

SAM

900 No. Montana Ave., Ste. A-4
Helena, Montana 59601
406-442-2510
Fax: 406-442-2518
Website: www.sammt.org

SAM

Jon Konen
President
Laurie Barron
President-Elect
Paul Furthmyre
Past President

MASSP

Joel Graves
President
Peter Hamilton
President-Elect
Paul Culbertson
Vice President
Dan Kimzey
Past President

MAEMSP

Lance Boyd
President
Pam Meier
President-Elect
Craig Crawford
Vice President
Jon Konen
Past President
Rick Chrisman &
Dale Olinger
SAM Representatives

MASS

Tobin Novasio
President
Cal Ketchum
President-Elect
Laurie Barron
Past President
Rick Duncan
Federal Relations
Coordinator

MACSS

Linda Marsh
President

MCASE

Karen Underwood
President

META

Rich Lawrence
President

SAM Office

Kirk Miller
Executive Director
Pat Audet
Associate Director
Gary Wagner
Operations Manager
Kim Scofield
Communications
Specialist

School Administrators of Montana BULLETIN

VOLUME XL

September 2017

NO. 266

Back At It...Like You Never Left

by Jon Konen, SAM President, MAEMSP Past-President

My name is Jon Konen and I am your new SAM President who is truly humbled to work with all of you. I am a principal in Great Falls Public Schools at Lincoln Elementary. I am going to begin, however, with a confession: I have been stealing from you!

Now it is not what you are thinking; your personal possessions are still intact. It's just that as educators, we beg, borrow, and steal ideas from others all the time. If one program, central idea, or resource could accomplish everything for which we were striving, that wouldn't be necessary. So, we resort to thievery. We steal from administrators, from coaches, from educators who inspire and show us creative and electric ways to motivate our students and our staff.

Having been in education for almost 20 years, when I sit down and lay out my yearlong goals and plans, I am never alone. Every leader or mentor I have ever learned from is right there with me, listening in as I work with my staff, whispering to me and coaching my next move. This powerful strategy is known as the mentorship.

I signed up for the School Administrators of Montana (SAM): Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP). My latest outstanding mentor is retired administrator, Jeff Blessum. I am excited for his guidance, his ideas, his coaching. His perspective will provide a little magic as I go into this school year hoping to create the same magic that my mentor will create for me. In addition to the wealth of resources in my district, a mentor will provide me more inspiration to turn myself into an excellent, leader-thief with every meeting. These are 10 of my reasons why I chose to be part of SAM's LPLP program:

- 1) Focus and Streamline – narrowing down and deciding what's most important
- 2) Set Goals – support in developing attainable goals; ability to push me and check in
- 3) Develop Action Plan – another set of eyes with someone who has been there and done that
- 4) Implement Action Plan – troubleshooting problems as they arise: students, staff, resources, etc.
- 5) Discuss Progress – honest opinions on progress from someone outside of school my district;
- 6) Ability to Adjust – supporting me in deciding whether to change what we are doing
- 7) Non-school affiliated Opinion – getting honest feedback from someone outside of the district
- 8) Connect with Other Principals Across State – connecting with other principals so I can steal more
- 9) Work with my School on a Socio-Emotional Learning plan; Trauma-informed practices
- 10) Cheap PD and Resources – At \$500 per person, having a mentor and a full library of resources and people to connect with, I believe there is not a better deal out there!

Meeting with my mentor at my school and stealing his ideas, his inspirations, and his knowledge from experience will be invaluable! I will be blogging my experiences through this LPLP membership. Posts will go up routinely on the MAEMSP Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Montana-Association-of-Elementary-and-Middle-School-Principals-286309238203770>. To follow our progress, please "like it" if you are interested! In addition, if you would like to know more about the SAM LPLP, please contact Kirk, Gary, Kim or Pat in the SAM offices!

Have a tremendous year of thievery!
Jon Konen or @jonkonen

Promising Resources to Support Educational Leaders

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

On behalf of SAM and our SAM team, I am happy to welcome each of you back to the important mission of educating the children of Montana and hope the launch of the 2017-18 school year has been outstanding for you! We are very excited for the promises on the horizon that a new school year brings for our students and also for the support that SAM provides for educational leaders all across our state. The summer provided a time for reflection and planning to assist Montana's school administrators with resources and opportunities needed to meet and exceed the expectations of your school and community. This article will focus on the SAM strategic plan goals that are all about providing you with access to resources to assist you in the work you do for Montana's children each and every day. Thanks for your membership in your professional association, SAM!



SAM was organized as an association for administrators in 1970. It represents the interests, aspirations, and professional leadership of Montana administrators. Over 1000 members network under six affiliate associations (MASS, MAEMSP, MASSP, MCASE, MACSS, META) to promote GREAT Montana Schools, supporting leader's passion for providing an outstanding education to Montana's children!

The **SAM Strategic Plan Goal Areas** are the simplest guide for outlining the benefits being a SAM member afford each education leader through their contributions to the greater good of the education community to inspire our students...

1. Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership
2. Advocacy
3. Professional Learning and Services

Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership

- AKA – SAM members working together to literally have a seat at the table (input) on all efforts that impact the education of Montana's children.
- Indicators of outstanding comprehensive education and high performance in Montana's schools.
- Focus attention on the value our public schools bring to each community.
- Setting a shining example of blending the SAM Strategic Plan with advocacy to cultivate a culture of collaboration, alliances and partnerships in the best interest of Montana's children!
- In the coming year, SAM members have established a strong voice for the actions on: Montana ESSA Plan, Suicide Prevention, PK-12 School Funding Adequacy and Equity, Interim Education Committee Priorities, Preschool Implementation, Montana EPAS (Educator Performance Appraisal System), Montana Afterschool Alliance, Montana Farm to School Task Force, Broadband Access Initiatives, Study of Special Education Funding and Services (HJ 1 2017 legislative session), Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (RISE4MT, MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force, and others), to name a few!

Advocacy

- SAM members will be equipped with accurate information and are prepared to advocate for public education.
- Collaboration between education associations (MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA, SAM) formed the Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC) creating a positive impact and strong voice on education policy issues.

Executive Director Message Continued...

- SAM Delegate Assembly has developed a long range understanding of Positions and Resolutions creating an action plan for advocacy at the state and federal level (DA Steering Committee, SAM Legislative Network). Delegate Assembly met on June 15-16, 2017 creating recommendations for SAM’s Advocacy Priorities. Follow the link <https://saom.memberclicks.net/sam-delegate-assembly> for full explanation of these priorities.
- Proactive relationships with the Governor’s office, State Superintendent and OPI, Montana University System and a wide range of education stakeholders.
- Federal Advocacy efforts are important as well, follow the link -- <https://saom.memberclicks.net/federal-issues> to review the federal advocacy priorities.

Professional Learning and Services

- Professional learning opportunities for educational leaders aligned with best practices research and innovative strategies.
- The SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) (follow the link -- <https://saom.memberclicks.net/leaders-professional-learning-program>) is a best practices professional learning delivery system that personalizes learning for Montana administrators. Four years of developing this delivery system has led to over 60 administrators in the 2017-18 program working in Collegial Learning Networks with coach/mentors to personalize a professional learning plan that will enhance their ability to serve their students, school and community!
- #SAMedchat – weekly chat group on Thursdays, 7-8 pm. Please feel free to join in.
- The SAM website (follow the link -- <https://saom.memberclicks.net/>) is a one stop repository for member resources, has been fully upgraded for your use.
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 12 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the ‘Professional Learning’ ‘Conferences’ tab on the website.
- SAM implemented new association management software, upgrading website and tools for members. See the article in this Bulletin outlining those upgrades.
- Member benefits: Affiliate regional meetings, SAM Bulletin and weekly SAM Updates, colleague networks, state and federal advocacy networks, legal assistance, professional liability insurance, technology embedded solutions including website, cloud-based solutions, use of social media to communicate effectively, many more...

As the school year begins, we sure hope that you will use your SAM benefits and access to resources to assist you in your passion to serve Montana’s children. We are here to assist you, so don’t hesitate to contact us if you need something. Here’s to the best year ever for you, your schools and the children you serve!!

Kirk J. Miller



**OUR FAMILY,
 DEDICATED TO YOURS**

American Fidelity Assurance Company’s history is deeply rooted in the education community. From Section 125 Plans to voluntary supplemental insurance, we have more than 50 years of experience providing benefits for school districts and their employees.



Our Family, Dedicated To Yours.™

Debbie Braden
 Northwest Area Branch Office
 866-576-0201, ext. 26
debbie.braden@americanfidelity.com
americanfidelity.com

SB-25366-0312

BULLETIN

Page 4

What Would Be Your CLN?

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

The SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) is quickly developing the goals that are established within the 2017-18 revision – the goals of premium professional learning and guided networking. Collegial Learning Networks (CLN) are rapidly forming within the LPLP! These CLNs are developing due to the interest of LPLP members wanting to focus on certain learning goals within their personalized professional learning plan. These are some of the CLNs that are either formed or are currently in development as those who register for the LPLP choose their learning goal and in turn, join a certain CLN relative to that learning goal:



- Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) – Information Technology – Data Management and Security
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Personalized Learning (PL)
- Special Education
- Educator Performance Appraisal System (EPAS)
- GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)
- Montana State University – MSU Graduates of Education Leadership

As you can see, there are many different CLN opportunities that could meet your learning focus needs as an experienced or new school administrator, special education director, educational technologist, curriculum director or in any school leadership role. Future CLNs could also develop from the various learning goals that current and new LPLP members may have that differ from the above list. We invite you to take a look at the LPLP program as it pertains to the Collegial Learning Networks, Provider assistance, and of course 24/7 access to the new and improved SAM LPLP Resource Center.

The Collegial Learning Network Managers and Lead Providers are ready to go to work for you in giving a dynamic learning and planning experience that will ultimately translate into effective learning for your students. Please take a look at the SAM LPLP Program (<http://www.sammt.org/leaders-professional-learning-program>) and register today!



Tested, Proven & Trusted
by Montana Schools. **A+**

Easy-to-use, efficient software solutions specifically designed to meet the requirements of Montana schools.

- ✓ Accounting
- ✓ Asset Manager
- ✓ Budget Prep
- ✓ Payroll
- ✓ Student Accounts
- ✓ and many more!

99+% Montana School Client Retention

"Extremely Satisfied" Product and Service Ratings

Call **800.353.8829** for a FREE demo.

Black Mountain Software
www.blackmountainsoftware.com

SAM Membership is Stronger Than Ever Before - Let's Keep the Drive Alive!

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

It is hard to believe that school is already back in session and another SAM membership drive is starting to wind down! It is definitely not too late to renew or join SAM for FY18!! Here are the membership numbers so far in 1st quarter of FY18 for each of the six affiliates under the SAM umbrella:



- MASS – 182 members so far; goal is 216 or better
- MAEMSP – 273 so far; goal is 326 or better
- MASSP – 189 so far; goal is 216 or better
- MCASE – 48 so far; goal is 69 or better
- META – 80 so far; goal is 107 or better
- MACSS – 55! Two more than last year!

(Institutional Members – 13 so far; goal is 33 or better)

SAM is 840 members strong so far for this membership year! The SAM members numbered 1020 last year – the most in recorded SAM history! Let's make our organization even stronger – strength in numbers! If you have not already, please look to get your memberships renewed and invoices paid and we will immediately update your profile for 17-18!

Reminders:

- Please remember that your district clerk is your key contact for renewing memberships online if you are part of a school system.
- If you are an MCASE member, you are the key contact responsible for your renewal; you are not linked directly to a school district so the clerk will not have access to renew your SAM membership.
- If you are retired, you are the key contact and will have your own individual access to renew your membership.
- If you are a new school leader and never have been a member of SAM, you will need to register as a new member by way of the SAM website (<http://www.sammt.org/join-here>).

Instructions and links for creating your SAM profile and renewing your membership can be found by going to the SAM website (<http://www.sammt.org/sam-new-database-and-website-information>).

We hope that you have a wonderful school year! If you have any questions over membership, do not hesitate to contact Kim (samks@sammt.org) or Pat (sampa@sammt.org) at the SAM office – 406-442-2510!

Patric L. Audet



**Montana Association of School Superintendents &
Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education**

2017 Annual Fall Conference

September 18 & 19, 2017

Hilton Garden Inn & Holiday Inn -- Bozeman

(MASS) / (MCASE) Monday, September 18 -- 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

*Monkey Business - Becoming Everyday Leaders, *Dennis Dearden*

*MASS Luncheon & Awards

*Federal Education Policy Updates, *Leslie Finnan, AASA Senior Legislative Analyst*

*Breakout Sessions

*Exhibitor Breaks

*Leading for Educational Equity, *Matt Utterback, AASA Superintendent of the Year*

*SAM Update, *Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director*

*MCASE Business Meeting

*Monday Night Football Reception

(MASS) Tuesday, September 19 -- 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

*OPI Update, *Superintendent Artzen*

*MASS Business Meeting

*School Size Caucus

*Exhibitor Breaks

*Personalized Learning

(MCASE) Tuesday, September 19 -- 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

*Introduction to MonTECH and Overview of Services - *Julie Doerner, MonTECH*

*OPI Hot Topics - *Frank Podobnik, State Special Education Director*

*OPI New Director Training

Hilton Garden Inn Room Block --

2023 Commerce Way, Bozeman, MT 59715 -- 406-582-9900

Refer to the **Montana Association of School Superintendents** room block to receive the \$152 per night rate.

Comfort Inn Room Block --

1370 Noth 7th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715 -- 406-587-2322

Refer to the **ADM** room block to receive the \$138 per night rate.

*Cancellations received after September 4th are subject to a \$30 cancellation fee
There are no refunds for non-attendance.*

Enhanced SAM Member Benefits

by Kim Scofield, SAM Communications Specialist

SAM's new association management software has allowed us to significantly enhance the SAM website (www.sammt.org) and put your member benefits right at your fingertips.

Check out the new resources included with your SAM membership:

- The new SAM website provides you with easy access to your SAM profile. You can view and update your contact information when necessary and these changes are automatically updated in the SAM database. From your profile, you are also able to view your invoices and form submissions.
- Conference registration has never been easier! Clicking on the conference registration link will take you to a form that is pre-filled with your contact information, and you can now pay for conferences with a credit card. Registration notification will be automatically emailed to you.
- Membership renewal is also now more streamlined. You or your district clerk have the ability to view a prefilled membership form, make the necessary changes, and once submitted, receive an invoice.
- Affiliate listserves have been replaced with E-Lists. Messages can be sent and viewed from your SAM profile on the website or from your email account. Replies are delivered to the email's author only.
- We now have the ability to provide members-only website pages instead of the entire SAM website being open to the public.
- Searching for website content is now possible by using the "Search our site..." area at the top of each web page.

We hope you will utilize the new SAM website and the available resources when you are searching for information, researching contemporary education issues, and communicating with other members to support the work you do for children! If you have questions about using any of these resources, please contact me at the SAM office and I will be happy to assist you.

Did You Know?

**Through your joint memberships with the national organizations of NAESP, NASSP, and AASA you have between \$1 million to \$2 million worth of liability insurance coverage. Be sure to renew your membership before it lapses to maintain your member benefits!
The earlier the better!**

*Rigorous Learning For
All Students*



International Center for Leadership in Education

RIGOROUS LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS



Health Insurance

Professional Learning



Technology Innovation

MCEL

Montana Conference of Education Leadership

Leadership for Transforming Education, Empowering Montana Students!

Governed by Elected Trustees

Responsive to the needs of each Community

Excellent, Efficient, Equitable, and Empowered

Adapting and Innovating to Advance Student Achievement for Each Child in Montana's Public Schools

Trusted through Transparency and Openness

October 18-20 2017 -Billings, Montana

Visit www.mcel.org for more information

Visit <http://www.mcel.org/registration> to Register as an Attendee

Visit <http://www.mcel.org/exhibitors> to Register as an Exhibitor

Visit <http://www.mcel.org/callforclinics> to Submit a possible Presentation

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Registration – DoubleTree (2nd Floor) |
| 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Innovative Virtual Learning Experience (Six 30-minute sessions)
-Recap of the 2017 Legislative Session
-School Law |
| 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm | WCRRP Board Meeting |

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 7:30 am – 5:00 pm | Registration – DoubleTree (2nd Floor) |
| 7:30 am – 8:30 am | Meet & Greet with Exhibitors - Northern Hotel -- Coffe & Pastries |
| 8:30 am – 9:30 am | Presentation of Flag & Awards Ceremony - Alberta Bair Theater |

BULLETIN

Page 10

9:30 am – 10:30 am	General Session - Alberta Bair Theater
10:45 am – 11:35 am	Clinic Sessions I
11:35 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch on Your Own, Visit with Exhibitors - Northern Hotel
11:35 am - 1:00 pm	SAM Board Meeting
1:00 pm – 1:50 pm	Clinic Sessions II
2:05 pm – 2:55pm	Clinic Sessions III
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Break - with Exhibitors - Northern Hotel ** 3:30 pm Exhibitor Drawings & Giveaways
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	MTSBA Regional Director Meetings SAM Business Meeting MASBO Membership Meeting
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Indian School Board Caucus Board Meeting
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	University Alumni Receptions (MSU & UM)
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	MREA & MCS Reception – Everyone Welcome - DoubleTree Petroleum Club - 20th Floor

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017

7:30 am – 11:00 am	Registration – DoubleTree (2nd Floor)
7:30 am – 8:30 am	MTSUIP/WCRRP Membership Meeting and Breakfast
8:30 am – 10:30 am	MTSBA Annual Business Meeting - Trustees
8:45 am – 9:35 am	Clinic Sessions IV
9:50 am – 10:40 am	Clinic Sessions V
10:30 am – 11:00 am	MTSBA Board Meeting - Trustees
10:55 am – 11:45 am	Clinic Session VI
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	General Session - Alberta Bair Theater

****Schedule subject to change****

Montana Big Sky Sponsors

Health Insurance

P O Box 4579 - Helena, MT 59601

Email: dbarrett@ms-sf.org

Phone: 406-457-4400



Technology Innovation

1309 NW Bypass - Great Falls, MT 59404

Email: bruce.wallace@vision.net

Phone: 406-727-5994

Rigorous Learning For All Students

1587 Route 146 - Rexford, NY 12148

Email: STraub@leadered.com

Phone: 518-399-2776



RIGOROUS LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS



Professional Learning Organization

1031 N. Academic Way, Ste. 242

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Email: hrogers@ncce.org

Phone: 208-292-2529

Montana Glacier Sponsor



Infinite Campus is the largest American-owned student information system

4321 109th Avenue NE

Blaine, MN 55449

763-458-1752

stephanie.sondrol@infinitecampus.com



Website development

Innovation Park at Penn State

200 Innovation Blvd., Ste. 201, State College, PA 16801

Email: pweyandt@Schoolwires.com

Phone: 814-689-1046 Ext. 304



Silverback
Learning Solutions

Joy C. Rapp, Ed.D.
Silverback Learning Solutions
(208) 413-2020
jrapp@silverbacklearning.com

Opportunity,
personalized!

TEACHER
VITÆ

mileposts

edify
learning

sbls.co

VALIC



VALIC Saving Matters

SAVING : INVESTING : PLANNING

Annuities, life insurance

430 Ryman St., #102- Missoula, MT 59892

Email: Brian.Olsen@valic.com

Phone: 406-329-5500

Mileposts™ cloud-based achievement data management

408 E. Parkcenter Blvd., Ste. 300 - Boise, ID 83706

Email: jrapp@silverbacklearning.com

Phone: 208-481-2300



Empowering Teachers To Drive Their Own Professional Learning

84 Sherman Street, Cambridge, MA 02140

Email: jeff.liberty@betterlesson.com



Montana Schools

Endorsed by MREA & MASBC

Property & Liability Insurance Plan

School property & liability insurance

1200 North Montana Ave. Helena. MT 59601

Email: dpillatzke@paynewest.com

Phone: 406-457-4531

Montana Mountain Sponsor



Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Solutions
 34 West 6th Avenue, Suite 2B, Helena, MT 59601
 Email: bsolan@ameresco.com
 Phone: 406-461-7432



Lowest total operational cost for clean buildings
 2525 Overland Avenue
 Billings, MT 59102
 800-652-1020
brucoeducation@gmail.com



School portraits, yearbooks, sports portraits
 2110 Overland Ave., #115A - Billings, MT 59102
 Email: jvagner@lifetouch.com
 Phone: 800-862-7183



Bullying Prevention Program
 15251 Pleasant Valley Road - Center City, MN 55012
 Email: srthomas@hazelden.org
 Phone: 651-213-4068



Education Employee Financial Products & Services
 621 W. Mallon, Suite #301, Spokane, WA 99201
 Email: Geoff.Hinton@americanfidelity.com
 Phone: 509-279-2540, Ext 353



Auto, homeowners, life insurance and financial services
 617 W Stolley Park Road, Grand Island, NE 68801
 Email: keith.jorgensen@horacemann.com
 Phone: 866-517-6870



A leading provider of comprehensive Custodial, Grounds & Facility Operations and Maintenance services
 4702 Western Ave. Suite 101--Knoxville, TN 37921
gcaeducation@gcaservices.com
 888-736-0863



Safe, Easily Managed School Networks
 106 East Sixth Street, Suite 500, Austin TX 48701
JAarnold@lightspeedsystems.com
 512-904-0544



School Workers' Compensation & Property/Liability Coverage
 PO Box 7029 - Helena, MT 59604
 Email: sbubb@mtsba.org
 Phone: 406-457-4418

Montana Mountain Sponsor



Education's Premiere Recruitment Service
 PO Box 2519
 Columbia, MD 21045
 Email: llayton@teachers-teachers.com
 Phone: 877-812-4071 x94



College Assistance, Job Skill Training
 1956 MT Majo Street
 Fort Harrison, MT 59636
 Email: todd.j.carver.mil@mail.mil

Montana Meadow Sponsor



School Accounting Software
 145 Southlake Crest, Suite 1, Polson, MT 59860
 Email: sales@blackmountainsoftware.com
 Phone: 800-353-8829



Technology Services Partner
 16 6th Street North, Ste 42
 Email: jeffp@schoolhouseit.com
 Phone: 406-235-7020



Technology planning, project & solution services
 2135 Charlotte Street, Suite 2
 Bozeman MT 59718
 406-294-5478
 bbassett@pinecc.com



College Readiness and Success
 5889 Greenwood Plaza Blvd. Suite 210
 Greenwood Village, CO 80111
 mcole@avid.org

Upcoming 2016-17 Conferences & Meetings

2017

September	15-16	META Board Retreat	Bozeman
September	17	MASS Board Meeting	Bozema
September	17	MCASE Board Meeting	Bozeman
September	18-19	MASS/MCASE Fall Conference	Bozeman
September	26-27	MACSS Fall Conference	Red Lodge
October	18-20	MCEL	Billings

** You can access the Calendar for all SAM Affiliate activities at <https://saom.memberclicks.net/calendar> **