

How to . . .

RUN for Office



One-day course to help you campaign

Okay, so you probably won't get the Oprah endorsement, but that doesn't mean you can't make a decent run for office. You can sign up for the Campaign Academy at one of four Montana cities in February and learn the basics of making a credible run for office.

Pat Ingraham of Thompson Falls won election in 2006 to the Montana House from District 13. She learned not to be afraid of journalists.

"The media can be overwhelming," she said. "I learned they were not dangerous. You could earn their respect and get coverage."

It doesn't matter what office you might be interested in, from city council on up. Montana Supreme Court

Justice Patricia Cotter is a graduate of the Academy. Campaign staffers can attend.

The one-day course covers writing a campaign plan, fund-raising, election and finance laws, commercials and working with the media and getting out the vote.

Sponsored by the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, The Montana Chamber of Commerce and the Montana Credit Union Network, the nonpartisan Academy is a service to Montanans to encourage participation in the political process. The fee of \$35 covers the cost of materials, including a take-home binder with checklists and resources. Lunch is included in the fee.

Webb Brown, CEO of the

Montana Chamber of Commerce said, "The course helps you structure your race instead of just winging it."

Jesse O'Hara of Great Falls has been to the Academy twice, once early in his career before serving in the Montana Legislature. And before a successful run for HD 18 in 2006 after a long hiatus from politics. He said, "The course is a real common sense approach to the process of getting into the political arena."

The bottom line for Ingraham is taking action, she said. "Things we may not like won't change unless somebody steps up to the plate. The process does work, and I'm proud to have played a part in it."



Rep. Pat Ingraham



Rep. Jesse O'Hara



Name: _____

Office sought: _____

Academy city: _____

Home phone: _____

Office phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return this form and enclose your registration fee of *\$35.

Mail to: Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association,
 Attention: Sharon McDonald, P.O. Box 1306, Great Falls, Montana 59403.
 Phone: (406) 761-8333 • Fax: (406) 761-8339 • Email: sharonm@mtco-ops.com

**Make checks payable to: MECA*

**FEBRUARY 4
 GREAT FALLS**
 Montana Electric
 Cooperatives' Association
 501 Bay Drive

**FEBRUARY 6
 MISSOULA**
 Hilton Garden Inn

**FEBRUARY 7
 BOZEMAN**
 Gallatin Gateway Inn

**FEBRUARY 8
 BILLINGS**
 Hilton Garden Inn

*Registration begins at
 8:30 a.m. — Walk-ins Welcome*