

MONTANA AMBASSADORS

Leaders in business, education, and the professions with a common dedication to living and doing business in Montana and furthering the best interests of the state.

SPRING
2011
ISSUE

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MONTANA AMBASSADORS: CALIFORNIA CHAPTER HERE WE COME!

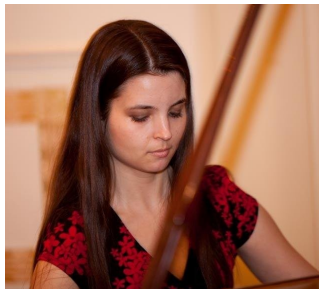
Montana Ambassador Lynda Colucci, with a little help from Governor Schweitzer and her Montana Ambassador friends, pulled together an amazing networking event in San Francisco. While the reception was held weeks ago on February 3rd, the follow-up with business contacts and the formation of a California Chapter continue.



Lynda Colucci and Governor Brian Schweitzer

Nearly 70 key Bay Area business leaders enjoyed meeting with Governor Schweitzer, Montana business representatives and our own Montana Ambassadors. Bill Alexander, NaturEner, presented information on NaturEner and its Montana connections. Jackie Weitz, a Billings native, played the piano and sang, providing exceptional entertainment.

As a result of the evening, at least seven business follow-up meetings are in the works. Business connections will grow even stronger in the near future as Lynda Colucci is following the Pacific Northwest Chapter model to form a California Chapter.



Above, left, Billings native Jackie Weitz performed on the piano and sang, "Meet Me in Montana" which delighted the audience. Some of the attendees are pictured above right.

Attendee Bill Moriarty said, "Many thanks for the Governor's reception in San Francisco. It was very well done in every respect. If there is anything I can do for my native state, please let me know."

Montana Ambassadors and Montanan's in attendance: Channing Hartelius, Ken Richardson, Terry Beaubois, John O'Donnell, Tad Butt, Brian O'Keefe, Jim Kambich, Phillip Curtiss and Wally Finley. Sponsors included: Montana Ambassadors, MERDI, iConnectMontana, Pharus Securities and NaturEner. Key to the evening's success was the involvement of our Higher Education partners including The UofM, MSU and Montana Tech.

1984-2011

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YEARS OF
DEDICATION

Know some "good gossip" on a fellow Montana Ambassador? Send it to us for the next newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT NETWORKING EVENT:



**7th Annual Montana Ambassador Business Open
August 18th, Jack Nicklaus Old Works Course**

MONTANA

AMBASSADORS

DISCOVER how Montana Ambassadors support the efforts of other groups to contribute to the economic vitality of the state.

2011 Board Members

(* Executive Committee)

*Rick Edwards—Butte
President/Chair of Board

*Jeff Laverdiere—Helena
First V.P./President's Circle

*Tagen Vine—Kalispell
Second V.P.

*Dore Schwinden -Helena (Ex-Officio)
Montana Department of Commerce
Montana Ambassadors Secretary

*Jon Marchi-Polson
Treasurer

* Channing Hartelius—Great Falls
Immediate Past President

Other Directors:

*Evan Barrett-Helena (Ex-Officio)
Governor's Office of Economic Development
Election Pending—Missoula Chapter V.P.
Melanie Schwarz-Billings , & Chapter V.P
Dale Mahugh-Butte Chapter V.P.

Leslie Messer—Glasgow/Sidney Chapter V.P.
Tennis Tennyson-Great Falls Chapter V.P.
Kirk Van Alstyne-Pacific NW Chapter V.P
Jeannie Luckey-Kalispell Chapter V.P.
Terry Beaubois-Bozeman Chapter V.P.
Tom McGree, Helena Chapter V.P.
Tagen Vine, Kalispell
Tyler Disburg, Missoula
Rob Bargatze, Bozeman
Lisa Perry, Billings
Bob Nystuen, Kalispell
Steve Holland, Bozeman
Carol Donaldson, Billings
John O'Donnell, Bozeman
Ken Richardson, Missoula

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Montana Ambassadors Coordinator

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Message from your President:

RICK EDWARDS



Rick Edwards
also served as
President in 2006.

Well, as they say, 'Spring has Sprung'. Or has it? 100+ inches of snow on the ground in Glasgow, 92+ inches in Sidney. In any case, a new year for the Montana Ambassadors has commenced. I am truly humbled to serve as your President in 2011. I would be remiss without acknowledging my predecessors including Channing Hartelius, Bill Johnston, and Ken Richardson. As a result of their excellent leadership, I believe that we are poised to move forward.

Additionally, for those of you who were able to attend our Annual Meeting, 'Thank You'. It was an awesome meeting, showcased by a number of excellent speakers and panelists. The success of the meeting was largely because of the efforts of our Coordinator, Gloria O'Rourke and her husband Mike. Liz Marchi and the entire planning committee also committed a great deal of time and energy to make the meeting a success. My hat's off to all of you!

As we look back on the Annual Meeting, I would again like to acknowledge our 2010 award winners. They were: Business of the Year – DA Davidson and Co. of Great Falls, Entrepreneur of the Year – Mike Yinger of TicketPrinting.com, Educator of the Year – Frank Gilmore of Montana Tech in Butte, Ambassador of the Year – Lisa Perry of PPL Montana, and Outreach Ambassador of the Year – Kirk Van Alstyne of the Pacific Northwest Chapter.

As I look forward to the upcoming year, I have three major goals for our organization. First, we have heard loud and clear that our members want a clear focus and some tangible projects to work on. Based upon the Governor's direction and our strategic plan, I believe that we have some things to 'sink our teeth into'. Next, I want to improve the visibility of our group. This will be accomplished through our efforts in genuine projects, the continuance of our out of state chapters, and the promotion of our golf tournament. Finally, at the conclusion of my term, I hope that the Ambassador's are just a bit better off financially than when I took over. This will happen through prudent management of our resources and the identification of opportunities that will make a difference.

In conclusion, I look forward to working with each of you. This is a group, for the members, tasked with improving the economic livelihood of the state. Please contact me anytime with your thoughts and suggestions at 406.497.3621.

Rick Edwards

LEARN why Montana Ambassadors are a vital constituent to furthering the state economically and put the best interests of the state before their own.

ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS

If you were unable to attend the February Montana Ambassador Annual Meeting and Conference, view the online [summary](#), watch the presentation files and enjoy all of the photos. As Governor Schweitzer had a commitment out of state, David Ewer, Budget Director, graciously presented the awards.



2010 Montana Ambassador of the Year: Lisa Perry



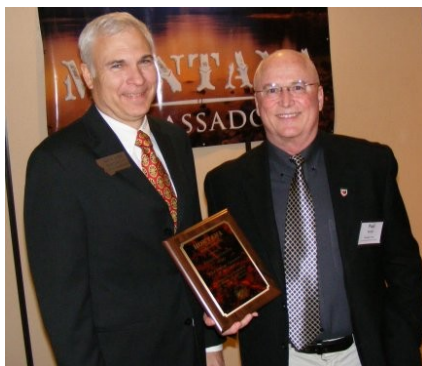
2010 Montana Outreach Ambassador of the Year: Kirk Van Alstyne



Mike Yinger, center left, 2010 Entrepreneur of the Year and the TicketPrinting crew accept the award presented by David Ewer.



Michael Morrison, left, accepts the 2010 Business of the Year Award from David Ewer on behalf of D.A. Davidson & Co.



Paul Beatty (right), Montana Tech, accepts the 2010 Educator of the Year Award on behalf of Frank Gilmore



Frank Gilmore, Chancellor Montana Tech

***** MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTER NEWS *****

Pacific Northwest—Chapter V.P. Kirk Van Alstyne said to be on the look out for another Speaker Series event in Seattle. Montana Ambassador Sean Thompson, Microsoft, gave a keynote address at Senator Tester's Jobs Workshop recently in Missoula. Sean mentioned Montana Ambassadors and the successful model of the Pacific Northwest Chapter in building business bridges to Montana.

Billings, Helena, Kalispell, Missoula, Great Falls and Butte— all held meetings that showcased Montana's Economic Report Card. Evan Barrett, Governor's Office of Economic Development, presented data and shared success stories on economic activity across Montana. Leadership Montana members and BEAR Teams were invited to attend as well.

Helena – Tom McGree, Chapter V.P., is holding joint meetings with great success with Montana Ambassadors and Leadership Montana members. Jeff Laverdiere has now made the move from Whitefish to Helena; The Comfort Suites will open in Helena in mid June.

Bozeman –As the new Bozeman Chapter V.P., Terry Beaubois appreciates all of Heather Bellamy's efforts and looks forward to engaging the Bozeman membership. Terry attended the San Francisco Outreach Event and felt it was extremely successful. Several in the Bozeman Chapter will be involved in the APEC export event to be held at Big Sky in May.

Butte –Chapter V.P. Dale Mahugh is gearing up for the 7th Annual Montana Ambassador Business Open, to be held August 18th, at the Old Works Course in Anaconda. Chantel McCormick has offered to assist Dale with the planning.

Missoula – As Tyler Disburg has been elected to a board seat, an election is pending for the Missoula Chapter V.P. position. Tyler and other area Montana Ambassadors are involved in the new economic development group forming in Missoula. Don Collins, Missoula Children's Theater (MCT) is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. MCT is involved in a tour project with the Forest Service based on the Secret Garden story, titled "No Child Left Inside." The project will be in sync with place-based education projects.

Great Falls – Chapter V.P. Tennis Tennyson is working with Montana Ambassador Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Authority, to update the Great Falls Chapter quarterly on local and regional economic development. Montana Ambassador Dr. Galvas will also be asked to make a presentation on healthcare issues.

Kalispell— Liz Marchi and Bill Payne will be holding four workshops across the state on financing a high impact business. For more information and/or to register please go to www.innovatemontana.com or contact liz@frontierangels.com or phone Liz at 406-883-4044.

Sidney/Glasgow – Chapter V.P. Leslie Messer said the Eastern Montana Chapter is small but staying connected. Richland County has the 2nd lowest unemployment rate in the state. Leslie helped establish a Revolving Loan Fund several years ago which is now available to help businesses with gap financing. Thus far, the RFL has helped preserve 36 jobs.

California/Bay Area – Montana Ambassador Lynda Colucci is in the process of lining up participants who would begin forming a board for the California Chapter.

VIEW THE 2010 ANNUAL REPORT AND CATCH UP ON ALL THE NEWS

<http://www.montanaambassadors.com/2010Report.pdf>

***** WELCOME TO OUR NEW MONTANA AMBASSADORS *****

Brandon Bang, Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, was nominated for membership by Chantel McCormick and supported by Dale Mahugh.

Don Laine, Anderson ZurMuehlen and Company, Helena, was nominated for membership by Gary Carlson and supported by Timothy Bartz.

Howard Skjervem, NorthWestern Energy, Helena, was nominated for membership by Tom McGree and Dale Mahugh.