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Fall 2023 Newsletter

It is hard to believe that the 2023 Fall sports season is already in the rearview mirror. It was truly an incredible season with some tremendous performances by both individuals and teams. Golf, Cross Country, Soccer, Volleyball and Football were all noteworthy, with many tightly contested events down the stretch. A tip of the hat to all coaches and athletes that love their sport and put in the time and effort to be the best they can be!

I enjoy watching contests in person, but when I am unable, NFHS is the next best thing. We especially appreciate the games that include sound, the clock and scoreboard. If your school struggles getting these on, I understand there is an easy fix. Thanks to all who work hard to make your games available to a very grateful fan base! *Don*

MCA Fall Sports COY Ballots emailed to all Active Coaches

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

Fall Coaches of the Year

Congratulations to all Fall Coach of the Year Nominees! MCA member coaches who finish in the top-4 are automatically nominated for COY.

COY Nomination is a great honor!

25 top-4 finishing head coaches were not MCA members by the October 1st deadline and thus, are not eligible for COY nomination. What a disappointment! For this reason, we encourage you all to join right away in May, when membership info is first sent 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. **PLEASE REMIND YOUR FELLOW COACHES so no one misses out on this honor!**

Membership

We have **2124 current MCA members, up 120 over last year.** Thanks to each of you who faithfully join each year!

68+ high schools and several colleges pay dues and/or clinic fees for their coaches. Our multi-member online option allows schools to sign up and pay for several coaches at once. Thanks to 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.

Mental Health Resources

Please check out this great resource for Coaches and Administrators, to help them deal with student-athlete mental health needs. Sharing this information with coaches will assure that they know where to turn in a time of crisis or even in preparation for a mental health crisis: [MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES](#)

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 sbking1959@gmail.com - submit by **March 1st.**

Assistant COY - Contact Dennis Murphy. murphyd1213@gmail.com - submit by **May 1st.**

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 Associate members are not 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 them with your appropriate staff. **We ask that you carefully guard and honor MCA integrity and yours, as you print and present these awards.**

57th MCA Clinic

July 31, Aug. 1 & 2, 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.

Important Deadlines

Membership deadlines for COY nomination:
Fall - Sept 15 (golf) all other sports - Oct. 1;
Winter - Feb. 1; **Spring** - May 1

MCA **Hall of Fame** Nomination - March 1st
MCA **Assistant COY** Nomination - May 1st
MCA Scholarships - May 1st
Longevity Award Applications - June 15th

2023 MCA Clinic

The 2023 MCA Clinic was well attended by 634 coaches. 67 speakers and 38 vendors combined to make it one of the finest Clinics ever. It was a great time of renewing friendships and hearing from some of the best coaches around.

Presenters were secured and hosted by a coach in your sport. For the 2024 Clinic we hope 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.

How do we convey to younger coaches the value of attending the Clinic? 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.

Photographer needed for MCA Awards Ceremony - August 1st in Great Falls
Contact Marian in the MCA office if you are interested or have a suggestion.

NHSACA Convention in Bismark, ND

The National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) Coaches Convention will be hosted by the North Dakota Coaches Association in Bismark, ND from June 22 - 27, 2024. 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.

MCA Board of Directors

Cindy Farmer stepped down after serving a 4-year term as your Class A director. Beyond Cindy's time on the board, she has faithfully served at the MCA Clinic for decades. Cindy has a very full coaching schedule as Hardin's head Cross Country and Girls' Basketball Coach. She also assists with Track & Field. MCA is grateful for the sacrifice she made to serve on the MCA Board. Cindy was awarded the MCA Service Award at the 2023 Awards Ceremony. **Jake Jessop**, head Cross Country and Track and Field Coach from Hamilton was elected in May as your new Class A Director.

In the spring MCA elect a new AA Class Director. **We are looking for active coaches in the AA ranks to be considered for nomination to go on the spring ballot.** If you might be willing to serve this great organization for a 4-year term, please call or email Don Olsen in the MCA Office.

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**. **If you want the award, you MUST APPLY!** (It is **not** awarded based on your membership application). MCA awards **Longevity plaques** at 5-year intervals and presents them at the MCA Coaches Clinic August 1st. The **Longevity application deadline is June 15th.** <https://montanacoaches.powermediallc.org/longevity-form/>

Ralph Halverson Scholarship

2023 donations to Ralph's Scholarship Fund total \$3142. The MCA Board, the Halverson Family and Mark Reed, founder of the scholarship all say, "Thank You!" to 110 *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. The fund stands at \$23,000 with most of that invested and earning interest to help grow the fund. Thank you, Mark Reed, for your dream and generous annual donations that have made this scholarship a reality. Donations are tax deductible, and there is still time to donate for a 2023 deduction.

2023 MCA Scholarships Awarded

MCA Scholarships (\$750 each):

Annika Lunde - Wibaux
Ada Bieler - Choteau
Tate O'Neill - Great Falls High
Shad Boyce - Winifred

Frontier Conference Scholarships (\$1000 each)

Thank you, **Frontier Conference!**

Bentley Bertolino - Roberts
Allie Eaves - Power

Ralph Halverson Scholarships (\$1300 each):

Alex Thornton - Great Falls CMR
Bryson Bahnmler - Highwood

2024 MCA Scholarship application opens January 1st on the MCA website (athletic tab).
Application Deadline is May 1st at 5:00 PM

In Memoriam

MCA gratefully remembers **Greg Ellison** (55), Rocky Boy track coach; **Bruce Robertson** (67), long time Laurel basketball coach and **Colin Snodgrass** (33), Missoula Sentinel JV Soccer coach. We extend our sympathy to all who knew and loved these dedicated coaches.

Please contact the MCA office 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.

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 their own expense. *J Lewis Small* is our ring vendor. COY Rings and Plaques will be awarded on Thursday, August 1st at the MCA Awards Ceremony in conjunction with the MCA Coaches Clinic.

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 the MCA office: donomca@3rivers.net

Thank you to the 2023 MCA Clinic Sponsors

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M Jenkins Photography (Photos)

Town Pump Hotel Group (Hospitality Snacks)

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