

# April 2023 Newsletter

In this newsletter:  
Ravalli & Missoula new coach training  
Missoula & Bitterroot Gives on May 4 & 5  
Appreciation picnics May 17 & 19  
Literacy toolkit  
Coach Carol S. reflects on childhood courage



Coach Carol G. works with a student at Target Range School earlier this semester.

## Coaching Update

As spring starts to peek out (and then hide again), consider coaching as a way to get out of the house. We are delighted to report that all coaching sessions have been filled except for the following:

- Evergreen Junior High
- Monday, April 10, Single Draft
    - 11:15am-12pm, 1 coaches needed
    - 12:50-1:35pm, 2 coaches needed
    - 1:45-2:30pm, 3 coaches needed
    - 2:40-3:25pm, 2 coaches needed

- Hamilton High School
- Wednesday, May 3rd, Single Draft
    - 2:00-3:30, 17 coaches needed
  - Thursday, May 18th, Single Draft
    - 8:30-10:00, 9 coaches needed
    - 10:10-11:40, 9 coaches needed

- Sentinel High School
- Thursday, May 4th, First Draft
    - 2:25-3:55, 8 coaches needed
  - Thursday, May 11th, Second Draft
    - 2:25-3:55, 8 coaches needed
  - Friday, May 5th, First Draft
    - 10:45-11:35, 13 coaches needed
    - 3:05-3:55, 10 coaches needed
  - Wednesday, May 10th, Second Draft
    - 10:30-12:00, 9 coaches needed
    - 2:25-3:55, 7 coaches needed

All session details and registrations can be accessed through our [coaching calendar](#).

Questions regarding sessions can be directed to Flathead Coordinator (jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org) or Missoula/Ravalli Coordinator (kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org).

[CHECK OUT COACHING CALENDAR](#)



What a view! Register for the new coach workshop at Missoula Public Library on Wednesday, April 19th and enjoy this awesome landscape.

## New coach training in Bitterroot & Missoula

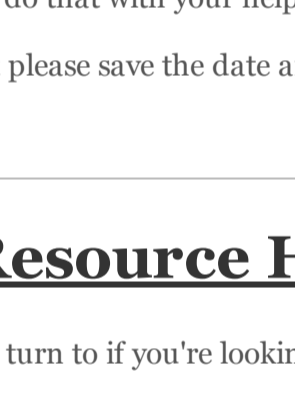
The last chance to become a new coach this school year is upon us!

Attend a workshop at the Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton this [Monday, April 3](#), 6-8pm.

Or join us at Missoula Public Library from 2-4pm on [Wednesday, April 19](#).

Email Missoula/Ravalli Coordinator Kat Jackson (kat@writingcoachesofmontana.org) or Flathead Coordinator Jeanne Wdown (jeanne@writingcoachesofmontana.org) with questions.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## Missoula & Bitterroot Gives takes place on May 4 & 5!

Get ready to give starting on May 4th and 5th! WCM will be participating in the annual [Missoula & Bitterroot Gives](#) fundraising event. We are delighted to announce a **\$7,000 match** from an anonymous donor!

Our goal is to raise enough funds to cut school contribution costs in half beginning in fall 2023! Instead of asking schools to contribute up to 25% of coaching costs (based on a sliding scale fee), we will be aiming to cut that in half (asking for up to 12% of costs). But we can only do that with your help!

More details to come in our May newsletter, but please save the date and spread the word about WCM's good work so folks are ready to [give on May 4 & 5](#).

## WCM as a Literacy Resource Hub

Remember that WCM is a great organization to turn to if you're looking for information about literacy, coaching, and education!

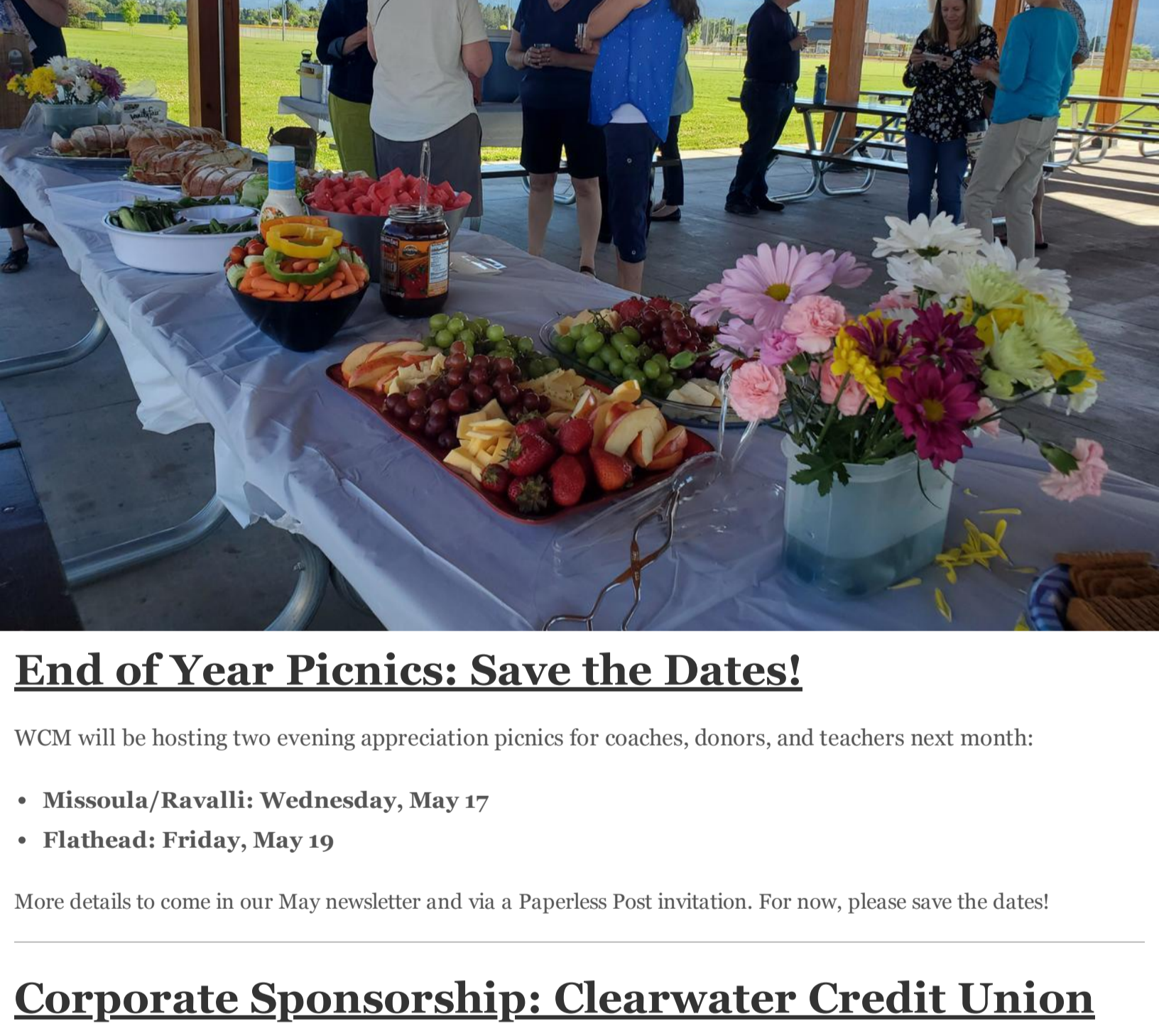
Check out our [YouTube channel](#) to watch meet-ups with WCM staff, coaches, and guest speakers. Topics include coaching best practices, revision strategies, and topics that encourage critical thinking and lifelong learning.

Trained coaches can access all of our training documents and videos in the [Coach Portal](#).

Don't forget about our [lending library](#), which has grown significantly since we first announced it this fall!

Missed a past newsletter and want to review what WCM has been up to? You can find newsletters on our website [here](#).

Questions? Email [admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org](mailto:admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org).



## End of Year Picnics: Save the Dates!

WCM will be hosting two evening appreciation picnics for coaches, donors, and teachers next month:

- Missoula/Ravalli: Wednesday, May 17
- Flathead: Friday, May 19

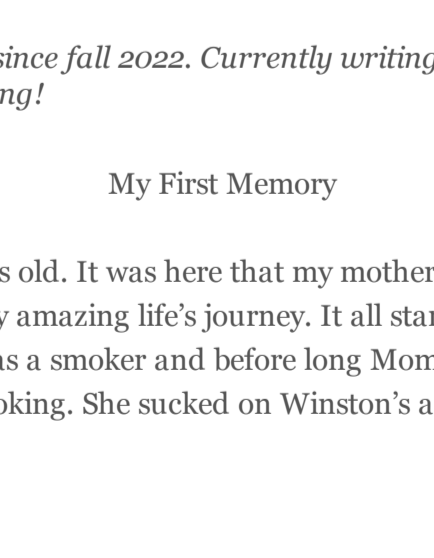
More details to come in our May newsletter and via a Paperless Post invitation. For now, please save the dates!

## Corporate Sponsorship: Clearwater Credit Union



# clearwater CREDIT UNION

Thank you to Clearwater Credit Union for sponsoring WCM at the platinum level two years in a row! We appreciate community-driven organizations like CCU for helping us support Montana students.



## Growth Mindset: A Coaches' Blog

Carol Sullivan has been a Flathead coach since fall 2022. Currently writing her memoir, she has a lot of insight to offer about finding meaning through writing!

### My First Memory

I had my first memory when I was five years old. It was here that my mother and I shared an unexpected tale of personal courage that paved the way for my amazing life's journey. It all started when Mom became fast friends with Sheila, our new next-door neighbor. She was a five-year-old self was invited to a reckoning. She looked down at me, our eyes locked, and she spoke these words, "If you stop sucking on your blanket, I'll stop sucking on my cigarettes." We sealed the deal with a pinky promise and final proclamation, "Tomorrow we throw out our nasty habits."

Suckers, Unite and Toss!

The next day I woke up, got dressed, and headed into the kitchen. Mom made a slight mention of our agreement hoping I had forgotten. After breakfast, I gathered up my blanket, hugged it close to my heart, and made my way to the backdoor. I watched my hand grab the doorknob. When it opened, I saw my two feet step down onto the cement patio. I had a strange new feeling as if I stepped from a black-and-white limbo into a full-color memory just like Dorothy stepping into Munchkinland. Bravery and fear were holding hands. I looked left and saw the fence from across the patio. Behind that fence was the garbage can. My thoughts paralyzed me for a moment. Then I squeezed my blanket a little closer, which gave me permission to carry on. As I inched closer, my hair was racing, my steps were slow, and my feet felt thick. I reached the gate and pulled the latchstring. The gate slowly creaked open and the silver garbage can sat waiting for me.

I stared up at the lid and envisioned my blanket mingling with the soup cans, gravy, and eggshells. Even though I was scared, my promise to quit was still holding true north. Time was quickly coming face to face with action. With shaky hands, I bravely stepped up to the can and pushed up the lid. On tippy-toes, I opened it just enough to send my blanket over the edge and onto the pile of garbage. I fixed the lid, walked back out into the patio, closed the gate with a chime, and walked back into the house.

My mother was flabbergasted. I asked her later if she had quit smoking that day and she confessed, "I realized I was playing truth or dare with my five-year-old daughter. The ball was in my court, so I had no choice, I quit!"

That single act of courage gave me permission to face many other challenges throughout my life. I learned to fail without feeling like a failure, to succeed without arrogance, and to risk with wholehearted passion. More than anything, I stayed curious, keeping my eye open for opportunities to venture into the unknown.

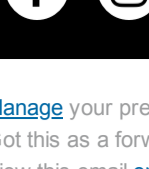
As I stumbled along through adolescence and adulthood, this sense of wonderment guided me on my amazing life's journey. That same childhood excitement helped create a long, successful career as a ballet studio owner and instructor.

Today, I look back at my life with immense gratitude and my focus has a more reflective and contemplative flavor, which has inspired me to write my memoirs. However, when I saw the Interlake spotlight on the Writing Coaches of Montana it sparked my curiosity, yet again, and a new challenge came to life...Volunteering!

--Carol Sullivan

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