



MFEC
Montana Financial
Education Coalition

MFEC Quarterly Board Meeting

AARP Office
30 West 14th Street, Suite 301
Helena, MT 59601

March 11, 2024

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Meeting ID: 264 107 000 718

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Meeting Minutes

Darcy Alm	Dax Schieffer	Gayla Randall
Debra Casper	Guinevere Ayers	Rhonda Krieger
Greg Harper	Jennell Huff	Nicole Newman
Rosie Kiernan	Trevor Tangen	Tanya Eychner
Jody Sandru	Tim Summers	Jennell Huff
Karissa Trujillo		

1:00 p.m. Call to Order to Establish Quorum

- Introductions and Ice-breaker activity
 - What happened in your life that made you passionate about financial literacy?
- Board of Directors List (attachments)

1:10 p.m. Approval of Meeting Minutes (**Voting Item**)

- December 2024
- Kiernan move, Harper second

1:15 p.m. Treasurer's Report (Attachments)

- Huff presented the treasurer's report, discussing the potential liquidation of a certificate of deposit and the current board membership status.

1:30 p.m. General Business

- New Board Member(s)
 - Huff asked folks to make recommendations, as they come up
- Conflict of Interest Policy
 - All members have signed and returned, thank you.
- 990 Filing
 - Completed
- Annual Secretary of State Filing
 - completed
- Jump\$tart National Educator Conference (NEC)
 - November 7-9, 2025, in Boston
 - Goal to send more teachers this year sponsored by MFEC
 - Sandru has gone and relayed what value she found at the Conference
 - Discussion about NEC and sending more teachers – who can help pay, etc.
- State Leader's Meeting – April 10 – 11 in D.C.
- 2025 Initiatives
 - Financial Literacy Month Proclamation (Schieffer)
 - Likely April
 - Mini grants
 - Open February 1 – April 15
 - Applications so far (Attachments)
 - Exec Team hasn't reviewed Arlee yet
 - Want to keep April 15 deadline
 - Calendar
 - Need sponsors for 2025-26 school calendar
 - Discussion about raising the sponsorship amount to \$750 to support mini grants. Trujillo recommended keeping the non-profit rate at \$500. Huff expressed concerns about the feasibility of the increase given budget constraints and suggested exploring the option of having multiple sponsors per month. The conversation also highlighted the need for better engagement and awareness of the coalition's activities.
 - Ayers and Randel are working on this project
 - Seasonal tips – like new year's resolutions
 - Sponsorships – considering increasing sponsorship cost
 - Discussion
 - Schieffer offered MCEE for digital version

- Outreach: How do we drive awareness to our coalition?
 - Blog post and/or member highlights from each member to Ayers
 - Discussion about wanting to engage more, show more who we are, encourage engagement
 - Trujillo said perhaps we can do email to members when we have big news on social we want shared
 - Ayers – we can do different media platforms, like video

Mission/Vision Taskforce Update

- Need to get notes from Randel

K-12 Committee Update

- Schieffer reviewed what MCEE working with 2500 students. Such as:
 - Personal Finance Challenge 172 students across 10 schools, that will increase
 - MT Economics Challenge, 56 students
 - Big Sky Biz Sim 225 teams competing this spring, about 30 schools
 - Huff: Financial Education Teacher of the Year Award – possible way to engage with teacher further.

Conference Committee Update

- Schumacher not on, skipped

Outreach Committee Update

- Ayers encourages folks to let her know if she's missing anything
- Encourages feedback on social media, etc. has been working to increase our exposure

Elder Fraud Prevention Committee Update

- Hosting Fraud Summits in September, Rep Downing Elder Fraud Summit (possible name)
 - Sept 23-24 in Missoula
 - Sept 25-26 in Billings
 - Shoutout to Tim for presenting
 - Deb working to find Missoula location
 - Hoping to have some really key speakers, around 100 attendees
 - Focus on “now what”
 - Life cycle of an APS referral
 - Discussion about various scams, legislative initiatives (e.g HB 743)

Member updates

- Eychner: just got magazine out with updates and opportunities for advertising, Montanabankers.com. Also working with advertising agency out of Missoula – had BBER report that shows all the ways that bankers individually give back to the community.
- Tangen: bills are a success, on the topic of understanding an APS referral, they just digitized the APS 101 training. On website, also did rebrand and updated brochure.
- Trujillo: hired new financial educator
- Harper: accepted position as Deputy Director of his company, eager to play a bigger role in the state. Still liaison for network at Housing Assistance Fund program.
- Krieger: Federal Reserve Bank has a pause on most outreach activities temporarily while leadership makes decisions related to several of the current executive orders since the Federal Reserve system is not a govt agency but tries to align with the Board of Governors who is a government agency since they are a governing agency for the Fed.
- Ayers: has contracted with new resource, Bonsai, increasing accessibility with multiple languages offered.
- Newman: No update. Continuing to be optimistic that our HUD affordable housing funds continue to flow to the states.
- Alm: fairly quiet here, not a lot going on in legislature for them. Filed complaint against a bank acting questionably, and was able to get the woman out of her loan.
- Schieffer: already shared a lot from MCEE. Happy it's transmittal week!
- Casper: on top of being a financial counselor, also a master trainer in credit. Has been wanting to get frontline staff more trained on credit, and got the go-ahead so she's launching training for them.
- Kiernan: successfully completed merger into mPactPro (new CRM) hired an education coordinator/counselor. Holding on third counselor until we know more about federal funds. Daughter's EP dropped!
- Summers: some big things at legislature – at least three bills are moving from one side to the other. Hoping for at least a small relief in property taxes. Medicaid expansion has been huge, as has rural hospital legislation. Lots of fear and anxiety around social security – telling folks to not panic, find out all the information first and make decisions based on that. Not seeing evidence that social security is going to get hit.

- Randel: got all reports in! Try to create professional development for teachers. Opening a training in August to all teachers, August Jump Start Series. Wants to do one on financial literacy for the teacher.
- Sandru: loving retirement. Appointed ranch cook and is making the BEST homemade rolls.
- Huff: invited into the personal finance class in Shields Valley HS. As she was teaching, a teacher came in to hang out and then had two other teachers reach out to connect, so now going to two more classes next week. Working actively to engage active military and veteran populations – have some meetings with organization in DC to do some specific outreach to that population. Also ramping up World Elder Abuse Day in June.

Adjourn 3:15 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: June 10, 2024 (Hybrid meeting)