



WEDA COMMITTEES

2015

WEDA'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT TO FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WYOMING.

WEDA's committees connect the activities of WEDA to interest groups within our membership. Committees work with the coordinator and board members on projects and programs in their areas of interest. This is a great way for our members to get involved and learn more about the workings of WEDA and the State. Below is a list of our current WEDA committees.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee's purpose is to keep our WEDA members up-to-date on WEDA events and economic development endeavors that are happening around the State. Currently, WEDA publishes two newsletters/year "The Pulse", as well as an annual "Success Stories" publication that comes out in January of each year. Additionally, WEDA has a website (www.wyomingeda.org), Building Blocks of Economic Development, a Facebook page, and various other brochures and documents relating to economic development in Wyoming.

For more information on this committee, please contact committee chair Noelle Reed (CAEDA) at noelle@caeda.net.

Scholarship Committee

The purpose of the Professional Development Scholarship Program is to assist professional economic development staff and those directly involved with the economic development efforts of their communities with training costs associated with their economic and community development work.

This program is intended to be a benefit of WEDA membership. These dollars can enable some of our WEDA members with smaller budgets to be part of a WEDA training or other qualified training.

The \$500 maximum will help any member in good-standing to attend the conference with little or no out of pocket expenses. It will cover registration costs, lodging, travel and meals. It is available to qualified members following a 3-month waiting period after joining. Scholarship funding is provided through a contract with the Wyoming Business Council.

Scholarships need to be submitted to Align at least thirty days prior to the training for review by the Scholarship Committee, which consists of Leonard Holler (Small Business Development Center) and Pat Robbins (Wyoming Business Council). For more information, contact Pat Robbins at pat.robbins@wyo.gov.

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee is an action-oriented WEDA team that focuses on all Wyoming legislative issues and concerns associated with economic development.

This committee meets via phone conferences monthly for approximately one hour, and more often during the legislative session in January and February. Each autumn, the committee composes a white paper, which emphasizes the issues most imperative to WEDA and its membership.

The Legislative Committee also stays abreast of any new concerns that may appear throughout the year, working closely with WEDA lobbyist Chris Brown. Most recently, this committee is helping WEDA to spearhead a mentorship program, which will encourage and foster communication between Wyoming's economic developers and legislators.

Please contact either committee co-chair to learn more about joining this energetic group. The co-chairs for this committee are Christine Bekes (Powell Economic Partnership) at info@pepinc.org and Dave Simonsen (Kaycee-Buffalo-Johnson County Economic Development Joint Powers Board) at dave@kbjeconomicdevelopment.com.



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Membership Committee

Our organization gets stronger with every member. This committee is working on recruiting and retaining our membership.

WEDA has three membership classes:

CLASS 1 MEMBERSHIP –

Organizations with economic development agendas that include lobbying. These typically include organizations structured with the sole purpose of furthering economic development related business.

The primary member base rate is dependent on population size and ranges from \$425-\$625. Each additional secondary member is \$85.

CLASS 2 GOVERNMENT/ AGENCY MEMBERSHIP –

Organizations with economic development agendas that exclude lobbying.

The primary member base rate is \$375 with each additional secondary member at \$85.

CLASS 3 INDIVIDUALS –

These have no organizational affiliation and include lobbying efforts.

These members are usually individuals with businesses that relate to economic development indirectly.

The primary member base rate is \$85, plus lobbying assessment of \$90, for a total of \$175. Each additional secondary member is \$85.

WEDA also accepts voluntary lobbying contributions made by any member. The silver membership is \$350, the gold membership is \$500, and the platinum membership is \$750.

WEDA also participates with other organizations and agencies in trading memberships. The guidelines for this trade include:

- The mission of the other organization complements that of WEDA.
- The membership dues are comparable.
- The other organization doesn't ask for additional benefits at no cost, such as conference registration, unless they are also willing to trade that amenity with WEDA.

For more information on the Membership Committee, please contact committee chair Anja Bendel (Cheyenne LEADS) at anjab@cheyenneleads.org.

Training & Education Committee

The WEDA Training & Education Committee concentrates its efforts primarily on organizing and promoting the two WEDA conferences held each year—one in the fall and one in the winter during the Wyoming legislative session. The committee works with Align, a Cheyenne consulting firm, to arrange an educational, interesting and dynamic event.

The Training & Education Committee is tasked with every aspect of coordinating a successful conference, from selecting a location and speakers to developing an agenda and blocking hotel rooms. Presently, this committee is assisting in the development of a webinar series specifically for WEDA members, and researching options to host an International Economic Development Council conference in the future.

For more information, contact committee chair Cindy Wallace (Carbon County Economic Development Corporation) at info@ccwyed.net.