

WCCE News

Wyoming Chamber of Commerce Executives

Candy Wright, Director
PO Box 301, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201
Phone/Fax: 307-322-3977
wcce@wyomingwireless.com
www.wyomingchambers.com

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Newsletter

From WCCE's President

Lori Becker, Casper Area Chamber of Commerce

Happy New Year WCCE members! Have you kept your New Years resolutions? I'm trying, but it takes constant reminding and work. I have a couple of personal resolutions that I'm sure you'll have no interest in. Who really cares about cholesterol anyway? It doesn't gather on your face or hips, what can it hurt? So, I'll share a couple of my work resolutions. They're fairly basic, but tend to be ignored without me constantly reminding myself of how important they are.

1. Use your vacation and personal time off! During my first two years at the Chamber, I gave back over 80 hours of vacation time. I didn't think I needed it. The job's FUN, who needs a vacation? Well, turns out I do. Every one of us needs to remember how valuable it is to our families and to ourselves to take some time to rest the mind and soul. TAKE YOUR VACATION! You may come back with a new perspective to an old problem.
2. When considering new programs or activities, ask the membership what they want and expect from the Chamber. It's easy to get caught up in trying to solve all of the challenges in our communities, but if it's not what the membership wants, we shouldn't be doing it.
3. Get out and visit with the members. This pretty much ties directly with #2. If I'm not out in the community, how will I know what my membership expects? It's easy to send a fax, but the results are better in person.

So, if you try to reach me this year, I'll either be on vacation or out of the office visiting with members. Leave a message. Just kidding.

January has been a busy month within the State. We welcomed our Governor to another term in office, had a statewide Methamphetamine Conference and kicked-off the 2007 Legislative Session, which leads to many trips to Cheyenne for most of us. I wish you all safe and productive journeys.

WCCE will host its Annual Winter Conference and Business Day at the Legislature beginning on February 5th in Cheyenne. Business Day will be held on Tuesday, February 6th at the Hitching Post Inn in Cheyenne. This years panels will address Quality Childcare in the state and Immigration and how it affects our workforce. Please be sure to invite your membership, committee members and board members.

WCCE will also hold the Annual Winter Conference and meeting on Monday, February 5th, also at the Hitching Post. David May of the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce, a seasoned and brilliant Chamber Executive will share his expertise and ideas on how to define the roles of our Chambers and also how to better promote your Chamber to the community. This training will prove to be invaluable to new execs as well as experienced execs. There will also be a strategic planning session for WCCE members, a joint meeting with WEDA, legislative updates, the Leadership dinner and much, much more. If you haven't registered for any of the Conference, please do today. Call Candy Wright at 307-322-3977 and she will be happy to process your registration and answer any questions that you might have.

Don't forget to bring a few copies of your community phone books and any other programs or materials that you'd like to share. I hope to see you in Cheyenne and look forward to visiting and sharing ideas with all of you.

Be safe and warm,
Lori

WYOMING CHAMBER EXECUTIVE – UPDATE!!

NO new Directors since our October 2006 Newsletter!!

Congratulations to **Karen Haderlie** (Star Valley Chamber) and **Peggy Rounds** (Evanston Chamber) on Graduating from Chamber Institute!!

Thank you to the Wyoming Business Council for providing scholarship funds for these executives

Larry Atwell (Cheyenne Chamber)....what can we say. You have been a mentor to many. Congratulations on your retirement, you will be missed!!

From the Wyoming Business Council Brandon Marshall, Business Retention and Entrepreneurship

Wyoming Business Council to Launch Wyospace.com Entrepreneur's Blog February 1st

Problem:

In a state with the physical size of Wyoming, it's often very difficult for business people to gather for networking events. At least one night in a hotel is usually necessary to attend anything, just because of our status as a "little city, with extremely long streets." Very few entrepreneurs can afford the time it takes for such an event. They're too busy running their business to go off and try to gather helpful information.

Solution: (one of them)

The Internet has made it possible for meetings to be held with attendees thousands of miles apart, for shopping trips to happen in living rooms, and for mail to be delivered in seconds. With that in mind, the Wyoming Business Council staff has been working for several weeks now on the development of wyospace.com. A play on "myspace.com", the site's intention is to provide a community gathering space for Wyoming's entrepreneurs, and provide a networking event right in your home or office. Entrepreneurs will be able to gather information and pass along tips and advice to other entrepreneurs. Everyone from a small retail shop owner to industrial manufacturers will be able to benefit from the offerings. Think of it as a 24/7 chamber mixer, without the little smokies, of course.

Regular blog style articles (short) will be posted daily by various Wyoming Business Council staff and staff its partner programs at the University of Wyoming. Subjects will include, but not be limited to, questions on regulations, services available, new ways of doing things, interesting business news (both statewide and national), and profiles of successful Wyoming entrepreneurs.

Discussion will be encouraged at the site. After all, the best information for Wyoming's entrepreneurs will probably come from other Wyoming entrepreneurs. That being the case, the Wyoming Business Council will start the conversation, and step back to allow entrepreneurs to continue it. We encourage discussion of the subject at hand, and anything else you feel will be helpful to other Wyoming entrepreneurs (within the confines of the site policies, of course.)

Come check it out February 1st.

www.wyospace.com

BRAVO! – Update

The 2007 BRAVO! Entrepreneur Awards Banquet will not be held in conjunction with Business Day at the Legislature and the WCCE/WEDA Winter Conference as scheduled. The event has been postponed and is now tentatively scheduled for April 12, 2007 in Casper.

Nominations for the awards remain open and may be submitted electronically to the *Wyoming Business Report's* web site: www.wyomingbusinessreport.com, faxed to (307) 635-1646, or mailed to the WBR's Cheyenne office, 1603 Capitol Avenue, Suite 211, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

Object and Purpose of WCCE

The organization shall be organized to advance Chamber of Commerce management in all areas; to advance standards of ethical and efficient operation; to provide assistance to members in the conduct of their responsibilities; to coordinate information on all matters relating to Chambers of Commerce and similar organizations; to be a clearinghouse for interchange of ideas and information among Chambers which may provide a basis for action on matters of statewide importance; and to provide a medium for effective cooperation with organizations performing specialized functions related to Chamber of Commerce.

WCCE Reminders:

- Send your newsletter to WCCE and to other Wyoming chambers. We can all learn by what others are doing!!
- Upcoming WCCE Conferences:
 - February 5, 2007 – WCCE Winter Conference/Training & Leadership Dinner
Hitching Post Inn - Cheyenne, WY
 - February 6, 2007 – Business Day at the Legislature & WCCE/WEDA Legislative Reception
Hitching Post Inn – Cheyenne, WY
 - February 7, 2007 – WEDA Winter Conference/Training
Hitching Post Inn – Cheyenne, WY

WCCE Board of Directors 2006-2007

Lori Becker, President

Casper Area Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 399
Casper, WY 82602
307-234-5311
Fax 307-265-2643
lorib@casperwyoming.org

Rolinda Sample (2008)

Greater Cheyenne Chamber
One Depot Square
121 West 15th Street Suite 204
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-638-3388
Fax 307-778-1407
rolindas@cheyennechamber.org

Peggy Rounds, Past President

Evanston Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 365
Evanston, WY 82930
307-783-0370 or 307-783-0374
Fax 307-789-4807
director@etownchamber.com

Jackie Bredthauer (2008)

Niobrara Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 457
Lusk, WY 82225
307-334-2950
Fax 307-334-2950
luskchamberofcommerce@yahoo.com

Mike Willard, President-Elect

Worland/Tensleep Chamber
120 N 10th Street
Worland, WY 82401
307-347-3226
Fax 307-347-3025
wtschamber@rtconnect.net

Karen Haderlie, Secretary/Treasurer (2007)

Star Valley Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1171
Thayne, WY 83127
307-883-2759
Fax 307-883-2758
svcom@silverstar.com

WCCE Board Conference Calls are on the third Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. – if you are interested in being on these calls you must let the WCCE office know so you will receive call-in information.

All members are welcome on the call. WCCE appreciates your participation.