

Mining Times

President's Message a Farewell

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you that I have accepted a new job with Barrick's North American Regional office as the Senior Manager of Technical Support, and will start in this role on October 1; consequently, I have resigned my position as president of the MMA, effective October 1, 2012. Although I am very excited to pursue this new opportunity with Barrick's Regional Technical group, I will

very much miss working at Golden Sunlight and with the Montana Mining Association. I am happy with the plan that we developed last year, the direction we are headed, and the work that has been accomplished this year. I know that every person can be replaced, but I was very much looking forward to being part of the improvements that the MMA is going to be making during the next legislative ses-

sion. Matt Wolfe, from Stillwater, has accepted the MMA presidency and Mark Thompson, from Golden Sunlight, will replace Matt as Vice President. Matt, Mark, and Tom will do a fantastic job leading MMA's efforts. It has been a pleasure working with MMA and I am sure that MMA will be successful over the next year making Montana a better place to be a mineral developer.

Sincerely, Tim

Introducing the New President: Matt Wolfe

Congratulations and best wishes to Tim D. in his promotion to the Barrick NA corporate office. Tim's vision and drive as President of MMA has been inspiring to me and I appreciate his dedication to the future of mining in Montana. I have also appreciated the dedication of past-presidents Mike Mullaney and Tim Smith during my years with MMA. Tim D., Mike, and Tim S. have led MMA from an organization with a 'threatened & endangered' status to a steady path of growth

and initiative since I became involved in 2003. I am encouraged that an increasing percentage of the 'commonsense' segment of our society is accepting responsibility for our society's increasing demand for extractable natural resources and realizing that mining in our 'own backyard' is a preferred alternative to mining in a foreign country where sustainability standards and environmental practices are usually not up to par with the US. In addition, the importance of American jobs and the need for energy and natural resource independence are currently resonating with the American public

in light of the recent recession. My hope is that Montana exploration and development projects like Rock Creek, Montanore, Butte Highlands, Black Butte, and others will soon lead the charge into the 21st century of newly permitted Montana mining operations. I also expect to see the current producers like the Troy Mine, Yellowstone Mine, Barretts, Golden Sunlight, Montana Resources, Stillwater Mine, East Boulder Mine, Holcim, Graymont, Apex Abrasives, Ash Grove, Drumlummon (and others I've failed to mention) continue sustainable production of Montana's abundant mineral resources for decades to come.

I am honored to accept the role as President of Montana Mining Association. Montana has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources and this current generation is tasked with the challenge of accommodating our society's need for natural resources while protecting and sustaining our natural environment. I believe Montana can play a leading role in helping our country meet this challenge.

Sincerely,
Matt Wolfe

Special points of interest:

- > MMA WEBSITE
- > MMA Mine PAC needs your help
- > Committee updates

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Executive Director Message

The Association's members and all of its committees are working hard on numerous projects and are to be congratulated on the summer's accomplishments. In addition to a successful Annual Meeting in Butte, the Association's members raised over \$14,000 for the Mine PAC. After paying fundraising expenses, the PAC has been able to give financial assistance to 43 different candidates for public office in the aggregate amount of \$6,820. We still have approximately \$4,000 for further campaign contributions or to carry over to the next election cycle. Additionally, our members have made coordinated individual (non-PAC) contributions to at least 42 different candidates in an aggregate amount well over \$7,500! Good job members!!! Involvement in the political process is one of our most precious rights. Make sure to vote on November 6.

As everybody knows, the legislative session is right around the corner. This will no doubt be an important session for the mining industry. In addition to the radical obstructionists continuing attempts to prevent development of any sort, we are expecting to see bills on general water quality, numerical standards for nutri-

ents (nitrogen and phosphorous), water right abandonment, exempt groundwater appropriations, eminent domain and the Montana Environmental Policy Act. We will need member involvement to hold the gains made in the past as well as to support measures which improve Montana's regulatory and business climate. Thanks to all who have participated!

We have kicked off the Mining Ambassador program, the goal of which is to portray the mining industry in a positive light to as many members of the public as possible. After three training sessions, we have 45 Ambassadors to make presentations about the mining industry wherever and whenever needed. We have received many favorable comments about the training and would recommend it as useful for anyone involved in mining, even if you never make a presentation. Additional training sessions will be held later this year. Stay tuned. We are spreading the word about the existence of the program and we are receiving a steady stream of requests for presentations. This is a good program and all who have played a part in its creation are commended.

We have launched a new website and it is REALLY looking good. If you haven't checked it out, it is worth the effort to do so. www.montanamining.org

The Association is sponsoring a CORE Safety program on October 18 in Helena. The program will be presented by Bruce Watzman, who spoke at our Annual Meeting. If you didn't get a chance to hear him in Butte, please consider joining us in Helena on the 18th. If you did attend the program in Butte, this is a good chance to pick up anything you missed as well as to get more details about this program.

In the office, we are working hard on preparing a new Membership Directory. We expect to save several thousand dollars by doing this "in-house" and to publishing it before the end of the year.

I am compelled to note that every project noted in this message grows

out of the Association's Strategic Plan and reflects a lot of hard work by all of the Association's various committees. So... in addition to recognizing the work put in by our members and the committees, we should congratulate the Association's Board of Directors for their work on setting the Association's strategy.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the tremendous efforts of Laura Feist, Tammy Johnson and Debbie Shea in making these things happen. Your hard work, cooperation and cheerfulness are truly appreciated!



Energy Share Montana

Many of you support Energy Share of Montana, a private nonprofit organization whose main purpose is to help Montanans facing energy emergencies with one-time financial assistance. The program is funded in large part through a charge we all pay on our utility bill called "Universal Systems Benefits", the proceeds of the USB having to go for certain public services. Large electric users get to self direct their funds. Many of our members have self directed and have given all or part of their Universal Systems Benefit proceeds to Energy Shares of Montana.

Examples of Energy Share

low-income efforts in your community include one-time emergency bill assistance, energy-efficient refrigerator replacements for low-income seniors and disabled, endowment donations, and in some communities, furnace and water heater replacement.

A donation to Energy Share of Montana's endowment not only qualifies as a reimbursable, low-income expenditure of USB funds, but also will generate a **20% Montana corporation license tax credit**, up to a total credit of \$10,000 in any one tax year (e.g., a \$30,000 donation would generate a \$6,000 tax credit). Addi-

tionally, that donation may qualify for a **charitable deduction** on your federal return. Now is a great time to consider an endowment donation because this tax credit is due to expire in 2013. Energy Share will be working with interested parties to get that extended in the upcoming legislative session but at this point the outcome is uncertain.

By donating funds to Energy Share to be used in your local community, you also get the benefit of **community good will**. For more information call Rachel Haberman, 442-4900, email her at ra-chel@energysharemt.com

or log onto their website at www.energysharemt.com.

Beacon Rock Research Greater NW Resource Conference

The Beacon Rock Research Greater NW Resource Conference is scheduled for December 3rd and 4th at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington. The conference is organized to educate northwest investors on the mining industry in the northwest and provide an economic forecast follow-

ing completion of the national election. The schedule will include presentations from companies predominantly from the northwest United States. Transportation will be available from the Portland International Airport and lodging may be provided for confirmed attendees. For more information, please contact Mike Niehuser at 503-922-3191 or email mike@beaconrockresearch.com.

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 5: Education Committee
- October 11: Legislative Committee
- October 18: Safety and Health
CoreSafety 12:30 PM

2012 MMA Wrap Up

This year's annual meeting was a great time for meeting new members, new vendors, and catch up with old friends. We had an amazing turnout and had large amount of golfers and exhibitors this year. This year's annual meeting had a silent auction and a raffle that raised money for the MMA PAC. This year's Annual

Speakers Laura Beverage and Bruce Watzman were very informative and gave some insight into MSHA and also the CoreSafety program that is being implemented by a lot of associations and companies around the mining community. The 2013 Annual Meeting dates were selected for May 29 and 30th in Butte.

2012 MINE PAC DRAWING

Congrats to Larry Smith the first winner of the MMA PAC raffle drawing of a 2012 Polaris Sportsman 400. The raffle was held on June 30th in Helena and his name was selected. He picked up the four wheeler on July 1st

and was very excited to be taking this home. Congrats to him again and the MMA cannot wait to announce what next year's drawing will be for. Keep watching newsletters for this exciting news.



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 sub-committee 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. If you have not already sent in your information for password and user name please do so as soon as possible. lfeist@montanaming.org.



Mine Safety and Health Consultation Program

The Mine Safety and Health program provides **free consultation** services to small mines in the State of Montana. The purpose of this program is to aid in the identification, assessment, and mitigation of safety and health hazards in mines. We provide free of costs sampling for noise, respirable dust, silica, and coal dust as well as comprehensive as-

sessments of the mine’s safety and health program.

What We Do

- Sand and Gravel operation MSHA compliance.
- Coal Mines MSHA compliance.
- Metal/non-metal mines consultations- to aid with MSHA compliance.

Mine technical assistance on safety and health issues.

Provide industrial hygiene services.

Miner training.

Improve safety and health of mines by incorporating the Montana Safety Culture Act.

To view our mine training calendar go to www.mining.montanasafety.com

Update on the MINE PAC

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.”

Donate today to the MMA MINE PAC

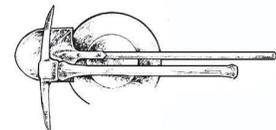
The Montana Mining Association PAC (Political Action Committee) is designed to promote and advance mining in the state of Montana. Our purpose is to educate officeholders and candidates for office about concerns and issues that affect the industry.

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

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.



Committee Updates

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Montana Mining Education Committee is moving forward with its Ambassador Program, an outreach program that will teach Montanans about mining in our great state. Each ambassador has been trained to present a ten or thirty minute power point presentation that captivates mining's history and presents a thought provoking look at mining's future. We know you will find it worthwhile. If you are interested in an Ambassador speaking to a group in your community contact Debbie Shea at dshea@montanaming.org or the MMA office at 406-495-1444.

The education committee continues to meet on the first Wednesday of every month.

Legislative Committee

The MMA legislative committee has been very active and meets each month. To date, issues addressed include:

- A change to statutory language on temporary changes and short term lease of water rights. Suggestions have been made to change language to 180 days and allow each for defined beneficial uses.
- A mining exception to forfeiture has also been researched for potential legislative consideration. An exception to forfeiture provision has been established in Idaho statutes.
- Proposed non-degradation and numeric nutrient standards have been reviewed and discussed including flow, temperature and percentage change. Members of the committee are

working on draft language. Additionally, it is expected that Eminent domain and compensation to private landholders will likely issues again in the next session. On the election front, Ted Anotonoli was nominated and elected the Mine PAC committee chairman. A spreadsheet was prepared for analysis and guidance purposes to focus Mine PAC contributions where they are likely to be most effective. Federal campaign law suggests that more than \$1000.00 is donated to federal candidates FEC reporting requirements are triggered. The committee wants to encourage all MMA members to give generously to the candidates of your choice. For guidance on personal limits for contribution please give the MMA office staff a call.

Safety and Health

The last half of 2012 brings great opportunities for the MMA Safety Committee members. About 10 Safety Professionals from Montana will be attending the International Society of Mine Safety Professionals (ISMSP) competency test to become either Certified Mine Safety Professionals (CMSP) or Mine Safety Professionals (MSP) based on experience in mining and safety. The members will sit through a four day preparation class and test out on the fifth day. Those attending this certification class have been studying

and will have a grueling week of preparation to attain their respective certification. Good Luck!

Additionally, in October Bruce Watzman, from the National Mining Association will provide a training class on CORESafety for any member of the MMA who is interested in attending. CORESafety was reveled at the annual MMA meeting by Mr. Watzman. CORESafety is a safety management system developed by the NMA by its membership to achieve world-class safety performance. Stillwater Mining Company was one of the companies who participated in shaping this program. The NMA has been gracious enough to come to Montana on October 18 and provide a four hour overview. Surely, this will be educational for those attending.

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