

2023
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



YEAR AT
A GLANCE



ADVOCACY
SUMMARY



FINANCIAL
REPORT

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

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OUR MISSION

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

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.

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear friends,

MWEG is a network of individual women spread across the United States. We live in different areas but are united in purpose and represent a unique source of strength and determination. MWEG members are women of faith and action dedicated to peace and democracy. We work hand in hand with others in our communities to build bridges of understanding while defending our principles and the critical need for ethical government.

The MWEG ecosystem has two halves. Our 501(c)(4) half leads our advocacy work in five specific areas to impact policy, encourage the passage of legislation, and litigate in defense of voter rights. The other half is a 501(c)(3) that empowers our members to become informed, independent, and effective actors in our democratic processes. These halves work together to create a growing circle of impact. The magic of MWEG is found in thousands of empowered and informed women supporting each other in focused individual and collective efforts.

What does our faith-based activism and ethical government advocacy look like? A woman in Arizona boldly making a public comment on utility fare increases. A group of women gathered in Utah to watch a film on bridge-building and discuss how to improve their peacemaking skills. Five women in Idaho meeting with legislators to discuss the Child Tax Credit. A woman in Nebraska publishing an op-ed supporting our Afghan allies. And yet another in Texas calmly facilitating a charged conversation with family members. All while thousands of women learn through MWEG's social media and other resources how to identify disinformation and promote peace and civility. The MWEG network is constantly in motion, and it is beautiful to behold.

In MWEG, our members find a support system through which they can accomplish goals, use their voices, and become part of a movement that is working to strengthen our families, communities, and democracy. We are constantly reminded of what a unique and wonderful group of women we work with, and we hope this report will give you a glimpse of what we have been able to accomplish together.

Jennifer Walker Thomas & Emma Petty Addams



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear friends,

The MWEG board is composed of a diverse group of women, each of whom brings a unique passion and expertise to the table. It is our honor to take part in the development of this organization. Our responsibility is to ensure the fiscal, legal, and ethical aspects of the organization are sound. We can declare without reservation that this is the case. What is most important to us is the impact MWEG has on our members and our communities nationwide.

In 2023, we watched the women of MWEG participate in our democracy in new ways, and they have done so boldly. They have reached out to their neighbors and friends, proactively building peace and connection. MWEG leadership has taken part in many national conversations about bridge-building and protecting democracy and has formed strong partnerships across the country.

MWEG experienced significant growth in 2023, adding a children and families advocacy area and building out a strong infrastructure that will support the continued growth of the organization. There are many good things to come, and the MWEG board is committed to remaining strategically focused on our members and the impact they can have on the future of our nation. Thank you for supporting this work and all the women engaged in it.

Lori Hickman



2023

YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2023, MWEG members impacted state and federal legislation as well as their individual communities and circles of influence. MWEG leadership expanded our participation in national democracy and bridge-building efforts.

LEGISLATIVE & COMMUNITY IMPACT



70+ opinion pieces published in **16** states and **28** media outlets



50+ educational and community-building chapter events



A **sold-out** annual spring conference



200+ attendees at our Earth Day event



13 pro-democracy and bridge-building conferences attended by MWEG leaders, speakers, and panelists



3 "day at the capitol" events during state legislative sessions

ENGAGEMENT

BY THE NUMBERS

↑ **3,000+**

new digital followers

↑ **500+**

new registered members

↑ **7%**

increase in membership

↑ **265,000**

Facebook and Instagram
social media impressions

“

I love seeing how all the different women in MWEG come together to make things happen. We can't always see that in whatever defined roles we have, but everyone here is making a difference in helping this organization succeed.

— Jillaire McMillan,
MWEG Director of Volunteers



MEMBERSHIP

BY THE NUMBERS



28 LEADERS ACROSS 13 STATES

States include Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Washington.

14 STATE CHAPTERS

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

7,000 MEMBERS ACROSS 49 STATES

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



ROUGHLY 140 VOLUNTEERS DONATED MORE THAN
8,300 HOURS OF THEIR TIME TO MWEG IN 2023.

ADVOCACY WORK

MWEG's advocacy efforts are carefully curated to address the issues that are close to the hearts of MWEG members, spurring our collaboration and activity.



How we are **advocating** for ethical government

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

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

IMMIGRATION REFORM

CARING FOR CREATION

ROOTING OUT RACISM

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

FAIR DISTRICTING LAWSUIT AGAINST UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE

We continued our efforts with 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.

MWEG members attended Utah’s Supreme Court hearing, and our co-executive directors, Jennifer Walker Thomas and Emma Petty Addams, published an op-ed in [Utah’s Deseret News](#) in response to the Utah Legislature.

“Political gerrymandering in any state causes significant harm to all Americans, and to our democracy as a whole. . . . We seek to preserve fair elections, equal representation, and the balance of political power.”

— Jennifer Walker Thomas and Emma Petty Addams,
Deseret News



 **DeseretNews.**

Political structures and electoral systems should be designed to maximize participation of and provide equitable access to all citizens in a society.

— *MWEG’s Principles of Ethical Government 2(a)*

OPEN PRIMARIES BALLOT INITIATIVE

In October 2023, our Idaho chapter joined the [Idahoans for Open Primaries](#) coalition in gathering more than 70,000 signatures in support of representative government through free and open elections.

If you want to hear more about that win, check out this [news story featuring MWEG members](#).

We're trying to create a better Idaho where everybody feels like they have a voice and are empowered and connected; where there are solutions.

— Amanda Stark, MWEG Member, Idaho
[Idaho Capital Sun, March 2024](#)

We believe the open primary will allow each voter to seek out reliable information about the candidates and then vote for the candidate that matches their principles and has their trust. And I think that is so needed right now for us at this time. Government by the people and for the people works when the voters feel like they are respected and listened to and that is what this is all about.

— Margaret Kinzel, MWEG Member, Idaho
[Idaho Capital Sun, October 2023](#)



Idaho Capital Sun

BUILDING CIVIC BRIDGES ACT

In July 2023, MWEG issued a call to action to request support for the Building Civic Bridges Act, which would provide \$25 million a year to formalize efforts in civic bridge-building.

We can do this! Our country is in need of fixing, but we have the power to do it. Bridge-building is key.

— Rachel Scholes, MWEG Encircle Director



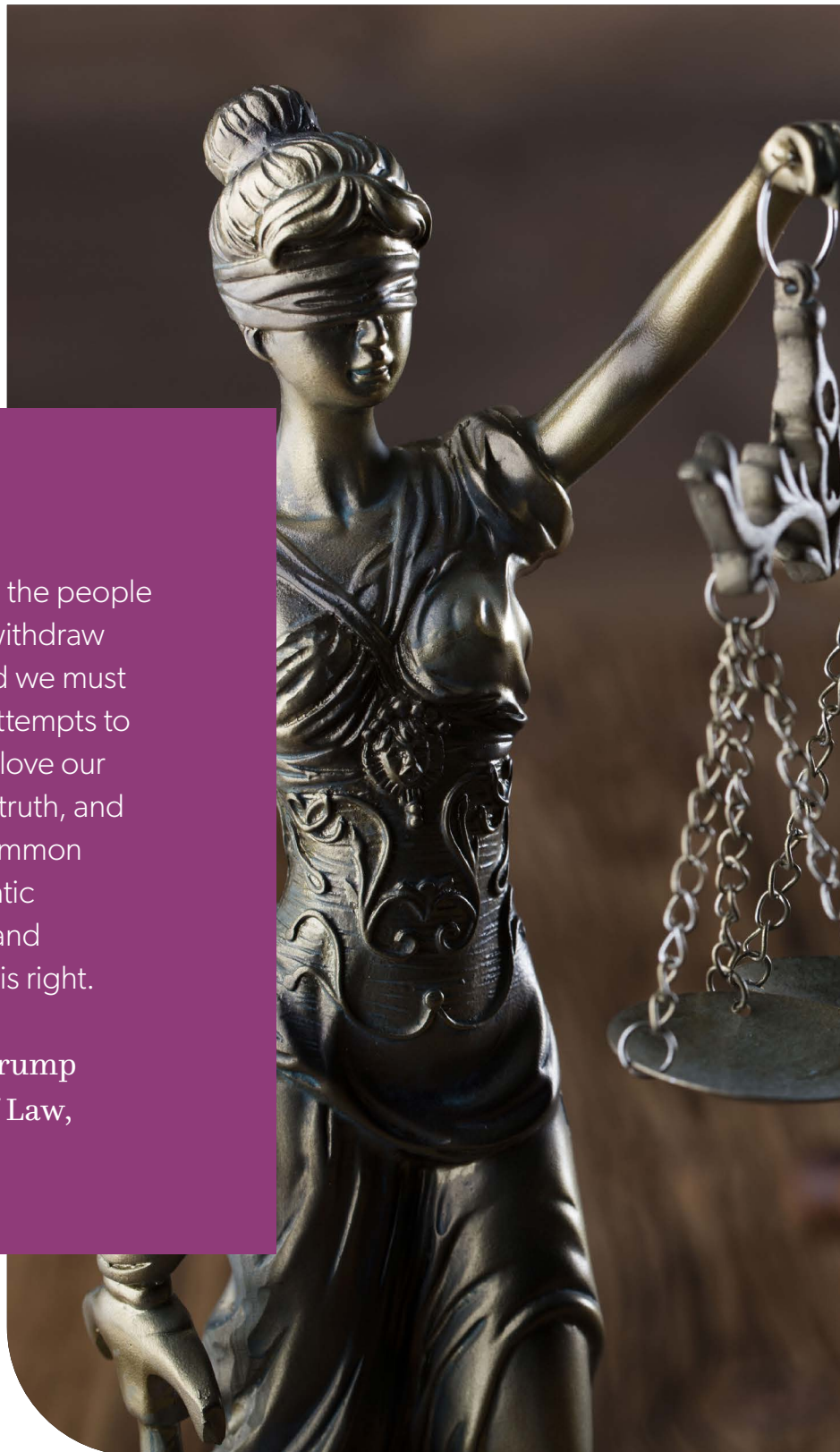
OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

We published several official statements, including remarks on the Trump indictment and the rule of law, and the vote for the speaker of the house. We continue to update and add resources to our free online educational library.

“

Within a democracy, it is given to the people to grant political power to — or withdraw it from — our representatives, and we must peacefully and lawfully resist all attempts to take that power from us. We can love our fellow citizens, defend objective truth, and hold fast in word and deed to common principles of justice and democratic governance. Together we can stand courageously in defense of what is right.

— Official Statement on the Trump Indictment and the Rule of Law, August 16, 2023



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



In February 2023, MWEG officially added the advocacy area of Children and Families and built a team to lead those efforts.

FEDERAL CHILD TAX CREDIT

We continued our work on federal and state levels to support the Child Tax Credit bipartisan bill to promote healthy child development. In March 2023, we saw Utah enact its first Child Tax Credit.

PAID FAMILY LEAVE

We met with several federal representatives, and together with the Center for Public Justice and the National Association of Evangelicals we submitted a joint statement for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee hearing on paid family leave.

Since becoming an MWEG member five years ago I have come to know a group of women who have religion in common, who have the will to be peacemakers, who will take up a cause and fight for it, and who come from different political backgrounds and places in life. With their support I have looked for those on the margins who we need to speak up for: immigrants and refugees, families, children, people of color, and many others. I have become more able to advocate as I talk to people about issues; write letters to those who represent not only me, but the state of Nebraska; have letters to the editor published; and have meetings with immigrants and politicians. I have had reinforced in me that when women come together for good, they can accomplish amazing things.

— **Tommi Foy Jones,**
MWEG Children and Families Advocacy Advisory Committee Member

IMMIGRATION REFORM

We led or participated in 30 legislative meetings on the [Afghan Adjustment Act](#) and immigration issues in five states, collaborating with 10 state and national partner organizations. We created and publicized a “thank and ask” call to action and helped get 11 opinion pieces published. Our efforts garnered more bipartisan support, and we witnessed the extension of the Temporary Protected Status for Afghans.

MWEG Nebraska chapter lead Rachel Bonar had four opinion pieces published over several months and participated in four meetings in Nebraska, including an in-person meeting with Felix Ungerman, deputy chief of staff for Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE), who became a co-sponsor of AAA.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



EVACUATE OUR ALLIES



Global Refuge



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Human Rights First



Utah Muslim
Civic League



Amy Klobuchar
WWW.AMYKLOBUCHAR.COM



**Jewish
Federations**
of North America

“

Working with MWEG has helped me be a more proactive citizen and an involved member of my community. I’m grateful for opportunities to promote immigration reform that will benefit my neighbors and greater communities. Including my voice in advocacy for refugees and immigrants lets my representatives know this issue is an American concern and not only an exclusive concern of a minority group. I’m glad I can join with others to amplify the needs of individuals and families coming to America for a better life.

— Rachel Bonar, MWEG Member

2023 ADVOCACY WORK CARING FOR CREATION



ADVOCACY ACADEMY

MWEG launched our Advocacy Academy, an eight-week course designed to prepare women to advocate for environmental issues at the state, local, and administrative agency levels. Two groups of Arizona women graduated, and some of them joined MWEG's volunteer ranks.

CLEAN ENERGY ADVOCACY

MWEG commented on five different administrative agency dockets, as well as several local government and administrative agency plans, in support of clean energy deployment and transparent use of taxpayer dollars.

After MWEG members Christie Black and Andrea Dalton published their op-ed in Arizona, the Arizona Corporation Commission implemented changes to its open meeting structure that will hopefully make it more efficient for stakeholder input.

“We’ve also been meeting with commissioners, and they’ve been receptive to our suggestions for improving meeting processes.”

*— Cristie Carter Bake,
MWEG Advocacy Director,
Caring for Creation*

EARTH DAY

About 200 attendees joined MWEG in person and online for An Indigenous Perspective on Climate and the Environment, an Earth Day event co-hosted with Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance, the LDS Action Team of Citizens' Climate Lobby, and LDS Earth Stewardship.


200
ATTENDEES

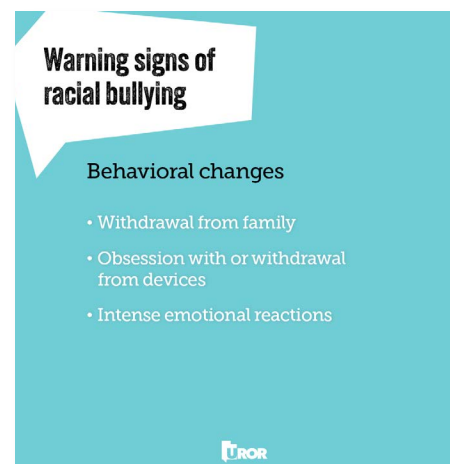
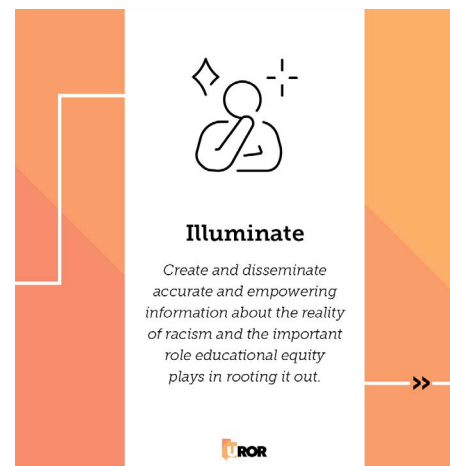
ROOTING OUT RACISM

In July, MWEG launched [Utah Rooting Out Racism](#) (UROR), a coalition of parents, educators, students, researchers, and community members focused on local education and advocacy training to promote the values of equity and inclusion in Utah schools.



With the invaluable support of MWEG, UROR works diligently to illuminate the existence of racism and other forms of prejudice in Utah schools and communities and to empower students, families, educators, and community members to root them out. All children deserve schools where they can learn and thrive!

— **Deirdre Straight**
Utah Rooting Out Racism Advocacy Director



2023

EMPOWERING OUR MEMBERS

We spent 2023 helping our members build concrete peacemaking skills and improve human connection in preparation for a contentious election year.

How we are **empowering** our members



Events and programs like [our annual conference](#), [Living Room Conversations](#), [Simply Connect](#), and screenings of the film [“Public Enemies, Private Friends”](#) helped MWEG members connect with those around them in meaningful ways.

MEDIA LITERACY

PEACEFUL COMMUNICATION

PRINCIPLED CITIZEN

CIVIC SKILLS

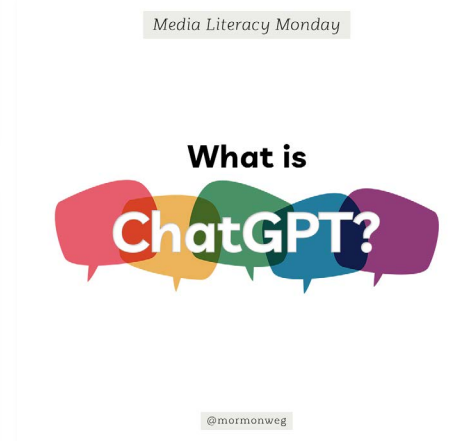
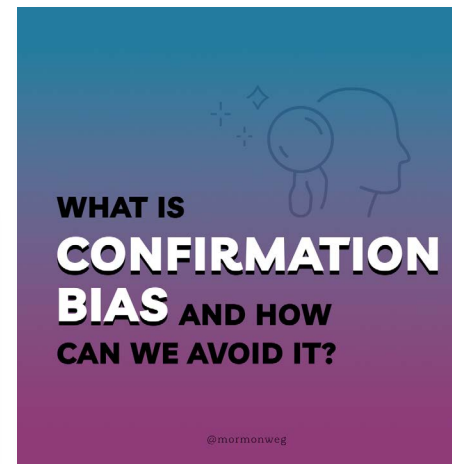
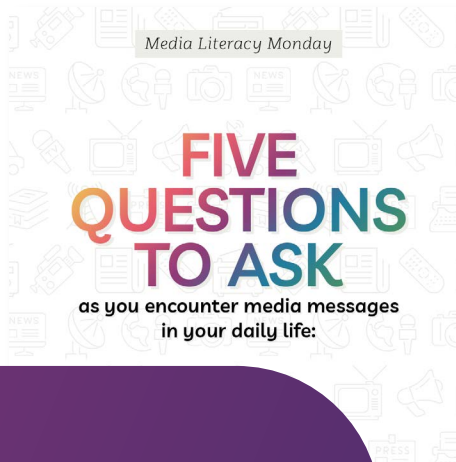
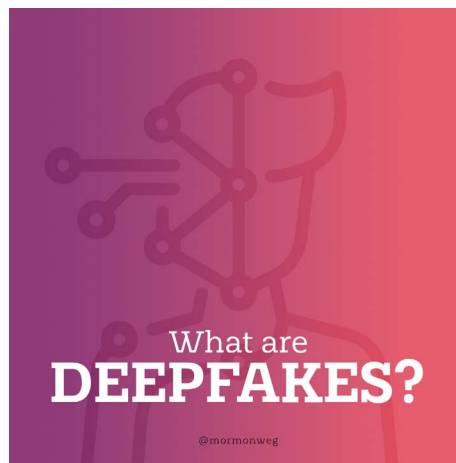
MEDIA LITERACY

Our media literacy programs teach women how to be peacemakers and principled civic actors.

- Media Literacy Monday is a weekly social media series that helps followers hone their ability to seek out and identify truth as a key component of effective advocacy and peacemaking.
- Our weekly news roundup email newsletter launched in August with an 87% open rate.
- Each week at our [GROW](#) events, we host a live Zoom where members learn about current MWEG initiatives and how they can get involved, encourage each other, and build community.

We had a great conversation with a perfect-sized group at a recent GROW. I came away with a lot of thoughts of things I could do differently in my more conflict-prone relationships. Our participants shared thoughtful ideas, and I felt very connected to the group.

— **Catherine Eslinger**



PEACEFUL COMMUNICATION

- We **launched the Women Making Peace event series** with a screening of the documentary [“Public Enemies, Private Friends”](#) (formerly known as “The Abortion Talks”) followed by a workshop on constructive conversations. **More than 450 participants** attended the series, and survey results showed a meaningful decrease in participants’ anger and feelings of polarization.
- We published [Practical Peacemaking](#), **faith-based curriculum** materials that can be shared and used for education.
- We hosted **21 virtual Living Room Conversations**, where members practiced listening deeply and using peacemaking skills.
- Simply Connect provided a summer bucket list of **activities to help build connections** to our neighbors, communities, and the issues that impact us.



PRINCIPLED CITIZEN

CALLS TO ACTION

MWEG's advocacy tool allows members to quickly enter their contact information, write a letter to their representatives, and send it with just one click.

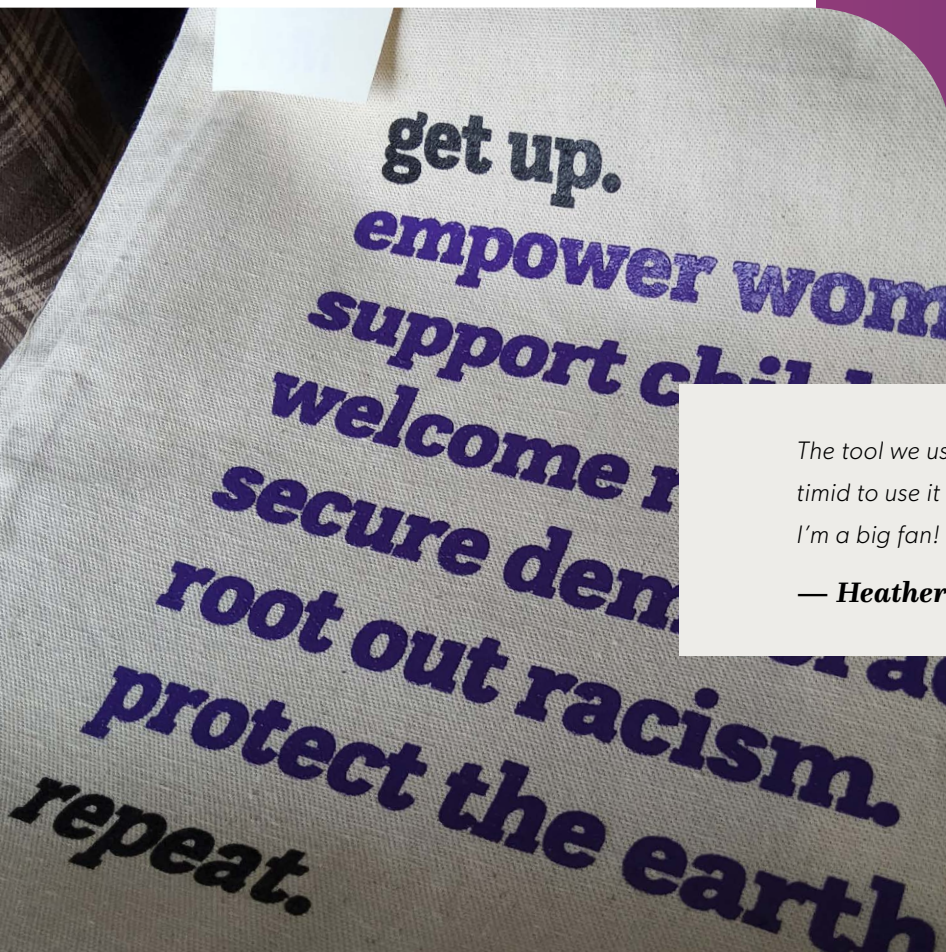
We rallied members to thank and encourage legislators to support:

- [Afghan Adjustment Act](#)
- [Building Civic Bridges Act](#)
- [Federal EV Infrastructure Funding](#)



23
POLL WORKERS

We partnered with Power the Polls to recruit 23 poll workers to help with vital local election responsibilities.



The tool we use for generating letters is so easy to use! I was a little timid to use it at first, but now that I know it takes five minutes or less, I'm a big fan!

— Heather Goodman, MWEG Member

2023 EMPOWERING OUR MEMBERS BOOK GROUP



MWEG's monthly book group brings women together to read and discuss inspiring and mind-expanding books relevant to our ethical advocacy work. We host virtual events and share ideas and resources in the book group chat. In 2023, we hosted two MWEG leaders and two guest authors, Lant Pritchett and Sarah Quezada.

In 2023, we also created MWEG's Ultimate Advocacy Book List, with lists separated into age groups from early readers to adults and covering a variety of topics from voting rights to immigration.

MWEG's Ultimate Advocacy Book List				
Note: Book recommendations below are from MWEG members -- many include personal connective opportunities that we didn't include. Recommendations are not necessarily.				
MWEG Areas of Advocacy	Ages 3-7	Ages 8-12	Ages 13 and up	Adult
IMMIGRATION, ASYLUM, REFUGEES	<p><i>The Boy Who Swam to Freedom</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Doug Chapman (Illustrator)</p> <p><i>Our World is a Family</i> (Our Community Our Choices) by Mary Wheeler & Jennifer Jackson</p> <p><i>Thirteen at the Border: A Story of the US-Mexico Border</i> by Jessica Hagedorn</p> <p><i>My Name is Saeed</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Catherine Cook</p> <p><i>The Boy Who Swam to Freedom</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Doug Chapman (Illustrator)</p>	<p><i>The Boy Who Swam to Freedom</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Doug Chapman (Illustrator)</p> <p><i>Our World is a Family</i> (Our Community Our Choices) by Mary Wheeler & Jennifer Jackson</p> <p><i>Thirteen at the Border: A Story of the US-Mexico Border</i> by Jessica Hagedorn</p> <p><i>My Name is Saeed</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Catherine Cook</p> <p><i>The Boy Who Swam to Freedom</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Doug Chapman (Illustrator)</p>	<p><i>The Boy Who Swam to Freedom</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Doug Chapman (Illustrator)</p> <p><i>Our World is a Family</i> (Our Community Our Choices) by Mary Wheeler & Jennifer Jackson</p> <p><i>Thirteen at the Border: A Story of the US-Mexico Border</i> by Jessica Hagedorn</p> <p><i>My Name is Saeed</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Catherine Cook</p> <p><i>The Boy Who Swam to Freedom</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Doug Chapman (Illustrator)</p>	<p><i>The Boy Who Swam to Freedom</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Doug Chapman (Illustrator)</p> <p><i>Our World is a Family</i> (Our Community Our Choices) by Mary Wheeler & Jennifer Jackson</p> <p><i>Thirteen at the Border: A Story of the US-Mexico Border</i> by Jessica Hagedorn</p> <p><i>My Name is Saeed</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Catherine Cook</p> <p><i>The Boy Who Swam to Freedom</i> by Karen Lynn Williams, Miranda McManis, Doug Chapman (Illustrator)</p>

2023

SPRING CONFERENCE

— A MORE — PERFECT UNION

Women Building Peace and Community

2023
MWEG SPRING CONFERENCE
MARCH 25 | UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

MWEG's annual conference gathers women of faith to inspire and support one another to engage in ethical government advocacy.

306
IN-PERSON
ATTENDEES

123
VIRTUAL
ATTENDEES



Thank you, thank you, thank you for providing this wonderful conference. It inspired me to do more and do better!

— **Cindy Wilson**



I came away feeling connected and energized, as well as nurtured spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. I found my people! I can't thank you enough.

— Lise Embley, Assistant Book Group Coordinator



2023 MWEG AWARD RECIPIENTS



*Linda Hoffman Kimball Award
for Persuasive Writing*

Erin Young



*Diana Bate Hardy Award
for Effective Advocacy*

Cissy Rasmussen



*Melissa Dalton Bradford Discipleship
in Action Award*

Hayley Smith



*Sharlee Mullins Glenn
Woman of Valor Award*

Becky Edwards

NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

In 2023, MWEG increased external collaboration on the national level, working with:

FaithMatters



CivicGenius
A program of the National Civic League

Interfaith
America



YOUunIFY

LivingRoom
Conversations

the Center
for Christianity
& Public Life



MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



ERIN YOUNG

Erin serves as MWEG's assistant director of advocacy research and was the recipient of the 2023 Linda Hoffman Kimball Award for Persuasive Writing. As an integral part of our protecting democracy team, her writings have significantly increased our effectiveness and reputation in this area. Erin has also so often been willing to expand her efforts when needed to ensure that projects in other advocacy areas have been backed by substantive research and writing. She has consistently produced intelligent, balanced, and well-researched pieces ranging from articles, to calls to action, to advocacy papers. She has done all of this while creating and raising two small people and doing graduate work.

CISSY RASMUSSEN

Cissy was the recipient of the 2023 Diana Bate Hardy Award for Effective Advocacy. In her town of Orem, Utah, Cissy created an ideologically diverse coalition of residents in order to respond to a ballot resolution and advocate for good, deliberate local government. Her efforts represented core tenets of MWEG's concept of principled citizenship — centering the needs of others, particularly populations who might have been harmed by this resolution. She engaged against a highly funded and organized group and did this by involving a wide range of people. She set a community standard through thoughtful and peaceful communications. Her efforts exemplified community-based democratic engagement.

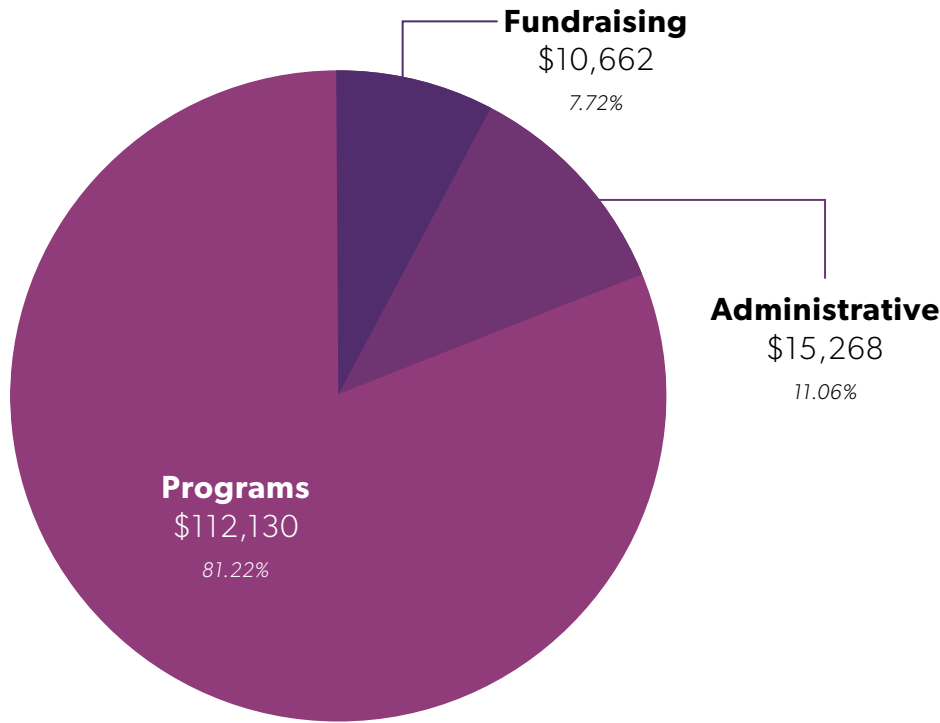


FINANCIAL REPORT

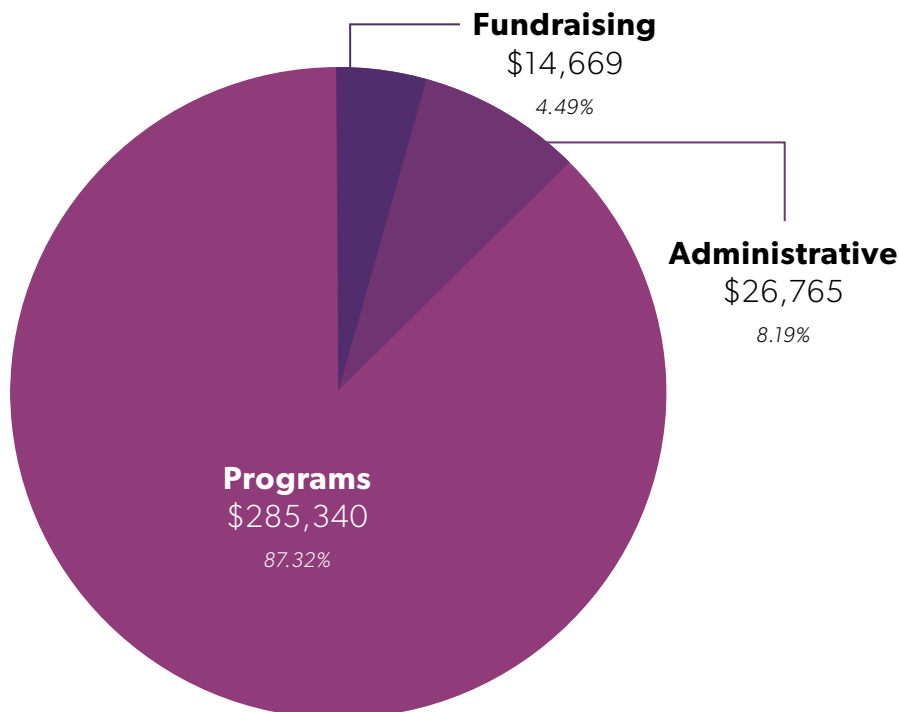
MWEG's donor base of more than 1,000 generous individuals and organizations provides us with the ongoing and one-time income needed to support numerous educational and advocacy projects.

More than 550 sustaining members contribute income that is essential and predictable. This income is augmented by special fundraising efforts such as Giving Tuesday.





TOTAL REVENUE
 \$112,549
TOTAL EXPENSES
 \$138,060



TOTAL REVENUE
 \$463,124
TOTAL EXPENSES
 \$326,774

DIRECTORY OF OPERATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Emma Petty Addams

Co-Executive Director | Nebraska

Jennifer Walker Thomas

Co-Executive Director | Massachusetts

Rachel Albertsen

Director of Events | Arizona

Danica Baird

Senior Director, Proactive Root | Utah

Christie Black

Director of Business Operations | Arizona

Erika Blas

Director of Development | Alabama

Cristie Carter Bake

Advocacy Director, Caring for Creation | Utah

Merinda Cutler

Advocacy Director, Immigration | Utah

Ashley Dickson

Chief Editor | Massachusetts

Catherine Eslinger

Empower Director, Civic Engagement | Utah

Meredith Gardner

Empower Director, Media Literacy | Texas

Abby Greenwald

Chapters Director | New Mexico

Molly Cannon Hadfield

Facebook Co-Lead Moderator,
Community Manager | Utah

Kristine Haglund

Senior Director, Faithful Root | Missouri

Lisa Rampton Halverson

Director of Research | Utah

Jessica Larson

Advocacy Director, Protecting Democracy |
Massachusetts

Kira Ludwig

Assistant Director of Communications | Utah

Klarissa Ludwig

Executive Assistant | Utah

Jillaire McMillan

Director of Volunteers | Colorado

Charlotte Mountain

Director of DEI | New York

Kimberly Powell

Chapters Director | Utah

Rachel Fisher Scholes

Encircle Co-Director | Arizona

Megan Seawright

Senior Director of Communications | Utah

Tiffany Tertipes

Creative Director | Washington

Elizabeth VanDerwerken

Senior Director, Peaceful Root | Pennsylvania

Annie Waddoups

Advocacy Director, Children and Families | Utah

Megan Rawlins Woods

Senior Director, Nonpartisan Root, Lead Root | Utah

Erin Young

Advocacy Assistant Director, Protecting Democracy |
Iowa

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Patrice Mano

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Board Member | Utah

Stefanie Condie

Board Member | Utah

Rachel Esplin Odell

Board Member | Washington, D.C.

