



Mining Times

President's Message

It's spring time in Montana and the time of year where we really start to get into all of our new 2012 projects, whether that's building a new deck at home, expanding the process facility at the mine, or working with the Montana Mining Association to make Montana a better place to be a mineral developer. A great way to start on the latter is to attend the Montana Mining Association Annual Meeting being held in Butte on May 30th and 31st at the Copper King Hotel. Of course, this event will include the annual golf tournament on Thursday afternoon at the Butte Country Club. This year we are hoping that ski parkas will not be required, but no promises. Last year we had a record turn-out and we are expecting this year to be even better with speakers from the National Mining Association, Jackson and Kelly PLLC Mining Lawyers, and the Montanan State Bureau of Mines. Also, we will receive updates on the work of the association from myself and the five committee chairs. Finally, you will get to meet the new Executive Director of the Association, Tom Hopgood. Tom comes to us from the law firm Gough, Shanahan, Johnson, & Waterman and prior to that he was the Associate General Counsel for MDU Resources

Group, Inc. in North Dakota. Tom is active in many natural resource associations including WETA and the Montana Petroleum Association and previously served as the Executive Director for the Montana Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association. With over 30 years of legal experience, much spent lobbying and working with the natural resource industry and its associations, Tom has the background that MMA needs to achieve its future goals.

Although Debbie Shea will be retiring from the MMA Executive Director role, she will not be leaving us entirely because she will be helping us out part time as Chair of our new Education Committee. Debbie has been such a champion for our industry for many years, beginning even before her Montana State Senate term, where she was instrumental in keeping mines like the Golden Sunlight Mine open. As the Executive Director of MMA since 2007 she has done a great job helping to reestablish our membership and committees, as well as, starting the annual Montana Magazine and making our Annual meetings something that all Montana Miners want to attend. I would like to thank Debbie for her many years of service to our indus-

try and to the association.

One of first big things coming out of our Education Committee is the Ambassador Training Program. The first 26 Ambassadors for our Association were trained on April 25th and 26th in Troy and Helena Montana respectively. These Ambassadors will not only be trained to speak to community and political groups but will also be provided the materials necessary to make an effective presentation about the relevance of our industry in Montana.

There you have a snap shot of what is happening at the MMA. We will be providing much more detailed updates at the Annual Meeting, so don't miss it. At the meeting we will also be unveiling our new MMA brochures, conducting a PAC fundraiser, and we may even get a sneak peak at the new MMA website! See you there!

Special points of interest:

- > Welcoming the New Executive director
- > A farewell
- > MMA Mine PAC needs your help
- > New Website
- > Committee updates

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting	2
MMA Ambassadors	2
MMA Website	2
A Farewell	3
Executive Director	3
MMA PAC	3
Committee Updates	4

2012 MMA Annual Meeting May 30-31st



The Montana Mining Association's Annual Meeting will be May 30-31st at the Copper King Hotel in Butte, MT. This year's annual meeting is looking to be larger than last year's. Attendance numbers are coming in at a fast rate and we have a few **new** vendors this year that will be attending the trade show. The new Executive Director Tom Hopgood will be on hand to meet and greet all MMA members. A fun afternoon of golf is scheduled at the Butte Country Club and a tour for those not golfing is in the

process of being finalized. The Safety and Health Committee has signed on two wonderful speakers that will kick off the meeting on Wednesday the 30th starting at 4:00 P.M. those speakers are Bruce Watzman from the National Mining Association and Laura Beverage with Jackson and Kelly, PLLC in Colorado. This year will introduce the first annual Safety Awards. The awards will be presented to three companies that are members of the Mining Association. In addition there will be presentations by President Di-

mock, Executive Director Hopgood and Director Robin McCulloch. Another highlight will be a panel update on the outcome of SB 312.

If you have not signed up for the Annual Meeting yet please do so immediately. Registrations are available on our website www.montanamining.org or contact Laura Feist at lfeist@montanamining.org. Advertisements need to be in by the 13th of the month for printing of the booklet. We hope to see everyone in Butte at the end of



As a result of the September Strategic Planning session, several new projects to advance mining in the state of Montana have begun. One such project is a grassroots campaign referred to as the MMA Ambassador Program.

With an educational objective in mind, the Montana Mining Association hired Environomics to design an Ambassador program to train representatives, within

MMA Ambassadors

the membership, to go out into public forums and tell our story.

The first two training sessions were held at Troy, Montana on April 25, 2012 and Helena, Montana on April 26, 2012. Twenty six Ambassadors were trained with a goal to positively portray mining with a key message.

Each group left the four hour training session with knowledge and enthusiasm, and are ready to

go out into various communities and share their knowledge.

If you know of an organization that would like to learn more about mining in Montana please contact Debbie Shea at dshea@montanamining.org or call (406) 310-0867.

MMA'S New Website

The Web Sub-Committee was formed in March. It was made up of members of the Education Committee and other interested MMA members. As requested by MMA Board members, the subcommittee solicited bids from four developers to create a new user friendly website. The committee received bids and evaluated them against four criteria; including, ability to provide a quality site, ability to provide

long-term support, cost of long-term support, and up-front cost. The company awarded the project to Beartooth Web Design, out of Belgrade, Montana. A in depth outline for the new web site was created by the committee that will provide an easy to use, professional looking site that will be similar to the Nevada Mining Association site. Beartooth plans to have a power point presentation by the Annual

Meeting for a preview of the new site.



Debbie Shea's Farewell

I have officially turned over the reins of Executive Director of the Montana Mining Association to Tom Hopgood, and I wish him the very best as your new director. I first knew Tom from my days as a state Senator. He was well respected on the hill and I know he will do an outstanding job as your new Executive Director.

It has been my pleasure to work on behalf of mining over the last many years. I have great respect for the industry and the value it brings to all of our lives. I have found, through the years, honest working people who strive to environmentally do the right thing as they go about their work to deliver a much needed product to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to work on your behalf. I value the friendships I have made through the years and wish you all God's blessings.

Debbie Shea



Executive Director Message

The Executive Committee of the Montana Mining Association is pleased to announce that Helena attorney Tom Hopgood will assume the position of the Association's Executive Director May 1, 2012. Tom has a degree in political science from Montana State University, a law degree from Gonzaga and an MBA from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. After graduating from law

school in 1979, Tom served as a law clerk for the Montana Supreme Court. Concentrating on natural resources and lobbying, Tom practiced law in Helena for 18 years before going in-house with MDU Resources Group in 1997. Tom finished his stint at MDU as Associate General Counsel and returned to Helena and joined the firm of Gough, Shanahan, Johnson & Waterman, PLLP in 2009.

Tom has represented businesses of all types and sizes before state and federal courts in Montana as well as before various administrative agencies and the Montana Legislature. MMA President Tim Dimock stated, "Tom brings a wealth of lobbying experience to the Montana Mining Association and we are pleased to have him on board."

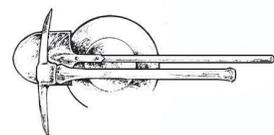


MMA MINE PAC

MMA PAC NEEDS YOUR HELP
The Montana Mining Association supports candidates and issues that support mining and the value it brings to the state of Montana.
Donate today and help us make a difference.

The Montana Mining Association PAC (Political Action Committee) is designed to promote and advance mining in the state of Montana. Our purpose is to educate officeholders and candidates for office about concerns and issues that affect the industry. We very much appreciate individual contributions and assure your donation will be channeled to candidates that will best serve the industry. Your individual contribution will make a tremendous difference as we work to advance

mining in our great state of Montana.
If you wish to make a contribution please send a check to Montana Mining Association PAC P.O. Box 5567 Helena, Montana 59604



Committee Updates

Education Committee:

The Education Committee has been diligently working on projects outlined in the Strategic Planning session. The goal to create a new WEB site has been addressed. Through the efforts of a sub-committee bids were enlisted and Beartooth Web Design has received the contract. Some of the improvements will be viewed at the Annual Meeting. The Ambassador Program has held two training sessions and 26 Ambassadors are now trained to go out and tell mining's story. The School Trunk Program is in its infancy and will be picking up momentum during the summer months. Several projects are on hold while waiting additional funding.

Membership Com-

mittee: The membership committee just finished its design of the new MMA Brochure. It has gone to press and will be featured at the Annual meeting. The next project for this committee is an MMA Membership Directory.

Safety Committee: The Safety Committee continues its work to keep every employee safe and every person educated regarding safety. It has been active in the plans for the MMA Annual Meeting and is responsible for our engaging speakers. The committee will be introducing the new MMA Safety Awards Program at the annual meeting.

The Legislative Com-

mittee: This committee is preparing for a very active role in the 2013 Legislative Session. Water policy issues are in the forefront. They recently met at the Natural Resource Building at Montana Tech to discuss various topics pertaining to water, including the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Ground Water Assessment Program. Also at that meeting four gentlemen from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) met with the MMA Legislative committee for a question and answer period as well as an exchange of ideas to

influence a more cooperative work partnership. In addition the committee is involved in raising money for the MMA PAC.

Environmental Com-

mittee: This committee has been working on implementation of several key bills passed last session and on advancing legislation, in cooperation with the Legislative Committee, on behalf of mining.

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