

Dear Montana AGATE Members,

New Year's greetings from Montana AGATE! I hope that your new year finds you rested after the Holidays and rejuvenated for the final semester of this school year. Not only does the new year bring a chance for re-prioritizing and analyzing goals, but it also is the time that AGATE Board members dig in for the final plans for our conference. So, this is an informational newsletter, not inspirational.

Our 37th annual conference will be held in Missoula at the Holiday Inn Downtown on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Educators, administrators and parents will be inspired and informed by [Ginger Lewman](#) and [Dr. Thomas Hebert](#) as well as other presenters over the two days.

- **TH: Ginger Lewman**--Learners, Makers and Doers, Customizing Learning for Student Strengths: lessons learned from gifted education, and Teaching High Ability Kids in Today's Mixed Ability Classrooms
- **FRI: Dr. Tom Hebert**--Insights Inspired by Gifted Students' Life Stories, Educators Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Gifted Students, and Biography 101 for Gifted Teens: Supporting Social and Emotional Development

**The discounted price of \$179 (including lunch both days) is available through January 15th so register soon!** After Jan 15, the cost is \$209/person. There is no "bring 3, the 4th is \$60" option this year. If you are staying at the hotel, call by January 30 and ask for the AGATE rate (\$92 + tax): (406) 532-2059.

We are fortunate again this year to be able to offer 20 preservice teachers (college students majoring in education) from Region V the opportunity to come to the conference FREE OF CHARGE. This opportunity is made possible due to a private anonymous donation. Check the AGATE website for the application. Preservice teachers outside of Region V may apply as well. If we do not get enough applications from Region V, we will take preservice teachers from other institutions of higher education. The five Regions can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Visit our [conference page](#) for more information regarding registration, presenting, fee waivers for superintendents, legislators, preservice teachers, school board members, and parents, as well as for being a vendor.

## Legislation

WONDERFUL NEWS!! Parents across the state as well as Montana AGATE Board Members have been emailing, have had face-to-face visits, and have given public comment over the course of the year with members of the Interim School Funding Commission. **The Interim School Funding Commission recommended that the state put forth \$2.5 million over the biennium for the gifted education grants available through OPI.** [Click here](#) to read more about this exciting development and what you can do to help!

### *Required Items in the Winter Newsletter*

*And, a bit of business. As per our Bylaws, the annual business meeting for all Montana AGATE members is hereby announced:*

- 4:15 PM March 3, 2017*
- Holiday Inn Downtown*
- 200 S Pattee St*
- Missoula, MT 59802*
- Room: TBD*

*Finally, at the general business meeting, the proposed budget and the slate of officers will be voted on.*

*2017 Slate of Officers--2 year terms*

<i>President Elect:</i>	<i>Holly Kincaid</i>	<i>Great Falls</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Bonnie Speas</i>	<i>Livingston</i>
<i>Region I:</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	
<i>Region II:</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	

## Montana AGATE Board

**OPEN positions:** Contact Terri Porisch for more information on joining our board!

President: Terri Porisch <a href="mailto:MTGifted@gmail.com">MTGifted@gmail.com</a>	President-Elect: Estee Aiken <a href="mailto:Estee.Aiken@umwestern.edu">Estee.Aiken@umwestern.edu</a>
Treasurer: Joe Helbling <a href="mailto:joehelbling09@gmail.com">joehelbling09@gmail.com</a>	Secretary: Karlina Popwell <a href="mailto:positivelycomplexlyintense@gmail.com">positivelycomplexlyintense@gmail.com</a>
Region I Rep: <b>Open</b>	Region II Rep: Mary Rearden <a href="mailto:rearden.mary@gmail.com">rearden.mary@gmail.com</a>
Region III Rep: Darla Williams <a href="mailto:teacheachchild@gmail.com">teacheachchild@gmail.com</a>	Region IV: Lisa Heitt <a href="mailto:lheitt@clancy.K12.mt.us">lheitt@clancy.K12.mt.us</a>
Region V Rep: Shirley Lindburg <a href="mailto:salindburg@mcps.k12.mt.us">salindburg@mcps.k12.mt.us</a>	Newsletter Editor: <b>OPEN</b>
Outreach Chair: Kathy Dunn <a href="mailto:kathydunn@att.net">kathydunn@att.net</a>	SAT Chair: Joette Speake <a href="mailto:Joette.speake@colstrip.k12.us">Joette.speake@colstrip.k12.us</a>
Signatures Liaison: Mandy Maass	Education Chair: Tracy Missett <a href="mailto:tracy.missett@mso.umt.edu">tracy.missett@mso.umt.edu</a>
OPI GT Liaison: Michael Hall <a href="mailto:mhall@mt.gov">mhall@mt.gov</a>	Historian Chair: Daisy Carlsmith <a href="mailto:director@wmplc.org">director@wmplc.org</a>
Public Relations Chair: <b>Open</b>	Parent Involvement Chair: Karlina Popwell <a href="mailto:positivelycomplexlyintense@gmail.com">positivelycomplexlyintense@gmail.com</a>
Membership Chair: <b>Open</b>	Legislative Chair: Gayle Roege <a href="mailto:gayle@roege.net">gayle@roege.net</a>
Webmaster/Technology Chair: Marci Brodock <a href="mailto:marci_brodock@gfps.k12.mt.us">marci_brodock@gfps.k12.mt.us</a>	Facebook administrator: Marci Brodock <a href="mailto:marci_brodock@gfps.k12.mt.us">marci_brodock@gfps.k12.mt.us</a>
Publicity Chair: <b>Open</b>	

Montana AGATE looks forward to seeing you for a fabulous conference in Missoula! Thank you for your interest and passion for gifted children and education.

Appreciatively,

Terri Porisch  
 President, Montana AGATE  
 mtgifted@gmail.com

\*Montana AGATE has five membership regions in the state. Each region is comprised of several counties. Following is a list of Regional Membership. Regional membership aligns with the five Regional Service Agencies.

<b>REGION I</b>	<b>REGION II</b>	<b>REGION III</b>	<b>REGION IV</b>	<b>REGION V</b>
Carter	Blaine	Big Horn	Beaverhead	Flathead
Custer	Cascade	Carbon	Broadwater	Lake
Daniels	Chouteau	Golden Valley	Deer Lodge	Lincoln
Dawson	Fergus	Musselshell	Gallatin	Mineral
Fallon	Glacier	Stillwater	Granite	Missoula
Garfield	Hill	Sweet Grass	Jefferson	Ravalli
McCone	Judith Basin	Wheatland	Lewis and Clark	Sanders
Phillips	Liberty	Yellowstone	Madison	
Powder River	Petroleum		Meagher	
Prairie	Pondera		Park	
Richland	Teton		Powell	
Roosevelt	Toole		Silver Bow	
Rosebud				
Sheridan				
Treasure				
Valley				
Wibaux				