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MCA Winter Newsletter - March 2017

ONLINE VOTING FOR WINTER COY

The Winter Ballots are online for all active member coaches (associate members are not eligible to vote). Please vote ASAP at <http://montanacoaches.powermediallc.org/winter-coach-of-the-year/> Ballots will close on March 24th

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! We are disappointed that Swimming did not make COY status. 6 of the 20 swim teams had coaches who did not join MCA this year. The first-place member Swim coaches will be included on the Spring Special Sports Ballot. Wrestling made COY status, but five of the top-4 finishers were not nominated because they were not members.

Please take time to share the value of MCA membership with your fellow coaches, especially ones who are new in your programs. MCA sent emails to all non-member winter coaches in January encouraging them to join before the February 1st deadline.

2017 - MCA CLINIC

JOE GLENN BACK TO THE BIG SKY

Joe Glenn, popular and charismatic national championship coach will lead the football line-up. **Rob Miller**, nationally renowned motivational speaker from Proactive Coaching will head up 2 general sessions. Back by popular demand is volleyball standout and now, San Diego State head mentor, **Deitre Collins-Parker**. Another outstanding VB presenter will be Big Sky Conference Champion UND coach, **Mark Pryor**. Tennis favorite, **Ken DeHart** will be back this year. College of Idaho's coach, **Scott Garson**, (2015 Red Auerbach National COY recipient) will be an outstanding addition to our basketball line-up. We are working hard to secure another great roster of speakers **Mark your calendar: The 50th MCA Clinic is August 2, 3 & 4 at Great Falls High. Clinic Brochure and registration info will be out in early May.**

We are working hard to make this 50th Clinic a memorable one! If you have ideas or would like to help, give us a call.

THE 50TH MCA MULTI-SPORTS CLINIC

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR, AUGUST 2,3,4 FOR ANOTHER OUTSTANDING CLINIC,
ENHANCED BY 50 YEARS OF MEMORIES!**

Tuesday night-Frontier Conference reception, hosted by Commissioner Kent Paulson - Hi-Ho Tavern.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, a complimentary continental breakfast is served in the exhibit area. The rest of each day, **Meadow Gold** and **Coca Cola** products, chips, and other snacks are available.

Wednesday noon, lunch served by **Golden Corral** in the Fieldhouse. **SLA Landscape Architecture** has agreed to be a sponsor this year, covering a portion of the cost. Thanks, **SLA!**

Wednesday evening a huge **BBQ** is served at the 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** will be back to present the Horse Races (Calcutta pool) following the **Steak Fry**, to 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, **9-hole scramble golf tourney**, vying for outstanding prizes, a chance at a \$5000 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.

Exhibit area is open Wednesday and Thursday, traditionally with over 50 spaces. Drawings for excellent prizes.

MCA will hold drawings for six \$50 cash prizes, requiring presence to win.

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

9 SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED IN 2017

The scholarship application is now open and will receive applications until May 1. There is just one application for all 9 scholarships. MCA does not limit scholarships to the daughters or sons of members, but we strongly encourage graduating athletes, with MCA-member parents, to apply by going to <http://montanacoaches.powermediallc.org/scholarship-application/>.

MCA SCHOLARSHIPS

MCA will award four \$750 Scholarships to 2017 graduates.

FRONTIER CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Frontier Conference generously provides two \$750 scholarships to athletes selected by MCA Scholarship criteria, who will attend Frontier Conference Schools. Schools in the **Frontier Conference** are: Carroll College, College of Idaho, Eastern Oregon University, Lewis-Clark State College, Montana State University-Northern, Montana Tech, Rocky Mountain College, Southern Oregon University, University of Great Falls and University of Montana-Western.

RALPH HALVERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

Two \$1,000 **Ralph Halverson Scholarships** will be given again this year, to one boy and one girl, from the 2017 graduating class of Montana high school seniors.

BALFOUR SCHOLARSHIP

Balfour has recently agreed to be a **NOCAD** national sponsor. One perk of that sponsorship is a \$1500 scholarship (or possibly two \$750) to be given each year to one **NOCAD** member state. **Montana is proud to be the 2017 recipient of the first Balfour Scholarship!**

Applicants, please apply on-line (same application for all scholarships), by May 1st at <http://montanacoaches.powermediallc.org/scholarship-application/>

The Ralph Halverson family, would like to offer sincere appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the Ralph Halverson Scholarship Fund. In 2016, your donations totaled \$1800 and were generously matched by Mark Reed, adding \$3600 to the fund. Thank you, Mark, and all who donated!

COY RINGS

Congratulations COY winners! Coach of the Year rings are awarded to each first-time COY recipient. Please 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 sent 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 August 3rd Awards presentations. Call Marian if you have any problems. **Ring orders take a minimum of 7 weeks, so please order ASAP.**

NEW FACES IN MCA STAFF

Thanks to several folks who offered help with MCA. **Wes and Callie Ross** of Great Falls have stepped up to help with various clinic responsibilities, including vendors and door prizes. **Jake Stevenson** of Hobson, will oversee the COY portion of the association. Welcome aboard and thank you! Thanks also to others who expressed willingness to assist. We are grateful to have more folks involved!

ASSISTANT COY AWARD

Assistant Coaches deserve some recognition! 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, must 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. **Application deadline is May 1st. Please help us recognize these important members of our athletic programs.**

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 2016/17.

*****New this year-coaches needing camp liability coverage must purchase participant insurance before a certificate of liability will be issued.***

<http://www.loomislapann.com/page/sports-camps-2.html>

If you have any questions, please call Greg Joly or Karen at Loomis & LaPann (800) 566-6479.

LONGEVITY AWARD

You must apply online for Longevity awards.

They are not automatically given.

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

SPRING SPORTS COY STATUS

Golf and T&F have Coach of the Year status, but **Softball** still needs 6 more head coach members to qualify, **Girls' Tennis needs 6** and **Boys' Tennis needs 16**. Without these additional members by May 1st, these sports will be on the special sports ballot, along with Soccer and Swimming, 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 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.

NHSACA HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to **Bill Epperly**, who will be inducted into the NHSACA (National High School Athletic Coaches Association) Hall of Fame at their Annual meeting in Peoria, Illinois. The HOF Luncheon will be at 12:15 pm on Tuesday, June 20th. Thank you, Bill, for your lifetime investment in Montana athletes!

Bill has been a Montana coach for 49 years and is still going strong. His outstanding career began at Bozeman Rosary High School in 1959, and continues today as assistant track coach at Flathead High. 46 of those years were spent in the high school ranks and 3 in college at MT Tech.

Coach Epperly hasn't just been coaching; he has experienced considerable success over the years. As an assistant, he has been a part of an incredible 13 state championships. As head mentor, Epperly has won two state basketball championships and finished second twice.

In 2000, Bill began coaching the boys' and girls' high jump at Flathead where he has had 45 divisional, 24 state placers. His fellow coaches tell us that he is a great communicator. His athletes enjoy working with him and after 49 years, Coach Epperly still has the charisma that inspires his athletes to reach their maximum potential.

A 2-time MCA Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year (1982 and 1989), Epperly was inducted into the MCA Hall of Fame in 1990. He was a 1993 nominee for National High School Basketball Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Kalispell Legends Wall of Fame in 2005.

12 NHSACA FINALISTS

MCA is pleased to announce that an outstanding roster of 12 MCA members are finalists for National High Schools Coaches Association awards. Each nominee will receive a plaque and the National winners will be announced at an Awards Banquet on the evening of June 21st, in Peoria, Illinois. Congratulations, Finalists! You will represent MT well!

<i>Assistant COTY, Boys'</i>	<i>Dick McMahon</i>	<i>Helena Capital</i>
<i>Assistant COTY, Girls'</i>	<i>Jim Kola</i>	<i>Glacier</i>
<i>Athletic Director of the Year</i>	<i>Gary DeGooyer</i>	<i>Great Falls Public Schools</i>
<i>Basketball, Boys'</i>	<i>Paul Barta</i>	<i>Columbus</i>
<i>Cross Country, Boys'</i>	<i>Mark Albert</i>	<i>Hamilton</i>
<i>Football</i>	<i>Les Meyer</i>	<i>Fairfield</i>
<i>Golf</i>	<i>Gregg Wasson</i>	<i>Harlowton</i>
<i>Softball</i>	<i>Larry Smith</i>	<i>Polson</i>
<i>Special Sports - Cheer/Spirit</i>	<i>Julie O'Dell</i>	<i>Hardin</i>
<i>Track & Field, Boys'</i>	<i>Derek Schulz</i>	<i>Whitefish</i>
<i>Track & Field, Girls'</i>	<i>Tad Schye</i>	<i>Malta</i>
<i>Volleyball</i>	<i>Iona Stookey</i>	<i>Huntley Project</i>

MCA HALL OF FAME

2017 Hall of Fame selections will be made in late March.

The digital MCA Hall of Fame is under construction. This is a huge undertaking and we thank **Scott King** (compiling bios), **Ryan Wakefield** (building the digital display), **Kathleen Howard** (bringing the plaques home from Bozeman), **Pat Hodge** and **Betty Merrifield** (distributing plaques at the clinic) and **Jerry Olson** (photos of all plaque portraits). Our goal is to have the display ready to view at this summer's clinic.

Does anyone know how to contact Roger Mergerth (1987)? If you can help, please email or call us at the MCA office.

CERTIFICATES

Digital templates for All-State, All-Conference and Academic All-State are emailed each season to ADs and Principals. They are not available on the website, so please save them and share with appropriate personnel. **We ask that you carefully guard and honor our integrity and yours as you print and present these awards.** Contact Shirley Chesterfield-Stanton with certificate questions: MCAaward@gmail.com

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME??

SB 206 was passed in the Senate and is now before the Montana House of Representatives. The bill will do away with Daylight Savings time in Montana. Staying on Standard time may have some advantages, but for spring and fall outdoor sports, it will reduce after school daylight by one hour. **If this will be a hardship to your school district, please contact your legislator.** We recently sent information on this to the Athletic Directors and Principals. It has passed one hearing in the house and the second reading on March 14.

MCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1250 members used the online option this year. Thank you! Current membership is at an all-time high at 2050, up 145 from last year. Thanks for promoting MCA among your fellow coaches! MCA benefits are listed on the website.

MISSING HOF PLAQUE!! - Dan Freund's HOF plaque is missing. If you have it, or know who took it for him, please give our office a call.