


**ZONTA**

 CLUB OF  
CHEYENNE

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

**EMPOWERING WOMEN**

THROUGH SERVICE &amp; ADVOCACY

April 2025

# Zephyr

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## Message from the President

The Zonta Club of Cheyenne's fourth annual Cancel Out Domestic Violence fundraiser was a resounding success, raising an impressive \$30,517.62 to support Safehouse, Zonta International and our local Cheyenne club.

This year's event saw a significant number of first-time attendees, many of whom found the experience eye-opening. Their engagement highlights the event's growing impact in raising awareness about domestic violence and rallying the community to take action.

The funds raised will be distributed as follows:

- \$9,000 – Safehouse Projects
- \$9,150 – Zonta International Foundation for Women (30%)
- \$3,050 – Zonta Club of Cheyenne Professional Development Fund (10%)
- \$10,000 – Zonta Club of Cheyenne

The Zonta Club of Cheyenne extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended, volunteered, invited friends, and helped spread the word. The success of this event reflects the power of a community coming together to make a difference.



As the club continues its mission to advocate for women's rights and safety, it looks forward to furthering the conversation and impact in the fight against domestic violence. Thank you to all who supported

this cause and helped make this year's fundraiser an incredible success!

~ Belinda

**Do you have a friend  
interested in Zonta?**

**If so, please send their  
email address**

**to Betty Abernethy ASAP  
(bettyabernethy@gmail.com)**

**so she can invite them to the  
Cancel Out reception to be  
held on April 23rd!**



[www.cheyennezonta.org](http://www.cheyennezonta.org)

# Cancel Out Domestic Violence 2025

This year's Cancel Out event was a coming together of so many different backgrounds and faiths and lifestyles. For one purpose. To bring awareness, and to combat, domestic violence.

We all met at the amazingly beautiful CFD Event Center for a scrumptious meal, fun bottle grab, thought-provoking speaker, emotion-evoking presentation of What Was She Wearing, and fellowship with friends, new and old.

We had amazing sponsors, donors, and bidders who helped us raise over \$30,000! The funds will be spread across Zonta International, the Cheyenne Zonta Foundation, the education fund for our Zonta Club of Cheyenne, and some much-needed improvements to Cheyenne's Safehouse.

Thank you, so much, to everyone who attended, donated silent and live auction items, sponsored tables, purchased tickets and purchased bottles from the bottle grab, purchased auction items, and helped with set up and tear down! You are continuing to help us make the world a better place for women and girls.

On this and the next few of pages are just a sampling of the wonderful photos provided by our event photographer, Blue Sage Photography. You can view the rest at: [Zonta Fundraiser - 2025 by Blue Sage Photography](#).



*Once the room was set and we were ready to begin the night's festivities, the crew joined together to toast to an amazing evening.*





# Cancel Out Domestic Violence 2025



Attendees enjoyed the silent and live auctions. Thanks to all the donors and shoppers for making both auctions so successful!



Denise sold raffle tickets, shared about Zonta, and gathered information for those interested in our club. Pam pulled the lucky winner's name!



Laramie County Coroner, and Cheyenne Zontian, Becki Reid, shared stories of local women who lost their lives to domestic violence. She shared the stories of "What Was She Wearing," as volunteer models moved through the crowd, representing these women and showing that it never matters what she was wearing.



# Cancel Out Domestic Violence 2025



**Thanks to our ROCKSTARS,**

*Belinda & Pam*

**for organizing another amazing  
Cancel Out event!**



# Announcements

## April Club Meeting

*Please join us!*

**April 10th @ The Office on Pershing**

**5:15 pm No-Host Dinner,  
Meeting starts at 6:00 pm**

## Advocacy & Service

## Committee Meeting

**April 24th at 5:30 pm**

Location TBA—please watch your email!

*All are welcome!*

## 2025 WYOMING EQUAL PAY MONTH PROCLAMATION SIGNING



**Thursday, April 10  
3-4 pm at the State Capitol**

**Equal Pay Month Proclamation Sign-  
ing** Set for April 10, 2025 from 3-4  
pm at the Wyoming Capitol Build-  
ing Will you help us fill the ceremoni-  
al signing room to show the im-  
portance of closing the gender  
wage gap? Show your support for  
equal pay by joining us at the capitol  
building. Email [alex@wycf.org](mailto:alex@wycf.org) and  
we'll provide directions!

## **Membership & Communications Committee will meet**

**Monday, April 28 at 5:30 pm**

Location TBA—please watch your email!

*COME HELP US PLAN FOR THE SUMMER!*



## SAVE THE DATE!

When: April 11\* and 12, 2025 8:30 to 2:30

Where: Big Brothers and Big Sisters  
1010 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Laramie

\*April 11<sup>th</sup> will include On-Your-Own trip to the Wyoming  
Women's History Museum

And ending with a fun time at Deedee's home playing Bunco –



You won't want to miss this Area 2 meeting!  
Lots of great speakers, information, and FUN  
More information will follow!

**MAKE THE CALL,  
SAVE LIVES.**

*End human trafficking.*

U.S.: 1-888-3737-888



CAN: 1-833-900-1010



Zonta Club of Cheyenne  
presents its



# ANNUAL ART CONTEST

## PRIZE CATEGORIES

- ◇ Under age 12
- ◇ Age 12 to 17
- ◇ Age 18 or Older
- ◇ People's Choice

## PUBLIC RECEPTION

MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-7 p.m.  
Cheyenne Civic Center

*Create your own art and  
light refreshments available.*

**Each Prize \$150**

*Art will be displayed at the  
Civic Center for much of May.*

All forms of art media welcome  
(excluding performance art.)

Contest Theme

**Bystanders Can Be  
Heroes: End  
Domestic Violence**

(If you see something, say something!)

Submissions no later than  
April 25, 4 p.m.  
Drop off at  
RE/MAX  
4000 Central Ave.  
Cheyenne

Include Name, Phone No., Age

# Equal Rights Amendment - Is It Law Yet?

*Submitted by Denise Parrish*

The Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed both chambers of Congress with bipartisan support in March, 1972. Three-fourth of the states needed to ratify the amendment in order for it to become law. However, Congress established a seven-year deadline for the ratification. With the deadline approaching, and fewer than the required number of states having ratified the constitutional change, Congress extended the deadline another three years. Failure of the required 38 states to ratify by the 1982 deadline meant that the ERA was not going to be part of our country's constitution, or so it seemed.

Starting in 2017, three additional states ratified the amendment, bringing the total to the requisite 38 states. Based on the deadlines previously established, many believe it was too late. This was also complicated by the fact that some states have rescinded their ratifications, although there is a question about the legality of doing

so. Legal questions have also arisen about the initial deadline that Congress established.

To try to resolve some of these legal questions and to keep the ERA alive, resolutions have been introduced in Congress – but have failed to pass – to make the initial deadline for ratification a non-issue. Such a resolution (SJ Res 38) has again been introduced on a bipartisan basis by Senator Murkowski (R-AK) and Mazie Hirono (D-HI). A similar resolution (H.J. Res 80) has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswomen Pressley, Dean, Garcia, Kamlager-Dove, and McClellan. The press release addressing the introduction of these resolutions may be found at <https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/press/release/on-equal-pay-day-murkowski-pressley-and-colleagues-reintroduce-bipartisan-bicameral-resolution-affirming-support-for-the-equal-rights-amendment>

Is the ERA law yet? No, not yet, and the fight is not over. Hope springs eternal.

## ***Hope Bag Donations requested***

**Please bring donations of items for our Hope Bag project to the next Zonta club meeting.**

***Now is a great time to add a few things to your purchases while shopping for Christmas or during the After Christmas sales. A summary of items is included and a more detailed list is being emailed. We also provide gift cards from fast food restaurants and grocery stores.***

***People in crisis from sexual assault leave the hospital without clothing, personal care items, and many times with no means to pay for a meal. Our Hope Bag project provides the forensic nurses at CRMC a way to give them help and hope.***

**For babies/children, women, and men:**

- \* ***all sizes of sweat pants***
- \* ***t shirts***
- \* ***underwear (including sports bras)***
- \* ***flip flops or slippers***

**Other items include:**

- \* ***tooth brush/toothpaste***
- \* ***comb/brush***
- \* ***small soap***
- \* ***travel size shampoo/conditioner***
- \* ***sanitary pads or tampons***

***Fleece blankets and gift cards in \$20+ are also needed to provide victims with dignity and support after medical examinations.***

# Laramie County is Better Together:

## Connecting through Understanding Laramie County Community College

Cheyenne, WY – Laramie County Community Partnership, Laramie County Community College, and Arts Cheyenne are thrilled to announce the “Better Together” conference, taking place on April 3 and 4, 2025. This two-day event aims to foster understanding, connection, and community engagement among Laramie County residents.

The conference will kick off on Thursday, April 3, at the Cheyenne Creativity Center with an engaging workshop, “Connecting through Art.” Participants will collaborate with local artist Desirée Brothe to create a community puzzle project that reflects their stories and experiences living in Laramie County. This unique art-making experience is designed to be accessible to all artistic skill levels, and all materials will be provided.

On Friday, April 4, the conference will continue at LCCC’s Pathfinder building. The morning will include a keynote address by Clay Fong from the Department

of Justice, Community Relations Service, discussing strategies for restoring peaceful relations among communities. Following this, attendees can choose from various breakout sessions tailored to promote effective community engagement and social change.

Featured breakout sessions will include topics such as change management, strategic planning with inclusivity in mind, and the power of storytelling. Notable speakers include award-winning storyteller Ambreia Meadows Fernandez and community engagement advocate Natawsha Mitchell, who will share insights into the importance of belonging.

Participants will also have the opportunity to network during breaks and share their learnings with one another, culminating in an afternoon keynote by Natawsha Mitchell, who emphasizes the strength of rural communities and the importance of local leadership.

The conference aims to empower attendees to build meaningful connections within their community and equip them with the skills needed to make a positive impact.

### Event Details:

- Date: April 3 & 4, 2025
- Location:
  - April 3: Cheyenne Creativity Center, 1620 Thomes Ave, Cheyenne, WY
  - April 4: Laramie County Community College - Pathfinder
- Cost: Free with conference registration
- Expected Attendance: 15 - 25 participants for the Thursday workshop; larger attendance for Friday’s events.

For more information and to register for the conference, please visit <https://forms.gleDRn1jqZuYiHhSjwR7>

Join us for this inspiring event to strengthen our community through connection and understanding!



**BETTER TOGETHER CONFERENCE**

**FREE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP!**

This event aims to have participants understand their purpose in our community as we believe we are a stronger community when we connect. Participants attending the event will build skills for making a positive impact in their community.

**TWO DAYS OF EVENTS:**

Event	Location	Date/Time
Community Arts Workshop	Cheyenne Creativity Center (1620 Thomes Ave)	April 3rd 5:30-8:30p
Conference	LCCC Pathfinder Building (1400 E. College Dr.)	April 4th 9a-4p

Scan the QR code and RSVP for the event!

**THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:**

ARTS CHEYENNE, LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NAACP, LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP, Laramie County Library



# Hope Bag Project

## Annual Inventory

**What:** Annual inventory of Hope Bag items

**When:** April 26, 10am – 4pm

**Where:** Cubby Hole Club House, 4500 Haunted Rd.

We will need volunteers to help transport the items from the storage unit to the cubby hole on Saturday morning and again back to the storage unit at the end of the day

This is a great way to participate in one of our many advocacy projects!

\*\* Please let Michelle Huff know if you will be attending and if you can help transport items from and to the storage unit

307-275-2582

Michellehuff0220@gmail.com

**Snacks and refreshments will be provided!!**



# Key information from the Commission on the Status of Women

*Submitted by Denise Parrish*

From March 10<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) was held with a focus on where the world is relative to implementing the Beijing Platform for Action established at the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. This Platform for Action was established as an ambitious roadmap for global gender equity, also described as an agenda for women's empowerment. For a summary of the 12 areas identified for action, see <https://www.uswomenscaucus.org/2025/03/12/beijing30-shadow-report-what-has-changed-for-us-women-since-beijing/> CSW69 included an assessment of current challenges of implementing the roadmap to achieving gender equality and how the action plan fits together with the UN's sustainable development goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>).

Although CSW69 attendees report a great deal of enthusiasm and determination was displayed at the meetings, some disturbing developments occurred. The US Mission to the UN has rejected the CSW69 declaration that was negotiated for months. The US Statement may be found at <https://usun.usmission.gov/u-s-national-statement-delivered-at-the-69th-session-on-the-un-commission-of-the-status-of-women/> This is a stunning change from prior statements offered in support of the work being done collectively to improve the status of women worldwide. The US also announced that it will no longer support the United Nations sustainable development goals. (<https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-the-un-meeting-entitled-58th-plenary-meeting-of-the-general-assembly/>) Quoting the statement of the US:

Put simply, globalist endeavors like Agenda 2030 and the SDGs lost at the ballot box. Therefore, the United States rejects and denounces the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and it will no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course.

In response to the current position of the US Mission to the U.N, Zonta International has issued a statement calling for a reaffirmed commitment to the SDGs. <https://www.zonta.org/images/docs/newsevents/statements/ZontaInternationalCallsForReaffirmedCommitmentToTheSDGs.pdf>

Zonta International urgently calls on the United States and all nations to reaffirm their commitment to the SDGs, particularly the critical pursuit of gender equality. The time to act is now. We must not allow decades of hard-won progress to be reversed. Zonta International urges leaders and citizens alike to stand up, speak out, and take decisive action to ensure that gender equality remains at the forefront of global development efforts. Our shared future depends on it, and the moment to make a difference is now.

## **HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR FAST ACTION FRIDAYS YET?**

***Text the word "Zonta" to 50457***

You will receive a message with a link to then register to receive periodic information from Zonta about proposed federal issues. Upon receipt of each notice, you will have the opportunity (your choice – not mandated) to let your congressional representatives know your thoughts about the issue at hand.



## 2024 Club Officers And Board

**President:** Belinda Sawyer

belindawyohomes@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Pam Pafford

pamwyohomes@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Laura Gorny

lgorny@bresnan.net

**Treasurer:** Dasa Robertson

Dasagwen@yahoo.com

**Immediate Past Pres:** Dr Michelle Aldrich

### Board Directors:

Betty Abernethy

Kathy Orr

Rebecca Reid

Michelle Huff

Darcey Harris

Tracy Myers

### Nominating Committee

Ann Erdmann

Melissa Martin

(Vacancy)

### Committee Chairs

Advocacy/Service: Jennica Fournier

Finance: Kathy Cathcart

Membership/Communication: Betty Abernethy

Zonta International Foundation for Women

Ambassador: Mary Walker

Club Historian: Linda Bogart



*Barbara World* 4/2

*Michelle Aldrich* 4/6

*Pam Pafford* 4/26

## Upcoming Meetings & Events:

### Zonta Board Meeting

April 3 @ noon

RE/MAX Capitol Properties—4000 Central Ave

### Zonta Club Meeting

April 10 @5:15 (to order dinner)

Meeting at 6:00 pm—The Office Bar & Grill

### District 12 Area 2 Meeting

April 11 & 12—Laramie, WY

*See Page 6 for more details!*

### Cancel Out Reception

April 23 @ 5:15 pm

Cheyenne Country Club—800 Stinner Rd

### Advocacy & Service Committee Meeting

April 24 @ 5:30 pm

Location TBA—watch email for details!

### Membership/Communications Committee Meeting

April 28 @ 5:15 pm

Location TBA—watch email for details!

## Zonta Foundation :

Ann Erdmann, President  
Linda Bogart, Vice President  
Melissa Martin, Treasurer  
Denise Parrish, Secretary  
Vickie Ingerle, Director