

MONTANA

AMBASSADORS

2009 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE SUMMARY *CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AND SUCCESS*

Special thanks to our sponsors:



The Montana Ambassador 2009 Annual Meeting and Conference served a dual purpose: to celebrate 25 years of service and success and to focus on energy issues regarding energy jobs for Montana. Below is a summary, including photos and presentations, of all that took place.

Thursday, February 26, 2009 A CELEBRATION AND REUNION



Celebrating 25 Years of Service and Success

Left: Ed Jasmin;
Right: Pat Seiler



Montana Ambassadors celebrated 25 years of success and service with several special guests. Ed Jasmin, first President of Montana Ambassadors, shared historical background for the organization and activities of the first ten years. Pat Seiler, 2004 Ambassador of the Year, shared stories and accomplishments from the entire 25 years, but especially from the 1990's. Russ Ritter and Bob Henkel, both Past Presidents, also shared memories and stories.

**Montana Ambassador
Past Presidents:**

**Left to Right
Ed Jasmin, 1984
Russ Ritter, 1991
Bob Henkel, 1993
Gary Carlson, 1994
Craig Herbert, 2006
Ken Richardson, 2008**



2008 President Ken Richardson (left) facilitated a unique presentation that coincided with powerpoint slides from the following presenters:

- ❖ Where We Have Been - Ed Jasmin, Pat Seiler
- ❖ Where We Are Going – Bill Johnston (incoming President)
- ❖ What We Are Doing
 - Montana Ambassador Business Open – Dale Mahugh
 - Montana Ambassadors and Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR)
 - Montana Ambassador Outreach – Ken Richardson
 - Chapter Updates – V.P.'s Introduction of New Members and Updates
 - Montana Ambassadors and The Arts – Cinda Holt
 - Montana Ambassador Webpage– Carl Kochman

[View the presentation.](#)

Following the presentation, a time was set aside for networking and reminiscing:

Left to right: Fred Davison, Tim Bartz, Pat Seiler, Marjorie Gray, Bill Johnston, Lynda Colucci, Craig Herbert, Joe Michels, Tom McGree.



Left to Right: Donna Hartelius, Ron Kaminski, Linda Gray, Cooper Burchenal, Heather Bellamy, Melanie Schwarz, Gary Carlson, Jaynee Groseth, Char Jonsson.



Next, the audience listened to presentations by 2008 Montana Ambassador Award Winners including Montana Ambassador Entrepreneur of the Year, John O'Donnell, TechRanch and Montana Ambassador Business of the Year, Glacier Bancorp.



2008 Montana Ambassador Entrepreneur of the Year: John O'Donnell

[View John's Presentation](#)

2008 Montana Ambassador Business of the Year: Glacier Bancorp
Presenter Bob Nystuen

[View Glacier Bancorp Presentation](#)



Tony Preite, Director of Montana Department of Commerce, shared information and accomplishments regarding New Worker Training and Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund programs.

Governor Schweitzer addressed Montana Ambassadors during the Social and Networking Hour



President Ken Richardson welcomed everyone to the Montana Ambassador Annual Awards Dinner. Below are photos of the award winners, including the new BetterBricks Awards.

**2008 Business of the Year
Glacier Bancorp**

**2008 Entrepreneur of the Year
John O'Donnell, TechRanch**



Left to right: Jeannie Luckey, Bob Nystuen, Ken Richardson, Steve Holland, John O'Donnell and Ken

**2008 Montana Ambassador of the Year
Carl Kochman**

**2008 Montana Educator of the Year
Jon "Tony" Rudbach, UofM-Missoula**



Left to Right: Channing Hartelius, Carl Kochman, Ken Richardson, Bill Johnston, Inge Rudbach, Karl Rudbach, Lucy France and Ken Richardson. The family accepted the award posthumously on behalf of Tony. It was a special time for the Rudbach family to hear memories of Tony and "smile through the tears."

2008 BetterBricks Awards

Bob Rowe (below left), CEO, NorthWestern Energy, explained the purpose of these unique awards. The BetterBricks Awards salute individuals leading the way for high performance commercial buildings with an emphasis on energy efficiency in the Northwest. The result: a greater number of buildings that offer improved energy efficiency, bottom line benefits and a reduced carbon foot print.

2008 BETTERBRICKS AWARD WINNERS



Categories:

- **Owner-Decision Maker:** Gary Griffith, Winner – Bozeman School District #7, Director of Facilities; Finalists – Tom Schussler and Tim Chopp, St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center, Facilities Director/Lead Engineer
- **Architecture:** Randy Hafer, High Plains Architects
- **Engineering:** Mark Hines, MT Dept. of Administration, Mechanical Engineer.



Presenters: Deb Young, Bob Rowe and Claire Fulenwider

Friday, February 27th: Energy Jobs for Montana

Breakfast kicked off with messages and greetings from Montana's Congressional Delegation.



A panel of four legislators shared their thoughts on various legislative issues and took questions from the audience. Nancy Lien Griffin moderated the panel.

Left to Right: Sen. Jesse Laslovich, (D) Anaconda, MT SD 43; Rep. Art Noonan, (D), Butte, MT HD 74; Sen. Jim Peterson (R), Buffalo, MT SD15; and Rep. Llew Jones (R), Conrad, MT HD 27.

Side notes:

- [View Montana Ambassador's Annual Report](#) - Designed by saltStudio; printed by NorthWestern Energy
- [View Montana Ambassadors new website](#) - VauthierFerguson Design
- Special thanks to the Conference Agenda Committee: Bob Nystuen (Chair), Nancy Lien Griffen, Ken Richardson, Jeff Laverdiere, Bill Johnston, Carl Kochman, Dale Mahugh, Shannon Hughes and Rick Edwards.
- [Grouse Mountain Lodge](#) provided the Montana Ambassador Business Open registration drawing prize for a night's lodging for two. Thanks, Jeff Laverdiere! Winner: Vicki Judd
- [Register](#) for the Montana Business Open
- The winning Montana Ambassador Chapter for the most members in attendance: Missoula

T. BOONE PICKENS AND THE PICKENS PLAN FOR MONTANA

Governor Schweitzer introduced T. Boone Pickens creator of the Pickens Plan. The plan promotes "alternatives" to oil, including natural gas, wind, and solar. A major feature of the plan is replacing the 22% of its electricity that the United States gets from natural gas with wind energy, which would then allow that natural gas to provide 38% of the nation's fuel for transportation and reduce its dependence on foreign oil.



[Governor's Introduction Video](#) available on our home page at <http://www.montanaambassadors.com>

[T. Boone's Speech Video](#) available on our home page.

T. Boone Pickens takes Questions from the Audience



Ken Richardson, T. Boone and Gov. Schweitzer



Following T. Boone's presentation and answering questions from the audience, it was time for lunch. Approximately 300 people enjoyed the presentation and the networking that followed.

Lunch was provided by
Montana Department of
Commerce Energy
Promotion and
Development Division



More networking. Left to Right: Russ Fletcher, MATR; Casey Ferguson and Adam Vauthier (Vauthier Ferguson Design – new Montana Ambassador webpage); Cooper Burchenal, saltStudio; Marty Calvert, Montana Ambassador Pacific Northwest Chapter; and Chantel McCormick, MDOC Energy Promotion and Development.

Panel - Energy Jobs for Montana: Challenges & Solutions

Moderator: Tom Kaiserski, Program Manager, MDOC Energy Promotion and Development Division.

Conservation & Environmental Challenges:

- ❖ Johan van't Hof, Tonbridge [Presentation](#)
- ❖ Richard Opper, Director, MT DEQ
- ❖ Ash Awad, McKinstry Corp

Delivering Energy Products to Market:

- ❖ Kary Tonjum, President, City Service Valcon
- ❖ Les Brown, Wind Energy Entrepreneur [Presentation](#)
- ❖ Bob Rowe, NorthWestern Energy President, CEO



Workforce & Community Readiness:

- ❖ Kevin Brockbank, Executive Director of Workforce Development, UM-Helena

❖ Peggy Beltrone, Cascade County Commissioner



Left to right: Johan van't Hof, Ash Awad, Kary Tonjum, Les Brown, Bob Rowe, Kevin Brockbank, Peggy Beltrone.



Last but not least was the passing of the leadership for the Montana Ambassador office of President. Ken Richardson was presented with a plaque of appreciation for his year of service as President. Bill Johnston is looking forward to an exciting year.

Bill Johnston and Ken Richardson