

Far West Ski Association Recognizes Doug Pringle, Vern Sprock and Arthur Chelton Leonard with The Snowsports Builder Award

RENO, NEVADA: The Far West Ski Association conducted its 81st Annual Convention and Meeting June 6-9, 2013 at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino in Reno, Nevada, hosted by the Bay Area Snow Sports Council. The Far West Ski Association, founded in 1930, is a volunteer, non-profit organization representing 180 affiliated ski clubs located throughout eleven regional councils in the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Association conducts active programs in public affairs, skier safety, ski heritage, athletics, racing, communications, travel, council development, ski industry and community outreach. In addition to the 225 ski club delegates attending the annual meeting, about 100 ski and sports industry representatives participated in the weekend's events.

The 28th Annual Silent Auction on Friday evening raised over \$36,000 to support FWSA programs. The highest bidders purchased ski trips, golf and adventure trips, and sports and recreational equipment. Saturday morning's Travel Expo enabled industry representatives to meet with travel decision makers from the Association's clubs and councils. Saturday afternoon was dedicated to a presentation by **Candace Cable**, former US Paralympian with twelve Paralympic medals including eight Gold Medals. The key presenters in the Public Affairs panel were: **Bill Clark**, Executive Director of the Western SkiSport Museum; **Billy Kidd**, 1964 Olympic Silver Medalist; **Wayne Wong**, recent inductee into the US Ski Hall of Fame; **Dave Ludwig**, founder of "Hope on the Slopes"; **Doug Pringle**, President of Disabled Sports USA Far West Division; and Val Rios from the 10th Mountain Division. Bids were presented to the FWSA Travel Committee for selection of the 2015 FWSA Ski Week with the result to be announced later in the summer. The 2014 FWSA Ski Week will be held in Beaver Creek, Colorado, January 25 - February 1.

Annual recognition awards were presented to members of the ski industry, media, volunteers, racing leagues, councils, and ski clubs. Industry Awards were presented: the FWSA Tommi Tyndall Award for Outstanding Ski Industry Contribution, to **Mt. Bachelor**; the FWSA Bill Mackey Award for Outstanding Ski Industry Employee, to **Brandon Bang** of Big Sky; and the FWSA Jimmie Heuga Award for Outstanding Humanitarian, to **Fred Noble**. The FWSA Bill Berry Award for Hard News was presented to **Sylas Wright** Sports Editor for the "Sierra Sun." The FWSA Warren Miller Modern Media Award was presented to **William A. Kerig & Whitney Childers** for their movie "Ready to Fly". The FWSA Snowsports Builder Award was presented to: **Doug Pringle**, President of Disabled Sports USA Far West Division; **Vern Sprock**, founder of Sierra Ski Ranch, and **Arthur Chelton Leonard**, 10th Mountain Division veteran and major contributor to Reno/Tahoe skiing.

Bill Clark, Executive Director of the Auburn Ski Club, received the FWSA Hans Georg Award for long-term service to organized skiing. Other volunteers receiving recognition awards included: the FWSA Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award for a decisive contribution to skiing to **Nancy Ellis** (Truckee, CA); the FWSA J. Stanley Mullin Award for a decisive contribution to skiing to **Bob Ellis** (Truckee, CA); the FWSA Jordan-Reily Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Affairs, to **Judy Dorsey**, President of the Brendle Group; and the Terry Smith Award for greatly contributing to the advancement of intramural skiing to **Ken Kawahara** of Los Angeles Council ULLR Race League (Mammoth Lakes, CA). The FWSA Council's Man & Woman of the Year program, sponsored by Big White, recognized **Jennifer Milstein** of Bay Area Snow Sports Council and **Dale Parshall** of Northwest Ski Club Council. FWSA Presidents Awards were given to **Catherine Ohl** (San Diego, CA), **Jane Wyckoff** (Irvine, CA), **Ted Ligety** (US Ski Team) and **Mikaela Shiffrin** (US Ski Team).

The Tollakson Award for the Outstanding Ski Club was presented to Reno Ski & Recreation Club for Class AAA and Pacific Rim Alliance for Class AA. The Wentworth Award for the Outstanding Publication was presented to Reno Ski & Recreation Club (Class AAA), Pacific Rim Alliance (Class AA) and to The Unrecables (Class A). The Outstanding Website Awards were given to: Mountain High Snowsports Club (Class AAA); Fresno Ski Club (Class AA) and to Skiyente Ski Club (Class A). Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs received the Outstanding Council Publication Award and Northwest Ski Club Council received the Outstanding Council Website Award. The FWSA Charity & Community Service Recognition was presented to Fresno Ski Club (Fresno, CA) and Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs.

Special presentations were made to **Gordon Lusk** (Beaverton, OR) for the FWSA Safety Person of the Year Award, sponsored by Aspen/Snowmass with lodging provided by The Gant and the Crestwood Resort Condominiums. The FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award, sponsored by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, was presented to **Ingrid Wicken** (Norco, CA).

Elections were held at Sunday's General Session. FWSA Officers for 2013 – 2014 are:

President, **Linda Scott** (Cheyenne, WY)
Past President **Randy Lew** (Wilsonville, OR)
Secretary, **Wanda Ross** (Cupertino, CA)
Treasurer, **Linda Coxen** (West Linn, OR)
Chairperson Board of Trustees, **Linda Westlund** (Scottsdale, AZ)
VP Communications, **Jim Nachbar** (Scottsdale, AZ)
VP Council Services, **Jo Simpson** (Reno, NV)
VP Marketing, **Debbi Kor** (Vancouver, WA)
VP Membership, **Mary Azevedo** (Walnut Creek, CA)
VP Public Affairs, **Mike Sanford** (San Diego, CA)
VP North American Travel, **Nancy Ellis** (Truckee, CA)
VP International Travel, **Debbie Stewart** (Visalia, CA)
VP Racing, **Bob Ellis** (Truckee CA)
Trustee, **Steve Coxen** (West Linn, OR)
Trustee, **David Krupp** (Santa Monica, CA)
Trustee, **Jane Wyckoff** (Irvine, CA).

The Far West Ski Association is appreciative of the many sponsors who are a big part of the success of the FWSA Annual Convention. Sponsors included: **Aspen / Snowmass; Coast Blackcomb Suites at Whistler, Big White Ski Resort** (BC, Canada), **Brian Head Resort, Fairmont Chateau Whistler, Great Basin Brewing Company** (Sparks, NV) **Grouse Mountain Lodge** (Whitefish, MT), **Holidaze Ski Tours, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Jackson Hole Resort Lodging, Mammoth Mountain Resort, Mt Bachelor, Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge** (Sun Peaks, BC), **Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority; Schure Sports** (Ontario Canada), **Ski.com, Ski Dazzle, Ski Group.Net, Snowmass Tourism, Sports America Tours, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, Sunriver Resort, Taos Ski Valley Resort, Telluride Ski Resort, Vail Resorts - Heavenly, Northstar, Kirkwood, Vail, Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Keystone; Whistler/Blackcomb, Whitefish Mountain Resort, Wyle Aerospace Group, and Bay Area Snow Sports Council.**

The 82nd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention is scheduled for June 12-15, 2014 at The Riverhouse, Resort Hotel & Conference Center in Bend, Oregon, hosted by the Northwest Ski Club Council. For additional information regarding the Far West Ski Association, please visit www.fwsa.org.