

Glacier Symphony and Chorale Press Release
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Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras taps Whitefish resident Bob Blickenstaff as the 2012 Volunteer of the Year for his exemplary contributions to Glacier Symphony and Chorale

Whitefish resident, Bob Blickenstaff was recently tapped by the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras as its 2012 Volunteer of the Year for his exemplary contributions to the Glacier Symphony and Chorale.

GSC Executive Director, Alan Satterlee, announced the award from the stage at the music organization's February concert lauding Blickenstaff for his unprecedented contributions to a newly established fundraising endeavor called the Silver Season Campaign.

Satterlee explained that though Blickenstaff had only been a GSC board member a short time he volunteered in 2006 to take on the task of directing the Silver Season Campaign when he had essentially no fundraising experience at all. "He then led the 5-year fundraising effort that has raised over \$1.4 million for the GSC during that period."

As a member of the GSC's Finance/Endowment, Strategic Planning, and Development committees, Satterlee said Blickenstaff has been an exemplary board member of the GSC for six years, taking a leadership role in a number of areas.

"Bob is one of those 'follow-through' kind of guys who takes on a task, then figures out how to do it. He is also a heck of an advocate for the Arts."

Satterlee said that because of the success of the Silver Season Campaign the organization has grown their annual budget from \$380,000 to over \$610,000, tripling the amount of funds spent on compensating local volunteer musicians, establishing a more permanent office facility on

Main Street in Kalispell, strengthening the administrative and marketing arms of the organization, establishing Festival Amadeus, the only week long classical music festival in Montana and surrounding states, and growing the GSC endowment from \$300,000 to over \$400,000.

“This is particularly amazing in light of the economic downturn that occurred in the fall of 2008,” Satterlee exclaimed, adding that “Bob’s leadership energized the Board of Directors and his strong leadership and participation have made an impact on the GSC which will last for years to come.””

Over the past 30 years, other Flathead-based recipients of this award have been Connie Heckathorn of Whitefish, Martha Groenke of Bigfork, and Wilson Higgs of Kalispell.

Bob and his wife Rebecca moved to Whitefish in 2005 after his retirement from a successful career with DuPont. He holds a Bachelors of Science degree from Princeton University in Chemical Engineering and a Masters of Science degree from Northwestern University, also in Chemical Engineering. He served as Lieutenant in the US Army in Viet Nam. After the war, he joined Dupont and was a manager at various levels in the company, including holding the position of CEO of DuPont Philippines and the general manager of Lanxide, a subsidiary of DuPont.

Bob’s community service has been extensive throughout his life. He served on the Parents' Committee at Tower Hill School in Wilmington, Delaware, and was founder of Student Union, a program for high school kids in Delaware to promote alcohol-free parties. He was on the Alumni Schools Committee of Princeton University, interviewing potential candidates for admission, and was Head of the Building Campaign for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Delaware. Presently he is a volunteer judge with Speech and Debate in high schools in Flathead County, the head of the Building Committee at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Whitefish and he continues as a board member of the Glacier Symphony and Chorale.

Bob is available for a profile interview. Please contact Marti Kurth for information.

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Glacier Symphony and Chorale Mission Statement:

To provide a diverse range of excellent musical experiences in Northwest Montana that inspire, challenge, and educate our musicians, audience, and students.



Bob Blickenstaff accepts the MASO Volunteer of the Year Award from GSC's Alan Satterlee