

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Boise Welcomes the Far West Ski Association 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Community Invited to Attend**

**Boise, ID (Feb 2)** - The Far West Ski Association (FWSA) invites all snowsports enthusiasts to attend its 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, to be conducted at the Boise Centre, June 7-11, 2017. Activities open to the public during the event include a Fountain Party on Friday on the newly reconstructed Grove Plaza, Silent Auction and Trade Show, Saturday Program, and Awards Banquet.

The Far West Ski Association is a volunteer, non-profit organization representing 150 affiliated ski clubs located throughout nine regional councils in the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Delegates will convene at the Convention, hosted by the Bogus Basin Ski Club and the Intermountain Ski Council. They will meet to discuss programs in public affairs, skier safety, ski heritage, athletic scholarships, racing, communications, travel, council development, ski industry and community outreach.

The Fountain Party on Friday afternoon (4:00-6:30 pm) on The Grove Plaza will be a community event, and Bogus Basin will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Fountain Party is being sponsored by Bogus Basin Ski Resort and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. Entertainment will be provided by the Boise Rock School on stage, and wine and microbrew tasting will be available. An introduction to some of the local culture will be provided by a performance by the OIN Kari Basque Dancers.

The Keynote Speaker and special guest to this year's Convention is Charlie Linville. Charlie, a Boise native, became the first military amputee to summit Mount Everest in 2016. After two failed attempts in 2014 (avalanche) and 2015 (earthquake), he conquered the summit. Former Staff Sgt. Linville praises the "Hero's Project," a group that helps wounded veterans, and the Vail Veterans Program for showing him how much he could do with his life. Charlie will be available Friday evening, June 9, at the FWSA's Silent Auction and Trade Show, immediately following the Fountain Party.

Silent Auction attendees can bid on more than \$85,000 in ski and travel packages. The event is open to the public and there is no cost for admittance. A Welcome Party will begin at 6:30 pm, sponsored by Aspen Skiing Company / Snowmass Tourism, with wine service sponsored by Telluride Ski Resort. Also scheduled to attend the Convention will be Billy Kidd, Olympic Silver Medalist and currently Director of Skiing at Steamboat Ski Resort. A portion of the proceeds from the Silent Auction will benefit the College of Idaho Ski Team.

On Saturday, June 10, Charlie will be presenting his Keynote Speech to the assembled delegates, industry representatives, and guests. A Day Program is available, from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm. For the special price of \$50, you can attend the Travel Expo with snowsports industry representatives, luncheon, Keynote Speaker presentation, the FWSA Snowsports Leadership Academy and Public Affairs Panel sessions. The Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions will feature topics related to building and sustaining clubs, and ski equipment updates and maintenance. The Public Affairs Panel will consist of special celebrity guests and representatives from the U.S. Forest Service discussing current issues relating to public land development, ski history, ski safety and snowsport legislation.

The Saturday Evening Awards Banquet will recognize outstanding volunteers and industry members. Recipients of this year's Snowsports Builder Awards will be announced in April. Banquet Awards tickets are available for sale.

FWSA is pleased to announce the Boise Convention and Visitor's Bureau as a Gold Sponsor and the Idaho Ski Area Association as a Bronze Sponsor for the Convention. Additional sponsors include: Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine, Big White Ski Resort, Brian Head Resort, Dennis Dillon Auto Group, Holiday Ski Tours, Mammoth Ski Area, Mountain Lodge Telluride, Salt Lake Crystal Inn Hotels & Suites, Ski Dazzle, SkiGroup.Net, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, and Vail Resorts.

Additional information about all the programs to be conducted at the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Far West Ski Association Convention and registration information is available on [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org).

Pictures are available upon request.