

2022
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



*Women of faith building
a more peaceful, just, and
ethical world.*



YEAR AT
A GLANCE



ADVOCACY
SUMMARY



FINANCIAL
REPORT

CONTENTS

MWEG is composed of Mormon Women for Ethical Government, a 501(c)(4), and Mormon Women for Ethical Government Foundation, a 501(c)(3). This report details the cumulative work of both arms of the organization.

Letters from the Executive Directors and Board Chair	03
Year in Review	04
Advocacy Work	07
Empowering Our Members	17
Annual Conference	23
Financial Report	25
Leadership Directory	27

MISSION

To inspire women of faith to be ambassadors of peace who transcend partisanship and courageously advocate for ethical government.

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

Early in 2022, when describing the work of MWEG in an article in *BYU Studies*, we began with a question: “Can a set of women, many without specific political training but who are willing to ground their work in faith and discipleship, make a difference? Can they wield power in new ways?”

As you will see in the pages that follow, over the course of the year we were able to answer that question with a strong “YES!” We are reporting about outcomes that were impactful and extraordinary in their reach. We hope you will also note that individual women of faith are at the very center of everything that is being accomplished.



This balance reflects the two core parts of our mission: advocating for ethical government and empowering women to be informed and competent political actors. Alone, each of those missions would be scope enough for any organization. But operating in tandem, they have proven to be powerful and mutually reinforcing. By focusing on women and giving them the training and support they need to move forward in principled and peaceful ways, we are creating a powerful cadre of political actors. By carefully selecting advocacy efforts where we believe our members can be activated and uniquely effective, we have achieved measurable and meaningful success.

The women of MWEG are making a real difference. Thank you for believing in us and supporting our efforts.

Jennifer Walker Thomas & Emma Petty Addams

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,



The MWEG board has the privilege of a front row view of the incredible, rippling impact created by the internal, day-to-day work of women bringing the MWEG mission to life. Our board is full of extraordinary women who bring a wealth of professional and personal experience to the table as they work to ensure MWEG meets the highest operational, ethical, and financial standards. For example, we are pleased to report that this year we have completed the criteria to be awarded the Utah Nonprofits Association’s Board Governance Badge. MWEG and the board seek to reflect the standards of ethics and integrity we would like to see in our political settings.

The year 2022 was one of significant operational growth for the organization. And the board worked hard to make sure that during that growth, MWEG remained strategically focused. We are confident that over the last year, MWEG closely aligned our work with our mission — ultimately positively impacting the health of our democracy and strengthening the capacity of our membership.

We are very excited to share with you this annual report — it highlights women who have embraced the mission of MWEG and done their unique part to collectively move it forward. What you read here is surely a harbinger of many more good years to come.

Lori Hickman

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

Our efforts to advocate for ethical government and empower our members to be engaged citizens led to major impacts.



LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

4,000+

letters sent to members of Congress through our advocacy tool

60+

MWEG meetings with state and federal legislators

850+

letters hand delivered to senators' offices in Washington, D.C.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

60+

MWEG leader and member opinion pieces published in local and national news outlets

50+

poll workers from 12 states recruited via our Poll Worker Recruitment Day efforts

3.5 million

impressions on our *Know Your Vote/Grow Your Vote* and *Principled Voter* campaigns

ENGAGEMENT

BY THE NUMBERS

↑ 5%

registered members of
MWEG

↑ 1,000+

new followers on public
social media platforms

↑ 400+

new subscribers to our
newsletter

“MWEG has helped me see that regular people do the heavy lifting in changing the world, and MWEG provides a loving space to learn how to **get active** in that changemaking sphere.

— Christi Leman, MWEG volunteer, Utah

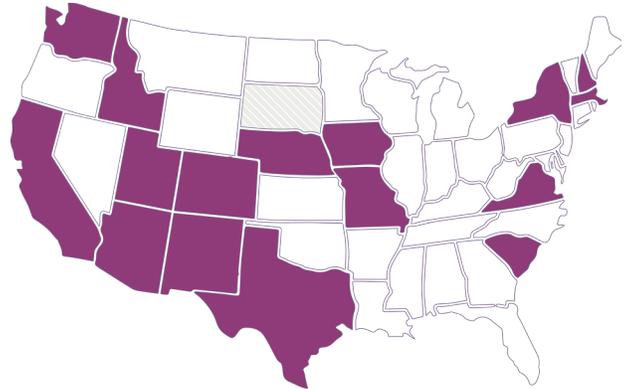
MEMBERSHIP

BY THE NUMBERS

We have 36 leaders across 16 states and D.C.

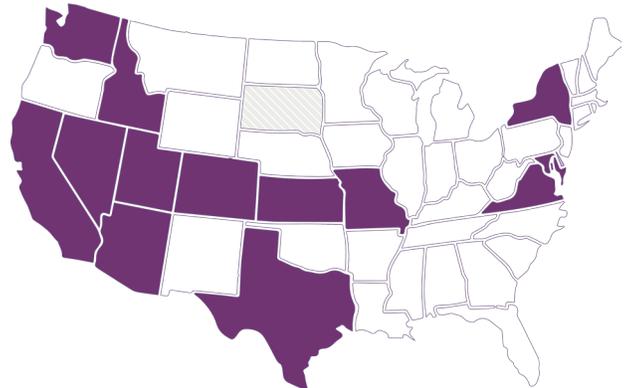
This includes 26 members of operational leadership and 10 members of the board of directors.

States include Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.



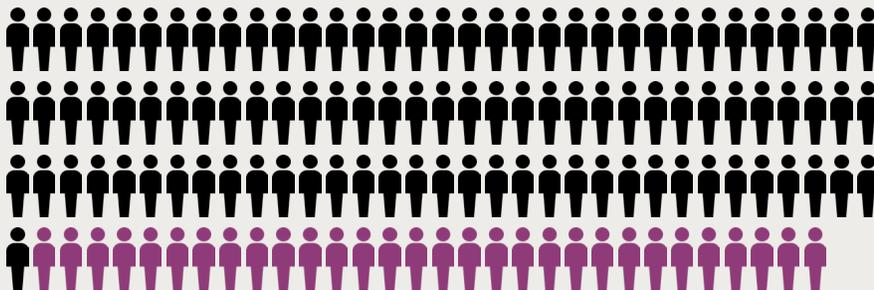
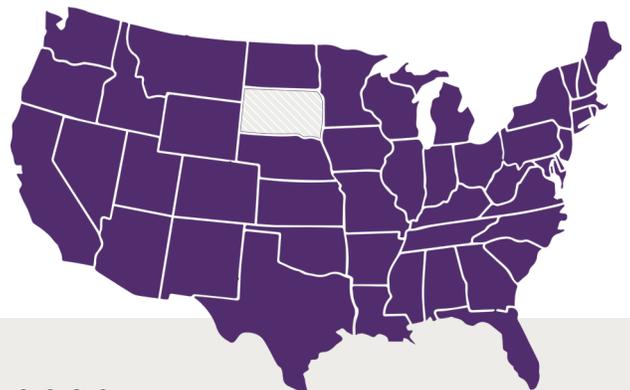
We have organized chapters in 13 states.

States include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.



We have more than 7,000 members across 49 states.

All states have members living within their borders with the exception of South Dakota.



Roughly 130 volunteers donated their time to MWEG in 2022, with approximately 100 volunteers serving for the entire year. MWEG volunteers **donated more than 9,000 hours.**



2022 ADVOCACY WORK

Our work this year focused on five specific areas of advocacy, where our members engaged in various individual and collective efforts on both state and national levels.

Protecting Democracy

Empowering Women

Immigration Reform

Rooting Out Racism

Caring for Creation



PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

MWEG has taught me that it's not enough to talk about something, it's important to do something.

Charity Clifford, MWEG member, Kansas



ELECTORAL COUNT REFORM ACT

Following our pattern of member engagement, we worked to **inform** through [library pieces](#), [social media content](#), and [live webinars](#), **invite to act** through [direct calls to action](#) to write letters or make phone calls, and **involve** through constituent meetings with legislators as well as op-eds and letters to the editor.



630+

letters written regarding the ECA, plus a dozen op-eds and letters to the editor

500+

letters hand delivered to 60+ legislators' offices in Washington, D.C., in one day

ECA ADVOCACY TIMELINE

2021

Began laying the groundwork by researching the issue.
Reached out to key legislators and coalition organizations and began initial meetings.
Initiated our social media informational campaign and launched our first call to action.
Published an [introductory library piece](#) and two op-eds.

2022

JANUARY-MAY

Continued holding constituent meetings with key legislators' offices.
Published two additional op-eds.

JUNE

Invited MWEG members to submit letters to the editor about updating the ECA.
Promoted a call to action, leading to 600+ letters written and sent to senators.
Hand delivered 600+ constituent letters to legislators' offices in Washington, D.C.
Continued holding constituent meetings with key legislators' offices.

JULY-OCTOBER

Promoted a call to action, leading to 150+ letters written and sent to senators.
Hosted an MWEG member meeting about how we can personally impact this issue.
Promoted a call to action to make calls to the Senate Rules Committee about the ECA.
Continued holding constituent meetings with key legislators' offices.
Published an [additional library piece](#), five letters to the editor, and an op-ed.

NOVEMBER

Held strategy meeting for lame duck session.
Published an additional letter to the editor.

DECEMBER 22

ECA passes in the Senate as part of the 2022 omnibus bill.

DECEMBER 29

President Biden signs into effect the FY 2023 omnibus spending bill that includes the ECA.

DIVE DEEPER

into the timeline of our
ECA advocacy work



LAWSUIT AGAINST UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE

MWEG joined the League of Women Voters and individual plaintiffs — several of whom are MWEG members — in a lawsuit against the Utah state legislature intended to challenge an affront to fair representation.



“*I’m suing the Utah Legislature because I don’t want to live in a one-party state. Our democracy works best — in fact, our democracy only works at all — when people with different viewpoints work together to find cross-partisan solutions.*”

— Stefanie Condie, MWEG board member and individual plaintiff, Utah

Stefanie Condie, above, speaks at a fair districting cottage meeting in Provo, Utah. MWEG held cottage meetings around the state, inviting members and the broader community to learn more about the redistricting process and the litigation.

“

Equal representation matters.

It matters deeply that we each have the ability to cast meaningful votes so that every voice is heard. We don’t believe this privilege should only be offered as a perk of party membership.

Laura Lewis Eyi, MWEG Utah Communications Specialist
Utah Fair Districting Litigation Press Conference
March 17, 2022



EMPOWERING WOMEN

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

We issued a [call to action](#) inviting MWEG members to call and write letters to their members of Congress urging them to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

PREGNANT WORKER'S FAIRNESS ACT

We shared information with our membership about this issue, invited them to contact their legislators, and asked them to share stories of how this issue has impacted them or their family.



“MWEG focuses on ethical advocacy areas which appeal to me despite my political homelessness.”

— Sarah Rich, MWEG member, Utah

FEDERAL CHILD TAX CREDIT

We issued a [call to action](#) that led to 575+ letters sent to legislators. We also participated in [an interfaith press conference](#) advocating for the expanded child tax credit.

“My husband and I chose to start our family in our early twenties. When our first daughter was born, he was just finishing his bachelor’s degree... over the next seven years, [we] would have three more children while my husband worked and went to school to get a doctoral degree.



Family-friendly policies such as the child tax credit played an essential role in our ability to follow this path... I want to ensure that other children are able to have their basic needs and wants met by their parents. I support public policy that both encourages people to have children and then helps with their care — especially during this time of financial uncertainty and hardship for so many.



— Steffani Thomas, MWEГ member, Virginia

IMMIGRATION REFORM

AFGHAN ADJUSTMENT ACT

Following our pattern of member engagement, we worked to **inform** our members and followers about the Afghan Adjustment Act through [library pieces](#), [social media posts](#), [live streams](#), and [webinars](#).

We **invited them to act** through a [call to action](#) to write to their legislators. They were able to thank any of their legislators who had already signed on as co-sponsors and ask the others to sign on and support the bill.

We **involved** members and leaders through constituent meetings with legislators and [hand delivering 300+ letters](#) to legislators' offices in Washington, D.C.

460+
letters written

9
published op-eds and letters to the editor by MWEГ members



“*Even though my family and I have not had the same experiences as Afghan refugees, we know the importance of having guidance and safety when coming to a new country.*

— Jasmin Cruz, MWEГ member, Utah

ROOTING OUT RACISM

UTAH EDUCATIONAL EQUITY COALITION



UEEC is a collection of parents, educators, researchers, community members, and organizations — including MWEG — working together to help Utah schools serve the unique needs of each student.



UEEC members gather at the 2022 MWEG Spring Conference.

L-R: Briawna Hugh, Myra Beecher, Ruth González-Muhlestein, Michelle Love-Day, Emma Petty Addams, Liz VanDerwerken, Melarie Wheat.

66 Working with MWEG this past year has renewed my hope in making sure school environments are equitable for children. As I am working in the schools, there seemed like no help in voicing concerns that were different than what was already being heard or equipping parents on how to advocate for their children at board meetings. Once I learned about the mission of MWEG, I was floored that a religious group of women could make such a powerful impact. It has been a blessing working with the group, not only for the community, but across religious backgrounds and denominations.

— Michelle Love-Day, UEEC steering committee member

CARING FOR CREATION

AVI KWA AME NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION



“It was wonderful working with so many Nevada chapter members advocating for the designation of Avi Kwa Ame as a National Monument. MWEG has gotten a lot of appreciation from the director of the Honor Avi Kwa Ame coalition as well as other coalition members. They were so happy to have us on board, especially as a faith-based organization.

We were literally part of something monumental. Something permanent for future generations to enjoy.

Paulette Stauffer Henriod,
MWEG Nevada Chapter
Coordinator



ARIZONA CORPORATIONS COMMISSION

“In Arizona, we have taken the time to build relations across partisan lines within the legislature and with members of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). We worked with members of the legislature to preserve the constitutional power granted to the ACC as well as blocking potential bills that would have encouraged fossil fuel use instead of transitioning to cleaner energy sources. The ACC passed several of the provisions we wanted to see passed in an energy rules package.”



— Christie Black, MWEG Arizona Chapter Co-Coordinator

SUSTAINABLE SAINTS



MORMON
ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP
ALLIANCE



LDS
EARTH STEWARDSHIP



Sustainable Saints: A Faith-Based Approach to Caring for the Earth

is a video created by the Latter-day Saint Creation Care Coalition to promote responsible earth stewardship and sustainable living.

Why is caring for creation important to you? What do you do to be a good steward, either personally or as part of your community? What inspires you to live sustainably? Hear stories from Latter-day Saints about their efforts to care for this world we live in.

Caring for Creation is deeply tied to our faith, and to caring for one another. It requires personal action, as well as effective policy and legislation, to make positive changes that will protect this planet for generations to come.

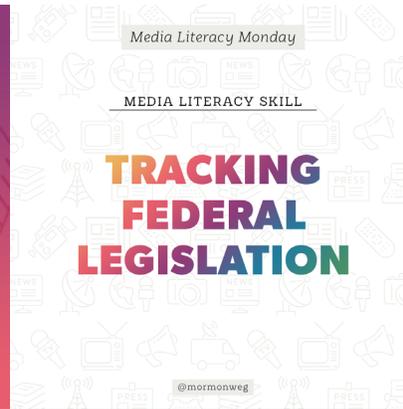
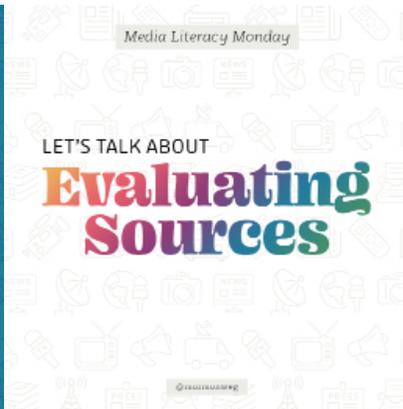
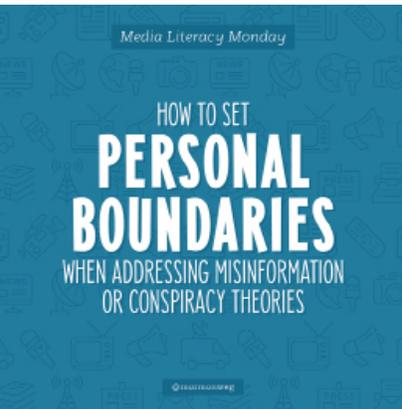


EMPOWERING OUR MEMBERS

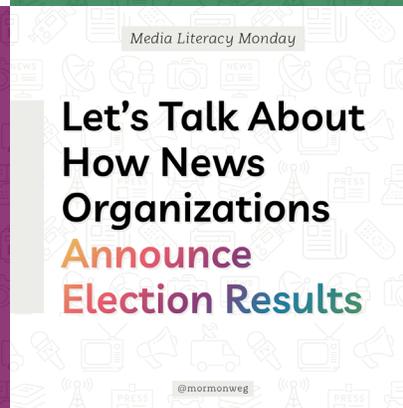
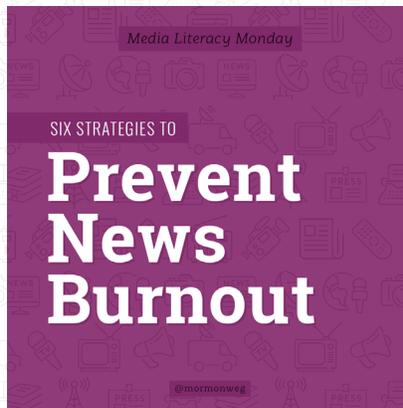
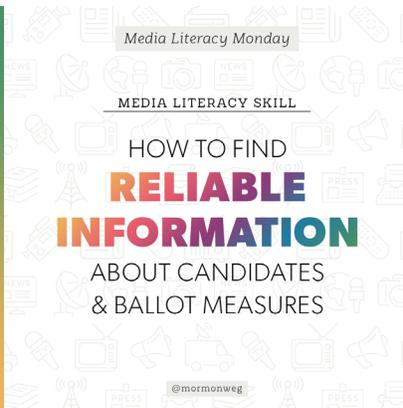
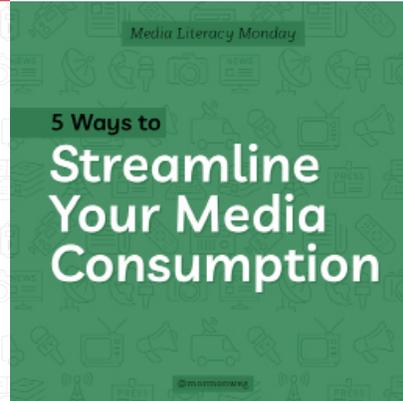
We strive to empower our members by providing access to resources and educational materials to help them become more thoughtful and engaged citizens and leaders.



MEDIA LITERACY MONDAY CAMPAIGN



Our “Media Literacy Monday” posts reached thousands of people each week, sharing concrete skills and tips for improving media literacy.

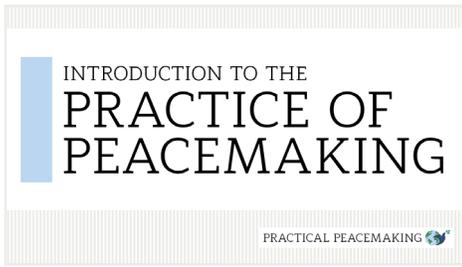


“When people were asking for good information — for example, on disinformation — I was sending secular partners to MWEG’s website to see your resources because they were some of the best.”

— Chris Crawford, [Protect Democracy](#)

PEACEFUL COMMUNICATION

Our peaceful communication resources included six practical peacemaking trainings, dozens of social media posts — including “Listen First Fridays” — along with GROWs, conference speakers, sustaining member events, and more.



“

MWEG has helped me hone my peacemaking skills and helped me engage in a less combative way, which more authentically reflects my religious beliefs.

Cristie Carter Bake
MWEG Advocacy Director,
Environment & Sustainability, Utah



“

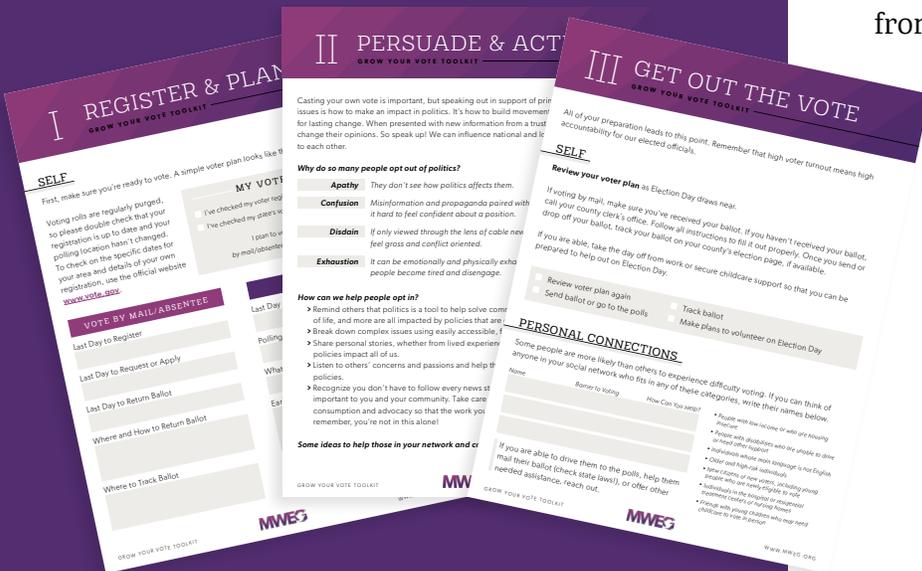
MWEG is helping me to see that it is possible to have conversations about difficult topics without contention.

Margaret Kinzel
MWEG member, Idaho

PRINCIPLED VOTER SERIES & KNOW YOUR VOTE/GROW YOUR VOTE CAMPAIGN

In an effort to increase voter participation and preparation, we re-launched our [Know Your Vote/Grow Your Vote campaign](#) in conjunction with our [Principled Voter series](#). The goal was to empower women both in using their own vote, and in helping others to do the same.

This campaign reached over 3.5 million people leading up to the midterm election.



“

I took MWEG’s challenge to be a principled voter. Before I took to studying the candidates, I made a list of my values and beliefs. I clarified on paper my beliefs about immigration, about health care, about voting rights, about the environment, about education. After I made this list, I studied the candidates — what they had said, what their voting records showed, and who was supporting them. I got together with MWEG friends and shared what we had learned with each other. And then I gathered my voting eligible family members and we shared what we knew. And we sat and voted according to our consciences and beliefs and values. It felt so freeing and so good to do that. And I ended up voting for candidates from both parties.

— Rachel Scholes,
MWEG Encircle Director,
Arizona

[Excerpt from BYU Studies, The Restored Gospel and Good Government, p.172](#)

BYU STUDIES

In late 2020, the editors of BYU Studies offered MWEG the opportunity to guest edit an issue of the journal focused on Latter-day Saint principles of good government. After more than a year of work, “The Restored Gospel and Good Government” was released in April 2022.

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY STUDIES QUARTERLY

VOLUME 61 • NUMBER 1 • 2022

The edition contains an article written by our co-executive directors, [“Bending the Arc of Politics Toward Zion.”](#) This article describes MWEG in action and is built around the experience of our leaders and members. The ideas of many other MWEG members are found throughout the journal, beginning with the cover image by MWEG Founding Member Linda Hoffman Kimball as well as poetry and articles from MWEG members.



“

The sisterhood of MWEG gives me confidence to claim my thoughts, my voice, and my individual worth, while encouraging me to learn, grow, and act.

Kimberly Powell, Chapters Director, Utah
Excerpt from “Bending the Arc of Politics Toward Zion”

MWEG LEADER PROGRAM

We launched MWEG Leader, a program to actively train and prepare women to be better managers and leaders.

Training topics included assertiveness, time management, and burnout.

“**I really appreciated the specific, actionable ideas from the assertiveness training.** Reviewing my notes before meetings with congressional offices can help me have more productive conversations, whether that involves asking more clarifying questions or repeating what I think I’ve understood to be sure that we’re on the same page.

— **Erin Young,**
MWEG Advocacy Assistant Director,
Protecting Democracy,
Iowa



SMALL ACTS BIG IMPACT

The transformational power of women working together

MWEG SPRING CONFERENCE | MARCH 26, 2022

This year, our annual spring conference focused on messages of leadership, community, and connection. We had approximately 300 conference attendees, both in-person and virtual.



“

I had an amazing experience. This was my first time at an MWEG event, and I loved it.

Definitely looking forward to participating in the future. I left with specific goals and examples of how I want to continue advocating for the undocumented community.

— Liliana Bolaños, MWEG member, Utah



Above: Nubia Peña, Senior Advisor on Equity and Opportunity at the Utah Governor's Office, presents her keynote address.

2022 MWEG Award Recipients



*Sharlee Mullins Glenn
Woman of Valor Award*

Nubia Peña



*Melissa Dalton-Bradford Award
for Humanitarian Service*

Lark Escobar



*Diana Bate Hardy Award
for Effective Advocacy*

Paulette Stauffer Henriod



*Linda Hoffman Kimball Award
for Persuasive Writing*

Lisa Rampton Halverson



*Top Left: Co-Executive Directors Emma Petty Addams and Jennifer Walker Thomas give closing remarks.
Top Right: College student panel discusses both online and real-world advocacy.
Bottom Left: Members of MWEG's senior leadership team.
Bottom Right: Dr. Lisa Argyle presents her plenary address on embracing political differences.*





FINANCIAL REPORT

MWEG's donor base of more than 1,000 generous individuals and organizations provides us with the ongoing and one-time income needed to support numerous educational and advocacy projects.

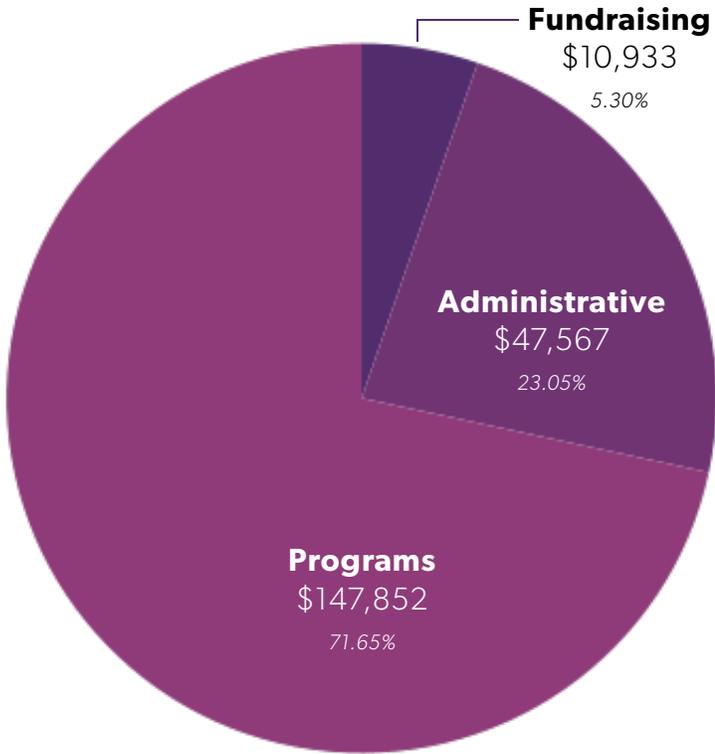
Over 600* sustaining members contribute income that is essential and predictable. This income is augmented by special fundraising efforts such as Giving Tuesday.

*Updated 11/2023: This number was incorrectly entered in the original version of this report.



“*I became a sustaining member after hearing about the lawsuit — I think it's very important work you're doing! I also really appreciate that MWEG helps make it much easier for me to get involved in political issues as a busy mom.*

— Anna Neumann, MWEG member, Utah



MWEG

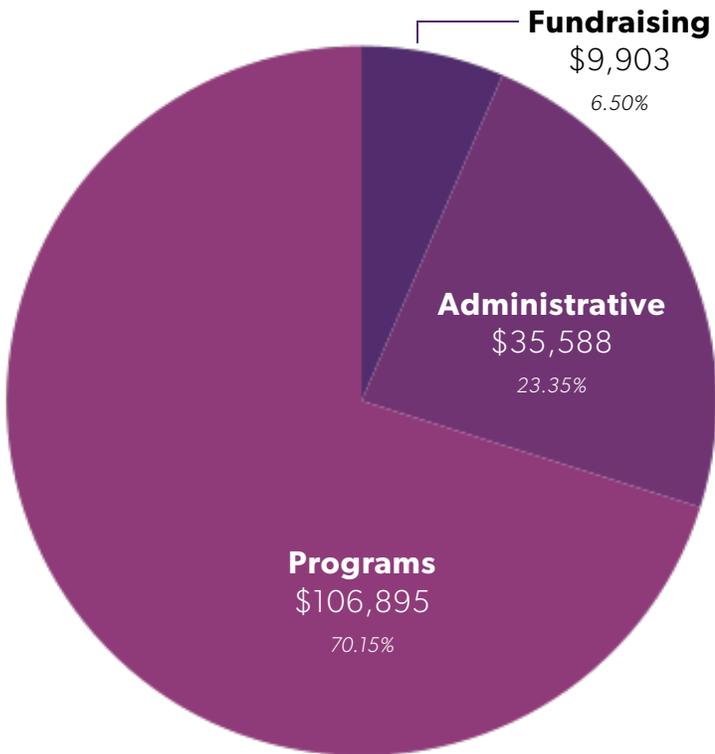
501(c)(4)

TOTAL REVENUE

\$240,220

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$206,352



MWEG FOUNDATION

501(c)(3)

TOTAL REVENUE

\$159,969

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$152,386

DIRECTORY OF
OPERATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Emma Petty Addams

Co-Executive Director | *Nebraska*

Jennifer Walker Thomas

Co-Executive Director | *Massachusetts*

Rachel Albertsen

Director of Special Projects | *Arizona*

Molly Cannon Hadfield

Facebook Co-Lead Moderator | *Utah*

Danica Baird

Senior Director, Proactive Root | *Utah*

Kristine Haglund

Senior Director, Faithful Root | *Missouri*

Cristie Carter Bake

Advocacy Director, Environment & Sustainability | *Utah*

Lisa Rampton Halverson

Director of Advocacy Communications | *Utah*

Christie Black

Director of Business Operations | *Arizona*

Jillaire McMillan

Director of Volunteers | *Colorado*

Merinda Cutler

Advocacy Director, Immigration | *Utah*

Charlotte Mountain

Director of DEI | *New York*

Wendy Dennehy

Advocacy Director, Protecting Democracy | *Utah*

Kimberly Powell

Chapters Director | *Utah*

Ashley Dickson

Chief Editor | *Massachusetts*

Rachel Fisher Scholes

Encircle Director | *Arizona*

Catherine Eslinger

Empower Director | *Utah*

Megan Seawright

Senior Director of Communications | *Utah*

Shauna Fisher

Director of Operations | *New Hampshire*

Emily de Schweinitz Taylor

Senior Director, Peaceful Root | *Utah*

Meredith Gardner

Empower Director, Media Literacy | *Texas*

Tiffany Tertipes

Creative Director | *Washington*

Heather Goodman

Facebook Co-Lead Moderator | *Virginia*

Megan Rawlins Woods

Senior Director, Nonpartisan Root | *Utah*

Abby Greenwald

Chapters Director | *New Mexico*

Erin Young

Advocacy Asst Director, Protecting Democracy | *Iowa*

DIRECTORY OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lori Hickman

Board Chair | *Idaho*

Stefanie Condie

Board Secretary | *Utah*

Denise Furlough Grayson

Board Vice Chair | *Texas*

Patrice Mano

Board Treasurer | *California*

Karen Hall

Board Member | *South Carolina*

Tracy Nuttall

Board Member | *Utah*

Rachel Esplin Odell

Board Member | *District of Columbia*

Antonella Packard

Board Member | *Utah*

Jill Piacitelli

Board Member | *Utah*

Shauna Summers

Board Member | *New York*





2022 ANNUAL REPORT