

Mining Times

Executive Director Tom Hopgood

Howdy Members. I hope everyone had a GREAT Thanksgiving. A sense of gratitude has often been hailed as the keystone in a life well-lived. This was recognized by the father of our country, George Washington, who by executive order in 1789 established November as a National Day of Thanksgiving. And so it comes to us, 223 years later, to carry on the tradition and give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy as citizens of the greatest nation in history, as residents of the Treasure State, and as members of an organization that seeks to be of service by advocating for a positive business and regulatory atmosphere, by working in an industry which as a major employer in this state, provides thousands of high paying jobs and millions of dollars in tax

revenues. It is by your efforts we will remain a force for positive change in Montana.

As everyone is aware, a legislative session is upon us. . . and with it comes a great opportunity to express our opinion on public policy that affects our industry. We have made gains in past legislative sessions that we need to protect from erosion by those who would eradicate development in Montana. Additionally, your Legislative and Environment and Land Committees have been developing a strategy and several specific bills which would be conducive to maintaining the viability of the mining industry. Whether we are trying to find a reasonable solution to the problem of water right abandonment, numerical nutrient standards, exempt groundwater development or temporary leased rights, we will no doubt be asking you in the next several months to contact your legislators and let them know how you feel about the issues. As part of our Strategic Plan, we have

worked hard to support those legislators who have supported the MMA in the past and at this point believe the legislature as a whole will at least listen to what we have to say.

Regardless of our success or failure, I would ask all our members to remember we are indeed lucky to be able to express our opinions and participate in our government. Many people in this world do not have the privilege of living in a country where freedom and liberty are more than mere slogans. Let us remember to be grateful at this time of year and always.

Tom Hopgood

Special points of interest:

- > MMA WEBSITE
- > 63rd Legislative Session
- > Committee updates

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Supreme Court Rejects Industry Challenges to Roadless Area

By Ben Geman of The Hill, 10/01/12

The Supreme Court recently let stand an appellate decision upholding the so-called road less rule, which prevents road

construction and timber harvesting on 58.5 million acres of National Forest System lands.

The justices without comment rejected petitions from the state of Wyoming and the mining industry challenging the rule, which

was finalized in January 2001.

The Montana Mining Association Joined several other state mining associations in supporting the Challenge to the Roadless Rule.

2013 Annual Meeting

The 2013 Annual Meeting is fast approaching and is slated for May 29-30th in Butte, Montana. The meeting will be held again at the Butte Copper King hotel. We are looking at this meeting being bigger and better. We will have more available space for vendors and another great

tour is being scheduled. Golf will be held again at the Butte Country Club. Registration packets will go out in March. Early registration packets will be available on the website after the first of the year.

Please mark your calendars and be sure to attend this event. If you have any questions please let

me know at lfeist@montanamining.org.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 7th– 63rd Legislative Session begins

January 8th—Board of Directors Meeting Noon, Helena, MT

January 8th-5:30 PM WETA Legislative Showcase

63rd Legislative Session

The 63rd Legislative Session will kick off January 7th in Helena. Republican's still hold both the House and Senate. Jeff Essman of Billings will be President of the Senate and Mark Blasdel of Somers will be Speaker of the House. Treasure State Resource Industry Associa-

tion (formerly WETA) will again be putting on a legislative showcase on January 8th from 5:30 pm-8:30pm at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel. MMA will be participating in this event with a booth for legislators to become familiar with the organization. If you would like to participate, please contact Mark Lambretch at 406-

443-5541. We hope to see many of you attend this event and get to know the legislators.



2013 Dues

With new adventures means the need for modified dues structure. While some may see no changes in dues, others may see a slight increase. Individual members will see that the Board of Directors has created four individual options for dues. (Basic, Producer Employee, Hobbyist, and Professional categories) Please look over those options and select which best fits the description of your membership.

Strategic Plan Update:

The Board of Directors met in November 2011 and created a Strategic Plan for 2012. Under that plan the five committees of the MMA developed goals to advance both the association and the industry. Goals accomplished to date include: the Ambassador Program that has trained 56 volunteers to go out into Montana communities and educate Montanans about the mining industry, the Website has been revamped with information about mining in Montana both past and present, a new MMA

brochure that presents a clear message about mining in Montana has been produced, an essay contest for eighth grade students around the State of Montana has been started and a new Membership Directory that will be out in the new year. In addition, the MMA Safety Committee has developed an awards program honoring MMA members outstanding safety records, sponsored seminars regarding Core Safety and will be offering quarterly meetings that will benefit all members of the MMA.

Membership Directory

The membership directory is almost complete. We will be unveiling the membership directory in March to all members. The directory is completed and we will be updating it with current information on legislators. We will finalize the directory in January.

You will receive a receipt for payment of your dues along with a copy of the directory.

Thank you to all of you who have turned in your information and also to those who have advertised in this year's directory. We will be updating the membership directory every two years.

Please let the office know if you have any comments or suggestions for the next directory.

MMA'S Website

The MMA's new website has been up for a few months now and is updating often. The history section of the website is changing weekly with new stories, links and tidbits. We have received quite a few new stories and one in particular, My Sweet-

hearts A Mule, is a very neat piece to read.

We are still looking for people to share their stories about mining. If you have an interesting story or a cool website you would like see linked to our website please contact the MMA office.



Committee Updates

Membership Committee:

Happy Holidays!! The membership committee has accomplished two primary goals that were set forth in November of 2011. First, the membership committee unveiled a new MMA Brochure in April. We have received many favorable comments on the Brochure. Now the new Membership Directory will be printed this month and published for use during the upcoming legislative session. It will be sent to all members of the MMA in March 2013.

We thank all of you that submitted updated information and also those who purchased advertisement.

The Membership committee will be working on another set of goals for the 2013 year. The first goal is to do a membership drive to get more Vendors to join the MMA. A letter will be sent out in January asking all purchasing agents and managers of producers to set up a list of their top 20 vendors and submit it to the MMA. In turn we will be drafting a letter to the vendors from the producers to get non member vendors to join the MMA. We hope that by doing most of the work in preparing the letter the producers will take the next step and send it out to the vendors. The second goal is to present a challenge to producer members to get their employees to become active in the MMA. Holcim has agreed that an employee that signs up to be a member of the MMA will have their first year dues paid by the company. The third goal will be speaking with current members and finding out what we can do to make your membership more valuable, we hope to motivate MMA members to become active in the five committees. The membership committee wishes all of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. See you all in 2013.

Education Committee:

The Montana Mining Association Education Committee meets via conference call on the first Wednesday of every month. As tasked by the Strategic Planning Committee, the working group has accomplished much over the last year.

The Ambassador Program, which has trained over forty five Ambassadors throughout the state, was designed to send mining volunteers out into the community to tell the story of Montana's mining history and future. Mining Ambassadors have given presentations at service groups, assisted living facilities, schools, and businesses throughout the state. The next training session, by Environomics, will be held mid January in Missoula. If you are interested in becoming an MMA Ambassador, or requesting a presentation please notify me at dshea@montanamining.org.

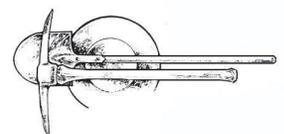
The Web site has been remodeled, hosting many interesting sites for the browser. The history portion of the Website has many educational pieces offered by members of the MMA. From the story of the Silver Queen to the History of the Stillwater Mining starting in 1883, you will find many stories of interest. Check it out at www.montanamining.org. Your historic memories are most welcome and can be sent to dshea@montanamining.org

The first annual MMA Essay Contest for eighth grade students will be introduced after the first of the year. The 2013 year's theme is: Why are minerals important to me? We are hoping for a great response from this talented age group. Winners will be announced in late spring.

I would like to thank my committee, as well as MMA Ambassadors, for their outstanding work.

Finally, on behalf of the Montana Mining Association Education Committee, Merry Christmas and the best to all of you in the New Year.

Debbie Shea



Committee Updates (cont.)

Safety and Health Committee Update:

Congratulations to the following Montana Mining Safety Professionals who recently passed the Certified Mine Safety Professional Examination:

Pete Steilman - Montana Resources
Lori McCurry – Stillwater Mining Co.
Rod Gust – Stillwater Mining Co.
Ken Lilyblad – Stillwater Mining Co.
Mark Mullaney – Stillwater Mining Co.
Austin Wilson – Revett Minerals
Ben Roberts – Golden Sunlight Mine

This is a great accomplishment and these folks put in the time and effort to further their dedication to the safety of Montana Miners.

Also, a special thanks to Lori McCurry for organizing the CORE Safety presentation by the National Mining Association. This was a valuable session and very well attended.

If anyone is interested in taking the CMSP course please let this committee know as soon as possible. We need 12 to put on another class and we would like to schedule one for the near future. Contact Kelly Stolp or Mike McGivern.

As we look forward to next year, members are reminded to submit their application for Safe Work Practice Awards for 2012 performance.

Mike McGivern



If you would like to become more involved with the MMA please contact the office or send an email to info@montanamining.org.

Merry Christmas and Happy New year from the Staff at MMA. We look forward to serving members of the MMA in the New Year.

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