

Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices

Highlights:

Meet Anne Kriz

**EHDI
Conference**

Spring WY-HI

Welcome

Welcome to the very 1st Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices Newsletter. We will be sending out the Newsletter quarterly with each edition of the Hands & Voices National Communicator.

In each edition we will profile one of the co-directors or board members, so that each of you can get to know them better. So if you are a board

member be ready for the email we will send you asking for you to tell us about your self. This month we have chosen Anne Kriz, you can read her story below. We are excited to learn more about Anne and have her on our board.

If any of you have a story, article or picture you would like to share in our newsletter, please let us know. We would love to

include it. If you have an upcoming event you would like us to help advertise we would also love to do that.

We are excited to have this going. We hope you will enjoy it, and be willing to share your stories with us.

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Meet Board Member Anne Kriz

Hello, my name is Anne Kriz. I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and am a 4th generation Californian on both my parents' sides. I attended three colleges and five years later received a Bachelors of Music, with an emphasis in voice, from Simpson College in San Francisco.

In 1979 I met my husband Frank while working towards a Masters of Church Music in Mill Valley, CA. We were married in '80, had three children over the next six years and are celebrating our 27th anniversary this June! Our oldest daughter and her husband are expecting our first grandchild the end of June in northern California. We are excited for them and of course for us as well! Our other daughter is graduating from college the end of April and then getting married June 3rd and will continue to live in northern California as well. Our son is living in Douglas and hopes to attend the Law Enforcement

Academy this Fall. I am very blessed to have a great husband and precious children.

While in Nevada, I spent 2.5 years as an educational interpreter and was thankful for that experience. Over a period of time I realized, however, that my personality was more suited to present the academic material than to be a facilitator of it. In my 40's we left a ministry position in Beatty, NV to move to northern California to begin my pursuit of a teaching credential in the Fall of 1999. I completed my Education Specialist: DHH credential in 2005 from San Jose State University and moved to Douglas, WY.

I came to Converse County School District #1 to start up the DHH Program here, as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing. My job has a variety of responsibilities that include small group teaching with two deaf students with Cochlear Implants. I also



share interpreting in the mainstream classroom with our District interpreter, Naomi Adams. In addition to that I consult for the hard of hearing students in the District, teach sign language to multiple handicapped students and monitor a hard of hearing student in her Reg. Ed. class each day. I still find time in the week to teach sign language to some of the kindergarten classes to help communication between the hearing and deaf students.

My hobbies are playing the guitar and piano, keeping in touch with friends and family through email, and currently making a scrapbook on the developmental stages of our grandson.



**HANDS &
VOICES**

National EHDl Conference

The 2007 National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention EHDl Conference was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on March 26th & 27th.

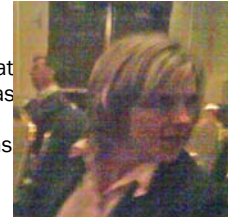
Nancy Pajak, Wyoming EHDl Coordinator, and member of Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices Board, Sarah Fitzgerald, EHDl Follow-up Coordinator, Susan Fisher, Department of Ed D/HH Outreach Consultant, and Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices Co-Directors Deb Hovde and Wendy Hewitt were all able to attend from our great state.

The EHDl conference consisted of many sessions pertaining to audiology, newborn hearing screenings, parent advocacy, parents

supporting parents, data on recent research, case based sessions, roundtable discussions and instructional skill

Building workshops. Many avenues existed to expand our knowledge on early hearing, detection and intervention. We found that networking with states across the nation to be the greatest benefit to us. We always seen to come away with our heads held high by being a part of the awesome EHDl system that is in place here in Wyoming. Thank you Nancy Pajak and staff for all your perseverance and hard work.

Deb and Wendy attend



Susan talks with other conference participants



Deb checks out the exhibits.



Nancy and Sarah discuss the many things they have learned.

several sessions that shared ideas from other states about family support activities they have. We hope to implement some of them in Wyoming. So be watching for further information!



HANDS & VOICES

“What works for your child is what makes the choice right!”

Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices Contact Information

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WEN Video “Deaf Education Series”

The Wyoming Department of Education Deaf/Hard of Hearing Outreach Services will be offering “Deaf Education Series” over the WEN Video. It is free to all participants.

Teachers of the Deaf, SLP's, parents and families, Child Development Center Teachers, and School District Staff/Teachers may all benefit from this series.

There are still two presentations available. April 26th Marcia Taber, M.S. CCCA, Manager of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services, Denver Children's Hospital will be presenting Listening Training into the Classroom, Home & Therapy Session, and Listening Activities Corresponding to the Hierarchy of Learning Skills.

On May 14th Allison

Biever, M.S.CCC-A, Audiologist with the Rocky Mountain Implant Center will be talking about many things dealing with cochlear implants such as candidacy, bilateral implants, Fm Systems and implants, and therapy recommendations.

For more information contact Susan Fischer 307-637-9127 or Janine Cole 307-777-6376.

Spring WY-HI in Thermopolis

For those of you who don't know, WY-HI stands for 'Wyoming Hearing Impaired'. WY-HI is sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Ed Each spring and fall they have an activity for families with family members who are deaf/hard of hearing ages infant to 12th grade, deaf adults, and service providers. Great connections and relationships are made among those who attend this event.

This year's Spring WY-HI

will be held in Thermopolis, on Friday, May 18th. It will run from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Lunch will be held at Holiday Inn of the Waters. Following lunch there will be swimming at the Star Plunge Hot Pools. Lunch & swimming will be free for all participants.

If you are interested in attending you must fill out a registration & release form by April 30th. Contact Ester

White at 307-777-7410 or at ewhite@educ.state.wy.us.

A WY-HI Newsletter is also sent out quarterly. If you are interested in being put on their mailing list you can also contact Ester.

Please join us at the Spring WY-Hi we will have fun together building new friendships!!

