

## THE FALL 2018 MSO TRAIL BLAZER

### Montana Senior Olympics

The 2019-2020 games will mark the fifth and sixth time that the Montana Senior Olympics have been staged in Missoula. Formerly the late Evelyn King was the Games Director. She was ably assisted by her husband, Richard Moore. Evelyn was a swimmer while Dick (one of the outstanding MSO athletes in 2017) continues competing in golf and bowling.

The new MSO Director is Annie Petschauer. She will be assisted by Ryan Yearous. Annie attended our games in the Flathead last summer and helped with some of the sports. Perhaps you met her there. They are excited to host the 2019 Montana Senior Olympics! They want you to stay tuned for the next newsletter to have more information about facilities, sports and registration. Annie and Ryan say "See you in 2019."

Missoula has always had many fine venues plus now they have the new Fort Missoula Regional Park. Some of our sports will be held there. The games will be using the Fusesport Registration Program, which many of you are already familiar with. The web site for Fusesport and for the games registration is <http://montana.Fusesport.com>. The plan is that you will still be able to register by mail but each year more of you are recognizing the ease of using your computer. Jonne Shearman will continue in her position as Treasurer of MSO. Tom Hayes has posted results on the Fusesport Webpage and done many other things for the last two years. He will continue for 2019 and possibly 2020. The electronic entries on Fusesport enable you to obtain personal results information quickly. At this time I'm not sure if individual Results Books will be printed in the future.

Dates for the 2019 MSO games are June 13 -15. All of our usual sports will be available. Pickleball players will appreciate the fact that more courts will be in use. Badminton will be staged in Missoula under the direction of Tom Carne and we are hoping that more players will enter that sport. We need additional basketball teams! Last year we had only one team to enter, which was disappointing to them and to our organization. There are teams in the east made up of players in their eighties while we aren't reaching senior teams of any age. The best form of advertising is to invite a friend to enter the games. So go out and spread the word about the fourteen sports offered at Montana Senior Olympics.

Thanks to our 2018 Sponsors who supported our organization in our effort to keep seniors active. They were: Platinum Level: Kalispell Regional Health, Gold Level: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Silver Level: Bozeman Health, Bronze Level: The Peak Independent Living Facility in Ronan, Humana Insurance, Ozog Eye Care, Big Sky Wind Drinkers (Bozeman Running Club), and First Interstate Bank (Bozeman Branch). These fine businesses help to pay our operating expenses.

We will be maintaining our former website ([www.montanaseniorolympics.org](http://www.montanaseniorolympics.org)) where you can see the current newsletter, pictures, records, etc. If you have pictures you would like to share on the webpage, please, send them to Tom Hayes ([runski@bresnan.net](mailto:runski@bresnan.net)). If you have pictures you would like to see on Facebook, contact Charles Widdicombe at ([widd@outlook.com](mailto:widd@outlook.com)). You should check the websites frequently. Possibly in the future, newsletters will only be available online and will not be sent out by mail.

Current MSO Board Members are Ken Chomo from Ronan, Judy Schroeder, Don Jelinek and Jim McCarvel from Great Falls, Charlotte Sanddal and Peggy Collins from Helena, Jonne Shearman, Kay

Newman and Bob Wade from Bozeman, Charles Widdicombe from Missoula and Ron Tjaden, President from Rollins. New board members include Bill Schauer from Helena and Darrell McNenny from Missoula. We need more board members. If you are interested in helping with MSO, please, get in touch with me, Kay Newman. It would be especially beneficial to have the eastern part of the state more involved.

The 2018 games held in Pablo, Polson and Ronan were enjoyed by 341 athletes. Games directors were Beth Trosello and Monty Marengo. Thanks to them and to the various sports commissioners. These games were even more important since they served as the qualifying event for the National Senior Games in Albuquerque being held June 14 –June 25, 2019. Most of our medal winners will be qualified to participate. By now you have probably been notified of your eligibility to compete and are deciding if you will enter. Information about the games can be found on the website at [www.NSGA.com](http://www.NSGA.com). Schedule and housing links are available. The sport of Power Walk can be entered without former qualification requirements since it is a new event. Good luck to those of you who decide to participate. Competition will be strong but it's not just about winning a medal, the important fact is that you are able to compete and to enjoy a healthy life style.

Our outstanding MSO athlete for 2018 was Charles Widdicombe from Missoula. He is someone who continues to compete and participate in MSO despite physical difficulties. Charles has been an active participant in Track & Field. He also was the commissioner for field events when the games were formerly in Missoula. His wife, Barbara, was his assistant. He is a MSO Board Member who maintains the Facebook Page and keeps the MSO Records current. Recently he has been dealing with injuries and treatments yet has continued to compete. Congratulations to Charles.

Again thanks to all who played a part in the Montana Senior Olympics. This includes staff, sponsors, commissioners, volunteers and especially you the athletes who participated. Without you the games would not happen. We welcome newcomers of any ability. It is especially gratifying to see those of you who are more experienced continue to compete. Staying active is such an important factor. So keep on training, practicing and competing. It's good for you.

Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to seeing you at the games in 2019 in Missoula.

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