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## *MCA Spring Newsletter – April 2016*

### **ONLINE VOTING FOR MCA COY & CLASS C DIRECTOR**

The Winter Ballots are online for all active member coaches (associate members are not eligible to vote). Please vote ASAP at [www.montanacoaches.com](http://www.montanacoaches.com) (member tab) **Ballots will close on April 13th.**

Congratulations to our COY nominees, who are current MCA members and have coached teams to top four finishes in the recent state tournaments. Well Done! Unfortunately, a number of coaches (8 wrestling, 1 swimming and 1 basketball) missed being nominated because they were not members. Please help us out by sharing the value of MCA membership with your fellow coaches.

This year we vote for Class C Director. All active members are entitled to vote, regardless of classification. Kim Sorkness-DeCock, T&F coach from Broadview, is the incumbent and has been proactive and a hard worker since her appointment last spring. Michael Taylor, golf coach and principal at Centerville is our second nominee. Both are well qualified and faithful MCA members.

### **2016 MCA CLINIC- DICK VERMEIL TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Dick Vermeil**, legendary NCAA, NFL and Super Bowl Champion Coach will lead the clinic line-up. **Sherry Winn**, Olympian, NAIA Championship Coach and motivational speaker will head up a basketball and a general session. Volleyball coaches will enjoy sessions with **Dave Gantt from Gonzaga** and we have a number of other great clinicians in the wings. Clinic brochures will be out in mid-May. **Mark your calendar: The MCA Clinic is August 3, 4 & 5 at Great Falls High.**



**Thank you, Great Falls Tourism Improvement District for another grant. This will be the 7th year that your support has made a significant difference in the quality of the MCA Clinic!**

### **PERKS THAT MAKE THE MCA MULTI-SPORTS CLINIC THE MOST HOSPITABLE CLINIC IN THE COUNTRY:**

**Tuesday night** – The **Frontier Conference colleges**, led by Commissioner Kent Paulson, host a reception at the Hi-Ho. Starting at 7:30 am **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**, a **complimentary continental breakfast** is served in the exhibit area. The rest of each day, ice cream products, chips, and other snacks are available, with coke products, water, coffee & milk.

Wednesday noon, you will have opportunity to pre-order a lunch **served by Golden Corral** right in the Fieldhouse. **MCA** will cover a portion of the cost making it a very reasonable lunch.

**Wednesday evening** a huge **BBQ** is served at the Mike Mansfield Center, featuring NY steaks and trimmings plus 10 kegs of complimentary beer donated by Dick & Bob Zadick of the **Flamingo Lounge**. Thank you, Flamingo crew, for a tremendous job of catering the food!

**Universal Athletics is bringing the Horse Races** to follow the steak fry on Wednesday which should add some fun and excitement to an already fantastic day.

**Thursday at 7:00 am**, the **Fellowship of Christian Athletes** provides a **complimentary breakfast** and speaker.

**Thursday @ 11:30 am**, the **Awards Ceremony** is held in the GFHS Auditorium followed by a complimentary luncheon for all attendees. Friends and family of award recipients are invited.

**Thursday @ 5:30 pm**, 50-75 golfers tee off at the Anaconda Hills golf course in a **9-hole scramble golf tourney**, vying for outstanding prizes, a chance at a \$5000.00 hole-in-one prize, plus two bonus par 3's and a \$500.00 prize for an ace. A fun evening plus a T-shirt.

**Thursday at 7 pm**, the **Flamingo Lounge** hosts the “**Flamingo Fling**” with complimentary beer, dance band and mechanical bull.

The **exhibit area** is open Wednesday and Thursday, traditionally with over 50 spaces. Many exhibitors give away items and/or conduct drawings for excellent prizes. **Many drawings will be made Thursday and Friday mornings in the exhibit area. The MCA will hold drawings for six \$50 cash prizes, requiring presence to win.**

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**Vendor fees help keep our clinic rates low. Your time visiting with them keeps them coming back.** Registrants in each sport are assigned a session during which they are urged to visit the exhibit area and hospitality tables.

**Each registrant and vendor receives a shoulder bag courtesy of Red Rock Sporting Goods,** containing complimentary food coupons from McDonalds of Great Falls a legal pad, a great MCA pen and a variety of other items.

Registrants can earn either **OPI renewal** units to satisfy their requirements to maintain teaching certificates or **UM Western post graduate credits** (1 or 2) at a very reasonable cost.

### **RALPH HALVERSON SCHOLARSHIPS**

Two \$1,000 Ralph Halverson Scholarships will be given again this year, to one boy and one girl, from the 2016 graduating class of Montana high school seniors.

**Applicants, please apply on-line (same application for both scholarships), by May 1st at [www.montanacoaches.com](http://www.montanacoaches.com)**

Mark Reed started the scholarship fund in hopes that others would contribute to the fund to keep it going. He gave another \$1000 this year, bringing his total contribution to \$7,000. **Mark has recently pledged to match all 2016-17 contributions, up to \$2000.**

Since June 1st, \$1247 has been donated by MCA members and friends of Ralph and the MCA board recently moved an additional \$1000 from general funds to Ralph's Scholarship.

Anyone wishing to donate may make a contribution payable to MCA (specify in the memo "for RH Scholarship") and mail to MCA (address above). You may also donate via your 2016-17 membership application. **Thank you, Mark, and all who have generously donated!**

On behalf of the Ralph Halverson family, we would like to offer our sincere appreciation to everyone who has continued to contribute to the Ralph Halverson Scholarship Fund through the MCA. In May of this year it will be three years since we lost our extraordinarily sweet, generous, funny and loving father. Knowing he made such a difference in so many lives, not just ours, brings us comfort. Learning that the MCA and many individual members are still adding money to the scholarship in Ralph's name, to benefit student athletes, adds to our pride. Mark Reed in Charlotte, NC, one of our Dad's former standout athletes at GFHS (and loyal friend) started it all with his exceptional donation in 2012. Mark continues to make sure the fund grows on a yearly basis and we're so very grateful for his generosity. Thank you also to Don and Marian Olsen and the MCA Board for all they do to manage the Ralph Halverson Scholarship Fund.

Sincerely,

Cindy Halverson Bowers, Bill Halverson,  
Vicky Nelson, & Karen Kleinhans.

### **MCA SCHOLARSHIPS**

MCA has added two more Scholarships, so a total of 6 high school senior student athletes (3 girls, 3 boys) will receive \$750 each. As a non-profit corporation, the MCA does not limit scholarships to the daughters or sons of members, but we strongly encourage graduating athletes, with MCA member parents, to apply. Application deadline is May 1st. Apply online at: <http://montanacoaches.powermediallc.org/scholarship-application/>

### **COY RINGS**

Congratulations COY winners! Coach of the Year rings are awarded to each first-time COY recipient. We ask that you go to the MCA website (under member tab) and order as soon as you are notified, so that your ring is shipped on time and ready for your presentation at the MCA Awards Ceremony. Once you have mailed or faxed your order to Richard at Balfour, please call him to confirm your order. Our goal is to have all rings ready in time for the Awards presentations. Call Marian if you have any problems. Rings take 7 weeks so orders so please order ASAP.

### **ASSISTANT COY AWARD**

Head coaches and athletic directors, we need your help! You know how important assistant coaches are to our athletic programs in Montana. Nominate your long serving assistant coach today! MCA will recognize one assistant coach in each classification: AA, A, B and C. To qualify, assistant coaches must be a current member of the MCA, have been an assistant for at least 10 years and not have been a head coach in another sport at the same time. Nominees must have been an assistant during this school year or retired for not more than one year. Nomination forms may be obtained by emailing Shirley Chesterfield-Stanton, at [MCAaward@gmail.com](mailto:MCAaward@gmail.com). Nominations must be returned by **May 1st. Please help us recognize these important members of our athletic programs.**

### **NHSACA HALL OF FAME**

**Charlie Merrifield** will be inducted into the NHSACA (National High School Athletic Coaches Association) **Hall of Fame** at their Annual meeting in Lexington, Kentucky. The HOF Luncheon will be at 12:15 pm on Tuesday, June 28th. Congratulations, Charlie! Thank you for investing over 62 years in Montana athletes!

### **Charlie Merrifield**

In 1954, Charlie began his coaching career and assumed the head Butte T & F position in 1974. During his 40-year tenure the Bulldogs took home 11 state trophies and finished in the top five 21 times. He coached over 60 individual state champions. Charlie was inducted into the MCA Hall of Fame in 1991. He is a member of the Western Montana College Hall of Fame and the Butte Sports Hall of Fame. The track complex at Bulldog Memorial Stadium was re-named the "Charlie Merrifield Track", honoring a lifetime of service to the school district and its student athletes. Support and involvement from his wife, Betty, and his children has been a vital part of Charlie's success.

## **15 NHSACA FINALISTS**

MCA is pleased to announce that an outstanding roster of 15 MCA members are finalists for National High Schools Coaches Association awards. **Pat Lynch**, AD at Manhattan will be honored as a finalist for NHSACA Athletic Director of Year and the following 14 Montana coaches are finalist for National Coach the Year: **Terry Thomas** of Beaverhead, BBB; **Karen Deden** - of Missoula Sentinel, GBB; **Clint May** of Bozeman, BCC; **Joanne Cleveland** of Corvallis GCC; **Jeff Strickland** of Three Forks, GO; **Rodney Tweet** of Geraldine/Highwood, FB; **Erika Cannon** of Bozeman, SO; **Tara Taylor** of Fergus, VB; **Ed Kriskovich** of Billings West, SB; **Julie Shepherd** of Choteau- Special Sports (Spirit); **Spencer Huls** of Corvallis - GT&F; **Steve Komac** of GFHS, WR; **Jim Epperly** of Bigfork, Boys' Asst. COY and **Mark Yoakam** of Corvallis, Girls' Asst. COY. Each nominee will receive a plaque and the National winners will be announced at an Awards Banquet at 5:00 p.m. on the evening of June 29th, in Lexington, Kentucky. Congratulations, Finalists! You will represent MT well!

## **2016 MCA HALL OF FAME**

The Montana Coaches Association will induct three new Hall of Fame members at 11:30 on Thursday, August 4th at the MCA Clinic Awards Ceremony in the GFHS Auditorium. Family and friends are invited. All attendees will be served a complimentary luncheon in the cafeteria immediately after the ceremony. Congratulations to these 3 outstanding coaches and fine gentlemen!

### **Paul Klaboe – Billings West**

Coach Klaboe began his coaching career at Havre High where he served as an assistant in both FB and T&F. He moved to Billings where he assisted FB for 5 years. In 1986 he took the reins at West High where he continued until his retirement in 2015. During those 29 years, Klaboe guided the Golden Bears to an amazing 210 wins and 19 play-off appearances, making him the 12th winningest FB coach in MT and #3 in the AA ranks. As a head coach, his teams played in 8 State Championships, winning 3. He was name MCA COY 3 times and nominated on 5 other occasions. He coached the East-West Shrine game 4 years and the Mon-Dak game twice. He has spoken on numerous occasions at the Pig Skin Classic, Grizzly Clinic and the MCA Clinic and has directed a variety of football camps.

### **Gary Gebert – Fergus**

Gary has served in the coaching ranks for 36 years, 32 as head FB mentor. After 3 years in Oklahoma, he moved to Montana, securing a position at Billings Central, heading up the Wrestling and T&F programs, while assisting in FB. Coach Gebert then moved to Poplar where he spent 3 years guiding the FB program. He was 27 years in Lewistown where he mentored the Eagle FB team and assisted with WR. During his tenure at Fergus High School, Gebert led

the Eagles to 12 quarter-final appearances, 5 semi-finals and one state championship. He was named MCA COY once and was nominated on 3 other occasions. Gary served as the East-West Shrine head mentor twice and was an assistant coach 4 times. He has been a presenter at several MCA Clinics and was a 2008 delegate to the NFL Youth Football Summit. His 37 year MCA membership included 12 years as a board member. He was also a 23-year member of the MHSFA Football Rules Committee.

### **Bernie Wasser – Malta/Beaverhead**

A 29-year veteran of the coaching wars, Bernie began his high school career at Peerless where he served 4 years heading both GBB and T&F. From there he moved to Malta where he spent 12 years as Head BBB, Head T&F, Head Boys' Golf and JH GBB coach. In 2001 he made a move to Dillon where he coached 13 years as head mentor in GBB and Boys' and Girls' Golf at Beaverhead County HS. He then spent one year as an assistant to the GBB program at UM Western before moving to Minot, ND where he is currently the Head GBB Coach. In Montana, Coach Wasser has amassed over 370 wins on the hard court (171 girls & 201 boys). His teams have accumulated 9 Conference championships, 5 District and 9 Divisional crowns, along with 6 top-3 finishes at State, three of these being State Championships. Coach Wasser was named MCA COY 3 times and was a nominee on 4 other occasions. He was also a nominee for National COY - Section 8 and has coached numerous All-Star teams, including the Western All-Star Game, the Radisson Senior Classic (9 years) and the Treasure State Classic (13 years). Bernie was a 29-year MCA member. He directed many track meets, served as District and Divisional Golf Meet Director and was a 17-year basketball MOA working multiple District, Divisional and State Basketball tournaments.

## **MCA HALL OF FAME CONTACT INFO**

We are looking for contact info for Hall of Fame members: Dan Baretta (1993), Roger Mergerth (1987) and Gordon Real Bird, Sr (2001). If you can help, please email or call us at the MCA office.

We also would like updated email address, mailing address and phone # for all Hall of Fame Members. Please email us at [donomca@3rivers.net](mailto:donomca@3rivers.net), so that we can add your info to our files.

There are some exciting changes coming to our Hall of Fame display at MSU. We will be in contact with Hall of Fame members as we have more details.

## **LIABILITY INSURANCE**

**One of the best benefits of MCA membership is our \$1,000,000 liability insurance for member coaches!** The liability coverage year runs August 1st-July 31st, so **anyone working a camp this summer and needing liability coverage in June or July, must join the MCA for 2015/16.** As members of MCA, coaches also have the opportunity to purchase liability and medical coverage for student athletes. See Members tab at <http://montanacoaches.com>. As a member coach, you are covered under MCA's liability coverage, but if your school requests to be listed as additionally insured, there will be an extra charge. If you have any questions, please call Greg Joly or Karen at Loomis & LaPann (800) 566-6479.

## **LONGEVITY AWARD**

Active coaches, beginning at 15 years of experience, are eligible for an MCA Longevity award. 15 and 20 recipients receive a certificate and may upgrade to a plaque for \$13. Plaques are awarded to recipients at 5 year intervals, beginning at 25 years. You must apply online to receive this award at <http://montanacoaches.com/> **under the member tab. Application deadline is June 15th.**

## **MCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Over half of our memberships came in online this year! Thank you! This method saves Marian lots of time. We are happy to report that our current membership stands at 1907, up 60 from last year. Please invite your fellow coaches to join MCA. Benefits and online membership are available online.

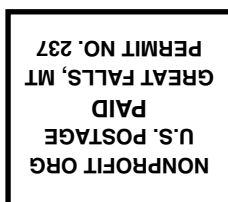
## **SPRING SPORTS COACHES**

**Golf and T&F** have Coach of the Year status, but Softball still needs 9 more member head coaches to qualify, Girls' Tennis needs 3 and Boys' Tennis needs 14. Without these additional members by May 1st, these sports will be on the special sports ballot, along with Soccer, in May.

Please ask your spring coaches (especially Softball and Tennis) if they are members, reminding the ones who are not, that **May 1st is the membership deadline to be eligible for for COY nominations.** Eligibility requirements for a sport to hold COY status are: For a sport with 46 or more head coaches, the minimum requirement is (35) member head coaches. For sports that have less than 46 teams, 75% of the head coaches must be members.

## **CERTIFICATES**

Digital templates for All-State, All-Conference and Academic All-State have worked out well. Each AD and Principal receives the interactive template and instructions via e-mail. **We ask that you carefully guard and honor our integrity and yours as you print and present these award.** This allows you to spell names correctly, print on the computer and use a better quality paper if desired. All-conference and All-state awards criteria are determined by each classification. Academic All-State is awarded to athletes, managers and cheerleaders of MHSAA sanctioned sports, who receive a varsity letter and have a grade point of 3.5 or higher. Contact Shirley Chesterfield Stanton with certificate questions: [MCAaward@gmail.com](mailto:MCAaward@gmail.com)



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