

# News Briefs

July 25, 2025

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## Wyoming Hospital Association



2025 WHA Auction



Strawberry Themed Basket  
Donated by  
Ivinson Memorial Hospital

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## Can a Woman That Walked a Runway in 4-inch Heels as Miss California Command an Aircraft in Combat? You Bet!

Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) Patricia Northrup, who is also a past Miss California, will be our featured speaker at the WHA/LAW Annual Meeting lunch on September 4th.

Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) Patricia Northrup has been speaking to audiences of all ages for more than 25 years about how the most ordinary ideas can be extraordinary successes. She has often been told how “lucky” she has been in her life to have achieved so much. But once you listen to her speak, you will learn that the secret to her success is simply turning life’s normal rejections and failures to her advantage and seizing opportunities when they appear.

Patricia is an expert on leadership in high-stress and dynamic situations, breaking the glass ceiling and developing positive, harmonious relationships between men and women in the workplace, and finding a way to win the race of life when the world is convinced you are the underdog.

An engineer by trade, Patricia used her scholarship earned as Miss California 1992 to pursue a career in commercial aviation. She was recruited by the California Air National Guard and was awarded the top honor of the Commander's Trophy at military pilot training graduation. She was inducted into the prestigious Order of Daedalians, a WWI flying organization, where she is a Director. She is also a Director on the Disabled Veterans Charities board, which awards hundreds of thousands of dollars to disabled veterans in need annually.

Patricia retired after a 21-year military career as a Lieutenant Colonel and Instructor Pilot for the California Air National Guard in the 115th Airlift Squadron. She flew six tours of duty in the Middle East and has been awarded five flying Air Medals. She was named the 2010 California Air National Guard Field Grade Officer of the Year and has earned her Master’s of Science in Military Science and Operational Art. Patricia is the CEO of the Miss California Organization, a preliminary to the Miss America competition. She has flown 20 years as a pilot and now captain for American Airlines.

[Annual Meeting Information Can be Found Here](#)



## **SageWest Health Care CEO Named To Becker's Hospitals Review List**

SageWest Health Care is proud to announce that John Whiteside, CEO of its Riverton and Lander campuses, has been named to Becker’s Hospital Review’s 2025 list of “Community Hospital Presidents and CEOs to Know.”

This is the third consecutive year Whiteside has earned the prestigious recognition — and notably, he is the only hospital CEO in the state of Wyoming included in this year’s national listing.

Becker’s 2025 listing recognizes 207 hospital leaders across the country for their vision, innovation, and commitment to improving care in the communities they serve. Whiteside’s inclusion highlights the positive momentum at SageWest and the significant strides being made in rural health care delivery in Fremont County. “This recognition is truly a reflection of our entire team’s dedication and hard work,” said John Whiteside, CEO of SageWest. “I’m honored to be included on this list, but even more proud of our employees—people who show up every day to serve our neighbors, friends, and families with compassion, excellence, and heart.”

Since joining SageWest in 2021, Whiteside has focused on strengthening the hospital workforce, with an emphasis on hiring local Registered Nurses and building teams that reflect and understand the communities they serve. Over the past year, SageWest has also welcomed new physicians across several specialties, expanding access to care close to home. In addition, the organization has achieved measurable improvements in care quality, patient outcomes, and reputation, reinforcing its mission to provide safe, high-quality health care in a rural setting.

Becker's highlighted that Whiteside leads more than 500 associates and medical staff across SageWest's two hospitals in Riverton and Lander. Under his leadership, the organization has stabilized operations, expanded services, and strengthened its foundation for future growth. SageWest Health Care, accredited by The Joint Commission, provides a wide range of services including emergency care, surgery, primary care, imaging, and women's health.

The full 2025 "Community Hospital Presidents and CEOs to Know" list is available at [beckershospitalreview.com](https://beckershospitalreview.com).

## Pediatric Capacity Assessment Survey

The Mountain Plains Regional Disaster Health Response System is an invaluable partner for Wyoming. It aims to provide healthcare training and resources while enhancing capabilities across various specialty areas. I encourage you to complete the survey, which will help them better understand the healthcare needs and capabilities of pediatric patients in Wyoming.

The Mountain Plains Regional Disaster Health Response System aims to survey Region 8 inpatient facilities to understand barriers and limitations healthcare institutions face in retaining pediatric patients. We hope gaining and sharing this insight with our public health and healthcare partners will allow for continued efforts in the region to collaborate and strengthen specialty care capabilities.

Please find below a survey link to be completed by facility emergency managers, CMO/COOs, trauma directors, or other professionals who may inform and understand policy around patient movement.

Findings from this survey do not reflect any regulatory or operational commitments to transfer or receive patients. This survey should take 15 minutes to complete, and is NOT affiliated with the MPRP or other state-specific capacity measurement efforts. We hope to share deidentified results publicly to support the understanding of the healthcare landscape in Region 8.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to [mountainplainsrdhrs@dhha.org](mailto:mountainplainsrdhrs@dhha.org) with any questions.

[Click Here to Complete the Survey](#)

## Support for Wyoming Miners

The Wyoming Miner's Hospital Board is a state agency dedicated to supporting individuals who currently work or have worked in Wyoming's mining industry. The mission is to provide financial assistance for certain medical conditions that may result from years of labor in the mining industry.

To qualify for benefits, individuals must have

- Worked in the mining industry for at least 10 years, and
- Be a Wyoming resident

Currently, almost 7,000 miners are enrolled in the program, and they are actively seeking more eligible individuals who may not yet know about this valuable resource.

Benefits cover conditions commonly associated with mining work, including

- Pulmonary/Respiratory
- Hearing loss
- Cardiac
- Musculoskeletal conditions

As a payer of last resort, they provide up to \$5,000 annually for eligible medical expenses once primary and secondary insurance have been applied. Additionally, they offer a generous hearing aid benefit of up to \$3,000 every five years.

Best of all, there is no cost to the member. Services are entirely free for those who qualify. The Wyoming Miner's Hospital Board is headquartered in Gillette, with a satellite office in Rock Springs. The Board is made up of dedicated members from across the state, who are passionate about getting the word out to those who can benefit.

As Executive Director, Angela Okray, is personally available to answer questions, provide guidance, and help access the care and support you have earned. Check out the website at [mhb.wyo.gov](http://mhb.wyo.gov), call at 307-685-6827, or send an email to [angela.okray@wyo.gov](mailto:angela.okray@wyo.gov)



### Wyoming Hospital Association/LeadingAge Wyoming Annual Meeting

September 3-4, 2025

[Register Here for Annual Meeting](#)



September 2, 2025

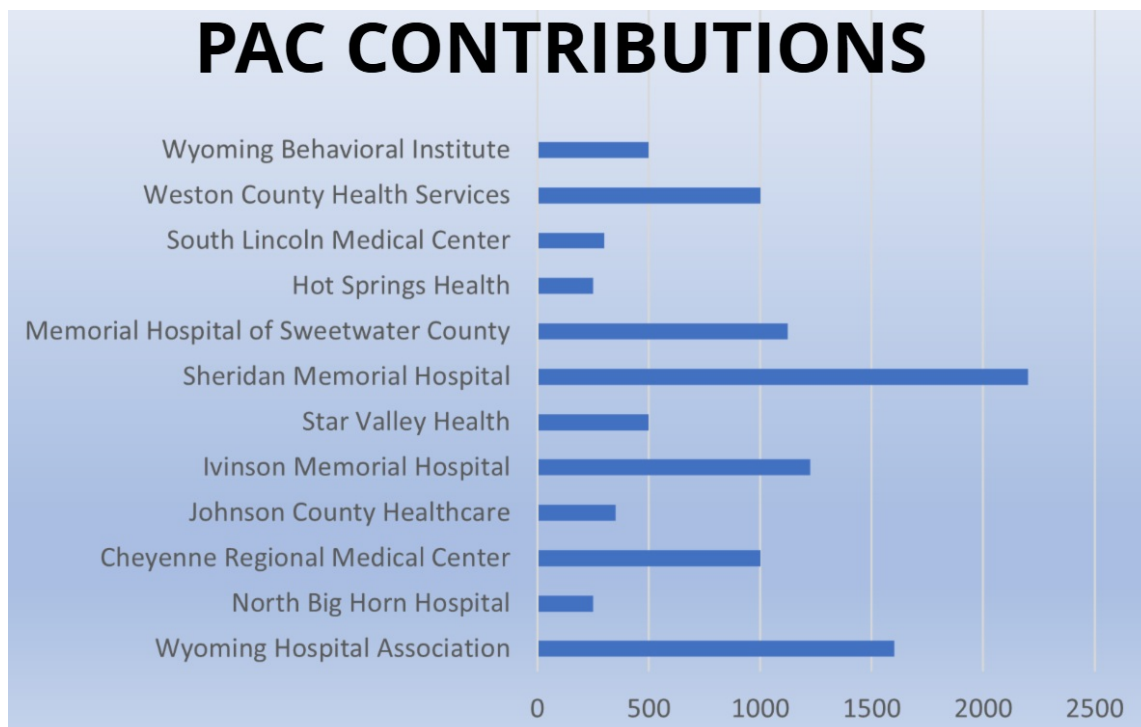
WHA Golf Tournament - Jacoby Golf Course, Laramie

September 3-4, 2025

WHA/LAW Annual Meeting - Laramie, Wyoming

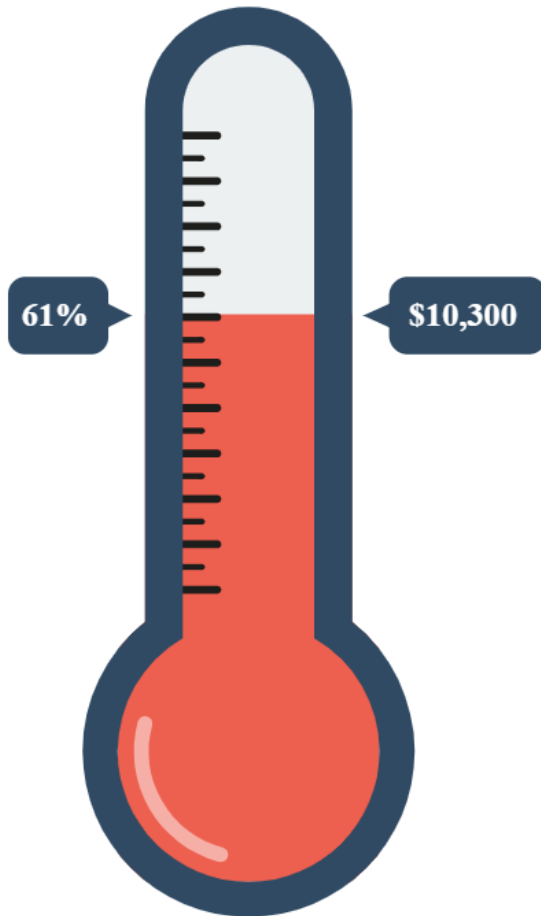
## WHA PAC Goal for 2025 Contributors

### PAC CONTRIBUTIONS



WHA PAC

**GOAL: \$17,000**



**Barry Burkart  
Eric Boley  
Eric Connell  
Tim Thornell  
Shelli Shelton  
Doug Faus  
Mike Hunsaker  
Ron Mischke  
Darcy Robertson  
Barbara Sowada  
Scott Alwin  
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