CWAM Greeley 2025

By Avery Frank

I found the “Fostering Pride in Aurora, CO: Changing the Narrative” session at the CWAM meeting to be the most interesting session that I attended. Working as the combined Collections Manager and Registrar at a small local museum in Powell, Wyoming our museum is pretty much dedicated to the local town and communities’ history. As such we are always looking for new ways to better engage our community and this session had some great concepts and ideas to achieve this. Their concept of meeting people in your community where and when they’re at I found to be a useful change of focus when thinking about engaging the community. Make the community an active participant in what they would like to see in the museum and get feedback on what are the obstacles that might be keeping people from coming in to the museum even though they may have some interest in doing so. This session really got me thinking about some of the ways that my museum could certainly get more engagement with our community, especially as the summer tourist season approaches.

The keynote speech on the Heart Mountain and Amache Internment centers I found to be very interesting also. Powell is only about 15 miles from the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, so for me it is very much apart of the local history. The Japanese internment by the U.S. government is a part of U.S. history that I feel goes understated. It was very uplifting to hear both a local story about the Heart Mountain camp and about a whole new National Park established to the Amache camp be dedicated to the keynote session of the conference.