

MONTANA MINING ASSOCIATION

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ANNUAL MEETING REPORT 2009

Drafted June 1, 2009

The 2009 Annual Meeting was held at Fairmont Hot Springs May 26th and 27th. The Board meeting included a report from the newly organized Safety and Health Committee led by Jerry Laughery, and an extensively discussion of the recent “anti mining” article in the Montana Outdoor Magazine put out by Fish Wildlife and Parks. Debbie Shea and Robin McCulloch will be meeting with Director Joe Maurier on Monday June 20th to discuss said article and the many inaccurate pieces within it. The Board meeting was followed by a “Meet and Great” cocktail party poolside.

Saturday’s agenda included a report from President Mike Mullaney who reviewed his past year in office and included his vision for the future of MMA. High on his agenda is increased membership, the resurgence of the Safety and Health Committee (which will include sharing resources, helping smaller companies, an Industrial Hygiene training Network and our relationship with MSHA) and our continued efforts in education.

Debbie Shea gave the following report:

"It’s been a great year working on behalf of the Montana Mining Association. I am continually being educated and love the challenge it presents me. I want to thank my side kick her for all of her wonderful work. As you know Debra works part time for the Association and crams a lot of work into those hours. This past year she finished up

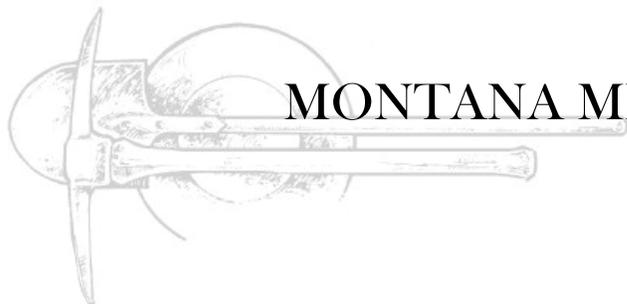
with some schooling she has been pursuing with straight A’s. I have a little something for her and I know you all join me in thanking her for all of her hard work.

Over the last year we have, as an association, had several journeys.

We continued in our efforts to educate Montanan’s about mining. We have gone into the schools and given presentations, worked with Provider Pals to tell our story and support students in the state and visited with Congressional leaders, State officials and communities, not only about mining’s importance in this state, but about our environmental leadership. Our scholarships continue to be active. We have formed a partnership with Montana Tech Endowment Foundation and this year will again be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships. We also have our Mike Ivins Scholarship which has afforded a Montana grade school student the opportunity to travel as a mining ambassador to the inner city and share our world with them.

We have welcomed several new members this past year including the Ravalli Victor Chapter. We are putting together a state wide sweep to bring more Associate members into our Association.

As an association we have been proactive with the new wilderness issue in both the Beaverhead Deerlodge Partnership plan as well as the Forest Service Plan. We have spoke and quite frankly people have



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listened. We will continue in our efforts regarding that issue and any issue that will shut out exploration and mining. We are the Treasure State.

Once again the Montana mining magazine has been published and distributed. There is great and informative reading from cover to cover and this year's cover picture is from Revett Genesis, very beautiful. We are very proud of our publication and thank all our many advertisers. If you haven't received a copy pick one up here and make certain we have your name and address for next year.

Debra continues with her wonderful work with our WEB site. In April we launched a redesigned website to better serve all of you. New features include both industry and Legislative News boxes on the homepage for instant updates and an enhanced Membership Directory with better search functions. Of course it is all Greek to me, but thanks to Debra Pitassy we are up and moving in the 21st century.

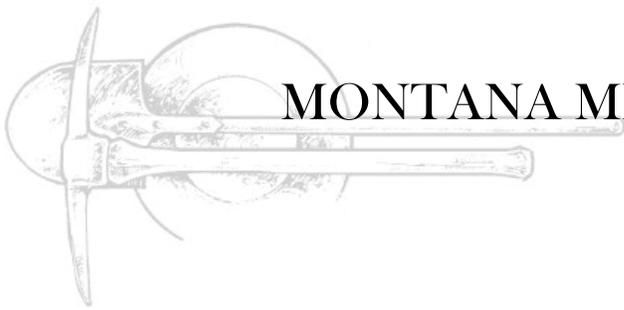
As an industry we have been proactive over the last several decades in working with the agency and communities to ensure our position regarding our environmental stewardship of the land. There were several bills this last session that targeted mining but I believe the majority of legislators understand the importance of this industry in our state and so we were able to successfully table negative bills.

A bit more challenging when you are dealing with the legislature is passing

progressive legislation. One area of concern in which we are ever vigilant in addressing is the lengthy process in obtaining a permit. As we know Montana Tunnels shut down basically because a 22 month permitting process took 3 months. Sadly, when it was finally obtained there was not financing available.

We spearheaded this past session, Senate bill 502, sponsored by our good friend Senator Jim Keane. This bill provided an avenue to expedite the permitting process, via an ombudsman, while not compromising any of the review steps or standards. It was with a great deal of work and support that this bill passed out of the senate 50 to 0, with help from many including our good friend Senator Debby Barrett and Senator Kelly Gebhardt. I also want at this time to thank John Shaffer from Montana Tunnels who gave a great account, in his Testimony, of what took place at Tunnels. When SB 502 reached the House Federal Relations and Telecommunication Committee it came under fire and the Chairman of the Committee Rep. Art Noonan decided, although it was a good bill, it really had no purpose as the permitting process was in fact working well. Tell that to the over 200 people that are now out of work from Montana Tunnels.

Another important Bill we devoted a great deal of time to this past session was SB 95 the Temporary Nutrient Criteria Bill. We have a distinguished guest, Bill Thompson, who will share some of his thoughts with us regarding this bill today.



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Finally I would like to say how very impressed I am with how the industry is responding to the economic crises at hand. How hard you all worked to keep operations going and people employed, this happens through wonderful leadership and quality workers. I applaud you all.

Speakers for the morning session included Senator Jim Keane with a legislative report and his thoughts for the future of mining in our great state. Bill Thompson from Hydrometrics Inc. gave insight into HB 95 The Nutrient Criteria Affordability Legislation and the interim group work. Our final speakers were Jerry Loughery and Ron Dorvall discussing MSHA and our Safety and Health committee.

Afternoon activities included 18 holes of golf on the beautiful Fairmont golf course or

an underground mining tour at the World Mining Museum in Butte, Montana.

Our cocktail and dinner get together was at Fairmont, entertainment by Froggy Hull.

We are very grateful for the many vendors who joined us with their wonderful displays. It is a difficult time financially for many and we appreciate their continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Shea
MMA Executive Director