

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

**President**  
Dennis Murphy  
1015 21st  
Havre, MT 59501  
(w) 265-6731 (c) 390-0236  
(h) 265-2431  
[murphyd@havre.k12.mt.us](mailto:murphyd@havre.k12.mt.us)

**President-Elect**  
Kimberly Sorkness-DeCock  
PO Box 63  
Broadview, MT 59015  
(w) 667-2337  
(h) 667-2274 (c) 799-1854  
[sorky1991@yahoo.com](mailto:sorky1991@yahoo.com)

**Past President**  
Linda Paull  
2036 Jerome Pl  
Helena, MT 59601  
(w) 324-2362 (c) 431-7323  
[lpaul@helena.k12.mt.us](mailto:lpaul@helena.k12.mt.us)

**Directors:**  
**AA**  
Bob Howard  
1128 21st Avenue SW  
Great Falls MT. 59404  
(W) 268-6390  
(H) 771-0261, (C) 868-5758  
[bob\\_howard@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:bob_howard@gfps.k12.mt.us)

**A**  
Cindy Farmer  
PO Box 503  
Hardin, MT 59034  
665-6420  
[cindy.farmer@hardin.k12.mt.us](mailto:cindy.farmer@hardin.k12.mt.us)

**B**  
Jim Carroll  
104 N. Maryland  
Conrad, MT 59425  
(w) 278-3285  
(h) 278-7856 (c) 289-0208  
[jim.carroll@conradschools.org](mailto:jim.carroll@conradschools.org)

**C**  
Jeff Graham  
PO Box 197  
Belt, MT 59412  
406-439-3058  
[jgraham@beltschool.com](mailto:jgraham@beltschool.com)

**Ex-Officio**  
**Assistant Clinic Director**  
Kathleen Howard  
868-7311  
[kathleen\\_howard@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:kathleen_howard@gfps.k12.mt.us)

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**  
**Ex Officio, COY Chairman**  
Brian Campbell  
406-670-3886  
[bcampbell@nssschools.org](mailto:bcampbell@nssschools.org)

**Hall of Fame Chairman**  
Scott King  
[sbking1959@gmail.com](mailto:sbking1959@gmail.com)  
(c) 654-7302

**Scholarship Chairman**  
Brenda Clark

**Golf Chairman**  
Gary Gebert

**BBQ Chairmen**  
Scott King  
Bob Lanning  
Richy Powell  
Mike Sauvageau



**Don Olsen**  
Executive Director  
& Clinic Director  
375 Ramble Inn Road  
Fort Shaw, MT 59443  
[donomca@gmail.com](mailto:donomca@gmail.com)  
PH/FAX: 406.264.5435

## MCA Winter Newsletter - March 2022

Another year with its changes and challenges is well underway. MCA looks forward to both! We are in the process of changing companies for our COY rings, hoping to be more efficient with delivery for the Awards Ceremony. We will have a new look this year.

We have also asked several coaches to serve as "Sport Chairs" to procure speakers for their sport for the 2022 Clinic. We feel it is healthy for the association to have some responsibilities spread out, so that if there is a change in leadership, the adjustment will not be so overwhelming. Letting go of things that you are ultimately responsible for is challenging, but we are grateful to the "Sport Chairs", thankful for their willingness to step up in this big way and confident in their ability. It is great to see their rosters coming in with new and excellent speakers.

Last, I urge you to look at the assistant coaches in your program. If you are fortunate enough to have someone who has served for many years, please consider nominating them for "Assistant COY". These faithful assistants bring strength and continuity to your program, often with little recognition. We, like any coach entering a new season, are optimistic for the 2022 Clinic and the future of MCA. Thanks for your important part! Don

### WINTER COY NOMINEES

Congratulations to our 2022 Winter COY nominees who coached their team to a top-4 finish. **Well Done!** Ballots are being emailed to all Active Members. **Please take time to vote.** Each first-time COY winner will receive an MCA ring and all COY recipients will be honored with a plaque at the MCA Awards Ceremony on July 28th at the CMR High School Auditorium in Great Falls.

**SPRING Membership deadline for COY eligibility is May 1st.** Please take time to share the value of MCA membership with your fellow coaches, especially ones who are new in your programs and REMIND THEM TO JOIN. Despite email reminders to AD's, we still have a few top-4 finishers who are not members and thus cannot be nominated for COY.

### WINTER COY

Active Coaches, when you receive your COY ballot, please take time to vote. It is quick and easy. Winter Coaches of the Year will be announced on the news page of the MCA website and via Media Release. Coach of the Year rings are awarded to each first-time COY recipient

### SUICIDE – THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

IT IS PREVENTABLE. GREAT RESOURCES FROM THE JASON FOUNDATION

Youth Suicide | [www.JasonFoundation.com](http://www.JasonFoundation.com)

## 2021 - MCA CLINIC SPEAKERS

The speaker rosters are coming in and looking great as always. We are pleased to have someone from 3D Coaching as our keynote/motivational speaker. Willie Banks, Olympian and triple jump world record holder leads the T&F lineup. Huge thanks to the Sport Chairs who are lining up speakers this year. The Clinic Brochure and schedule will be out in early May. Stay Tuned!

## THE 55TH MCA MULTI-SPORTS CLINIC

MARK YOUR CALENDAR,

**JULY 27, 28 & 29TH**

AND PLAN TO ATTEND!

(AT CMR HIGH- GREAT FALLS, MT)

## ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS 5/5

**Tuesday** night - **Frontier Conference** reception, hosted by Commissioner Kent Paulson at the Hi-Ho.

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday** - Complimentary continental breakfast and other snacks and beverages, generously provided by **Meadow Gold, Pepsi** and **Town Pump Hotel Group**.

**Wednesday** noon - lunch offered in Cafeteria

**Wednesday** evening - **Steak Fry** at the Mansfield Center, featuring NY steaks and trimmings

**Thursday, 7:00 am** - **Fellowship of Christian Athletes**- complimentary breakfast and inspirational speaker.

**Thursday, 11:30** - **Awards Ceremony** held in the CMR Auditorium followed by a **complimentary luncheon** for all attendees. Fellow coaches, friends and family of award recipients are invited.

**Thursday, 5:30 pm** - **9-hole scramble golf tourney**, vying for outstanding prizes.

**Exhibit area** is open Wednesday and Thursday, with up to 40 vendors. Drawings for excellent prizes. **MCA** will hold drawings for six \$50 cash prizes, requiring presence to win.

MCA Clinic Registrants may sign-up for **either** OPI renewal units (19 possible), to satisfy requirements to maintain teaching certificates **or** UM Western professional development credits -\$115/one credit or \$145/two credits. **(You must choose between OPI and College Credits – you may not do both)**

## DIGITAL MCA HALL OF FAME

The digital MCA Hall of Fame is active on the MCA website. What a great history of many of Montana's finest coaches. Check it out today at [www.montanacoaches.com](http://www.montanacoaches.com)

## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE- MAY 1ST

The scholarship application is now open for graduating high school students. Applications will be accepted until **May 1st**. Use the same application for all 8 scholarships. MCA does not limit scholarships to the daughters or sons of MCA members, but we especially encourage graduating athletes, with MCA-member parents, to apply by going to <http://montanacoaches.powermediallc.org/scholarship-application/>

## 4 MCA SCHOLARSHIPS

MCA will award four \$750 Scholarships.

## 2 FRONTIER CONFERENCE

### SCHOLARSHIPS

**Frontier Conference** generously gives two \$1000 scholarships. Recipients must attend Frontier Conference Schools (selected by MCA Scholarship criteria). **Frontier Conference** schools include 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 Providence and University of Montana-Western

## 2 RALPH HALVERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

The RH Scholarship will award two \$1300 scholarships, thanks to generous donors.

**Applicants, please apply on-line (same application for all scholarships), by May 1st at**

[www.montanacoaches.com](http://www.montanacoaches.com)

Ralph Halverson Scholarship  
Donations Increase

The Ralph Halverson family and MCA Board thank each one who donated to the Ralph Halverson Scholarship Fund in 2021. Your donations of \$3034 plus another \$2000 gift from Mark Reed have kept the fund strong. Thank you, Mark, and all who donated!

## MCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**Current membership is at 2103** (down 40 from 2019). Nearly all members used the online option and many schools paid online using the spread sheet. **Marian says, "Thank you!"** These methods save tons of time! We appreciate your membership and thank you for promoting MCA among your fellow coaches. This membership year ends May 31<sup>st</sup>. The 2022-23 membership info will be out in early May. **Plan to join early and get a full year of benefits!**

**MCA will not be offering a subscription of Coach & AD this year, due to lack of interest.**

## ASSISTANT COY AWARD- MAY 1ST

### DEADLINE

**Do you have a long-serving assistant coach? Please take the time to nominate him/her for this award. What a great way to honor them!** MCA may recognize one assistant coach in each classification: AA, A, B and C. Recipients will receive a plaque and MCA Ring. To qualify, they must:

1. be a current and long-standing MCA member,
2. have been an assistant coach for at least 10 years, without serving as head coach in another sport during those same 10 years.
3. have been an assistant during this school year or retired for not more than one year.

Email Jeff Graham at [jgraham@beltschool.com](mailto:jgraham@beltschool.com) to request a form. **Submit by May 1st.**

**Please help us recognize these important members of our athletic programs.**

### CAMP LIABILITY INSURANCE

**One of the many benefits of MCA membership is our \$1,000,000 liability insurance for K-12 actively coaching members!** 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 be an MCA member for the 2021-22 year (**Purple** membership card) and comply with **camp insurance requirements**. For details on Camp Insurance, please go to <https://www.loomislapann.com/page/camps-2.html>

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

### LONGEVITY AWARDS (apply by June 15th)

**Longevity awards are NOT automatically given.**

**If you want one you must apply!!!**

Active coaches, beginning at 15 years of experience, are eligible for an MCA Longevity award. 15-year recipients receive a certificate and may upgrade to a plaque for \$15. Beginning at 20 years of service, plaques are awarded to recipients at 5-year intervals, compliments of MCA. At this writing we only have a handful of applications in.

**You must apply online to receive this award:**

**[www.montanacoaches.com](http://www.montanacoaches.com) – member tab.**

**Application deadline is June 15th.**

### 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 Cindy Farmer with certificate questions: [cindy.farmer@hardin.k12.mt.us](mailto:cindy.farmer@hardin.k12.mt.us)

## NHSACA HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to retired Great Falls CMR coach, **Mike McLean**, who will be inducted into the 2022 NHSACA (National High School Athletic Coaches Association) **Hall of Fame** at 5:00pm on June 21st in Altoona, IA.

**Mike McLean** started his coaching career in 1981, at one of the smallest and most remote schools in MT. He spent one year at Peerless, serving as their basketball and track coach. The next 12 years were spent at Chester High School as the head boys' basketball coach, junior high football coach and 7 years as the athletic director. In 1994, McLean became the head boys' basketball coach at CMR High School. His total 24 years as head basketball coach produced an amazing 356-176 record, including 6 State Championships (1991,1992,2000,2001,2002,2004) and 2 other top-4 finishes. Coach McLean also spent 12 years assisting the softball program at CMR, as an integral part of their 7 State Championships. During his remarkable 32 year high school coaching career he was a part of an incredible 13 State Championships. Mike has been a 6X MCA Coach of the Year and was a NHSACA National COY Finalist. He coached the Radisson Classic 3 times and the Hi-line Tourney twice. After retiring from high school, he assisted the Great Falls Explorers CBA Pro Basketball team and then 5 years as a men's basketball assistant at the University of Providence.

Friends and family are invited to attend. **Thank you, Mike, for your lifetime investment in Montana athletes and athletics!**

### 14 NHSACA FINALISTS

MCA is pleased to announce that 14 outstanding MCA members are finalists for **National High Schools Coaches Association** awards. National winners will be announced at their Awards Banquet at 4:30 on June 22nd in Altuna, IA. Congratulations, Finalists! You will represent MT well!

<b>Asst COY Boys'</b>	<b>Dick McMahon</b>	Helena
<b>Asst COY Girls'</b>	<b>Bernice Cook</b>	Hardin
<b>BB Boys'</b>	<b>Bob Howard</b>	GFHS
<b>CC Girls'</b>	<b>Rod Karst</b>	Glasgow
<b>Football</b>	<b>Jim Stanton</b>	Billings Central
<b>Soccer</b>	<b>Jay Anderson</b>	Hellgate
<b>Tennis</b>	<b>Patrick Dryden</b>	Whitefish
<b>Swimming</b>	<b>Lynda Schrader</b>	Butte
<b>T&amp;F Boys'</b>	<b>Kevin Shaw</b>	Fort Benton
<b>T&amp;F Girls'</b>	<b>Spencer Huls</b>	Corvallis
<b>Volleyball</b>	<b>Ann Funk</b>	Choteau

## 2022 MCA HALL OF FAME

The Montana Coaches Association is proud to announce that 5 Montana coaches will be inducted into the MCA Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will be a part of the 11:30 MCA Awards Ceremony (in conjunction with the MCA Coaches Clinic), on Thursday, July 28th, in the CMR High Auditorium. Family and friends are invited. All attendees are invited to a complimentary luncheon in the cafeteria immediately following the ceremony. Congratulations to these 5 long-serving, outstanding coaches and their families!

### **2022 MCA Hall of Fame Inductees**

#### **Mark Albert**

- A 34-year coaching veteran in western Montana high schools, Coach Albert's coaching career included stops at Frenchtown, Missoula Hellgate, Willow Creek, Darby, and Hamilton. It's at Hamilton High School where Mark spent 25 years and had his greatest coaching impact.
- Coach Albert served Hamilton High School 4 years as the Broncs head boys basketball coach, 11 years as the head girls basketball coach, and 20 years as the Hamilton High School head cross country coach.
- As the Lady Broncs head girls' basketball coach his teams posted 3 divisional championships. They advanced to 3 state class A championship games, claiming the state A girls' basketball championship in 2015. For this achievement, Coach Albert was named by the Montana Coaches Association, Class A Girls' Basketball COY
- At the competitive Western A Divisional Cross Country meets the Hamilton teams have won 10 divisional championships, 3 for the girls and 7 for the boys.
- Coach Albert's girls' cross country teams have trophied at the state meet 3 times including 2 third place finishes and 1 as state class A runner-up. The Broncs boys' cross country teams have captured 8 state trophies including 5 state championships in 2008, 2013, 2014, 2020, and 2021.
- Nominated 3 times for the MCA Class A Girls' Cross Country COY and 8 times for the MCA Class A Boys' Cross Country COY, Coach Albert was honored by his peers 5 times as Class A Boys' Cross Country COY.
- Mark was twice nominated for National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Boys Cross Country COY in 2017 and 2021.

#### **Spencer Huls**

- Coach Spencer Huls has spent his entire coaching career at Corvallis High School, 19 highly successful years in total. 18 years as head boys track and field coach and 13 years as head girls track and field coach.
- Under Spencer's leadership the Blue Devils Track and Field teams have captured 17 Western A Division titles, 8 with the boys and 9 with the girls.
- Over the past 18 years the Corvallis boys track and field teams have earned 9 State Class A trophies. This includes state championships in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, and 2018, for a total of 5 state championships.
- The Blue Devil girls track and field teams have seized 9 State Class A trophies during Coach Huls' 13-year tenure as head girls track and field coach. Their unprecedented 6 consecutive State Class A titles from 2011 to 2016 ties an all-class state record for



consecutive state track and field championships. The 2013 girls state champions scored a state record 185.5 points, most by any track and field team at a state track and field meet.

- Spencer has been nominated for the Montana Coaches Association Track and Field COY 18 times. 9 times with the Corvallis girls track and field teams and 9 times with the Corvallis boys track and field teams. From these nominations Coach Huls has been honored by the MCA as a 5-time Class A Boys Track and Field COY and a 6-time Class A Girls Track and Field COY.
- Coach Huls was twice nominated for National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Girls Track and Field COY in 2016 and 2021.
- An accomplished speaker Spencer has twice presented at the MCA Coaches Clinic, the Wyoming Coaches Clinic, the Nebraska Coaches Clinic and the National High School Coaches Association Convention.

### **Rod Karst**

- 34 years marks the coaching tenure for Coach Rod Karst including 6 years as head track and field coach at Opheim High School and 28 years at Glasgow High School.
- A well rounded coach he has served the Scotties as an assistant coach in cross country, volleyball, and softball and head coach in cross country, volleyball, and track & field.
- At Ophiem, his Viking girls track and field teams won 4 district titles and 3 Eastern C Division championships.
- As an assistant coach at Glasgow, Rod played a major role in the success of the Scotties volleyball and softball programs. An assistant volleyball coach for 13 years, he was a part of 12 district and division championships and state championships in 1995 and 1996. During the 4 years he assisted with softball as the Scotties captured 3 division titles and a state third place trophy in 2011.
- It's in cross country where Coach Karst has had his greatest influence on Scottie athletics. For 23 years Rod has guided the boys' and girls' cross country teams.
- 6 Scottie boys' cross country teams have earned trophies at the State Class B meet.
- For the girls, 9 top 3 finishes at the State Class B meet are hi-lighted by 7 state championships in 2005, 2007, 2008, and 4 in a row from 2010 to 2013.
- Coach Karst has been nominated for the Montana Coaches Association Cross Country COY 25 times, 14 times with the Glasgow girls' teams and 11 times with the boys' teams. From these nominations Rod has been honored by the MCA as the Class B Girls Cross Country COY 7 times.
- Coach Karst was twice nominated for National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Girls Cross Country COY in 2014 and 2018.
- This year Rod has been nominated for the 2022 National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Boys Cross Country COY.

### **Rod Paskey**

- 42 years of Coach Rod Paskey's 45 years in Montana high school coaching were spent coaching student athletes at Frenchtown High School. Rod's 45 years of coaching high school student athletes is a standard that will be hard to surpass.

- As a valued assistant coach, Rod played a major role in the success of the Broncs football and softball programs. For 20 years he served as an assistant for the Frenchtown football team, winning 18 conference championships and 3 state championships. In 2011 Coach Paskey was selected as an assistant coach for the west team in the Montana East-West Shrine Football Game.
- 10 years spent on the softball diamond as an assistant produced 5 division championships and 3 state championships with 5 additional state level trophies.
- As a 32 year assistant coach to the Frenchtown girls track and field teams, Coach Paskey was a part of 6 district championships, 5 division championships, and 7 state trophies including state championships in 1981 and 1991.
- 8 years as assistant for the boys' track and field teams produced 4 district and 3 division championships. The Broncs also added 3 second place finishes at the state meet.
- As the Frenchtown Broncs head boys track & field coach for 23 years, Coach Paskey's teams tallied 9 district championships and 1 divisional championship.
- In 1994 his Broncs placed third at the State Class B Track and Field Meet.
- Over the past 30 years Coach Paskey has served the schools of western Montana as meet manager for numerous invitational, district, and divisional track meets.

### **Jeff Thompson**

- 14 of Coach Thompson's 26 year coaching career have been as head wrestling coach at Flathead High School in Kalispell.
- During his tenure as the Braves head wrestling mentor his teams have amassed a dual meet record of 247 victories and 31 setbacks.
- Coach Thompson's teams have earned trophies at the state wrestling meet 11 times including 1 third place finish, 2 runner-ups, and 8 state championships. 4 teams from Flathead High School have received national rankings including the team from 2008 who finished the season ranked #10 nationally. That same team scored 410 points at the state meet, most points scored by any team at the state wrestling tournament.
- Coach Thompson has embraced the MHSAA's addition of girls' high school wrestling.
- In the first two years of competition the Flathead girls are undefeated in dual meets and tournaments. They are the 2021 and 2022 state champions.
- A 22-year member of the Montana Coaches Association, Jeff has been nominated 11 times for MCA Class AA Wrestling COY and 2x for the Girls Wrestling COY. He was honored 7 times as the Class AA Wrestling COY Year, following the 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2017, 2018, and 2021 seasons.
- He also received the 2021 Girls Wrestling COY.
- Coach Thompson was twice nominated for National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Wrestling COY in 2004 and 2008.
- Coach Thompson's coaching success at Flathead High School has enabled him to be selected as the 2021 Montana Junior Nationals coach and the 2020 Montana/Germany Cultural Exchange coach.
- Coach Thompson served the MHSAA as a member of the wrestling rules committee for 8 years. Jeff's commitment to coaching excellence continues as he holds a Bronze Level Coaching Certification through USA Wrestling.