

1/12/14

On Thursday and Friday we held the last meeting of the Joint Interim Labor, Health, and Social Services committee before the 2014 Budget Session. The most newsworthy action was our decision to offer two Medicaid expansion bills. In the 2013 session I voted against Medicaid expansion, and remain strongly opposed to the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"). You can read my thoughts on the ACA from 2012 on the "Issues" page of this website. Back in 2012 I wrote that the ACA would increase the cost of insurance, reduce choices, use the private sector to pay for public subsidies, and decrease access to care by paying providers less. All those things are happening. So, you might wonder why on earth I voted to bring Medicaid expansion as a committee bill. Keeping in mind that I may or may not vote for the bill if it makes it to a third reading on the floor, here are my thoughts [On 12/20/2014 that section was moved to the "Issues" page.]

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These are the reasons I thought it worthwhile to bring an expansion bill to the floor. I still think the ACA is a mess, and needs to be repealed. That law, and the president's 27 unilateral changes to it, have destabilized the health insurance market and the health care system, harming many more people than it has helped. However, I think Wyoming may as well make what use it can of the present situation, while continuing to evaluate options for the future.

12/19/13

OK, two and a half months worth

In October I presented a poster on "Working with your Legislator" and co-led a session on the Affordable Care Act at the UW Consumers' Conference; attended the ceremony admitting new attorneys to the state bar; met with administrators and trustees at LCCC to hear about the proposed (and now-passed) bond issue for facilities; had breakfast with the Wyoming Military Officers' Association to hear Col. Michael Taheri, Commander of the 153rd Airlift Wing, explain the missions of the Wyoming Air National Guard; presented the ACA information session that I wrote about in September; and attended the Wyoming Department of Health's forum on managed care. I also attended the annual meeting of the Wyoming Taxpayers' Association, where I heard many interesting discussions about tax policy; joined some other legislators in a meeting with UW President Sternberg to hear about his ideas for the university; presented another information session on the ACA; attended the Governor's Broadband Summit; and joined the Circles Wyoming discussion of whether or not to expand Medicaid. I met with the Health Resources Network to hear about efforts to recruit more healthcare providers to the state, and spent some time talking to constituents.

In November I spent two days in Lander at the Interim Labor, Health and Social Services Committee. Topics under discussion were Title 25 involuntary detentions, hospital licensure and Medicare/Medicaid, the emergency medical services system, the Wyoming Life Resource Center, unemployment insurance and workers' compensation, the facilities study of five state institutions, a consideration of Medicaid expansion, an update on the health insurance exchange, county public health nursing contracts, and billing problems in the day care subsidy program. The interim committees are always open to interested members of the community. The next meeting will be on January 9th and 10th in Cheyenne at the capitol.

Continuing on in November ... I went elk hunting over Veterans' Day (no elk), then attended a reception hosted by the Cheyenne Teachers' Association and had an opportunity to hear elementary teachers' take on the Common Core standards (generally favorable, in light of the inadequacy of the previous standards). I presented the ACA PowerPoint again and met with a group of home-schoolers to share my "Working with your Legislator" presentation. Also in November I was asked to serve on the Capitol Restoration task force to replace a legislator who lives too far away to attend conveniently. This task force has met three times since I joined it. I will provide more information about the safety and accessibility issues in the capitol, along with the proposed renovations, before the end of January. Finally, in November I attended the Governor's Business Forum, and responded to constituent emails.

In December I flew to Washington DC for NCSL (National Conference of State Legislators), where I serve on the Labor and Economic Development Committee, and have just been appointed to the Military and Veterans' Affairs taskforce. I attended sessions on healthcare issues, services for veterans, housing finance reform, international comparisons of student achievement, drug policy, state-tribal relations, taxing the "cloud," teen pregnancy, and updates from the Department of Defense and the U.S. Trade Representative. My main "take-aways" from that week were (1) information on other states' programs to award college credit for military experience and (2) the opportunity to prompt a national discussion about the port and rail infrastructure needed to support state exports. Regarding the first take-away, I have begun discussions with LCCC president Schaffer, and if we can come up with a program to save veterans some tuition and provide Wyoming with more trained healthcare workers and technicians, that alone will be worth the airfare to DC. Regarding the second take-away, Wyoming companies exported \$1.4 billion of goods in 2012 (not just coal), providing 63,000 jobs in the state. Senators Fairclough of Alaska and LeBeau of

Connecticut agreed with my suggestion, and I think that may end up as a topic for consideration at next summer's NCSL Legislative Summit. After I returned, I met with the Lodging and Restaurant Association and Peak Wellness to hear about their concerns and programs, attended the Joint Appropriations Committee's hearing on the Health Department's proposed Budget, and went to the Community House to see the presentation of the proposed Dell Range corridor plan. (Much of Dell Range is in House District 7.)

I continue to consider whether or not Wyoming should expand Medicaid, am evaluating the problem of uncompensated hospital care, and I am reading the new national standards for social studies. (I renewed my expired membership in the National Council for the Social Studies just so I could get a free copy of the standards--all 171 pages.) I am pleased to say that the draft bill on student data security that was spearheaded by Senator Landen (with input from Senator Rothfuss) includes some language that I suggested to prohibit the sale of student data to private entities or companies. This was an issue that was brought to my attention by a constituent several months ago, and I was able to share these concerns with the Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability. The committee will continue working on the bill during the February session.

9/25/13

On Sunday, October 20th, I will be leading an information session about the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") and health insurance reform/exchanges. It will be at 7:30 pm at St. Peter's Anglican Church, 252 Dell Range (the big church across from the Air Guard). This will not be a "political" meeting, but rather will be an opportunity for people to learn more about the requirements of the ACA, how to buy insurance through the exchange, how the subsidies will work, etc. I realize that the Obama administration has delayed parts of the law, and that there are ongoing attempts in Congress to delay or defund the law. Still, information is always useful, and I will share the information that I have received from the Department of Insurance. At least people will understand the basics, whatever happens in D.C. Feel free to email me after the 20th if you are unable to attend and would like a copy of the material presented.

The Department of Defense is considering turning over the de-activated Quebec #1 Missile Alert Facility (just west of I-25 exit 39) to the State of Wyoming. Because the site is in my district, the State Parks department asked me to join the site evaluation team on September 11th for a tour and an evaluation of the property. This MX/Peacekeeper site has incredible historical value, and would be a significant tourist draw. The Titan missile site in New Mexico had 55,000 visitors in 2012, and was the location for the filming of the movie *War Games*. The Minuteman II site in North Dakota is a long way from any highway or population center, and still had almost 10,000 visitors last year. I suggested to the evaluation team that they also consider multiple uses; the northern part of Laramie County could benefit from a community facility for meetings or voting, and Fire District 9 (served from Chugwater) could use the garage for parking fire trucks in northern Laramie County (instead of the ranch yards they use now). The State Parks commission and director will make a recommendation to the legislative Travel (TRW) committee. I am not a member of that committee, but if you have any input feel free to pass it on to me, and I will share it with the suitable people.

9/1/13

What a busy summer! June: Two phone conferences with the NCSL Veterans Affairs taskforce and one conference call on the family practice residency program. I also attended a lunch meeting of the Laramie County Cow-belles and heard about conservation easements, and spent a morning sitting in on the legislative School Facilities committee to get a sense of how the facilities funding decision are made. In July I had two more conference calls about the family practice residency, a day-trip to Laramie to tour the UW business incubator and meet with people at the Health Sciences Department, and then a trip to Las Vegas for the Council of State Governments-West (CSG-West) meeting. I would definitely not go to Las Vegas the last week in July if it weren't for work--106 degrees at 9:30 at night!

CSG-West is made up of legislators and agency personnel from the 13 western states. The purpose is to share ideas about what works and what doesn't work. I am on two committees--Economic Development & Trade, and Education. In the first committee I heard about ways states can encourage economic development, what states can do to promote exports (in 2012 Wyoming companies exported \$1.4 billion of products overseas), and about a federal export promotion grant (Wyoming got \$42,686--the smallest grant in the country). In the education committee we had presentations on preschool education, the two Common Core assessment consortia, and how the Next Generation science standards were developed. (A few months ago I posted my thoughts on the Common Core on the "Issues" page.) On the last day I attended a breakfast meeting with legislators from Colorado and Washington, who spoke about how marijuana legalization is working out for them. The three main challenges seem to be, first, that because it remains illegal on a federal level (in spite of President Obama's recent announcement about non-enforcement) banks won't open accounts for marijuana dealers, so the state revenue divisions have to deal with people who come in to pay their taxes with big bags of cash and minimal documentation, and second, there are no consumer protections in place for how much THC is in any given product, so people don't know how much of a product it

would take to put them over the legal limit. The testing machines cost about \$18,000, and banks won't give private labs a loan to buy the testing machine. Third, the medical people said that the chemical clears out of the blood within a few hours, but remains active in the brain (which is a bit harder to test), so law enforcement agencies have a hard time documenting impairment. My conclusion from this presentation was that there are too many challenges for a state to legalize marijuana use while it is still illegal at the federal level.

In August I participated in one more family practice residency call, toured the FFA trailer at the County Fair, attended the kick-off meeting for the Medicaid Longterm Care Waiver, attended the Veterans' Mental Health Summit, and met the new UW President Sternberg (who seems to have a good sense of humor, be very down-to-earth, and have a firm idea of where the UW needs to go). Then it was off to Lovell for two days for the Joint Interim Labor Committee. The main topics for that meeting were: discharge planning for people who are involuntarily committed for mental health services, the status of the new computerized Medicaid enrollment system, the status of the county public health nursing programs, a brief review of some possible legislation for Medicaid expansion (following the Arkansas model), the need to recruit more medical providers to the state, the status of the redesign of the Medicaid waiver for people with developmental disabilities, the workers' compensation and unemployment insurance appeals process, and the family practice residency program. On the way back from Lovell I took advantage of being "up-state," and visited the public health offices in Lovell and Thermopolis, the Life Resource Center in Lander, and the Family Practice clinic in Casper. Total mileage was 957 miles! It was a very informative four days, but rather hard on the rear end.

I came home to a lot of tomatoes, zucchini, and cucumbers, so I think I may have to take a few days off from legislative topics and do some canning. My daughter has an antelope tag, so we need to get her out to the range, too. The main items on my agenda for the next few weeks are to continue reviewing the possible Medicaid expansion bill, to put together some ideas for a draft bill regarding student data mining, to follow up on the issues of recruitment and loan forgiveness for medical providers, and to re-do my planned presentation on the Affordable Care Act. I thought I had that all set to go, but then the feds made some more changes. I have received quite a lot of letters about the Medicaid waivers, and will be responding to those people now that I have the updates from the Lovell meeting.

6/14/13

Happy Flag Day!

Since the May meeting in Denver I have been asked to join NCSL's Work Group on Military and Veterans' Affairs (part of the Labor & Economic Development Committee). Next Tuesday I will participate in a telephone conference to update the policy statement that NCSL uses when lobbying Congress in Washington, DC. Here is a [link](#) to the statement. Many residents of House District 7 are current, former, or retired military. In addition, FE Warren Air Force Base contributes over \$300 million a year to the local economy. I am excited about the opportunity to represent our community on this work group, as I will be the only member from Wyoming.

At the end of May I attended a discussion about the Family Practice Residency program in Wyoming. This program provides otherwise unavailable in-state training for future family practice physicians, and is an important component of the primary care services in our underserved state. I will be joining a taskforce looking at ways to maintain and grow that program.

Other activities in May: I met with several people to learn about trauma care in the state; attended the board meeting of the Infrastructure Authority and learned about wind power, coal, and electric transmission lines; attended the Wyoming Trucking Association annual meeting and learned about their concerns about regulation; met with Head Start providers in Cheyenne, participated in two telemedicine webinars, and had coffee with a member of the Game & Fish staff.

I am developing a presentation to inform people about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on health insurance, using a powerpoint put together by the Department of Insurance. I will be glad to present this information to any community group. The Department of Insurance has some very good flyers on their website.

5/1/13

If you would like to get more involved in serving the state without actually running for office, there are many boards and commissions that have openings for members of the public or various professions. The appointments are made by the governor.

Tomorrow, weather permitting, I will be heading to Denver for the three-day National Conference of State Legislatures' Spring Forum. I have been assigned to the Labor & Economic Development committee. The two main purposes of this nonpartisan organization are to offer legislators the opportunity to share ideas, and to prepare policy statements so the states can speak to the

federal government with one voice about state issues. I am of two minds about how effective that can be, when you get legislators from Wyoming and Massachusetts together in one committee, but we'll see how it goes. The topics I will be hearing about are: trade agreements with Asia, making connections between the K-12 and college education systems, drug abuse and worker's compensation, veterans' affairs, natural gas development, the impact of the federal deficit on the states, and the role of the legislature in higher education. Many other Wyoming legislators will be attending meetings on other topics.

4/22/13

Senate File 104, creating the appointed position of Director of the Department of Education, is still a hot topic in the press and in community discussions. I did vote against the bill, but I would point out that the Wyoming legislature has been working on education issues since the Territorial days, so this is nothing new. Click here for a summary of the "History of education administration in Wyoming." [Link removed 4/2016, but copy still available by emailing me.]

I have put together a presentation on how to follow bills by computer during the legislative session (and how to look them up afterwards). The Legislative Service Office very kindly made me a huge display board of the webpage, so if you have a group of friends or a community/church group that would like to better understand how to use the information, please email me or give me a call, and I will be glad to meet with you. You will learn how to read the original bill and any amendments, how to figure out how the legislators voted, and how the bill proceeded through the House and Senate.

3/26/13

The legislature adjourned on February 27th. What do legislators do when the legislature is not in session? So far, I've read a Dr. Seuss book to elementary students, met with constituents, attended a meeting on water in Laramie County, and I've done a whole lot of filing of bills and informational paperwork that I brought home from the capitol. Tomorrow I will participate in a webinar on suicide prevention.

Some of you might wonder whether the legislature did anything useful. The press certainly focuses on the controversial social-issue and guns bills. Here are some bills we passed that will actually help the average person:

HB 94 Immunization by pharmacists--You may now get flu shots or other immunizations at a pharmacy for your children down to age 7. This will be helpful to parents who can't get in to the doctor's office during working hours.

HB 100 Vehicle registration fees for assistive devices--If a person with a disability needs a wheelchair ramp, extra mirrors, or other assistive devices on their vehicle, this equipment will not be included in the value of that vehicle when the county clerk calculates the registration fee.

HB 152 Vehicle accident reporting--Currently you have to file a report about your insurance coverage with WYDOT whenever you have an accident with damages over \$1000. WYDOT has an on-line verification system, and law enforcement already has to file an accident report. This bill removes the obligation of the person involved in the accident to file a duplicative report. Many people didn't know about this requirement, and if you didn't file, you got a nasty-gram. No more nasty-grams.

HB 175 Juvenile citations--Did you know that, at present, if your minor child gets a citation for violating the law the police or sheriff has no obligation to let you know? Now they are required to take reasonable action to notify the parents.

HB 201 Transfer on death deed--This bill creates a way for an owner of real property (e.g., your house) to transfer it on the owner's death without going through probate.

SF 39 Uniform Adult Guardianship Jurisdiction Act--This is a bill that I co-sponsored with Sen. Ross. You can read about it on the Dec. 30th entry (below). This will save you a lot of attorney's fees if you are guardian of an adult and you don't both

live in Wyoming all year long. Here is a photo of me, watching Governor Mead signing the bill into law.

SF 87 Proof of motor vehicle insurance--Some insurers provide electronic proof of insurance (e.g., available on your cell phone). If it's the same information as what's on the paper form, you don't need to keep the paper form in your car anymore.

SF 118 Eminent domain--This bill addresses the situation if your property is going to be condemned under eminent domain law, and you think the offer is way too low, so you go to court. If the court decides that the fair market value is more than 115% of what the condemnor offered you, then the condemnor has to pay your attorney's fees too.



2/10/13

We spent most of last week working on the supplemental budget bill. These are changes to the 2013-2014 budget that was passed last year. Some of the increased needs were unexpected: funds to replace the money spent on last summer's bad fire season, and the expansion in Medicaid required under the Affordable Care Act (this is the mandatory expansion, not the optional expansion, which Wyoming is not going to do--at least not this year). Because of the projected decreases in revenue for the state (because of the downturn in mineral and energy prices), the governor and the legislature were aiming at about a 5-8% decrease in general fund expenditures. This was not a 5-8% decrease in the total budget, because about 40% of our money comes from the federal government.

Naturally, when governments try to make budget cuts, the lobbyists and affected citizens are quick to contact their legislators to add the money back in. I promised you I would try to be fiscally responsible, so I vetoed just over \$11,000,000 in attempts to add money back into the budget, and also voted for an additional \$10,000,000 decrease. I did vote for \$752,000 of add-backs (veterans' services, funds to monitor the impact of the ACA on our citizens, to "un-cut" some Department of Environmental Quality permits, and an audit of the Education department). I also voted to add back \$240,000 of air service incentives as a business development tool, and \$1,000,000 to build women's latrines at Camp Guernsey. Turns out that everyone gets to use the same large room in shifts! Those two were voted down.

When not working on the budget bill, I have been busy in the Labor committee with a Medicaid reform bill and a bill to improve our ability to follow up on Medicaid fraud. If my calculations are correct, Medicaid makes up 20% (!!!) of our entire state general fund expenditures.

2/3/13

The legislative chambers are hotbeds of disease, brought in from all corners of the state, so I spent all of last weekend horizontal fighting a virus, thus the delay in updates. This week was pretty intense, with an abortion bill in committee on Monday, the domestic partnership bill on Tuesday, and then four gun bills the rest of the week. All of these bills involved complex issues. The short version of my votes is yes, no, yes, yes, yes, and yes. If you want more detail and explanation, just send me an email. If you are attempting to follow a specific bill, be sure to read the "Digest," as there are often amendments--some of them major--that change the bill from what it was when you first heard about it.

Other bills of interest dealt with education accountability (teacher evaluations), interstate sales of health insurance, medication administration by pharmacists, and state funds for habitat preservation. Another bill that passed the House was HB 100, which would exclude the value of assistive devices (wheelchair lifts, etc.) from the value of a vehicle for the purposes of calculating registration fees. This bill still needs to make it through the Senate.

1/20/13

Well, that wasn't much of a "regular update," was it? I will give you a summary of what happened this past week, and I'll try to do better in the future.

Monday: In at 8:00 a.m. to read bills, floor session to vote on bills 10:00-12:00 and again from 2:00-4:00, Labor committee 4:00-6:00 to discuss interstate sales of health insurance.

Tuesday: 8:00-10:00 a.m. Labor committee informational meeting on the structure of the Health Department, floor session to vote on bills from 10:00 to 12:30 and then from 2:00 to 4:00, 4:00-5:30 discussed potential pro-life bills with some other legislators, 6:00-8:00 dinner with the Wyoming Stock Growers, where I met with constituents and talked about agricultural issues and the impact of federal regulation on the ability of rural people to get broadband coverage.

Wednesday: 8:00-9:15 a.m. sat in on the Senate Judiciary committee to listen to Senator Ross present the Uniform Adult Guardianship bill that I am co-sponsoring. 10:00-12:00 floor session, 12:00-1:30 Republican caucus lunch, 2:00-4:00 floor session, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Labor committee discussion of HB 108 (Food Freedom Act), and two bills on medication and vaccination administration by pharmacists. After that I stopped by the Mining Association reception to chat with some constituents (yes, I have some in that association).

Thursday: 7:15 a.m.-7:45 coffee with a constituent, 8:00-9:30 Labor committee training on Medicaid reform, floor session to vote on bills from 10:00-12:00, lunch with the Capitol City Republican Women 12:00-1:00, floor session again 2:00-4:30, 4:30-6:45 Labor committee training on health insurance exchanges, 7:00-7:30 met with the Laramie County Medical Society, 7:30-7:40 a "fly-by" with the Telecommunications Association to, again, discuss the impact of deregulation on rural access to broadband and wireless services, then dinner (whew!).

Friday: Worked on bills at my desk until 10:00, then floor session from 10:00-12:00, ate my brown-bag lunch from home at the

Labor committee, where we discussed the two pharmacy bills for another hour, back into the floor session from 2:00 until about 3:30. We adjourn a bit early on Fridays so the legislators from other parts of the state can get home.

So ... I tell you all of that to let you know you're getting your money's worth, and also so you can see why I don't always answer your emails right away.

Now for the bills of interest. The big one so far was the fuel tax. Based on my emails and comments from the hotline, I could tell that whatever way I voted I was going to make half of you happy and the other half mad (yes, my constituents who contacted me were 50:50). So I did what I thought best and voted yes. Click [here](#) for an explanation of why, if you want to know.

I did vote for an amendment to change the increase from \$.10/gas and \$.10/diesel to \$.05/gas and \$.15/diesel, to account for the greater impact of trucks on the roads, but that amendment failed.

Rep. Esquibel sponsored a bill to increase the time you have to register your new vehicle after purchase from 45 days to 60 days. I spoke in favor of this on the floor and voted yes. That bill passed the committee of the whole and is still progressing through the House. I also voted for a bill (HB 116) that sets up a federal natural resource management committee to review federal policies impacting the use of the state's natural resources and develop legislative responses necessary to protect Wyoming's interests. We did vote to get rid of some outdated laws--Rep. Gingery is good at finding things to get rid of.

Some of you have told me you aren't sure how to track a specific bill that you're interested in. It would be a lot easier for me to sit next to you at your computer and show you, but I'll give it a try in writing. Go to the Legislature's homepage and scroll down to 2013 Bill Tracking Information. If you're not sure what bill you're looking for, or who the sponsor is, you can click on Bills By Subject and that will sort the bills by topic. It's a bit like looking for something in the yellow pages of the phone book, though, and you may have to browse around. Then copy down the bill number and go back to the 2013 Bill Information page. Click on "Bills". This page has all the bills in the House and Senate, listed in numerical order, with the House bills first. If you already know the sponsor without looking at the Bills By Subject page then you can click on the "Sponsor" column and it will sort by sponsor if you don't know the number. The full text of the bill is the "Introduced" cell. "Fiscal note" is the information gathered from the Legislative Service Office and the agencies about the financial impact of the bill on the State budget. Note, they don't collect information on how the bill impacts non-state governments or individuals. The "Digest" cell gives a running report of what is happening to the bill and how people voted. Click on the Bill Status Report Explanation for information on what the steps in the legislative process are. Back at the Legislature's homepage you can click on Interim Committee Activities on the lefthand toolbar to find out which committee number is what. Clear as mud, right?

1/7/13

Back into training on Thursday the 3rd, Friday, and Saturday: computers, bill-writing, committee and legislative floor procedures. I will be sponsoring a bill to tweak the athletic trainer licensure requirements, at the request of the athletic trainers, and am looking into another constituent request regarding real estate transfers. As I noted during my campaign, I will be spending a lot of time on health care issues, and will also keep my eye on economic development and education. I will probably not be sponsoring any bills on these topics this session, as these issues will require a lot of time, research, and discussion. I have received some emails and phone calls from the people in District 7. Thank you for keeping in touch. I will do my very best to return emails and calls within a day or two of receiving them.

Tomorrow the 62nd legislature will be sworn in at noon, and then we will get to work on the many bills that are being presented.

12/30/12

The Legislative Service Office has been posting proposed bills as they are drafted. Three bills that may be of interest to you are now available online: HB0069 (fuel tax), HB0070 (registration fees), and HB0077 (lottery). Senator Esquibel asked me to co-sponsor a bill adding electronic cigarettes to the list of nicotine products that cannot be sold to minors, and I am co-sponsoring Senator Ross' SF0039 (the Uniform Adult Guardianship Jurisdiction Act). This bill adds Wyoming to a group of about 40 states that have agreed to simplify the recognition and transfer of adult guardianship agreements. This law will reduce legal complications for people who are guardians of adult relatives in other states.

12/17/12

Last week there were three days of training for the new legislators. The main topics covered were ethics; organization of the legislature and staff; how to work with the media, lobbyists, and other organizations; bills that have already been drafted for introduction during this session; structure of American and Wyoming law; and writing, introducing, and passing bills.

If you go to the legislature's website bookmarked below on 11/20, you can look at all the bills that have been drafted so far. The

ones that will probably attract a lot of interest (fuel tax and lottery) have not been finalized and numbered yet, so you won't be able to find those. The proposed increase in hunting licenses is SF0032, which means it will be introduced in the Senate first. If you have any questions about how to keep track of some bill that interests you, please email me or call me.

11/28/12

The Legislative Service Office (LSO) has three .pdf pages that explain how you can find out what is going on during the legislative session--how to communicate with me and other legislators, keep track of bills, listen to the sessions live, etc. You can read these pages by clicking here: [How to participate in the session](#), [How to participate via Online Hotline](#), and [Website participation](#). [Links removed 4/2016, but still available on the Legislative website.]

11/20/12

The Caucus last weekend was interesting, informative, and enjoyable. We voted for Speaker of the House, Majority Floor Leader, Speaker Pro Tem, and Majority Whip. I have been assigned to the Labor, Health, and Social Services committee. Now I am busy reading the Medicaid Options Study and the draft bills that the Interim LHSS committee developed.

11/12/12

Pre-legislative session activities are already starting. The House Republican Caucus will meet in Casper on Saturday. At that meeting I will find out my committee assignments. There will be seven days of training in December and January, and the 2013 General Session begins at noon on Tuesday, January 8th.

11/11/12

Happy Veteran's Day to all who have served or are serving now. My husband is retired from the Coast Guard, two brothers-in-law are retired from the Army, my late father-in-law was retired from the Air Force, and my father served during World War II, so this holiday is near to my heart.