

E-Newsletter - May 2010

Food for Thought

“Statistics are human beings with the tears wiped off.”
--Paul Brodeur

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As always, NpDP is grateful to The Sustainability Fund for making our work possible.

Now, you can follow NpDP:

- on Facebook: [Facebook.com/FlatheadNpDP](https://www.facebook.com/FlatheadNpDP)
- on Twitter: [@flatheadnpdp](https://twitter.com/flatheadnpdp)
- on Flickr: [Flathead NpDP](https://www.flickr.com/photos/flatheadnpdp/)
- on our new Blog: FlatheadNpDP.WordPress.com.

Managers Forum:

Making the Ask - Through Social Media & the Web

Thursday, May 6, 2010, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Basement Conference Room
Main Library, Flathead County Library System
247 1st Avenue East, Kalispell
Free

Our Spring Manager's Forum is focused on Making the Ask. The next Manager's Forum will be a discussion on using social media and the Web for fundraising.

For "homework" read:

Five Social Media Trends for 2009

http://beth.typepad.com/beths_blog/2009/11/five-social-media-fundraising-trends-for-2009.html

Online Donors: Why They Leave and How to Win Them Back:

<http://www.nten.org/blog/2009/09/24/online-donors-why-they-leave-and-how-win-them-back>

And, if you have more time and would like to do some additional reading:

Debunking Five Myths of Online Fundraising:

<http://www.nten.org/blog/2008/11/20/debunking-five-myths-of-online-fundraising>

How I Raised \$1000 on Facebook without Breaking a Sweat:

<http://www.blueavocado.org/content/how-i-raised-1000-facebook-without-breaking-sweat>

The Managers Forum is a peer learning and idea sharing forum for nonprofit leaders and managers.

Please RSVP to rsvp@npdp.org or 406/756-3618 to ensure enough seating.

For information, contact:

email: admin@npdp.org

Phone #: 406/756-3618

May Brown Bag:

Finding Stats for your Grants

Thursday, May 13, 2010, 11:30 am - 1 pm

The Museum at Central School
124 First Avenue East, Kalispell
Free

presented by Susan Ockert of the Montana Department of Commerce
hosted by NpDP

Nonprofits depend on diverse funding sources, including private and public grants. These grants become more persuasive with reliable, current and relevant statistics. Susan Ockert, Senior Research Economist of the Census and Economic Information Center for the Montana Department of Commerce, will provide resources to data at the national, state and county levels. She will also provide guidance for evaluating these sources of data.

Please RSVP to rsvp@npdp.org or 406/756-3618 to ensure enough seating and handouts if you plan to attend.

About the presenter

Susan Ockert received her Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Carroll College and her Masters of Economics from the George Mason University. Susan has worked as an Economist at the federal, regional and state levels. She was an International Economist with the United States International Trade Commis

sion in Washington, D.C. As an Economist with the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Susan taught economics courses at the community college level in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. Combining her economics expertise and teaching theories, Susan became the Economic Development Officer for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland where she worked with local and state government officials, economic development organizations and business groups to coordinate and facilitate regional projects that enhanced the region. In 2004, Susan has been employed by the Census and Economic Information Center, Montana Department of Commerce as the Senior Research Economist.

For information, contact:
email: admin@npdp.org
Phone #: 406/756-3618

Networking:

Economic Roundtable, part II

Thursday, May 13, 2010, 5:30 pm - 7 pm

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
15 Depot Park, Kalispell

Hors d'oeuvres will be served.
Free

In uncertain economic times, Board of Directors and Executive Directors of nonprofit organizations need accurate economic information to strategically plan for the short-term and long-term financial direction of the organization. Susan Ockert, Senior Research Economist of the Census and Economic Information Center for the Montana Department of Commerce, will present the economic trends in the Flathead and the nonprofit community.

Please RSVP to rsvp@npdp.org or 406/756-3618 to ensure enough seating and handouts if you plan to attend.

About the presenter

Susan Ockert received her Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Carroll College and her Masters of Economics from the George Mason University. Susan has worked as an Economist at the federal, regional and state levels. She was an International Economist with the United States International Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. As an Economist with the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Susan taught economics courses at the community college level in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. Combining her economics expertise and teaching theories, Susan became the Economic Development Officer for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland where she worked with local and state government officials, economic development organizations and business groups to coordinate and facilitate regional projects that enhanced the region. In 2004, Susan has been employed by the Census and Economic Information Center, Montana Department of Commerce as the Senior Research Economist.

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Workshops:

Before You Seek a Grant

presented by Ned Cooney of NpDP

May 27, 2010, 1:15 pm - 3 pm

Orientation to the Foundation Center Database

presented by Rishara Finsel of Flathead County Library System

May 27, 2010, 3:15 pm - 5 pm

Basement Conference Room
Main Library, Flathead County Library System
247 1st Avenue East, Kalispell
Free

hosted by Nonprofit Development Partnership

For **Before You Seek a Grant**, Ned Cooney, Program Director of NpDP, will outline the necessary steps to prepare for foundation funding, characteristics of successful nonprofit organizations and key elements of getting started.

For **Orientation to the Foundation Center Database**, Rishara Finsel of Flathead County Library System, will introduce attendees to the Foundation Center database and how to research and identify potential funders.

Bring your laptop to follow along during the presentations.

Please RSVP to rsvp@npdp.org or 406/756-3618 to ensure enough seating and handouts if you plan to attend.

For information, contact:
email: admin@npdp.org
Phone #: 406/756-3618

Networking on Facebook:

Have you ever needed to borrow something that one of your nonprofit colleagues might own? Ever wanted to team up to host a webinar to share the costs? Ever traveled to a conference and wondered if you could carpool?

Join the discussion. Click on "Like" on [Facebook.com/FlatheadNpDP](https://www.facebook.com/FlatheadNpDP). Then, post a comment on the NpDP Facebook Wall. Or, post a new topic in the NpDP Facebook Discussions.

<http://www.Facebook.com/FlatheadNpDP>.

Survey:

Nonprofit Current Conditions Survey

The Montana Nonprofit Association is conducting a survey to research how the current economic climate is impacting Montana nonprofits in the areas of demand for services, fund development, and operational and programmatic strategies. All participants will be entered into a drawing for a FREE registration to MNA's Annual Conference, September 27-29th in Helena.

<http://guest.cvent.com/SURVEYS/Welcome.aspx?s=3a095a66-8a2b-4328-b324-70762b30b572>

Grant Announcement:

Capacity-Building Project Grants for nonprofits available through the Big Sky Institute

The Big Sky Institute for the Advancement of Nonprofits will award grants of up to \$5,000 through its **Montana Nonprofit Connections** program (MNC). MNC funding helps grantees engage a consultant to build capacity through activities such as organizational planning, fundraising, financial management or leadership development for board, staff or volunteers.

Only organizations that have done a comprehensive assessment and set organization priorities within the last 12 months can apply. Eligible assessments can be done either through Montana Nonprofit Connections (through a separate grant process) or through a similar comprehensive review, such as through the Montana Nonprofit Association's Principles and Practices for Nonprofit Excellence in Montana. We recommend that an outside facilitator help with the assessment to ensure that the grant project will have the greatest impact.

The deadline for applications is Friday, June 11, and decisions will be made by mid-July, 2010. Funded capacity-building projects will need to be completed by May of 2011.

To request an application packet, email Ned Cooney, Project Director, at mnc@bigskyinstitute.org. If the organization meets the eligibility criteria, we will schedule a required pre-screening phone interview. Send questions to mnc@bigskyinstitute.org.

Article:

One-Fourth Are to Lose Tax Breaks

"At midnight on May 15, an estimated one-fifth to one-quarter of some 1.6 million charities, trade associations and membership groups will lose their tax exemptions..." Be sure you know the status of your nonprofit tax exemption. Read more:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/23/us/23exempt.html>

News:

Update your IRS Determination Letter

On May 15, a number of nonprofits will be losing their tax exemptions for not filing an annual return - the 990, 990-EZ or 990-N - in three years. For this reason, more foundations are requiring nonprofits to submit a IRS Determination Letter, dated within 3 years, to prove they have not lost their tax exempt status. Be prepared for your next grant by requesting a new IRS Determination or Affirmation Letter. You can contact the IRS Tax Exempt and Government Entities Customer Account Services at (877) 829-5500.

Volunteer Opportunity:

VISTA volunteer for Montana Public Radio

This AmeriCorps*VISTA project is an important avenue for Montana Public Radio to expand our involvement with communities throughout our listening area. The VISTA Member would serve as Outreach Coordinator for Montana Public Radio. There are a large number of organizations in western & central Montana offering important services to their communities. These organizations could benefit from training gaining access to and utilizing public broadcasting and other media to promote their missions and projects. Montana Public Radio seeks a VISTA worker to offer media access training sessions; to help build the capacity of service organizations and Montana communities; and to represent the station energetically and effectively in person and on the air. This will be a fun, challenging and very rewarding opportunity for the right person. Apply by May 3rd:

<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=17972>

Resource:

501 Videos - Fundraising and Awareness Videos

Each Monday, 501 Videos posts inspiring, humorous and reassuring stories from successful Development Directors. These free short videos are only posted for one week.

<http://www.501videos.com/>

Seminar Series:

It's About Time - Developing an Effective Workplace

Thursdays, May 13 & 27, June 3, 10 & 17
8:30 am - 10:30 am

Arts & Technology Building, Room 139
Flathead Valley Community College

Cost: \$125 for all sessions or \$35 per session

Learn the traits of the effective workplace - achieving goals, open communication, productive meetings. This seminar is offered every Thursday, starting May 13th, for five sessions. Each session will focus on a different aspect in creating the successful work environment. Seminar Leader, and internationally Certi

fied Coach, Dru Jackman will offer her expertise in streamlining and organizing businesses, diffusing stress, and facilitating learning.

To register, contact FVCC Continuing Education Center at (406) 756-3832 or <http://www.fvcc.edu/continuing-education/it-s-about-time/>.

The Resource Corner:

State Charitable Solicitation Laws

If you solicit funds from donors in other states, be aware that 41 states require nonprofits to register.

Barb Welch Consulting offers a Summary of State Charity Registration Requirements here:

<http://www.barbwelch.com/tools/>

Multi-State Filer Project provides information on the Unified Registration Statement Kit, a standardized form accepted by many states:

<http://www.multistatefiling.org/>

Reminder: PLEASE pass this e-newsletter along...to Board members, fellow staff people, volunteers, and other nonprofit people you know in the community. Everyone's invited to be a part of our growing network! To sign up to receive this newsletter, go to our website, www.npdp.org and click "Join our Network" on the left side of the page. Enter your email address, name, and other required information.

NOTE: Please add admin@npdp.org to your "safe senders list" in your email spam and junk mail filters. That way, when we send you messages through our new email network, you'll continue to receive our e-newsletters, workshop announcements, and other items of interest.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in the articles and internet links contained in this E-newsletter are those of the content providers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Nonprofit Development Partnership.