

Dear Listeners

Fall Fund Drive came and went, and was a great success. You helped us reach and slightly surpass goal. This was a most heartening feat, as I know that Wyoming is still dusting itself off from the recent recession. Renewing and new members responded enthusiastically, and our sustaining donors kept the bottom line in check. I'm often asked, "What makes people give, even in tough economic times?" The immediate answers are programming, accessibility to a signal in Wyoming, and the feeling of being connected in a state where people live far apart, yet so many know each other. There's a sense of community and neighborhood in a statewide network – you know that your friends and relatives are listening to the same news story, piece of music, or humorous tidbit that you're hearing. It's a tie that binds us all together.

In the last several years, other very compelling reasons for supporting public media have emerged – reliability, accuracy, balance, universality. As national media concentrates increasingly on one story per day or week, public radio continues to include other stories and voices from the nation and the world. You can find this in our national reporting as well as in programs like the BBC. And of course, in Wyoming, we have a top-rated news department and cultural affairs team that concentrates on us – Wyomingites!

It was on November 7, 50 years ago that public broadcasting was launched. True, there were many exciting forays into creating media (radio and TV back then) that was public-spirited and educational. But it wasn't until the Public Broadcasting Act, that the idea really took off. Today, we have public media on radio, television, online, as well as numerous other digital devices that create a rich source for accessing content. I'd like to share with you a letter Patricia Harrison, Corporation for Public Broadcasting President and CEO, wrote to the public broadcasting community. It best captures the history and philosophy of one of our nation's best public services – public broadcasting.

*“Dear Public Media Leaders,*

*November 7 marks the 50th anniversary of the Public Broadcasting Act – something in which we can take pride as a nation and as station and system leaders. The Act created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and paved the way for the establishment of PBS and NPR, expanding the network of local broadcasters into every corner of our country.*

*The Act affirms the potential of media as a force for good – to strengthen communities, to educate learners of all ages and to bring hope and meaning to people's lives. From the beginning, the Act directed public media to serve all Americans, especially unserved and underserved.*

*Lyndon Johnson spoke of the potential of public broadcasting to satisfy “America's appetite for excellence” and “enrich man's spirit.” Five decades later, that vision continues to guide our work.*

*We are grateful for the support of Congresses past and present that have provided the essential federal funding for our work through CPB. Those funds are a crucial foundation for the public-private partnership that ensures public media serves rural, small town and urban areas alike.*

*As we consider the role of public media for the next half-century, we see a very different media and technology landscape than existed when we first came into being. But no matter what the media platform, our mission remains the same – to provide trusted content and services that educate, inform, engage, and inspire – and that is as critical to the democratic health of our nation as ever.*

*You along with the leadership and staff of public media's national organizations have been and continue to be essential partners in fulfilling public media's mission and goals. Recently the social media and communications teams from the national organizations shared tools to help us all celebrate this important milestone. We hope these tools are useful to you over the coming days and weeks to focus attention on the 50th anniversary as you see fit in your market.*

*Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Public Broadcasting Act affirms public media's service for all Americans and value throughout its history.*

*Thank you for your crucial role in this important endeavor. It is an honor to work with you to help fulfill public media's promise serving all our communities and our country."*

*Sincerely,*

*Pat Harrison  
President and CEO  
Corporation for Public Broadcasting*

Thank you for the role you played in making this happen! You can view our own Wyoming Public Radio/Media history on <http://wyomingpublicmedia.org/programs/50-years-wyoming-public-radio>.

Christina Kuzmych  
WPM General Manager



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**[wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org)**