

WYAC Leadership Meeting  
March 11, 2025

**Meeting date and time**

We moved the meeting to Tuesdays from 4-5:20.

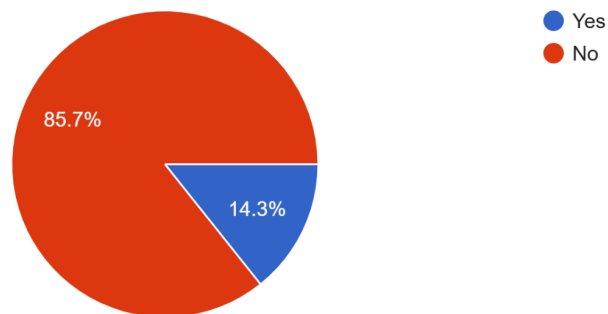
- This time works for everyone.
- Deb will reach out to Abigail as she is still not here.

**Elections-**

We had 7 responses:

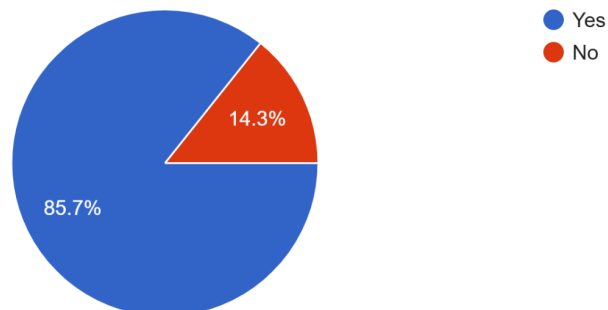
Should WYAC cabinet elections be the same year as the President and Vice President elections (December odd years)?

7 responses



Should WYAC cabinet elections be staggered (December even years) from the President/Vice President (December odd years).

7 responses



Really only 2 comments:

Typically it isn't custom for all leadership to turn over at one time in the interest of continuity.

As discussed, mainly I would like to see those officers who have just been installed have terms that extend their terms rather than shorten them. I don't see any disadvantage to doing it alternating years.

Cabinet elections will be in December of even years.

- Information will be added to Bylaws

### Updates were provided on the committee activities

#### Joint Symposium- WYAC Panel

- ☐ Nicole
  - ☐ Children symposium June 17-19 in Laramie
  - ☐ Panel will be on Wednesday
  - ☐ Committee will be meeting for planning
    - Nicole needs emails of the youth to set up a meeting.
      - She will be discussing the topics in the meeting
      - Facilitator idea: Edi Winkle from Friends or Bri Montoya from CJP

#### Update with Director Schmidt -Nate

- ☐ Director Schmidt could not meet, so an email was sent with updates.
  - Bylaws Completion
    - We have provided them to the WYAC youth/young adults for public comment which is due by March 18, 2025.
  - Website Updates
    - Content to the WYAC website to ensure it reflects our current initiatives, leadership team, and resources for both youth and foster families.
  - Comprehensive Resource List for Judges
    - WYAC is currently in the process of developing a Comprehensive Resource List that will be provided to judges across Wyoming. A draft by March 31, 2025.
  - Participation in the Wyoming Joint Symposium on Children and Youth
    - WYAC will actively participate in the Wyoming Joint Symposium on Children and Youth, scheduled for June 17-19, 2025, in Laramie, Wyoming.
    - Panel Presentation: WYAC will host a panel on one of the conference days, providing a platform for youth leaders to share their experiences and insights.

- Informational Table: WYAC will also have an informational table set up during the other two days, allowing us to connect with attendees, answer questions, and distribute resources.
- WYAC June 2025 Conference
  - Our WYAC and Foster Parent Conference is officially scheduled for June 20-22, 2025, and will be held at Mills Spring Ranch in Casper, Wyoming.
  - A Planning Committee has been formed to coordinate logistics, programming, and activities.
  - This conference will provide an excellent opportunity for foster families, youth, and stakeholders to come together for training, collaboration, and community-building.
  - It is an outdoor event
- Education on DFS and Foster Care System
  - WYAC is committed to learning more about the DFS system to ensure our council is well-informed as we advocate for improvements. During our monthly meetings, we are dedicating time to education sessions.
    - The last presentation was “Day in the Life of a Foster Parent” session, which included a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the Foster Parent Responsibilities Policy.
- Community Outreach and Events
  - WYAC remains committed to increasing our visibility and connecting with communities across Wyoming through community outreach events.
    - We have already been invited to participate again in the 2025 Cheyenne Christmas Parade, which was a wonderful opportunity for us last year.
    - Additionally, we are exploring opportunities to participate in events in Casper, Laramie, and other communities.
    - To ensure we stay organized, I have created a Google Sheet [Click Here](#) to track all outreach events we are considering or planning to attend.
- WYAC Newsletter
  - The March 2025 WYAC Newsletter has been drafted by Vice President Parker and will be distributed shortly.
- Important Dates to Remember
  - WYAC & First Lady’s Office Cookbook Project Completion Date: June 6, 2025
  - In-Person WYAC & Foster Parent Conference: June 20-22, 2025 (Mills Spring Ranch, Casper)

☐ Strategic Planning with Goals

- Director Schmidt and Senior Administrator are asking WYAC to do some leadership strategic planning.
  - Brian is working to locate someone who can assist with strategic planning for WYAC.

### Newsletter- Szabre

- ☐ He is working on the Newsletter
  - ☐ He sent the draft to leadership by March 1. Comments due today.
  - ☐ The newsletter will be on the website
    - Send the newsletter to be added to the DFS Newsletter
    - Discuss who else it can go out to
      - Bryan Cook will work with Szabre and cabinet
  - ☐ Szabre will have the newsletter to the WYAC Board one week before the deadline/week before the month so it goes out the first of the month.
    - ☐ Szabre will add the deadline for the team.
    - Szabre needs help with editing the website or looking at another website.

### WYAC In-person Conference-update

- ☐ Committee: Brian, Liz, Szabre, Nate, Abby, Kinsley, Zoey, and Zivanna and Hailey
  - Conference June 20-22 (120 persons= 80 rooms)- [Mills Spring](#)
  - Dominic Syracuse-work with youth/young adults to do a community fair (jobs, etc). He could help and do some team building.
  - Sam Smith from Natrona Collective Health Trust and co-worker to discuss lived experience and mental well being.
    - She will bring a co-worker to discuss services and resources in communities.
    - She will also talk about her own lived experience and advocacy for foster youth.
  - Elliott Hinkle with Unicorn Solutions - paid for by Natrona Collective Health Trust - Talk about advocating in DC, lived experience
  - President Williams and Brian Has the RSVP
- ☐ Agenda is being drafted
  - ☐ Groups:
    - ☐ Cooking groups
    - ☐
- ☐ Food is being discussed
  - ☐ allergies
- ☐ Survey for those attending is being developed so we can start getting a count
  - ☐ Medical needs
  - ☐ Allergies
  - ☐ Sleeping arrangements
  - ☐

Who is attending?

What is the intention of the WYAC conference?

- Thought it was to get more involvement from foster parents and foster youth with WYAC
- Don't want to lose having foster parents/foster youth, DFS Foster care coordinators, IL coordinators and DFS staff.
  - We want foster parents, foster youth, and so many others to attend so we can build WYAC.
- Conversations about the sleeping space at Mills Springs is a concern as there are only 31 "rooms" and we can not ask people to share (via State HR rules).
- The committee will meet and discuss other options.

#### WYAC Cabinet- Cabinet meeting this week

- ☐ Notes can be done by Gemini
- ☐ Notes shall be added to the Website
- The Cabinet is going to discuss adding Nicole George to the Advisory Board in their next Cabinet meeting
  - Nicole George – Program Analyst, Wyoming Children's Trust Fund

Nicole George is the Program Analyst for the Wyoming Children's Trust Fund. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Wyoming and a Master's in Social Work from the University of Denver. With over 24 years of experience as a school social worker and family engagement facilitator in Wyoming public schools, including her time at Laramie County School District 1, Nicole has dedicated her career to supporting at-risk children, youth, and families. Passionate about strengthening communities, she is excited to contribute to the Wyoming Children's Trust Fund's mission to empower families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and create a brighter future for Wyoming's children.

### NOT discussed at the meeting but current updates:

#### ☐ Judges Resources- Draft Complete by March 31, 2025-update

##### ☐ Committee: Nate, Liz, Sara, Bryan and Brian-Leader

##### ☐ Add Bri and IL Coords

##### ☐ Work with Wyoming 211 for the list, then get with DMs to get more information.

- Nate has a contact there her name is Jane Cramb Resource Database Supervisor and she would love to help after we get a list together. I have her contact card.

##### ☐ Resources for youth/young adults

##### ☐ Request by Judges-Wyoming 211?

##### ☐ Should there be a list? DFS has a list of what a youth needs before they age out.

#### Cookbook- Should be ready by June 6, 2025

##### ☐ Update by Brian, Nate and Jayse

#### Policy Committee-

- Deb is working on the policies. About 1/2 way done and will share with the policy committee for review, then bring to this team by April 8, 2025.

##### ☐ Committee- Nicole, Debra, Szabre, and Nate

#### Foster Parent Exchange-Nate

- Foster Parent Exchange [information](#)

### REMINDER

#### Website-everything on website

We discussed putting EVERYTHING on the WYAC website so everyone can locate it.

#### Website changes-Do we have any changes to the website?

##### ☐ Cabinet can discuss changes and will bring to the Leadership committee

##### ☐ Discussions should be about the costs and accessibility

### Committees and members

We discussed the following committees and members:

#### Joint Symposium - WYAC Panel

- Nicole, Nate, Szabre, Zivanna, Hailey, Abby, Jaimey

#### WYAC In-Person Conference

- Brian, Liz, Szabre, Nate, Abby, Zoey, Kinsley, Zivanna, Hailey

#### Judges Resources

- Brian, Nate, Liz, Sara, Bryan, Zivanna, Hailey

#### Cookbook

- Brian, Nate, First Lady and Trista and Graphic Designer, Zivanna, Hailey. If someone else wants to help with the design stuff

#### Orientation

- Brian, and Nicole

#### WYAC Cabinet Meeting

- Nate, Szabre, Kinsley, Zoe, Abby, Jayse and Brian

#### WYAC Meeting

- Nate, Szabre, Kinsley, Zoe, Abby, Jayse and Brian