



President's Letter for October

Dear Members,

Just a few of the highlights from the Rocky Mountain Region district meeting in Lander. It was my first district meeting and I am so glad I attended. There were six of us from Laramie and it was a wonderful time to strengthen friendships, make new ones and learn what Soroptimist is really all about; to improve the lives of women and girls, and how to do it.

Coming away from the meeting and thinking about all that happened, I summarized that setting goals for a club provide guidelines to meet determined bookmarks of success so SIA's mission and ours can be achieved. The district meeting provided substantial training and awareness of the resources available from SIA to meet club goals. I also surmised that attending these meetings and conferences are a lot fun. What a great bunch of gals to get together with.

If meeting goals are a measure of success, SI of Laramie can be certainly recognized as a successful club. SI of Laramie received five awards at the meeting for accomplishing goals established by SIA. Our club was awarded: a Certificate of Participation in the 2008 Women's Opportunity Awards; Certification of Recognition as a Bronze Club for our contribution to the 2007-2008 Annual Club Campaign; the 2008 Soroptimist Club Award for outstanding work in all four areas of the Renaissance Campaign; recognition for meeting the Renaissance Membership Challenge, recruiting four or more members; and 2nd Place in SIA's Soroptimists Celebrating Success! 2008, for its "Membership Drive: Live Your Dream Event". Wow, what a club we have!

Well, I'd better close and get this to Fay so she can publish October's newsletter. One of my goals is to get the President's Letter to her by the 15th!

Sincerely, Carmen



SIL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

October Program meeting:

Janine Jordan, Laramie City Manager, on the 7th cent sales sale that's going to be on the ballot Nov. 4, and Suzan Pauling, Public Policy Director, Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Will we have a holiday party? Here's a link to a survey about what' you'd like for a holiday party:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nRw3IOFhiuwxQXLX_2bHXu2g_3d_3d

Respond by Oct. 30. Tell Susan Simpson, 721-5565, if you have trouble with the survey.

***Each month our newsletter will highlight at least one area in our Programs of Service. The more we all know about Soroptimist, the easier it will be to tell everyone we meet what great things we do and what a great organization we are!**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Here's a link to SIA's white paper on teen age dating violence:

http://www.soroptimist.org/whitepapers/wp_teendating.html

and its white paper on domestic violence and the workplace:

http://www.soroptimist.org/whitepapers/wp_dv.html

Nov. 25 is the date of the Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence. Here's some information from the SIA web site:

According to a World Bank study, one in five work days lost for health reasons by women is the result of domestic violence. In the U.S., 96 percent of employed battered women experience problems at work due to domestic violence. There are 13,000 acts of violence against women at work each year by their partners. Homicide is the leading cause of on-the-job death for women, with some 20 percent of these women killed by their spouses or partners. . . .

“Domestic violence also causes entire countries’ economies to suffer, and millions of dollars in health care, law enforcement and court costs can be lost. The Inter-American Development Bank found that the cost of domestic violence causes Canada to loose \$1.6 billion per year. Researchers in the U.S. found that economic losses sustained as a result of domestic violence range from \$10 billion to \$67 billion per year (<http://www.soroptimist.org/members/program/programresources.html#workplace> undated, downloaded 10-12-08).

OUR HISTORY





**The Near-Repeal of Women's Suffrage
By Phil Roberts, Department of History,
University of Wyoming**

The first Territorial Legislature in 1869 passed the suffrage bill, giving women the right to vote for the first time anywhere in America. Two years later, the same legislature very nearly repealed the law. In fact, repeal failed by just one vote.

Democrats held every seat in both the House of Representatives and the Council in 1869. By the next session, however, Democrats had just four of the nine Council seats, Republicans gained three while one was won by a People's Party member and another by an independent. In the 13-member House, four were Republicans; nine were Democrats. William Bright, the South Pass City Democrat who introduced the bill in 1869, had chosen not to seek reelection to the Council. In fact, only one incumbent House member returned—Ben Sheeks who, unlike his South Pass City colleague, had opposed the suffrage act. In the Council, not one incumbent returned in 1871.

Uinta County House member C. E. Castle gave notice immediately on arriving in Cheyenne that he intended to seek repeal of the suffrage law. Nothing from the record indicates why Castle sought such action. Gov. John A. Campbell, the man who made history on Dec. 10, 1869, by signing the act into law, urged legislators not to repeal the law. "...women have voted in the territory, served on juries, and held office," Campbell pointed out. "It is simple justice to say that the women entering, for the first time in the history of the country, upon these new and untried duties, have conducted themselves in every respect with as much tact, sound judgment, and good sense, as men."

Despite Campbell's entreaties, Castle introduced the repeal on the ninth day of the session, Nov. 13. The *Cheyenne Daily Leader* commented in one paragraph: "Now, really that's too bad! A

week of the session is hardly over, and already a bill is announced in the legislature for the repeal of woman suffrage. What will Sooth Anthony say now?" The following day, the repeal passed first and second reading and went to committee where the committee, after long discussion, gave it a "do pass" recommendation. On Nov. 17, the bill came up for final passage. It cleared the House by a vote of nine to three with one member absent and not voting.

The editor of the *Daily Leader* was quick to try to convince the readers that the measure hadn't been "a party measure." He wrote: "The convenience of politicians has heretofore established that Women Suffrage in Wyoming, discarded by the Democracy, was the especially [sic] protégé of another party. This had been the light in which it was regarded by the press and on the stump. The essential features of necessity and wisdom or the reverse of woman's voting, have been lost sight of, and the new element in our Territorial politics has been used as far could be, by politicians to subserve purely personal ends." He added, "So much for the past." He then argued that with the vote going to the council, members should not be "whipped into line under the lash of strict party discipline." Then the editor made his own position clear on the issue: "We trust the subject of woman suffrage may be calmly and dispassionately debated before a final vote in the Council. We have, for ourself, ever felt that female suffrage was repugnant to the wishes of a majority of refined and intelligent women of the land, and her direct participation in political affairs, as unchaste and subversive of the natural order of things. Nevertheless, we have exercised toward the measure the fullest degree of tolerance under the firm belief that a practical trial was due it, equally with any other issue which the perseverance, faith or ingenuity of men or women might bring before the public eye. In the final consideration of woman suffrage—that consideration is to end it or give it a new lease of life, and perhaps popularity—let it be divested of



all political significance as regards existing parties, and stand or fall by its own merits.” When the bill went forward to the Council, the council spent one entire afternoon locked in debate over the measure and carried the debate over to the following morning. The controversial bill passed there by a narrower vote of 5-4 on Nov. 30. By all appearances, Wyoming’s two-year experiment with women suffrage would be coming to an end. The editor of the *Daily Leader* predicted that the governor would veto the bill: “We are prepared to wager a postage stamp or two that he will veto it.”

Downey presented a petition, signed by “thirty ladies of Albany County, praying that H. B. 4, repealing woman suffrage, do not pass.”

Otherwise, little lobbying on the measure is apparent from the record.

The following week, Gov. Campbell vetoed the repeal attempt, returning the bill to the House.

I regret that a sense of duty compels me to dissent from your honorable body, with regard to any contemplated measure of public policy.A regard, however, for the rights of those whose interests are to be affected by it, and for what I believe to be the best interests of the territory, will not allow me to do so. The consideration besides, that the passage of this bill would, on the part of all those instrumental in bringing it about, be a declaration that the principles upon which the enfranchisement of women are urged, are false and untenable, and that our experience demonstrates this, influences me not a little, in my present action. ...

So it was when two years ago the act which this bill designs to repeal was presented for my approval. There was at that time no experience to which I might refer, and test by its results the conclusions to which the application of certain universally admitted principles led me. In the absence of all such experience, I was driven to the application of principles which through the whole course of our national history have been powerfully and beneficially operative in making our institutions more and more popular, in framing laws more and more just and in securing amendments to our federal constitution.

If the ballot be an expression of the wish or a declaration of the will of the taxpayer as to the manner in which taxes should be levied and collected and revenues distributed, why should those who hold in their own right a large proportion of the wealth of the country be excluded from a voice in making the laws

which regulate this whole subject? If again the ballot be for the physically weak, a guarantee of protection against aggressions and violence of the strong, upon which ground can the delicate bodily organism of woman be forbidden this shield for her protection? If once, more, each ballot be the declaration of the individual will of the person casting it as to the relative merit of opposed measures of men, surely the ability to judge and determine, the power of choice, does not depend upon sex, nor does womanhood deprive of personality. Yet, what is there but conjecture, prejudice and conservatism opposing the reform?

Campbell then took issue with the view that since women can’t serve in militia, they shouldn’t vote. He also argued that women actually could clean up politics and then disputed the view that men are “natural protectors” of their mothers, wives and sisters.

...To the statement so often made that the law which this bill is intended to repeal was passed thoughtlessly, and without proper consideration, I oppose the fact to which I have adverted, that the law perfectly conforms to all the other laws in relation to women upon our statute books; studied in connection with the other laws it would seem to have grown naturally from them. It harmonizes entirely with them and forms a fitting apex to the grand pyramid which is being built up as broadly and as surely throughout all of the States of the Union as it has been built up in Wyoming.

....In this territory women have manifested for its highest interests a devotion strong and ardent and intelligent. They have brought to public affairs clearness of understanding and a soundness of judgment which, considering their exclusion hitherto from practical participation in political agitations and movements, are worthy of the greatest admiration and above all, praise.

He repeated the statements he made in his message to the legislature earlier in which he urged that the suffrage bill not be repealed.

....For the first time in the history of our country we have a government to which the noble words of our magna charta of freedom may be applied, not as a mere figure of speech, but as expressing a simple grand truth, for it is a government which ‘derives all its just powers from the consent of the governed.’ We should pause long and weigh carefully the probable result of our action before consenting to change this government, a regard for the genius of our institutions—for the fundamental principles of American autonomy—and for the immutable principles



of right and justice, will not permit me to sanction this change.

Both houses needed two-thirds votes to override and House Speaker Sheets immediately sought to override the veto in a special meeting of the legislature on Saturday evening, Dec. 9.

On Dec. 9, just a day short of two years since the initial passage, nine legislators voted for the veto override, to repeal women's suffrage. The *Daily Leader* reported that speeches to override were made by Kuykendall, Sheeks and Wilson.

"[They] certainly were what might be expected of every right thinking person, man or woman." The *Leader* added that one Republican was heard saying he actually opposed women's suffrage, but "vote for its continuance as a party measure merely."

The editor hoped for repeal: "The abolition of the useless statute conferring suffrage upon women will be regretted by none of the sex, save those emulous of an unenviable notoriety in the ranks of the suffrage shriekers, the unsexed and uncultivated, we had almost said unchaste, of the Territory. The question has its advocates among those of lax socialistic ideas, the Woodhulls and Tiltons of society. It has moreover the odor of free-loveism and depravity. About it, an inseparable odium attaches, as subversive of nature, a foul and rotten thing, which will be deprecated and discountenanced by all high minded and honorable persons of either sex." With support from such critics of the bill, the House voted on final passage of the override. Just two voted "no" while two others were absent and not voting. The House had mustered

the necessary two-thirds vote. Now, the override attempt went to the Council.

There, on the 32nd day of the session, the five Council members seeking to repeal suffrage voted to override. The four who had voted against the bill when it first came before the Council again voted against the act. But it was not enough for opponents of women's suffrage. The override effort failed, falling just one vote short of the necessary two-thirds.

The opponents of women's suffrage had taken their best shot and narrowly lost. The four supporters of suffrage in the Council had held firm and Campbell's veto kept the suffrage act part of the territory's laws.

No serious effort was mounted again to repeal the suffrage law. In 1873, Campbell told the legislators in his joint message: ". "Two years more of observation of the practical working of the system have only served to deepen my conviction that what we, in this Territory, have done, has been well done, and that our system of impartial suffrage is an unqualified success." As evidence of the territory's revolutionary support for women's rights, many historians point to the near-unanimous support given women's suffrage in that first territorial legislature. Unfortunately, the record is not nearly so clear when that close brush with repeal in the second legislative session is factored in. Without Gov. Campbell and that one Council vote, Wyoming, like New Jersey, could have been a footnote in the story of women's rights rather than the "Equality State," the pioneering government favoring equal rights for women.

November 4th, 2008

OUR HEALTH





The Importance of Mammograms

Even though there are many jokes about getting mammograms, having breast cancer is nothing to laugh about. One of the easiest ways to keep your risk of developing breast cancer low involves early detection. Mammograms are a surefire way to know what is going on in your body. While mammograms aren't the most pleasant, they are necessary for every woman to ensure her **health** and safety.

Any woman can be at risk for breast cancer and because the chances of that risk only grow higher as the years go by, it is vital that every woman gets a mammogram done early on. Many women have the misconception that if no one in her family has suffered from breast cancer that makes her unsusceptible. That train of thinking can be dangerous. While having a family **history of breast cancer** makes it easier to track who may get it later on in life, those without any prior family history of breast cancer can develop it, too. For that reason alone, it is important to get a mammogram done. This test can catch breast cancer in its earliest stages. If cancerous cells are found early but haven't attacked the lymph nodes, the chances for survival are 97% and 78% if the cancer has spread to the lymph nodes. Those odds are much more favorable than finding the cancer later on.

Mammograms are a common procedure that doesn't take very long to do. You may be asked to disrobe and put on the common medical gown, with an opening in the front. You will stand up and face an x-ray machine, where a technologist will place your breast between two plastic plates. The plates will then come together and compress. This is the painful part but is necessary in order to get a clear image to read. The entire process typically takes between 10-15 minutes. After that you are done and your results will be available for you to discuss with your doctor.

If a lump is found as a result of your mammogram, your doctor will feel for the lump with their hand and assess the condition of the lump and the tissue surrounding it. An ultrasound test may be needed to get an image of how large the lump is. Needle biopsy may be performed in order to get fluid from the mass for further testing.

In addition to receiving a mammogram, checking your breasts yourself at home is also another way to practice early detection. Learn to be familiar with the way your breasts feel and look in appearance. Do a self-breast exam often to feel for any lumps or other unnatural occurrences. If you find anything out of the ordinary, make an appointment with your doctor. By regularly scheduling clinical breast exams and doing your own examinations, you can effectively decrease your odds of developing breast **cancer**.

****NOTE from the Editor.** A mammogram did save my life. In 2004, I proceeded to my doctor for my annual physical. After the routine screenings, including a mammogram, they had found cancer, before metastasis. Due to finding it so soon, I avoided harsh treatments like radiation and chemo. So **please** do your monthly breast examines and get a mammogram regularly. (Still cancer free!)

Acknowledging October as Breast Cancer Awareness can be a simple act . . . visit the internet site below and click on the pink rectangle that says "[click here](#)".

That is all you need to do and the result at the end of each day will be free mammograms for those unable to afford their own.

Simple, free, significantly rewarding!

Thank you.

<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/>





EVENTS CALENDAR

October 23, 2008

Program Meeting @ Wingers – Noon

October 31, 2008

Halloween – Boo!

November 5, 2008

Membership dinner. Set up will be at 5:00 p.m., dinner from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and cleanup at 8:00 p.m.

November 6, 2008

Board Meeting –
Altitudes – Noon

November 13, 2008

Business Meeting @
Wingers - Noon



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU – CELEBRATE BEING YOU!!!

Erma Santistevan – 10/23
Marian Showacre – 10/24

Kathy Phillips – 10/31
Dianne Van Pelt 11/15

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!



QUOTE:

*Some men see things as they are and say why.
I dream of things that never were and say why not.*

Robert F. Kennedy, who was actually quoting George Bernard Shaw.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF LARAMIE

<http://www.soroptimistoflaramie.org/>

OCTOBER 2008



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

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SOROPTIMIST PLEDGE:

I pledge allegiance to Soroptimist and to the ideals for which it stands:

The Sincerity of Friendship

The Joy of Achievement

The Dignity of Service

The Integrity of Profession

The Love of Country

I will put forth my greatest effort to promote, uphold and defend these ideals, for a larger Fellowship in home, in society, in business, for country and for God.

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls.