

Application for Visit Southeast Montana Board Membership

Name: Randy Schoppe
Title: Executive Director
Company: Big Horn County Historical Museum
Mailing Address: 1163 3rd St. East
City: Hardin
Zip Code: 59034
Phone (406): 665-1671
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Email: director@bighorncountymuseum.org
County: Big Horn

There shall be up to one representative from each county on the Board. That representative must reside in that county. There shall be up to one representative from each Indian Reservation. That representative must reside on that reservation and be an enrolled member of that tribe. There may never be more than three voting members from any one county or reservation. This will ensure a balanced board that is representative of the region in its decision making.

Check one:

I am the owner/manager of my organization and am able to participate in all Visit Southeast Montana activities at will.

I am not the owner/manager of my organization. Participation in Visit Southeast Montana activities (board meetings, travel, etc) must be approved by another person. Realizing the time commitment and expenses required to be a board member, I have attached a letter from my owner/manager supporting my participation and allowing me to travel during work hours.

I am a resident of, and will represent the COUNTY/RESERVATION of (check one only):

Crow Northern Cheyenne Big Horn Carter
 Custer Dawson Fallon Golden Valley
 Musselshell Powder River Prairie Rosebud
 Treasure Yellowstone Wibaux

Please provide a short biography and career history (may be in the form of an attached resume).

I have been a resident of Big Horn County since 1996. I have been employed by the Big Horn County Museum since Sept 2013; first as a restoration technician, and then as director beginning in August 2017. I have been Senior Pastor of New Life Church in Hardin from 1996 to current. Past responsibilities have included being Board Chairman of the Helping Hands of Hardin Foodbank from 2001 to 2007, and director of the same foodbank from 2009 to 2013.

Prior to moving to Hardin, I was a Detention Sergeant at the Campbell County Sheriff's Department in Gillette, WY from 1987-1996. I served in the US Air Force from 1977-1980.

Please briefly describe your past and present involvement in the tourism industry and how this background can be utilized to fulfill the mission of Southeast Montana (other tourism association and industry involvement, relevant experience through your career, etc)

Presently, as the director of the BHCM, I have moved the museum into a much larger presence on the internet through social media, business and travel websites. I believe this is the future of surviving as an attraction, especially for those of us with limited advertising budgets. Social media can be used to increase awareness of what our area has to offer and showcase our vast cultural heritage.

Please provide a short synopsis explaining why you would make a good director (leadership skills, knowledge of the region, etc)

I have been involved in the leadership of non-profits for the past 25 years. I led the development of the local food bank from a 900 sq. ft. facility with an annual operating budget of \$10,000 to a 3000 sq.ft. facility with a \$60,000 budget and multiple programs. I have overseen the growth of Hardin New Life Church from a handful of people to a vibrant, multi-cultural congregation with multiple outreaches on two reservations. My time with the museum is too short to take stock of achievements, but the morale of the staff and volunteers is good, and people feel good about where we are going and what we are doing.

Please address your ability to manage the time commitment required to participate on the Visit Southeast Montana board. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the board member. Does your employer actively support your participation and allow time away from work?

I see no difficulty in making time for the board meetings. The board of directors of the museum support my application for the board.

Please attach letters of support from your local chamber, county or city government, attractions and other industry partners that will show support for your application.

Return this application to: john@billingschamber.com; fax 245-7333
Visit Southeast Montana; PO Box 31177, Billings, MT 59107-1177
406-869-3720