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Fall 2022 Newsletter

The 2022 Fall sports season is in the books. I hope your season was successful and you are able to look back with pride at what you and your athletes accomplished, and also with gratitude for the opportunity to develop positive relationships with your athletes, other coaches and officials. You had the privilege of doing some remarkable things while being an integral part of a sport that you love.

I've noticed over the years that in every contest, one team comes out on top, and one on the short end. Most coaches experience some of both during a season. Regardless of your finish, be it short of expectations or deep into the post season, I hope that you will look back on the 2022 Fall Sports Season with your head up. Be thankful for the opportunity to do what you love with such great people!

Don

MCA Fall Sports COY Ballots emailed to all Active Coaches

Active coaches, your Fall COY ballot link is in this email. (Associate members are not eligible to vote). Voting is quick and easy. Your vote is important! Please take time to complete your ballot!

Congratulations to all Fall COY Nominees!

COY Membership Deadlines

27 top-four finishing head coaches were not members by the October 1st deadline and thus, are not eligible for COY nomination. What a disappointment! COY nomination is a great honor. This is a great reason to join right away in May when membership info comes out. Membership deadlines for COY eligibility are: **September 15th** for A and AA Golf, **October 1st** - Fall sports, **February 1st** - Winter sports and **May 1st** - Spring sports.

Membership

As of November 14th, we are at **1952 members** Thanks to each of you who are faithful MCA members!

68 high schools and several colleges have paid dues and/or clinic fees for some of their coaches. Our multi-member online option allows schools to sign up and pay for several coaches at once. Thank you, Athletic Directors and Administrators for passing on our reminders.

Head coaches please talk to your assistants and lower level coaches about the benefits of MCA. We find that new coaches are often unaware of the benefits of joining MCA. **You are our ambassadors to your district coaches, so please encourage them to join.** Membership application and benefits are on the website.

HALL of FAME - Assistant COY

The MCA HOF and Assistant COY awards are based on longevity, success, and service. **Please think about coaches that are deserving of these awards and take the time to nominate them. There are some long-serving coaches out there that are worthy of this recognition.**

HOF - Contact Scott King for nomination form at sbking1959@gmail.com - submit by **March 1st**.

Assistant COY - Contact Dennis Murphy - nomination deadline is **May 1st**

Important Deadlines

Membership deadlines to be eligible for
COY nomination - **Oct. 1, Feb. 1, May 1**
MCA Hall of Fame Applications - **March 1st**
MCA Scholarships - **May 1st**
MCA Assistant Coach of the Year Applications -
May 1st
Longevity Award Applications - **June 15th**

MCA Hall of Fame is on the MCA Website

Check out the digital MCA Hall of Fame at www.montanacoaches.com. A google search for any MCA HOF member should take you to our site. HOF members please let us know right away if you find **errors** on your page. The information on each page is taken from the original HOF application. We will do a **one-time update** for each member **after you retire from coaching**. Please email all corrections and/or end-of-career updates to Shirley Chesterfield-Stanton at www.MCAaward@gmail.com

Longevity Awards

If you have coached for 15 years or more in Montana, and have been an active MCA member, you are eligible for **MCA Longevity Awards**. **You MUST APPLY if you want the award** (It is **not** awarded based on your membership application). Certificates are awarded for 15-year applicants. These certificates may be upgraded to plaques for \$15. MCA awards **Longevity plaques** at 5-year intervals beginning at 20 years. Longevity Awards will be presented at the MCA Coaches Clinic in July. The **Longevity application deadline is June 15th**. <https://montanacoaches.powermediallc.org/longevity-form/>

In Memoriam

Don Christensen, member of the MCA Hall of Fame Class of 1987, passed away peacefully in Phoenix, AZ, on November 6th. He was 92.

Andy Elksholder passed away on June 29th. He is fondly remembered for basketball coaching stints at Hysham, Forsyth, Lame Deer, St. Labre, and Lodge Grass.

MCA gratefully remembers these coaches.

Please notify us if an MCA member or contributor to Montana athletics passes away. We hope to honor them "In Memoriam" each summer at our annual Awards Ceremony. We appreciate your help with this as we don't always know.

MCA is Grateful for Faithful Service

Linda Paull recently completed an 8-year term of faithful MCA service. Linda, a teacher and coach from Helena, was elected as AA Class Director in 2014 and after 2 years as director, worked her way through the officer rotation. She has a huge servant's heart and stepped in wherever she was needed over the years. The MCA Clinic and the organization as a whole are better and stronger thanks to Linda's leadership and hard work. Thank you, Linda!

MCA Officer Election and Changes

John Shepherd was elected in May as your Class B Director. We welcome John, thank him for his willingness to serve and look forward to having him on the MCA leadership team.

The officer rotation changed moving Dennis Murphy to Past President. Kim Sorkness-DeCock is your new MCA President and Jim Carroll is now your President Elect.

Congratulations to Jeff Graham who is the new Montana Tech Women's Coach. Because he was no longer coaching in the high school ranks he resigned as Class C Director. At our November 20th MCA Board meeting, Brian Campbell was appointed Class C Director to fill Jeff's term. Jeff was then chosen by the board of directors to serve as an Ex Officio College Liaison. Lots of positive changes in MCA leadership. You are served by a great board. Please thank them when you get a chance. Feel free to contact your Class director, any of the officers or the MCA Office, if we can be of assistance.

Liability Insurance

As an active MCA member, you have \$1,000,000 liability coverage per event (max.\$2,000,000) **while actively coaching at a K-12 school. This is one of the biggest benefits of MCA membership!** If you have questions, contact Loomis and LaPann. Their contact info is on your membership card and a current copy of this year's insurance overview is on the MCA website (membership tab). Please note that only actively coaching members are covered by liability insurance.

All-State - All-Conference - Academic All-state Certificates

Templates for these certificates are emailed to ADs and Principals each season (not available on the website). Please save them and share with your appropriate staff. **We ask that you carefully guard and honor MCA integrity and yours, as you print and present these awards.**

2022 MCA Clinic

The 2022 MCA Clinic was a great success, thanks to our dedicated coaches from around the state. It is always good to make new acquaintances and see old friends who have so many things in common, including the love of the sports we coach and the desire to help young men and women become the best they can in the athletic arena and in life.

Our 2022 presenters did an outstanding job. Presenters were secured and hosted by a coach in your sport. We want to find speakers that will challenge and help you. Please let the MCA office know if you have suggestions. Keep in mind that speaker budgets are directly related to the number of attendees in each sport.

This year 581 coaches attended the clinic, which is a great showing for Montana, but we always hope to see more. How do we convey to younger coaches the value of attending the Clinic? I am convinced that your invitation and encouragement will have the biggest impact. Please speak to your fellow coaches and your administration about MCA membership. Encourage them to attend the MCA Clinic.

56th MCA Clinic – July 26, 27, & 28 at CMR High

Please mark your calendar & plan to attend. This is an outstanding opportunity for professional development and getting charged up and ready for the new year. Sport Committees will be working with Don to secure speakers. Your suggestions for presenters are always welcome. Let him know asap, as he will be working on speakers soon.

Ralph Halverson Scholarship

Donations to Ralph's Scholarship Fund are up this year with \$3742 generously donated so far in 2022. The MCA Board, the Halverson Family and Mark Reed, founder of the scholarship all say, "Thank You", to 99 thoughtful donors. Mark's dream was to see the scholarship sustained by donations, with an excess to carry it for many years. We are pleased to see that happening. Two \$1300 scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors each year. What a wonderful tribute to Ralph and his family. Thank you, Mark Reed, for your dream that has made this scholarship a reality and for your generous support which has sustained it.

2022 MCA Scholarships Awarded

MCA Scholarships (\$750 each):

Analise Migliaccio - Big Sky

Asa Jassen - Belt

Brenna Murnion - Garfield

Nathan Schraeder - Thompson Falls

Frontier Conference Scholarships (\$1000 each)

Thank you, **Frontier Conference!**

Jenna Anderson - Sidney

Makayla Kombol - Melstone

Ralph Halverson Scholarships (\$1300 each):

Lindsey Paulson - Belt

Bridger Polk - Great Falls High

The 2022 Scholarship application will open January 1st on the MCA website (athletic tab). **Application Deadline is May 1st at 5:00 PM**

MCA Coach of the Year Rings

Each first-time "Coach of the Year" receives a beautiful COY ring, compliments of MCA. Repeat winners may order a second ring at your own expense. J Lewis Small is our new ring vendor and did a great job for us last year. COY Rings and Plaques will be awarded on Thursday, July 27th at the MCA Awards Ceremony in conjunction with the MCA Coaches Clinic.

NHSACA Convention in Lincoln, NE

The National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) National Coaches Convention will be hosted by the Nebraska Coaches Association in Lincoln, NE, July 24 - 27, 2023. There will be clinic sessions for nineteen specific sports, college credit courses, as well as time to network with coaches from across the country. In addition, there will be a **NHSACA National Coaches Hall of Fame Ceremony** and a **NHSACA National Coach of the Year Ceremony** to recognize the best of the best.

Athletes are not Immune to Suicidal Thoughts

Each day in our nation, there are an average of over 3,703 suicide attempts by young people grades 9-12. If these percentages were applied to grades 7 & 8, the numbers would be higher.

Four out of Five teens who attempt suicide have given clear warning signs. There are valuable tools for coaches and athletes at The Jason Foundation suicide prevention website: www.jasonfoundation.com

Thank you to the 2022 MCA Clinic Sponsors

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