

TRAIL BLAZER

Fall, 2016

Plans are going well for the upcoming 32nd Annual Montana Senior Olympics on June 15 – 17 in the Polson, Ronan, Pablo area. You will be impressed with their facilities and leadership plus the beautiful surroundings, especially the lake. Beth Trosello, Monty Morengo and Ken Chomo have all been involved in the planning stages of the event. In fact, Ken has been suggesting this location for several years. You may want to stay an extra day just to enjoy the countryside. Thanks to the local Year- Round Recreation Committee for their suggestions and support. The Red Lion in Polson will serve as the host hotel.

A new online registration program, Fusesport, will be used for our games this year. We are hoping that most of you will take advantage of this as it will make the whole process much easier for you and for submissions to the national office. If you do not own a computer, perhaps, your local senior center or library can help you with your online registration. However, if you are unable to use Fusesport, paper entries will be available in the entry book that will be mailed to you in the spring at the address used for this newsletter. If you receive this newsletter, you should receive an entry book in the mail and it will be available online also. The post office will not forward your entry book if you are out of town for the winter. Cindy Zipperian, Board Member, will be handling paper registrations as well as Fusesport. Long time registrar, Jonne Shearman, will continue as treasurer and will also compile the entry book. There will be an early deadline for registrations and a final date for your submission. Entry fees will increase a small amount and credit cards can be used for payment. You will receive a commemorative tee shirt so be sure to specify the size needed. They will be made of a good quality cotton with minimal to no shrinkage in unisex sizes as in the past. Extra shirts can be ordered at a cost of \$10.00 each. Be sure to note the sizes you want. A new sport, Badminton, has been added to our listing. This will take the place of Racquetball since there are no courts available in this area plus it has not proved to be well supported by our athletes in the last few years. Otherwise our same roster will be available for your pleasure. Sports are Archery, Basketball (3 X 3 and shooting), Bowling, Cycling, Golf, Horseshoes, Pickleball, Racewalk, Road Race, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis and Track & Field. Canadian entries should be mailed at least a month before the deadline if paper forms are being used. Ask your postal service for the fastest delivery available. Track & Field will be staged on one day, June 17, since we have fewer entries than in the past, especially those competing in both track & field. It may be interesting to our track & field participants to know that our athletes can go to the World Master Athletics site (www.mastersrankings.com) to compare your performance with others in your same category. The site invites submission of individual results if you are interested. You might discover that you are quite competitive.

The MSO Board will again be selecting the Athlete of the Year to be awarded at the 2017 MSO Games. If you have a nominee in mind, please, send their name and a brief summary of their qualifications to MSO at 2200 Bridger Drive or to kayin3@gmail.com. This should be someone who has participated in our games and continues to persevere despite personal issues. We need this information by January 15, 2017. We selected two winners last year as it was impossible to decide on just one of the highly qualified nominees. They were the Outstanding Woman, Molly Hayes of Bozeman and the Outstanding Man, Tom Selstad of Great Falls. Congratulations!!

One of our former Outstanding Athletes, Mary Birgenheier, of Highwood, celebrated a milestone birthday this summer with her family at Fairmont Hot Springs. The family honored her by making donations to Montana Senior Olympics. Thank you. We wish you a belated Happy Birthday Mary. We hope you had a wonderful day.

The 30th Annual National Senior Games will be June 2 – 15, 2017 in Birmingham, Alabama. Most of you who attended our 2016 MSO games in Helena and placed 1 – 4 in your age group will be qualified to enter the event. Birmingham has some great facilities and the temperatures will not be too warm at that time. They are expecting some 10,000 athletes who like you are anxious to remain active and healthy as they grow older. Preliminary information is on the web site now at nsga.com. You should be receiving your personal qualifying information now. Online registration will be on the Fusesport program that was mentioned earlier. The national games in 2019 will be staged in Albuquerque, New Mexico where they are dedicated to keeping seniors active.

We will hold our usual winter events. The Nordic Ski Races will be on February 18, 2017 at Bohart Cross Country Ski Center near Bozeman. There will be 5 & 10K Classic Races at 10:00 am followed by 5 & 10K Free Style Races at 1:00 pm. You must be 45 years of age or older to participate. The races wouldn't happen without the effort and ability of Jerry Coffey. Thanks to him and to Jean MacInnes Owner-Manager of Bohart. Those of you who have entered previously will receive an entry form in the mail in January or you can sign up at the facility at 8:30am. For information call 406-586-5543 or email kayin3@gmail.com. Don't forget the no host postrace gathering at 6:00 pm at MacKenzie River Pizza on E. Main Street in Bozeman. Family and friends are welcome as well. The Ice Hockey Tournament will be at the Haynes Pavilion in Bozeman on March 31 – April 2, 2017 with Ken Younger and Jay Henderson again in charge. They have done a great job for many years so thank them for their dedication and expertise. They can be contacted at kyounger@bresnan.net or heyjaywhatsay@gmail.com. You must be fifty years of age to participate in hockey.

Our neighboring state of North Dakota is planning senior games for August 17-18, 2017 promoted by the Fargo/Moorhead Athletic Commission. Some of you may be interested in attending. They will be happy to have you enter and compete. With their addition there should be senior games in all 50 of the states. Congratulations to them for coming on board.

Let's say a big THANK YOU to our sponsors for their support for the 2016 Montana Senior Olympic Games held this past June in Helena. Sponsors help pay our operating costs. They were St Peters Hospital in Helena, Benefis of Great Falls, New West Medicare, Humana, First Interstate Bank, Ozog Eye Care, Big Sky Wind Drinkers (the Bozeman Running Club), DA Davidson and the Helena Tourist Bureau. Peggy Collins of Helena was the Games Director who arranged the events and facilities. She made the games happen along with the great sports commissioners. Jonne Shearman handled the registration process plus a million other things. We appreciate the dedication shown by each of you. We couldn't have done it without you.

Our greatest concern is finding leadership for our organization. Thanks to Cindy Zipperian for taking over the registration process. However, we still need someone to accept the responsibility of being the director of MSO. Now is the time to step up and begin planning for the summer games in 2019 and 2020. It requires some time but you will be appreciated by our

fine athletes around the state. Email kayjn3@gmail.com or call 406-586-5543 if you are interested.