

February 15, 2014

Wyoming Association of Student Councils

WyASC Newsletter

Facebook - WyASC

Instagram - Coming Soon!!!

Amy Kassel

Dear Advisors,

WyASC will be attending the National Convention for Student Council from June 22-29, 2015 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Cost is \$1400 and includes all travel, hotel, registration for the conference, and most meals. We will depart Cheyenne on June 22 and head to Colorado Springs where we will enjoy white water rafting, zipling, and Royal Gorge. The next day we will go horseback riding in the Garden of the Gods and then head to Santa Fe. In Santa Fe we will be visiting Tesuque Pueblo and Pojoaque Pueblo and then heading to El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe. Then onto Albuquerque to check into the hotel for the convention beginning on Friday, June 26. Opening Keynote Speaker will be Tyler Durman and closing keynote will be Harriet Turk. Throughout the conference you will have an opportunity to meet and network with delegates from other states. We will also be attending workshops, going to the speakers showcase and learning about service projects. The conference concludes at noon on Sunday, June 28 at which time we will travel back to Cheyenne via motor coach. Please contact Amy Kassel at kassela1@yahoo.com asap if you are interested in attending NASC. We are in the process of finalizing hotel rooms and reservations.

Summer Leadership Camp will be held in Casper this summer from July 6-10, 2015. Cost will be \$300. Delegates will arrive Monday, July 6 at 1:00 p.m. and the camp will conclude at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 10. We will have Level 1 and Level 2 councils. Training will include team building, problem solving, communication skills, leadership styles, and meeting skills. Registration forms will be available online via Google Docs soon.

WyASC Convention 2016 will be held in Green River, WY. We have contracted with Houston Kraft to keynote our convention. He will also be providing a large group workshop and advisors training. Please visit <http://www.houstonkraft.com/> to learn more about Houston and his message. We are researching some possible new ideas to implement at convention. If you have any suggestions, please contact one of the board members as soon as possible.

At the National Association of State Student Council Executive Directors meeting we continued our work on determining how to provide our students with the best leadership experiences possible. The NASSCED President, Lou Miller, and Olivia Croft, Region IV Representative from Wyoming, attending the National Advisory Council meeting in January. Olivia will have information about programs from the National Office in her report.

“I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Matthew Parsons

Hello from Lander!

I am Matthew Parsons, the newest Exec Board member. I am from Newcastle (WY) and my wife is from Birmingham, England. We have two children (ages 5 and 3) and have been in Lander for 6 years. I teach Spanish and am fortunate to have taught at LVHS since college.

At LVHS this spring we are gearing up for Winter Homecoming which starts this week and focusing on Make-A-Wish. We will host a 10K, two 5K run/walks, the Mr. LVHS male-pageant, and are participating in Tour de Wish with local businesses. We are also staying busy by hosting a staff appreciation luncheon, restructuring elections, and thinking of new ways to give back to our school while supporting the students more. We learned a lot from hosting WASC and look forward to sending delegates to both NASC and Green River this coming fall.

Ben Schanck

Greetings Wyoming leaders!

First, I must express my sincere thanks to Mr. Matthew Parsons and the Lander Valley Tigers for hosting an amazing state convention this past November! Hosting a convention is not an easy task, however, they made it look quite easy. We are all very proud of your dedication and professionalism!

For many Wyoming student councils, the spring semester is a time to focus on our commitment to service and charity within our communities. I encourage you all to select a local organization to get your hands dirty with! The Kelly Walsh student council has partnered with the Wyoming Medical Center Foundation Angels Cancer Care Program and will be delivering Valentine's to local cancer patients in the Casper area. This activity is very heartwarming and does not require asking anyone for money!

The spring semester is also a time in which to enhance the mission of Make-A-Wish Wyoming. It has been 30 years since our Wyoming chapter granted it's first wish. We anticipate granting our 500th wish this year! This amazing task could not have been accomplished without you! The WASC and Make-A-Wish Wyoming Boards are very excited to hear about the amazing activities to grant Wyoming wishes! Please be sure to post pictures and descriptions of your activities on the WASC Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram pages.

Lastly, I look forward to chaperoning the amazing delegation of Wyoming leaders to the annual National Association of Student Councils conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico this coming June!

Olivia Croft - Region 4 Rep (NASC Advisory)

Hello everyone! My name is Olivia Croft, and I am currently a junior at Sundance High School, and I am currently serving Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan as the Region IV Representative to the NASC Advisory Council. I am a very passionate student leader, and I am absolutely ecstatic to bring a little bit of Wyoming to the national level. I also serve as Sundance High School's Student Body President, an active FCCLA member, and former SLC attendee, a camp that I advocate for quite heavily! My love for STUCO runs deep, and I consider the WYASC delegation a big extended family. Serving you, as well as the rest of Region IV, is the greatest privilege I can imagine.

I would like to extend to you some resources from the national office, which have proved to be very useful to thousands of councils across our nation. The first is the National Student Projects Database, which can be found at www.nasc.us under the Advisor Resources tab. This database houses almost 3,000 projects from student councils all across the country, and provides information and resources for each project! I would strongly recommend looking into this database if you are in need of some new project ideas!

In addition, the NASC Conference website is up and running, and I can't wait to see some of our Wyoming STUCO leaders 'Elevating their Leadership' this June in Albuquerque, NM! It is going to be a fantastic conference. For more information and conference details, go to nascconference.org.

Just a reminder: National Councils of Excellence applications are due February 17th, and National Student Leadership Week is April 19th through the 25th! More resources for National Student Leadership will be featured on the WyASC Facebook page during the month of April. Also, **please begin looking into sending delegates to SLC, which is July 6th through the 10th!**

Keep up the good work!

“Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better.”

Bill Bradley

Griffin Leemon - State President

My how time flies! It seriously feels like yesterday that Convention came to a close. I hope all of you are having wonderful beginnings to the new year. I know that my year so far has been great! I really can't explain to you all how excited I am for this year. Already, with only meeting once, the executive board is off to a great start. All of us, the Regional Reps are doing a great job contacting schools in their region, Ben is doing a great job with the Newsletter, and brainstorming platform ideas with Quentin was fantastic. Getting to work with all these wonderful leaders for this year is going to be superb! I'll try to keep all of you updated with all our adventures along the way!

-Griffin Leemon

Benjamin Finch - State Secretary

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

John Quincy Adams

Hello Student Leaders!

Thank you for voting me as WyASC Secretary! I hope everyone is having a wonderful school year! “Keep on keeping on!” - Joe Dirt

If you do not know, I am a Junior at Glenrock High School. It is the small town between Casper and Douglas. Right now I am a member of FCCLA, NHS, and I manage boys basketball and in a few weeks I will be managing/participating in track. (I'm also in Student Council :D) I live with my parents and my “little brother” Johnathon. As a family, we enjoy camping, going to movies, going to sporting events, and just hanging out.

I would like to thank everyone for sending in articles for the Newsletter. The next deadline for articles is March 29! If you can, but it is not a necessity, please take and send pictures with your article! Thank you!

Feel free to contact me at bfinch97@yahoo.com or text me at 307-267-6031.

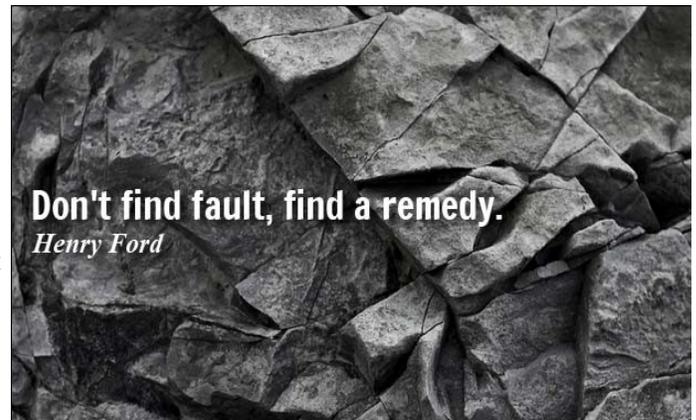
~Benjamin Finch

Quentin McHoes - State Vice President

The Honorable Abraham Lincoln once said, "Whatever you are, be a good one." In every part of my life, I have been blessed with the overarching guidance and support of my friends and my family who have instilled in me a sense of compassion, a sense of faith, and a sense that I could change the world. My mother, however, has at all times been the one person that has motivated me to the greatest degree possible, to overcome my doubts, to brave my fears, and to answer my questions, so that I may realize my purpose and fulfill my aspirations. My mother taught me a value system that transcends ignorance, dishonesty, depravity, and bigotry, which allowed me to comprehend the various positive and negative characteristics of my environment and become a fervent advocate for constructive change in the world; my mother would also be the person who recurrently reminded me that the world for the most successful and principled people is pervaded with moral turpitude and tough times. Like many others, although I have come up against hardship in my life, I have been emboldened to seek the necessary resources to augment the quality of my life, and become a front runner in leadership and edification.

Being a member of Cody High School's student council association has been one of the greatest privileges of both my personal life and my high school career. As I have worked alongside some of the most extraordinary student leaders in Wyoming, I have learned what an honor it truly is to represent the values, the concerns, and the ideas of such an incredibly diverse body of students. I have been guided by the erudition of my peers and my advisors to always work with integrity, communicate with open mind, and lead with respect. It is because they believe, as I believe, that the mantle of change has always been built upon our willingness, as united student leaders, to bend the arc of the moral universe even more so towards justice, education, opportunity, and empathy for every person, in every place. Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world — indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

It is now my pleasure as the Vice President of the Wyoming Association of Student Councils to communicate what I have learned to the students, to the teachers, and to the administrators of every school in Wyoming. As vice president, I know that I will always work to recommend and employ steps for improvement, for the time that I occupy this position, but the responsibility of making a positive difference for everyone belongs to each of us. The integrity of my position is contingent upon creating a more harmonious environment, wherein all people, who choose to, can etch their names on the bedrock of change. Student councils of the great State of Wyoming, we are on a path forward.

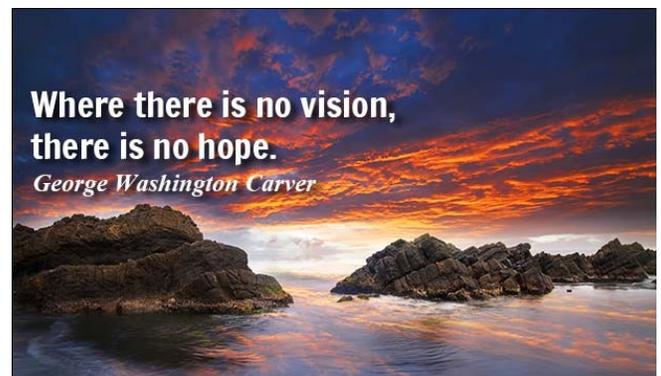


Marissa Davila - Southeast Rep

Hey everyone my name is Marissa Davila and I am the South East region representative! I go to Rock River High School and I'm a junior this year. My favorite sports to do are volleyball and track but I love watching soccer, my favorite teams are FC Barcelona and Manchester United. I am also involved in most of the clubs at my school like student council, drama, O.A.K club, FFA, FCA, choir, and GEAR UP. I really like being outdoors by going camping or hiking; I'm also really easy to talk to and laid back. I really hope that throughout this year I will get to know and get in contact with

Vabsi Ibarra - Southwest Rep

Hello, my name is Vabsi Ibarra. I am a junior at Green River High School. I have been a part of student council since my freshman year and I am the junior class president. This year, I have the honor to have been selected as the Southwest Regional Representative for WASC. I would tell you what my future plans are, but I would like to know myself. However, I do have some sort of idea. I may be attend the University of Wyoming and be an engineer of some sort. My main activity in school is speech and debate but outside of that I enjoy camping, traveling, and spending time with my squad (vi) and family. Overall, I'm excited for what 2015 will hold for me.



Kaylin Mckinley - Northeast Rep

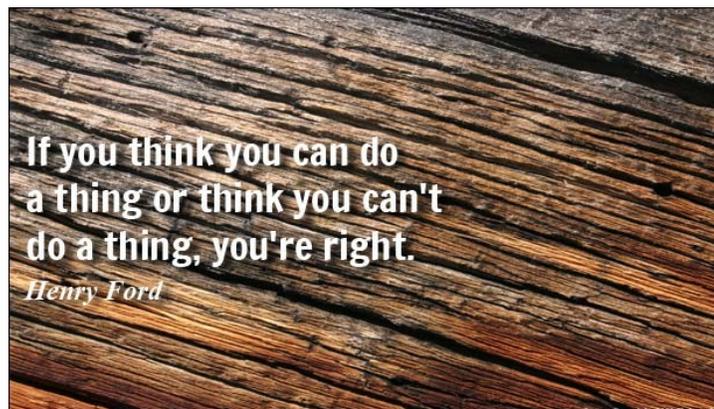
Hello all! My name is Kaylin McKinley, and I'm your Northeast Regional Representative. I attend Big Horn High School, where I'm in the heat of my Junior year and participate in Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, Key Club, Speech and Debate, and, of course, Student Council. With a childhood strong in "musical geekdom", I grew up with Tandem Productions, Children and Youth Chorales, and when I got a bit older, a cabaret performance of "42nd Street", where I learned to tap dance! I am currently pursuing a career in journalism and media and will work as an intern for The Sheridan Press and attend the Washington Journalism and Media Conference this summer. I'm so excited to be a part of WASC throughout this formative year. Best Wishes, and I hope the Northeast councils are ready to get involved!

Katelynn Duncan - Northwest Rep

My name is Katelynn but lots of people call me Katie, or katiepoo, katiebugs... I don't really have a favorite color but if I did I would say lavender or darker purple. My favorite season would have to be spring because spring because that's when everything looks so beautiful!

My favorite sport would be basketball!!! But I can't play... -Sad face- I take cheer instead witch is also a lot of fun! The fun fact of why I can't take basketball is because in seventh grade I was post and I had got the rebound but this girl elbowed me in the shoulder and paralyzed a few muscles... And damaged a few nerves... Whoops! I had to go to physical therapy and chiropractors and had acupuncture and stuff like that! It was crazy! But that's ok I just have to be more careful! when I was younger I had broken my collarbone by falling off of my bed! Usually when people breaks bones and stuff they have really cool stores like "I got bit by a shark" or "I was mugged, but I won." But not me! I just fell of my bed.. Oh well.

I'm the middle kid and I have an older sister and younger brother. I live in a town of 50 people..Otto. I know right? Small. We have to drive an hour to get to the nearest Walmart and that's in Cody. I also really like doodling. Art class and woods and welding are two of my favorite classes! they are so fun! And I am also in FCCLA and won in quiz bowl last year! Whoop! Whoop! And last but not least I love student council!



Dakotah Winsor - Central Rep

Thank you to everyone who voted for me and allowed me to serve in this prestigious position. To tell you a little about me I am a junior at Kaycee high school, who loves sports. I participate in many different extra curricular activities. These include volleyball, basketball, track, FFA, and of course student council! My goal for this term is to help be apart of the team that helps unify this great state we all live in, and help serve as a step in the communication ladder. Thanks again for the opportunity. Anyone in my region is more than welcome to contact me for any reason.

Kaycee High School

Kaycee High School has had an absolutely fantastic first half of the school year! During the last couple of months, Kaycee's student council has kept very busy, and thrived in the chaos. This year we started the year off missing 3 of our 4 elected officers. This made our first meeting about electing new officers. Our officers of the 2014-2015 year are Noah Elm (President), Kyla Christensen (Vice President), Josie Ann Austin (Secretary), and Dakotah Winsor (Reporter). We have a strong leadership corps this year, helping the officers complete the goals of our student council.

To start with our business for the year, we have finished student appreciation, planned homecoming, attended summit and attended WYASC convention as a group. For student appreciation we hung up signs with everyone name on them and gave out the theme for the year of "Find your Hero Within." Homecoming was a blast this year our student council plans the dress up days early so people were more prepare.

At WYASC, we presented workshops and feedback was positive for both. Also, at WYASC, we had our own Noah Elm complete his term and Dakotah Winsor was elected as a regional representative.

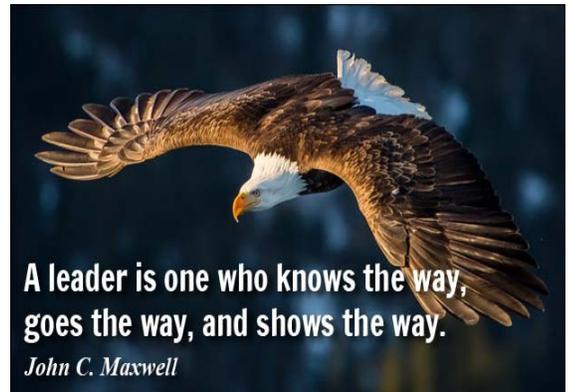
As the holidays rolled around, we held our annual wreath fundraiser and created baskets for our seniors in our community. The wreath fundraiser is the big fundraiser for the year for our student council. Together each year we sell wreaths to our community for Christmas. As for the gift baskets, we put together treats and candy for the elderly. Then, our student council personally deliver the basket to each of the seniors. These events were a terrific success; our community was very thankful for them.

In the next few months, we have the annual Snowball dance and spirit days coming up. Snowball is fun and everyone that goes has a great time. Spirit week is a week of dressing up just like homecoming for basketball. This year the dress up days are Mustache Monday, Around the World Tuesday, Character Wednesday, and Spirit Day on Thursday. The dance will be held on Saturday night after the last home games.

Our council is also getting ready for our Make-A-Wish season and moving toward the end of school. We are excited for the things to come. With any hope the 2014-2015 year will be very successful and memorable. We have come a long way and we still have a half a year to go.

Rock River High School

Recently in Rock River instead of doing a normal homecoming week we did a school appreciation week. On Monday we recognized academics and chose the student of semester. Tuesday we made posters for all of the clubs in our school and had them signed. Wednesday was community day, so we thanked our community for all they do for our school, and we are also going to do some community service. Thursday was teacher appreciation, and we bought the teachers doughnuts, fruit, and other snacks that they could eat throughout the day. Finally on Friday was athletics when we recognized the teams and had mostly everyone stay for the games that night. This was a great change from the normal homecoming week and all of the students loved and participated every day.



Cheyenne Central High School

Hello all! For CHS senate, our focus after Christmas has been Tribe Pride Week! It is one of our last spirit weeks of the year! This spirit week pumps the school up for the cross town rival game against Cheyenne East. Our senate broke into 3 committees; pep assembly, spirit days and Mr. Central. Our Mr. Central pageant is one of our favorite night activities. The nominated senior boys compete in to earn the title of Mr. Central! It is always a fun night and a great way to make money for our state charity Make-A-Wish. Another night activity we do is hall decorating. For homecoming this year, we made hall decorating a competition between classes and have gotten a lot more participation! Our spirit weeks always fall on a short week so we only have 3 spirit days to plan for. One day is going to be color wars between classes. Each class will be assigned a school color and the class with the most participation wins bragging rights! Our pep assembly will feature games, cheers and a video created by our talented media students! Along with Tribe Pride week, we also have been working on our student appreciation. This year we gave out white tribe pride shirts and had a white out game last Friday! The student section was a sea of white. It was so cool to see our tribe coming together as one and supporting our teams onto victory!

H.E.M. Jr/Sr High School

We have reached the slow season here at H.E.M and our council has been working on creating the bylaws for our school. We previously had no bylaws in place for our school and decided to ask other schools for advice on what they included. After writing the bylaws we are currently working on getting the entire student body to vote on the bylaws to put them in action. Our council has pep assemblies and our annual district wide fundraiser and community service project for the Susan G. Komen Foundation in the near future.

“A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit.”

Arnold H. Glasow

Evanston High School

Our student council has been busy this year starting, as always, with homecoming. Many members were in charge of multiple activities, including the parade, the pep rallies, and the dance, all of which brought our school and community together in a positive way. Our council has also recently held a blood drive, from which both students and community members donated 39 bags of blood. Our council is also looking to start fundraising for Make-a-Wish. In the past, our council has raised enough to grant a wish, and we're hoping to do it again this year. So far this year, we have plans to hold fundraisers at many sporting events, hold a competition between volunteering students to raise money from businesses, as well as raffling off a homemade quilt made to represent the school. We've also been trying to raise school spirit by doing "Fun Friday" games every week. During lunch every Friday, we do a short game which anyone can participate in to boost the morale of the students, and they've been having a lot of fun with it. All in all, our year has been a good one so far, and we're hoping to continue that trend.

Kelly Walsh High School

What an incredible year it has already been! Since WyASC in November, Kelly Walsh has perfected old events, tried something new, and brainstormed ideas never tried before to raise money for KW's 6 wish Make-A-Wish goal and to pump up the student body!

In November Kelly Walsh put on their annual Coed dance, which was much more of a success than anticipated. After the costs of putting on the dance, the Kelly Walsh Student Council made \$2,500 dollars in profit- a huge amount for the council! After the past few years of trying to invoke more appropriate dancing at Kelly Walsh, this year's Coed was a marvelous turn around! Mr. Brad Diller, Kelly Walsh's principal, started free dance lessons weeks before the dance, where students had the chance to learn appropriate and fun dancing for the big night. Students had a fantastic time, while dancing appropriately: which was the goal!

In January, the council tried a new event to raise money for Make-A-Wish called "Change for Change". Students brought in their loose change to their classes, and the teacher could not start class until all the money was counted. The event turned out to be a very promising incentive for students to donate to an amazing organization! KW's Student Council raised \$374 dollars in one class period, and "Change for Change" will continue to be an event used throughout the year. The council has received a lot positive feedback from both students and teachers!

In the near future, the Kelly Walsh Student Council will be hosting a "Snowcoming Week". The week will be a sort of second Homecoming to celebrate all the sports heading off to their state competitions, and the recent awards many activities and organizations have received. The Snowcoming assembly will have a few games to raise money for Make-A-Wish, as will the 'Buff Puff' and pool party events. 'Buff Puff' will be a boys' volleyball tournament where the guys of the school will play volleyball in a fun tournament for the student body! The council will also host a pool party where students can come to the Kelly Walsh indoor pool one night and have a great time.

"The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves."
Ray Kroc

Cheyenne East High School

East High's Got Talent

This year East High School's Talent show took on a new look. We renamed the show "East High's Got Talent" and held open auditions for two weeks prior to the show. We had 20 acts try out for the show and selected 15 acts to perform at the talent show. We had a 5 hour dress rehearsal to be sure each act had all the sound and lights they needed. The night of the talent show we had a full house and three impartial judges who had a background in music and dance. We charged \$5 per person for admission. The top three acts were recognized and the winning act was selected to perform at the pep assembly the next day. We raised almost \$800 for Make-A-Wish of Wyoming Foundation.

Next week we are meeting with South and Central High Schools to beginning planning our Cheyenne Tour de Wish. All proceeds will go to Make-A-Wish of Wyoming Foundation.