



WOMEN'S WIRE

Women's Foundation of Montana eNewsletter

July 2019

From Jen's Desk

The last few years have been remarkable ones for women on a global scale. In Saudi Arabia, women finally earned the right to drive. In the ultimate act of multi-tasking, the New Zealand Prime Minister gave birth, while also running the country. Iceland passed a comprehensive pay equity act, making it illegal to pay women less than men for the same work. And there are an unprecedented number of women running for president right here at home. (Yay!) Women continue to slowly chip away at the gender pay gap, while increasing their numbers in the halls of congress, the boardroom and C-suite.



However, many of us are feeling a bit impatient with the current rate of progress. I mean 30 more years is a long time to wait for pay equity!

I'd like to invite you to join me in a powerful campaign to accelerate the advancement of women, while doing what we do best...supporting other amazing women. Here's how.

Step 1: Identify a few powerful, get-stuff-done women in your life. You know the ones. They're the women running the PTA, organizing the meal train for your sick neighbor and raising the funds to build the park down the street. Found them? Great!

Step 2: Text them this message: "I'll tell you more later. I think you should run for office." Really. Don't hesitate. Do it now.

Step 3: Meet them for coffee and tell them how amazing they are and why you think they should run.

Step 4: Ask your awesome friends if they know other women who should run for office. Urge them to talk to their friends about running for office too.

Step 5: Text 6 of your common friends and tell them to join you in urging your amazing friends to run for office. Research tells us that a woman is likely to run for office if 7 friends urge her to do so. It's science people.

Step 6: Support your friends as they run for office! Research tells us that women are just as likely as men to win if they run. Science again.

Step 7: Celebrate our new women-led social change!

This is how we change the statistics. One woman at a time.

Onward!



Jen Euell
Program Director

Women's Leadership Ecosystem Grows

Interested in women's leadership training? We're thrilled Montana has a number of excellent resources for growing women leaders.

We're pleased to be the lead organizational partner for the [Athena Pack Conference](#), a two-day conference that brings together women who want to elevate each other. The Conference is aimed at providing women with top-notch presenters, takeaway tools they can immediately put to work in their own lives, the space to make real personal change, and a network of women to support them. The Athena Pack Conference was held in May in Bozeman. Dates for the next one are yet to be announced.

Women Leading Montana will be holding their third Convening in Billings on October 21-22. Their goal is to inspire growth and create common ground through connection and celebration. Their focus is highlighting diverse women's voice from across Montana. Learn more and register [here](#).

[The Women's Policy Leadership Institute](#) is organized by Montana Women Vote. It is a leadership conference focused on organizing and policy change skills. It has been held for 13 years now and is generally held in February.

[PowerHouse Montana](#) is a project of WFM. It is an online platform that strives to connect women to the mentors and opportunities they need to be successful. Members can connect to women and men across the state who are committed to advancing women's opportunities through the online platform or in person at a PowerHouse monthly event. Join by making yourself a personal profile at www.powerhousemt.org.

In addition to statewide efforts, there are many dynamic women's organizations hosting trainings and gatherings in communities across the state. Here are a few you might be interested in checking out in your community:

- [Bozeman Business and Professional Women](#)
- [Helena Women's Leadership Network](#)
- [Zonta Club Billings](#)

Are you involved in a powerful women's organization in your community? We'd love to learn more about it and be able to share through our network. Send your information to jeneuell@mtnw.org.



The Athena Pack Conference,
Bozeman, May, 2019

Grantee Spotlight: Coding for Kids



Coding for Kids, Robotics for Girls, Stevensville

Ever wonder why girl-specific STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) programming is important?

In Stevensville, the new Coding for Kids program has been having a hard time recruiting girls for their classes, averaging less than 20% girls in their beginning coding, robotics and more. This is typical for STEAM programs and jobs overall. A grant from the Women's Foundation of Montana allowed Coding for Kids to offer a girl-specific summer program this year, Robotics for Girls.

One of the girls in the Robotics for Girls class shared, "Last year I had a boy for a partner in my robotics class, but he wouldn't let me do any of the programming or build the robot. He just kept telling me to go get the parts we needed. This year my partner is a girl and we agreed before we started to split all the work evenly. I'm getting to do both programming and building the robot!"

WFM is proud to be able to support girls' access to STEAM programming, and especially proud of the new Stevensville Robotics for Girls project as they wrap up their first summer. Learn more about their work in this [article](#) in the Bitterroot Star or at their [website](#).

WFM Listening Tour

In the past few months WFM has hit the road to hear women's stories and gather their wisdom in a series of Listening Sessions focused on rural and tribal communities. So far, the sessions have been held in Havre, Fort Belknap, Chinook, Wolf Point, Miles City, Crow Agency, Eureka and Kalispell. The primary focus of the conversations has been to hear women's thoughts on where the bright spots are in their communities, and where challenges remain for Montana women and girls.



Miles City Listening Session, SpoonFull

What are we learning? Montana women are excited about new businesses, many of which have been started by women, that are springing up in rural communities. They see the potential for economic opportunities as entrepreneurs with increased access to broadband internet for many. However, many obstacles remain, including high rates of addictions in some communities, lack of access to high-quality, fairly priced childcare and healthcare, lack of mentors, leadership programs and more.

Contact Jen at jeneuell@mtcf.org to learn more and organize a listening session in your community!

PowerHouse Marketplace

We're looking for PowerHouse Partners! Want to support PowerHouse Montana and our powerful work? Join our new PowerHouse Marketplace page. As a PowerHouse Partner you will be helping us meet our mission of economic independence for Montana women, while positioning your business as a supporter of the powerhouse network.

Contact Maggie at maggie@mtcf.org today to join the new PowerHouse Marketplace!

WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF MONTANA **POWERHOUSE MONTANA**

THE POWERHOUSE MARKETPLACE

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Put the POWER of PowerHouse to work for you by becoming a PowerHouse Partner! Our Partners will be recognized in a new PowerHouse Montana Marketplace page which will link to partners' websites. Our Marketplace listings will feature your business description and location, alongside a photo or logo.

Why Marketplace?

- Be recognized as a thought leader in your industry
- Support the work of PowerHouse Montana to create economic independence for Montana women
- Position your business as a supporter of the powerhouse network

\$99 Exclusive Founder's Rate per Year - \$59 for 6 Months!

See you interested in being involved in this exciting new initiative of PowerHouse Montana? Please follow-up with Maggie Sullivan at Maggie@wfm.org for more details.

Thank you!
The WFM Team - Jen and Maggie

Leadership Opportunity Roundup

WFM is focused on increasing the number of women serving in leadership positions, including statewide boards and commissions. Consider applying for this excellent leadership opportunity!

State of Montana Boards and Commissions Featured Opportunities

Board of Massage Therapy

Description: Board is charged with licensing and regulating persons and businesses engaged in massage therapy professions and occupations.

Position: Licensed health care provider, not connected to a massage school

Website: http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd_boards/lmt_board/board_page.asp

Commitment: Moderate, meets about every other month or more based on need to review licensure or disciplinary complaints

Compensation: \$50/day + travel

Take Away: Bring your medical, nursing or other health care perspective to the Board of Massage Therapy and the massage therapists who help facilitate these services.

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors

Description: Board conducts reviews of Montana's public mental health programs and the Montana Development Center and assists individuals receiving services from these programs.

Position: Consumer or family of consumer of mental health services

Website: <http://boardofvisitors.mt.gov/home.aspx>

Commitment: Moderate

. Board meets at facilities around the state a couple of times a year, and meets as a board about once a year.

Compensation: \$50/day + travel

Take Away: Be a part of the team who ensures that Montana facilities that care for Montanans with mental and developmental disabilities are meeting best practices and doing the best for their clients.

Board of Sanitarians

Description: Board is charged with licensing and regulating persons and businesses engaged in sanitation professions and occupations.

Position: Member of the public

Website: http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd_boards/san_board/board_page.asp

Commitment: Low, meets as needed, approximately twice a year.

Compensation: \$50/day + travel

Take Away: Help Montana's leading public health professionals

Looking for a new paid gig? Check out the [PowerHouse Montana Jobs Board](#). Even better, join us as a co-worker at the Montana Community Foundation, details below.



The Montana Community Foundation is currently hiring for a Communications and Outreach Manager. This is an ideal position for anyone who is eager to share with others how philanthropy is making The Last Best Place even better.

Check out the listing on our website, [here](#).

Join us for one of our PowerHouse gatherings or another WFM sponsored or hosted event soon to connect with our smart network and work with us to advance Montana women!

July 25, 4-6 pm

PowerHouse Flathead

The Tailing Loop Winery, Kalispell

Join your PowerHouse sisters in discussing the personal value you bring to table. More info [here](#).

August 26

Women's Equality Day: Celebration of the 99th Anniversary of the Ratification of Women's Right to Vote

Stay tuned to our Facebook and website to learn more about opportunities to celebrate with us across the state!

October 14-16

Innovate Montana Symposium, Butte

This year's Innovate Montana Symposium will focus on spurring creativity through catalytic learning; with engaging discussions, workshops and facilitated events to activate networking amongst attendees. More info [here](#).

October 21-22

Women Leading Montana Convening, Billings

Join women from across the state to network and learn together at this powerful gathering. More information [here](#).

Give Now

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF MONTANA

Established in 1999, the Women's Foundation of Montana is a component fund of the Montana Community Foundation working to grow the economic security of women and create a brighter future for girls in Montana. With a permanent endowment of more than \$1 million, the foundation has awarded more than \$500,000 to organizations improving the lives of women and girls in Montana.