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Scholarship Chairman

Brenda Clark

BBQ Chairmen

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FINAL NEWSLETTER OF 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

It is amazing how fast a year goes by. Sometimes it feels like we just finished up with last year's Clinic and here we are scrambling to put another together. While the MCA Clinic is our main event, there is so much more to the MCA. While there are many things I don't know, I do know that without my fantastic wife, Marian, the MCA would not be functioning as well as it is today. If you see her at the Clinic, don't be afraid to tell her thanks!

Speaking of doing well, our MCA membership is at a 4-year high. In addition, 56% of you joined online, saving Marian about 15 minutes per application. Thank you!

Our website, created and maintained by Ryan Wakefield, has been a great tool for making important information available to you. We also have MCA Facebook and Twitter accounts where we share info.

Following the Wednesday evening Clinic BBQ and 50/50, we are adding a new wrinkle, with **Universal Athletics** bringing their famous "Horse Races" to the Mansfield Center. This should make for a fun and eventful evening.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the coaches of Montana. Thanks for your input and support throughout the year.

ONLINE VOTING FOR SPRING SPORTS

Active members, please vote online for Spring COY starting May 30th. The ballot will close on Wednesday, June 1st at 6:00 pm so that winners have time to order rings and receive them for the Clinic. We will send an email with the voting link as soon as it is open. If we don't have your email, this will be your only reminder to vote so mark your calendar! Ballot is at www.montanacoaches.com under the member tab.

Track & Field, Golf, and Girls' Tennis have COY status. Boys' Tennis and Softball are short member coaches, so will be on the ballot under special sports along with Soccer.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & CLINIC REGISTRATION

It is the end of another MCA year and time to join for the new year and register for the Clinic. Our membership year runs June 1-May 31st. You may join online at <http://montanacoaches.com/>. You will find the membership application/clinic registration under the "members" tab. **Join right away so that you can enjoy the benefits of membership for the full year - plus, you won't forget to do it later!**

DICK VERMEIL KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR 2016 CLINIC

*The Clinic will be held August 3-5 at Great Falls HS. **Dick Vermeil**, one of the greatest football coaches of our time, **Dana Altman**, who led the Oregon Ducks to the Final-8 this year, **J Robinson**, legendary U of Minnesota wrestling coach and **Sherry Winn**, a nationally known motivator, highlight the list of outstanding speakers this year. Check out the clinic brochure for a great line-up!

* **Golden Corral** and **MCA** will offer lunch in the Fieldhouse on Wednesday, allowing you time to eat onsite and spend some time with the vendors as well. We ask that you pay for your lunch ticket when you register for the clinic, so we have a count. Your cost is only \$5.00 - MCA will cover the balance of the \$7.00 lunch. It will be served in the Fieldhouse so that you can quickly pick up your lunch at noon.

*Our vendors help to keep clinic cost low and it costs them a lot to come - Your time with them makes their trip worthwhile. Plan to spend time hearing about their products and thanking them for their part in our great clinic! Check out our list of vendors in the clinic brochure and on the website under the clinic tab.

*Clinic perks include the **Frontier Conference** reception on Tuesday evening, complimentary continental breakfast every morning, other food and drinks in the exhibit area all day, the Wednesday night **BBQ & Horse Races** (new this year). On Thursday the **FCA breakfast**, the 11:30 **MCA Awards Ceremony** followed by a complimentary lunch for attendees, the evening **golf scramble** and **Flamingo Fling**.

*On Thursday there will be 3 drawings for \$50 cash at 8 AM and again at 1:30. Bingo cards signed by vendors will make you eligible for the drawings. **You must be present to win.**

*Plan to attend and please encourage your fellow coaches to consider joining MCA and attending this fine clinic. Sign up online today.

UNIV. OF MT WESTERN COLLEGE CREDIT OR OPI RENEWAL UNITS

2 post baccalaureate college credits will again be offered by **University of MT Western**. Cost is only \$115/credit (Great deal) A UMW rep will be there to sign you up. You may pay by credit card or check

20 OPI Renewal units will also be offered. Be sure to pick up OPI renewal sheet when you arrive at the clinic! (hours are crossed off if you pick it up later) Turn in OPI worksheet before leaving clinic.

You may not do both UMW credits and OPI renewal units.

2016 CLINIC SPONSORS

Clinic Sponsors are **TBID** granting tremendous financial support, **Red Rock Sporting Goods** providing 60 staff shirts and 900 shoulder bags, **GTM** donating 60 staff shirts and rain suits for golf team winners and **TownHouse Inns** contributing Golf T-shirts and prizes. **The Flamingo** (Dick and Bob Zadick) will cater the BBQ and donate the beer. **Golden Corral** will offer lunch in the Fieldhouse on Wednesday (please purchase lunch ticket when registering for the clinic)

A huge thanks to all of our Clinic supporters who keep your costs low!



MEMBERSHIP RECAP

2013-14 - to date 1886 -11
2014-15- to date 1851 -35
2015-16- to date 1937 +86 ☺

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The new membership cards will be sent starting the first week in June. We will try to send them weekly. After June 1st, if you do not receive your card within 3 weeks of joining, please call Marian. Thanks to Kim Sorkness, Class C Director, for mailing cards during the summer and early fall!

COACH OF THE YEAR RINGS

First-time Coaches of the Year, to receive your ring in time for the Awards Ceremony you will need to **go immediately to a jeweler and find out your ring size**. The timing for spring sports recipients will be so tight, that I will phone you as soon as the ballots have been counted and ask you to go to <http://montanacoaches.com/>, print the order form and fill it out. **It is then imperative that you return the order form, by fax or e-mail, to Balfour immediately, insuring delivery in time for the clinic.** Orders take 7-8 weeks to process so June 3rd is our ordering deadline.

Richard Martinez of **Balfour** plans to exhibit at the clinic again. He will give door prizes and donate 10 dozen Titleist golf balls for tourney prizes. Coaches who have previously won a ring, may wish to purchase another. They are as inexpensive as \$120, and are available in a gold or silver tone. You may want to upgrade, or order a ring for another sport. Richard's number is 877-730-9228.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Liability Insurance is a must for all coaches! What a great deal MCA active members have, being covered by a million dollar liability policy through our affiliation with NOCAD! (See the back of your membership card for insurance contact info). This includes personal liability insurance while coaching, including camps and in the classroom, for active members. Retired members do not have insurance, but can be covered while working a camp if you notify the MCA office in advance. For insurance questions, please contact Loomis and LaPann at 800-566-6479. Members putting on camps may also purchase accident insurance for participants and "Additional Insured" coverage, if required for using school facilities. If you need a certificate of insurance showing you are covered, go online to: loomislapann.com, click on "Coaches Associations", then scroll down and click on "Liability Coverage" to obtain proof of insurance. **Our fiscal year ends May 31st, but our insurance coverage runs from Aug 1st through July 31st, so anyone working a camp in June or July, who wants the liability coverage, must be a 2015-16 member.** *Please inform non-member coaches, who may be working camps with you, about this requirement.* They may still join for 2015-16, to be covered in June and July.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are pleased to report that the 2015-16 membership stands at 1937, up 86 from this time last year. Our record membership was in 2009-10 when we eventually hit 2002. Thanks to each of you who has mentioned the value of MCA to your colleagues! **Please continue to be proactive in recruiting not only your own coaching staff at all levels, but fellow coaches in all sports, and peers from other schools.**

SCHOOLS RECOGNIZE VALUE OF MCA & CLINIC

Many schools choose to pay for MCA membership and/or Clinic registration for their coaches. Thank you, School Boards, Administrators and ADs who recognize the value of MCA membership and Clinic attendance, and support your coaches in this great way!

One principal wrote to his staff: "I want to be sure that 100% of our coaching staff are MCA members for several reasons. Your MCA membership card grants you access to all regular season high school and college athletic contests in Montana, you have a million dollar liability insurance policy through the MCA, and the access to professional development is very valuable. In today's litigious times, if you as a coach were ever to be sued, membership in a professional organization can provide a great deal of credibility and support."

The MCA Coaches Clinic is a great opportunity for professional development for coaches! Every Montana coach will benefit by attending!

If your school is paying for a number of coaches: 1. You may choose the "multi-coach membership" option online and easily register a group with one online payment. 2. If you want to pay by check you will find an Excel form on the website where you can register several coaches at once, email the form to Marian and mail the check. These methods save Marian a ton of time, prevents typos, while giving you a good record of who you registered. Memberships will be processed after the check arrives. **Please, no Purchase Orders!**

RALPH'S SCHOLARSHIP- MATCH OFFERED

Mark Reed, who started and has provided the majority of the funding for the Ralph Halverson Scholarship, has offered to match all donations in future years, up to \$2000 per year. Since June 1st, \$1247 has been donated by members and friends, plus \$1000 donated by Mark. With this level of continued generosity, Ralph's scholarship should continue for many years. Thank you, Mark, for your generous gifts to preserve the memory of the man who made MCA the great organization it is! Each donation is greatly appreciated.

HALL OF FAME AT MSU TO GO DIGITAL

In cooperation with MSU, our MCA Hall of Fame will go digital this year. The plaques will come down and the HOF Inductees will be spotlighted digitally. We hope to have it all on our website as well. There is much work to make this happen, but we hope to have it up and rolling before the winter season. We will return the large plaques to the HOF members which will be a huge undertaking. We welcome any offers of help from typing bios to distributing plaques.

LONGEVITY AWARDS

Longevity Awards are provided for MCA member coaches beginning at 15 years. 15 and 20 year recipients receive a certificate but may upgrade to a plaque for \$13. Starting at 25 years and at each 5-year mark thereafter, MCA provides a plaque for Longevity recipients. **If you are eligible and would like a Longevity award, you must apply for it on our website: <http://montanacoaches.com/>.** You will find the application under the "member" tab. Longevity awards are presented at the Awards Program on August 4th. **Deadline for application is June 15th.**

NHSACA HOF AND COY FINALISTS

Charlie Merrifield will be inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the following 15 MCA members are finalists for NHSACA prestigious awards: Pat Lynch is a finalist for AD of the Year and the following 14 are finalists for Coach of the Year in their respective sport: **Rod Tweet-FB; Tara Taylor-VB; Joanne Cleveland-GCC; Clint May-BCC; Erika Cannon-SO; Karen Deden-GBB; Terry Thomas-BBB; Steve Komac-WR; Julie Shepherd-Special Sports (Spirit); Spencer Huls-GT&F; Ed Kriskovich-SB; Jeff Strickland-GO; Mark Yoakam- Girls' Assist; Jim Epperly-Boys' Assist.**

What a wonderful showing for Montana! These outstanding coaches will be recognized at the NHSACA Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 28th and 29th. Please take time to congratulate them!

MCA BOARD

Sandy Mikeson served 5 years as Class C Director and then moved through the officer ranks. She will complete her final term as past president at the Clinic. She was president when Ralph passed away, and did an amazing job of helping us through the transition. Thank you, Sandy, for 11 years of hard work and dedication to the MCA!

Jim Oberweiser will become president at the conclusion of the clinic, Mike Sauvageau will move to Past President and Linda Paul will step into the President Elect, leaving a vacancy for the Class AA Director position. Linda's AA director term runs through the 2019 Clinic, so the board will appoint someone to fill the remainder of her term. Kim Sorkness was elected via the spring ballot to continue as the Class C Director. Thanks, Mike Taylor, for your willingness to serve. Thank you MCA Board for all you do to make MCA the great organization it is!

FRONTIER CONFERENCE- NEW SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR

Frontier Conference has generously agreed to pick up the scholarship sponsorship, previously provided by Schedule Star. Thank you, **Frontier Conference Commissioner, Kent Paulson!** Two of the MCA Scholarships may now be awarded as Frontier Conference/MCA Scholarships, if eligible applicants are attending a Frontier Conference College in the fall. Thank you Frontier Conference!



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Golf Chairman

Jerry Kuntz & Gary Gebert

Scholarship Chairman

Brenda Clark

BBQ Chairmen

Paul Bills & Scott King



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Coaches, AD's, Trainers,

We sincerely thank returning members for your support and welcome non-members to join. Our new 2016-17 membership year begins June 1st. We believe that MCA membership is a must for all athletic personnel in Montana schools.

While a 2016-17 membership application is enclosed, we encourage you to sign-up online. It saves us significant time and prevents typos in your information. MCA will pay the online fees.

Dues are just \$35, which is a great bargain when you consider that coach/teacher members, **are covered while coaching and in the classroom by our million-dollar personal liability policy.** The insurance coverage and our complimentary admission to regular season high school and college athletic contests are worth far more than the cost of your dues.

If you are eligible for a longevity award, and would like to receive it, please apply online: www.montanacoaches.com. Please do so ASAP. Deadline is June 15th. 15 and 20-year award winners, you have the option to upgrade from a certificate to a plaque for \$13.

We invite you to attend the 2016 MCA Clinic. We **have another excellent array of Clinicians plus** all the great perks that no other clinic in the country comes close matching. \$65 for pre-registration is a great bargain that includes the BBQ and Horse Races, the complimentary Awards Ceremony lunch, free continental breakfast, plus food & drinks all day in the exhibit area. In addition, we have the food coupons in the packets and a large array of door prizes. The total for dues and clinic will be \$100 if paid by 7/26. It works best to register for membership and clinic at the same time. We appreciate online registration.

Golf enthusiasts, please register for the golf tourney on Wednesday in the Fieldhouse (75 max, first come first served).

Don't wait, submit your membership application today and **enjoy a full year of MCA benefits.** We hope to see you at the Clinic in August.

Thank you for your consideration,

Don Olsen

Executive Director & Clinic Director