unique and iconic collection of Mid-20th Century Aprons. Aprons date back to ancient times for practical, decorative, and ritualistic purposes. In the 1940's the apron became the symbol of family, mother, and apple pie ideals. As the popularity of the apron increased, the humble garment was decorated and made beautiful. While the apron has been around for a long time, there are practical and sentimental favorites—totems of

craft, hard work, and showmanship thrown in for good measure. The exhibit features practical day to day aprons as well as delicate handiwork treasures reserved for special occasions and entertaining. This unique exhibit will run through mid-November when Christmas arrives at the home. Tours hours are 10 am to 2 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The home is located in Casper at 818 East Second Street on the North side of the street between Lincoln and Jefferson. For information visit www.cadomafoundation.org; Facebook page Bishop Home Museum or call 307-235-5277.

The **American Heritage Center** in Laramie will host a book talk and author signing by J. J. Anselmi on October 13th at 3 p.m. titled *Out Here On Our Own: The Oral History of an American Boomtown*. The author will share personal accounts of a mining boomtown with widespread addiction, prostitution, and a high suicide rate—yet a place of remarkable resiliency.

The **Johnson County Historical Society** will present a talk on Tuesday, October 4th about The Mansion House Inn built in 1903. You'll learn about the history of the house and stories of its many occupants! The program will be at the Johnson County Library beginning at 6 p.m.

Since 1997 the Wyoming Archaeology Month posters have been highly sought after. This year's poster, designed by WHS member **Judy Wolf**, features a photo of *The Enclosure on the Grand Teton* by Kenneth L. Driese. The poster is available by calling 307-766-5366.



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The 2023 Calendar of Wyoming History is available at museum gift shops, chapters, and book vendors around the state, and can be ordered through Society headquarters by emailing linda@wyshs.org. The calendar features 365 daily facts that cover important historical events, along with stunning historical photographs including when WNG Adjutant General P.A. Gatschell (front center) visited with the State Rifle Team, August 15, 1907.

(Photo courtesy American Heritage Center)