



Wyoming

Nonprofit News

Wyoming Association of Nonprofit Organizations

From the Board Chair...*Barb Rea*

As you read this first edition of Wyoming Nonprofit News, you are a part of history in the making!

*The nonprofit community in our state achieved a major milestone in August with the founding members of a brand new organization coming together in Laramie to elect a board of directors. The **Wyoming Association of Nonprofit Organizations** was officially launched, and this newsletter is our first official communication. It was mailed to 950 nonprofit organizations and friends of nonprofits—some who have already joined the association – and many others that might benefit from our services.*

The Wyoming Association of Nonprofit Organizations is the culmination of two years of planning and listening to the needs of the nonprofit community. The impetus for the association was the Wyoming Nonprofit Support Initiative. The organizing committee hosted a series of 15 town meetings to determine how an association could meet the needs of nonprofits, and we heard – loud and clear – that affordable employee health insurance and benefits is the number one issue that the association should address.

*This newsletter contains articles about WANO's health and wellness program, and lists several other membership benefits. **Membership** is the key word. Each month, WANO members will receive a newsletter that features a calendar and resources designed to help their organizations be more efficient in achieving their mission. WANO currently has 39 members...and counting! Won't you join us?*

Founding members elect board of directors

At the first membership meeting of the Wyoming Association of Nonprofit Organizations (WANO) on Aug. 8, founding members elected 15 directors. They are:

NORTHEAST: Susie Ponce (Sheridan); Jay McGinnis, YMCA (Sheridan)

NORTHWEST: Kim Capron, Association Resources of Wyoming, Inc. (Cody)

WEST CENTRAL: Arlen Taggart, Fremont County Good Samaritan

Center (Riverton)

EAST CENTRAL: Ken Hoff, Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Inc. (Casper); Rachel Chadderdon, Serve Wyoming (Casper); Dan Neal, Equality State Policy Center (Casper); Barb Rea (Casper); Holly Turner, Nicolaysen Art Museum (Casper)

SOUTHEAST: George Gault, Wyoming Community Foundation (Laramie); Connie Sloan Cathcart, United Way of Laramie County

(Cheyenne); Kathleen Kelley, Faith Initiatives of Wyoming (Cheyenne); Leigh Anne Manlove, Wyoming State Bar Foundation (Cheyenne); Beth Worthen, Governor's Office (Cheyenne)

SOUTHWEST: Pam Jelaca, Hospice of Sweetwater County (Rock Springs)

The board will meet monthly via conference call and together on a quarterly schedule.

The Wyoming Association of Nonprofit Organizations (WANO) was formed to strengthen the leadership, skills, effectiveness and efficiency of Wyoming's nonprofits; enabling them to further enrich the quality of community and personal life in Wyoming. WANO will promote a stronger nonprofit sector and a supportive public climate by providing member services, public awareness and advocacy.

TRAINING CALENDAR

- Oct. 11 Becoming a 501c3
Cheyenne, 1-4 pm
- Oct. 27 Recruiting Volunteers
Gillette, 1-4 pm
- Nov. 9 Board Development
Cody, 1-4 pm
- Dec. 1 Training & Supervising
Volunteers—Sheridan, 1-4 pm
- Feb. 7 Budgeting & Financial
Management—Laramie, 10 am to
noon

These workshops are presented in partnership with Faith Initiatives of Wyoming. There is no cost to attend, but please call FIW to register at 307-634-7878 ext 20.

Visit www.fiwyo.org for details.

Want to join the Wyoming Association of Nonprofit Organizations?

Then download the membership brochure and application at www.compasswy.net.

For more information

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"Taking Back" Health Insurance Benefits—with WANO

By **Bill Mitchell**

As Business Affairs Director for Central Wyoming Rescue Mission in Casper, I—like many of you – have struggled with employee health benefits for several years.

The dual curse of premium increases, accompanied by decreased benefits, moved us inevitably to consider the hard decision to cancel our catastrophic policy.

But, we were looking to provide *something rather than nothing* — if the cost and benefits were feasible. Like many of you, we survive on the kindness and generosity of donors (mostly private). Stewardship requires that we get the best for the dollars entrusted to us.

Thus, we were eager

to see what WANO could do to help us get on a different track, by being part of a larger pool of insurance participants.

The Symetra gold plan has saved us more than \$2000 per month in costs! We have covered more of our staff—and we have coupled our Health Reimbursement Arrangement to provide first dollar, out of pocket reimbursements for our employees—resulting in NON-TAXABLE improvement in paying for qualified medical costs for our full-time and part-time staff.

We also know that we need to exercise a new personal responsibility for our individual health—so the BeWell benefit and the Wyoming Health Fairs access (BOTH covered by the WANO program participation fee), are critical to managing and protect-

ing our health risks.

We are eager to move ahead with WANO as it develops a self-insured stop-loss, catastrophic plan in the near future. How soon this happens depends on you!

What is needed is that WANO members, insured participants, reach the level for that plan to become economically feasible.

The Symetra plan was intended to be just what it is, a supplemental and simple to administer, defined benefit plan as the FIRST step toward WANO "taking back" and reducing the ultimate costs of health insurance.

This is a crucial issue which has defeated many of us for too long. We encourage you to come along "take back" what is ours!

Wyo. Community Foundation bolsters WANO

Since the inception of the Wyoming Nonprofit Support Initiative, the Wyoming Community Foundation has been one of the drivers of the effort to strengthen Wyoming's non-

profit community.

At its September board meeting, the Wyoming Community Foundation approved a \$5,000 grant for WANO.

This funding is in addition

to the invaluable in-kind support that the foundation staff has provided as the sponsor and fiscal agent for the planning initiative and now for the new association.

Just the beginning...

We hope this newsletter gives you a glimpse of the kind of information and resources that WANO will afford your organization and the nonprofit community at large. This is just one of the services for WANO members. Other member benefits include a **health and wellness program**, **organizational assessments**, a **mentor program**, and **advocacy**—with the 2nd Annual Wyoming Nonprofit Day at the Legislature in February.

WANO also sends **electronic bulletins**—periodic updates including job postings, upcoming events, helpful hints and more. We have compiled a list of 650 e-mail addresses, so if you haven't yet received an email notice from WANO, you may need to change your e-mail preferences to accept messages from: nonprofitnews@compasswy.net. This is a send only address, so please e-mail lisa@compasswy.net to subscribe or with information to share.