



Welcoming New Leaders to the AFP Montana Board

The AFP Montana Chapter is pleased to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors. As our chapter continues to grow and strengthen connections across the state, we are grateful for leaders who are willing to share their time, expertise, and passion for philanthropy. Each brings unique experience and perspective that will help advance AFP Montana's mission of supporting and inspiring ethical and effective fundraising throughout our state. Please join us in welcoming our newest board members and learning a bit more about their backgrounds below.



Eugene Muhammad (Gene) is Director of Development with the Montana State University Alumni Foundation, serving as liaison to the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Originally from Chicago, he has extensive experience in education and fundraising. In 2018, he co-founded Emprana Inc., a 501(c)(3) youth enrichment nonprofit.

Gene is active in the Association of Fundraising Professionals and participated in the Chicago Fellows mentoring program. He holds a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College, an MBA from National Louis University, and is completing a Doctor of Education in higher education at Governors State University, where his research and professional interests focus on leadership, philanthropy, and institutional advancement.



Jessica Kannegiesser is the Executive Director of Young Families Early Head Start in Billings, Montana, and a proud mother of one amazing son. With eight years of experience in nonprofit leadership, she has developed a deep understanding of her community and the needs it serves. Her background spans both leadership and development, and she values the opportunity to learn something new each day.

Excited to join the Association of Fundraising Professionals Montana Chapter Board, Jessica looks forward to engaging with fellow members and contributing to the Communications Committee. She recognizes that it takes a village to run a strong board and brings a solid understanding of the logistics involved. Committed to excellence in all aspects of her professional work, she hopes to strengthen the Montana Chapter's functionality and expand its statewide awareness.

Connecting Across the Sector: AFP-MT Board Members Present at MNA Summit



We're excited to share that AFP Montana board members, President-Elect **Allison Strekal** and Secretary **Sara Hofer**, will be presenting at the Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA) Summit on April 7. As keynote, Allison will explore how a growth mindset can transform leadership and fundraising, while Sara will share practical, easy-to-implement planned giving strategies for Montana fundraisers wearing many hats.

Their involvement reflects the strength of our chapter and contributes to important conversations across the nonprofit sector. As part of our commitment to collaboration, we're proud to highlight this event and encourage engagement with partners across the state, strengthening connections and impact throughout Montana.

[Learn More About MNA Summit](#)



Montana Meet-Up at AFP ICON in San Diego

AFP ICON is just around the corner, and we're excited to once again gather the Montana crew while we're all together in San Diego.

If you'll be attending, we invite you to join fellow AFP Montana members for an informal Montana meet-up — a chance to reconnect with friends, meet colleagues from across the state, and share notes from the conference.

Montana Gathering Details

Location: Odysea Waterfront Lounge, Hilton San Diego Bayfront

Date: Monday, April 27

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

We've scheduled the gathering early so those attending the Chicago Cubs vs. San Diego Padres game can still make first pitch.

These informal meet-ups have become a fun tradition for our chapter, and we'd love to see a strong Montana turnout. If you plan to attend, please click the location link and let us know you'll be joining us.

[Yes, I plan on attending!](#)

Building Connections Across Big Sky Country



Across Montana, fundraisers are coming together to connect, learn from one another, and build a stronger philanthropic community—fostering meaningful conversations and connections across Big Sky Country.

From Bozeman to Missoula and beyond, AFP Montana's Mix & Mingle gatherings continue to bring fundraisers together for meaningful connection across the state. Most recently, Bozeman-area professionals gathered for Luck Under the Big Sky, a St. Patrick's Day-inspired event that sparked thoughtful conversation, peer exchange, and new ideas around intentional networking.

Whether at December's Jingle & Mingle in Missoula or springtime gatherings in Gallatin County, these moments remind us that strong connections, not large crowds, are what truly strengthen our fundraising community.

Board Member Profile



Abigail Uhrich joined Yellowstone Foundation in 2023 as Development Director. With more than five years of fundraising experience supporting families, mental health services, and youth and adults with special needs, she brings expertise in donor stewardship, relationship building, grant writing, event planning, and storytelling. Her professional background spans business operations, financial services, project management, and human services, giving her a versatile and strategic perspective.

Originally from Northern Idaho, she is a University of Idaho graduate with a B.S. in Psychology and a strong passion for supporting mental health. She has worked with both grassroots nonprofits and large statewide and national organizations, serving on the boards of AFP Montana and West Rotary of Billings. She also volunteers with her Rotary Club, district-wide RYLA Camp #5390, and other local organizations, reflecting her love of giving back to the community. She enjoys the outdoors, travel, and family life, and is proud of her experience as a surrogate for a UK family. A dedicated mom and dog mom, she is also an avid reader who loves cooking and baking.

Abigail joined AFP Montana to grow professionally, stay connected to best practices, and strengthen her commitment to donor stewardship. She values the Donor Bill of Rights and strives to ensure her work, her organization, and the nonprofit community reflect strong ethical standards.

Save the Date: AFP Montana Educational Summit *October 22-23, 2026 | Billings, MT*

Mark your calendars! Fundraisers from across Big Sky Country will gather in Billings this October for the AFP Montana Annual Educational Summit and Annual Meeting. This year's program will spotlight planned giving, including a special 4-hour session designed to explore and demystify Donor Advised Funds.

More details on speakers, registration, and hotel accommodations will be shared soon.
We hope you'll join colleagues from across the state for learning, networking, and meaningful connection.

Faces of AFP Montana

Getting to know the people strengthening philanthropy across Montana

Member Spotlight is a new feature highlighting members of the AFP Montana community. Each month, we'll introduce a member so readers can learn more about the people behind the important work happening in nonprofits across Big Sky Country.

These conversations celebrate the diverse experiences of our members while showcasing how connection, learning, and collaboration through AFP support their work in strengthening philanthropy across Montana.



Name: Teddi Vogel

Organization: Chase Hawks Memorial Association

Title/Role: Executive Director

Years in the Profession: 6

AFP Member Since: 2025

1. Tell us about the organization you represent. What mission drives your work?

The Chase Hawks Memorial Association is a nonprofit dedicated to supporting individuals and families in south central Montana and northern Wyoming who are facing serious illness, injury, or unexpected crisis. Through crisis grants we provide financial assistance that helps ease burdens and support people during some of life's most difficult moments. Our mission is driven by a commitment to neighbors helping neighbors—bringing our community together to provide hope, relief, and opportunity when it's needed most.

2. How did you first find your way into the nonprofit or fundraising profession?

I began volunteering with CHMA in 2017 at the annual Rough Stock Rodeo, our largest fundraiser. In 2020 the opportunity to step into the Executive Director role came about and I left education for the non-profit world.

3. What keeps you passionate about this work after all these years?

Having the opportunity to help people never gets old. I was raised in 4-H and FFA, both organizations and my family instilled in me the importance and value of helping others. My kids have grown up being involved in CHMA and enjoy helping at all the different events. I have the opportunity to instill in my kids the belief that there is no better way to give back to a community than to help others.

4. What inspired you to join AFP, and what do you value most about the chapter?

Chase Hawks proudly celebrated 30 years of being a part of our community. I wanted to find more ways our organization can continue to be a relevant resource for the next 30 years. AFP not only has the educational component, but being able to network with other non-profits and connect with others who are facing the same challenges and opportunities is incredibly valuable.

5. What fundraising success or moment stands out to you?

When we can help a family or individual and we later hear that the assistance we provided helped them through their crisis and they are doing well, those are the most meaningful moments. To know the average non-profit's life span is roughly 10 years and we have been giving a hand up to our community for 30 and have provided over \$1 million in grants is our proudest accomplishment as an

organization. To have a played a small role in that accomplishment is very humbling.

6. What advice would you offer someone just beginning a career in fundraising?

Connections and networking are your lifeline. Be willing to share your story and eager to listen to others share theirs. My family always teases me that I know everyone in town. More often than not, those connections have led to great things and meeting wonderful people who have helped me in my career.

7. What do you like to do outside of work, or what's a fun surprise about you?

When I'm not working, I'm shuttling my kids to their various events or helping them with their 4-H projects. My son is an avid trap shooter and shows pigs in FFA and my twin daughters are active in softball and wrestling, one shows pigs and one shows lambs. We feed cattle and farm with my husband's family, so I am also very active in our local Farm Bureau as the county secretary. Basically, I'm a professional chaos coordinator!

Congratulations to Montana's New CFRE's!



Please join us in recognizing the following individuals who have earned their CFRE credential:

- **Hannah Zuraff** - American Red Cross of Montana
- **Emily Landsiedel** - Missoula Aging Services

A reminder that AFP Montana offers CFRE credit for all educational programs, and we hope to see you at our Annual Educational Summit, October 22–23 in Billings, focused on Planned Giving and Donor Advised Funds.

Congratulations on this well-deserved achievement!

Member Benefit Spotlight



The Value of AFP Membership

One of the greatest strengths of AFP membership is the depth of support it offers fundraisers at every stage of their careers. From professional development and research to mentorship, networking, and practical tools you can use right away, AFP provides a community and a set of resources designed to help you grow and succeed in this work.

Below are highlights of some of the many benefits available to AFP members.

The Value of AFP Membership

As a fundraiser, you need a roadmap for success. The good news? You don't have to do it alone. AFP is here to be YOUR support system.

How can AFP support you?

Community
 Latest Trends & Best Practices
 Valuable Guidance
 Leadership

AFP Membership Types*:

- Professional:** Our most popular membership type, filled with valuable benefits.
- Young Professional:** For fundraising professionals who are 30 years old or younger and work within the U.S. and Canada.
- Associate:** Available to individuals or volunteers who are engaged in fields related to fundraising and fundraising support or have mutual interests with fundraising professionals.
- Large Nonprofit Organizational Membership:** Offered to nonprofit organizations who wish to have multiple members (minimum of 5) in the association. Transferable within the organization.
- Small Nonprofit Organizational Membership:** Offered to nonprofit organizations who have an operating budget of less than \$2,000,000 and less than two full time staff.

*other membership types available at afpglobal.org/membership

Learn more and join today!

The Value of AFP Membership

What are 10 of the most valuable resources included with AFP membership?

INCLUDED with membership	50+ Complimentary Webinars each year, plus access to our member-exclusive webinar archive, nearly all worth CFRE education credit.
INCLUDED with membership	Access to AFP360® powered by Korn Ferry Advance, our online career development platform offering you interview tips, resume review and more.
INCLUDED with membership	\$100 Education Credit valid on archived webinars, the Fundamentals of Fundraising eCourse, and conference recordings through the AFP Blue Sky/Path Learning Management System (LMS). Learn more at afpglobal.org/thankyou
INCLUDED with membership	Access to AFP Connect, our award-winning online forum where thousands of fundraisers interact, ask questions and provide answers.
INCLUDED with membership	Affinity Group Meetings, held both virtually and in-person at AFP ICON, connecting you with fellow fundraisers making great impact. Affinity Groups include Black/African American, Latinx, LGBTQ+ and more.
INCLUDED with membership	Ground-Breaking Research, including the first comprehensive study of its kind about sexual harassment in the fundraising profession and subsequent toolkit: "How to Prevent and Deal with Sexual Harassment in Fundraising."
INCLUDED with membership	Compensation and Benefits Report Data, refreshed each year, providing salary and benefits benchmarks for the fundraising sector.
INCLUDED with membership	Mentoring Program Opportunities to connect you with seasoned fundraisers who have been in your shoes and can help guide you to success.
INCLUDED with membership	Introductory-level fundraising courses through Blackbaud University covering the basics of fundraising, marketing and more.
DISCOUNTED with membership	Registration on all of AFP's premium offerings including AFP Deep Dive virtual workshops, AFP ICON—the world's largest fundraising conference, AFP LEAD—our annual leadership conference, and more!

Learn more and join today!

Explore AFP's Benefits & Resources

Curious About Serving on the AFP-MT Board?

Serving on the AFP Board is rewarding and can be a lot of fun, too! AFP Montana is run by a volunteer board, and we are always looking for new talent and fresh ideas to join our amazing Board of Directors or serve on one of our committees. In true Montana fashion, we believe in pulling up an extra chair—membership scholarships may be available for those looking to engage.

If you are interested in learning more, [send us an email anytime](#). And if you're ready, you can submit your application today!

Apply for Board Membership



Some of the links below may require active AFP membership and login to AFP Global.

- 4/1/26 [Working Parent & Caregivers Affinity Group Meeting](#)
- 4/1/26 [Environmental Affinity Group Meeting](#)
- 4/2/26 [Ready, Set, Now? How To Know You're Ready for A Campaign](#)

- (sponsored webinar)
- 4/6/26 [Emerging Leaders Affinity Group](#)
- 4/6/26 [AFP Deep Dive - Donor Retention: A Self-Assessment Workshop \(2-day series\)](#)
- 4/7/26 [Montana Nonprofit Association 2026 Montana Fundraising Summit](#)
- 4/8/26 [AFP Webinar - Unlocking Year-Round Generosity: The Journey from Events to Annual Gifts](#)
- 4/8/26 [Development Operations Affinity Group Meeting](#)
- 4/11/26 [Montana Nonprofit Association - Board Orientation Basics](#)
- 4/13/26 [AFP Deep Dive AFP Deep Dive: MORE Major Gifts \(2-Day Series\)](#)
- 4/15/26 [Avoiding the Plateau: How to Build a Growth Engine that Avoids Stall Outs](#) (sponsored webinar)
- 4/16/26 [Maximizing Major Gift Officer Success: Strategies for Relationship Management](#) (sponsored webinar)
- 4/16/26 [New Member Orientation](#) (member login required to access)
- 4/17/26 [AFP Las Vegas CFRE Refresher Course \(in person & online\)](#)
- 4/25/26 [AFP ICON begins!](#)
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