



MLHA 2026 Annual Conference and Trade Show ***Big Sky, Big Goals***

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

09:00–12:00 pm	MLHA Board of Directors Meeting	Gardner A
12:00-4:00 pm	<i>Exhibitor Set-Up</i>	
12:00-5:00 pm	Registration Open	North Convention Foyer
12:30-2:00 pm	TBID Meeting	Yellowstone
2:00-2:30 pm	First-Time Attendees Orientation	Gardner B & C
2:45–3:30 pm	MSU Hospitality Student Orientation	Gardner B & C
4:00-5:15 pm	Conference Kickoff & Opening General Session Welcome Remarks: Hon. Mike Nelson, Mayor of Billings Big Sky Premier Sponsor Comments Invited Keynote Speaker: Mandy Murry, Murry Hotel Advisory & Stewardship ENHANCING THE GUEST JOURNEY <i>Sponsored by Stockman Bank</i>	Jefferson
6:30-9:00 pm	Trade Show Grand Opening & Reception Vendor Booth Decorating Contest: “Your Favorite Place in Montana” Costume Contest: “Characters from Montana’s History” “Grazing Table,” Brownie Sundae Bar & Full Bar <i>Sponsored by Stockman Bank</i>	Madison
9:00-10:00 pm	Montana History Team Trivia Event <i>Join your fellow conference attendees in testing your knowledge. Facilitated by Montana Historical Society Staff</i>	R Club(Lounge)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

7:00 am -12:00 pm	Registration Open	North Convention Foyer
7:30-8:30 am	Breakfast in the Tradeshow	Madison/Jefferson
9:00-10:30 am	General Session – Wednesday Wake Up Session Speaker: Karen Miller, Kaleidoscope Group THE SCIENCE OF MAKING MAGICAL MOMENTS	Jefferson
10:30 am	Break in Trade Show	Madison

10:45-11:45 am	Breakout Session I: LEADING WITH THE BRAIN Karen Miller, Kaleidoscope Group MANAGING THROUGH CHAOS Justin Lewis, Former Director of Operations and Development For Timberline Hospitality PRACTICAL AI FOR HOSPITALITY LEADERS: REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS FOR HOTEL AND LODGING OPERATIONS Conor Smith, CEO, First Call Computer Solutions	Big Horn Gardner A & B Yellowstone
	Stop by the Trade Show – Last Chance to Submit for Drawings	
12:00-1:45 pm	Montana Tourism Luncheon Presentation of the Allied Member of the Year Award Vendor Drawing Presenters include Dax Schieffer, Voices of Montana Tourism <i>MLHA Welcomes Montana Legislators and Legislative Candidates</i>	Jefferson
2:00 pm	Trade Show Closes: Exhibitor Tear Down	
2:15-3:15 pm	Breakout Session II THE LEADERSHIP COMPASS: Justin Lewis, Former Director of Operations and Development for Timberline Hospitality APPLYING AI IN HOSPITALITY: Conor Smith, CEO, First Call Computer Solutions SALES AND MARKETING COUNCIL MEETING	Yellowstone Big Horn Gardner A & B
3:15 -3:30 pm	Refreshment Break	
3:30-5:00 pm	Afternoon Session: Closing Speaker LEADING THROUGH FIRE: Nichole Mehling, President, Billings Clinic Foundation	Jefferson
6:30-9:00 pm	Hospitality Awards Banquet Law Enforcement Honor Guard Presentation MLHA Awards Cocktails at 6:30 pm, Guests Seated at 7:00 pm Photo Booth 6:00 – 9:00 pm	Jefferson

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

8:00-9:00 am	Breakfast	Jefferson
9:00 -12:00 pm	MLHA Membership Meeting/Conference Closing • State of the Association & Introduction of MLHA's 2026-2029 • Strategic Plan – Whitney Bergmann, MLHA Chair • Legislative Update – Melissa Shannon, Benchmark Public Affairs • Proposed Amendments to the MLHA Bylaws • STR Update – Michael Stathokostopoulos, Senior Director of Hospitality Analytics, CoStar Group • Presentation of 2028 Conference RFP's	Jefferson

- Presentations from Officer and Board of Directors' Candidates
- Selection of 2028 Fall Conference Host Property and Location
- Officer and Board Elections
- Raffle Drawing

Next General Membership Meeting – October 14, 2027, Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell