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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Reno Welcomes the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Far West Ski Association Convention**

**Reno, Nevada (May 21, 2013)** - The Far West Ski Association (FWSA) invites the community to participate in its 81st Annual Convention to be held at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, June 6-9, 2013. The Far West Ski Association is a volunteer, non-profit organization representing 180 affiliated ski clubs located throughout 11 regional councils in 13 western states. FWSA conducts programs in public affairs, skier safety, ski heritage, athletics, racing, communications, travel, council development, ski industry and community outreach.

The Silent Auction/Dance will take place on Friday, June 7 at 6:30 pm in the Reno Ballroom. The snowsports industry trade show event is free and open to the public. Attendees can bid on sports gear as well as more than \$100,000 in ski and travel packages. Guests will mingle with snowsports celebrities and representatives from local and regional ski clubs. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the *Disabled Sports USA Far West Snowsports Program*.

A Day Program will take place on Saturday, June 8 from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm. The special price of \$50 includes: Travel Expo, luncheon, multi-media presentation, FWSA Snowsports Leadership Academy, and panel sessions including public affairs. Representatives from the snowsports industry will be discussing current issues relating to public land development, ski history, ski safety and snowsport legislation.

Special guests slated to participate in the event include: Billy Kidd, 1964 Olympic Silver Medalist; Candace Cable, US Disabled Ski Team, Paralympic Medalist; Dave Ludwig, founder of Hope on the Slopes (HOTS); Wayne Wong, Pioneer of Freestyle Skiing; Syllas Wright, Sports Editor, Sierra Sun Newspaper; Bill Clark, Executive Director, Western SkiSport Museum; Val Rios, President, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Association-Sierra Nevada Chapter; Bill Dunkleberger, Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest; Lila Lapanja, US Ski Team; and Kayleigh MacGregor, Mammoth Mountain Ski Team. Honored for outstanding contributions to snowsports with the Snowsports Builder Award will be: Vern Sprock, Owner and Operator, Sierra Ski Ranch; Doug Pringle, pioneer in Disabled Sports USA; and Arthur Chelton Leonard, UNR Ski Racing Coach, Official and 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division veteran.

Sponsors of the event include Aspen/Snowmass; Aspen Skiing Company; Big White Ski Resort; Brian Head Ski Resort; Coast Blackcomb Suites at Whistler; Great Basin Brewing Company; Holiday Ski Tours; Jackson Hole Mountain Resort; Jackson Hole Resort Lodging; Mammoth Mountain Ski Area; Mt. Bachelor; Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge; Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority; Ski Dazzle; Ski.Com; SkiGroup.Net; Snowmass Tourism; Sports America; Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation; Sunriver Resort; Taos Ski Valley Resort, The Crestwood, The Fairmont Hotel & Resorts; The Gant; Whistler Blackcomb and Vail Resorts.

For additional information about the FWSA Convention and registration, visit [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org).