

# 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.

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2011  
ISSUE

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1984-2011

27  
YEARS OF  
DEDICATION



Thanks, Dale, for a great tournament!

## MONTANA AMBASSADORS: MAKING THE DIFFERENCE!

### Governor Welcomes Outdoor Company to Montana— Highlights Teamwork with Montana Ambassadors Outreach

In a recent press release, Governor Brian Schweitzer welcomed Sitka Gear to Bozeman. The outdoor company relocated to Montana from Napa, California earlier this month. Sitka is a leading manufacturer of high-performance hunting apparel that utilizes cutting-edge technology to keep hunters warm, dry and comfortable in any condition.

*“This was a great team recruitment effort through our Montana Ambassadors program,” said Schweitzer. “When I spoke to Sitka Business Leader Kevin Sloan at an event put together through our Montana Ambassador Outreach program and laid out our competitive business climate, unparalleled outdoor recreation and community support, you could see they knew it was the right move.”*



Lynda Colucci and Gov. Schweitzer, California Outreach

The Montana Ambassadors program first reached out to Sitka Gear in February about the opportunities available in Montana. The contact came about through Montana Ambassador Lynda Colucci, who organized an outreach gathering with key Bay Area business leaders, Montana Ambassadors and Governor Schweitzer.

Prospera Business Network, the local economic development organization based in Bozeman, continued the recruitment effort with multiple follow-ups, information and relocation packets assisted by Ken Richardson and Chris Ageson. The company officially announced the relocation on August 5<sup>th</sup>.



*“Governor Schweitzer is a convincing guy. Bozeman is a great community and has an outdoor lifestyle that reflects our products - it was an easy decision. We are excited to be part of the Montana business community,” said Kevin Sloan, Business Leader.*

Sitka Gear released a short video about why they are thrilled to be in Bozeman.  
<http://www.sitkagear.com/blog/2011/08/05/Bozeman-On-Our-Mind.aspx>

The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) works hand-in-hand with Montana Ambassadors on the Outreach Program. GOED lends support with outreach in the areas of the Montana Ambassador Business Open, Out-of-State Outreach, i.e., Pacific Northwest Chapter and California Chapter as well as with the Montana Ambassador Annual Conference.

# 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; Jackie Williams Helena  
(Ex-Officio) Governor's Office of Ec Development  
Tyler Disburg—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.  
Rob Bargatze, Bozeman  
Lisa Perry, Billings  
Bob Nystuen, Kalispell  
Steve Holland, Bozeman  
Carol Donaldson, Billings  
John O'Donnell, Bozeman  
Ken Richardson, Missoula

### Staff

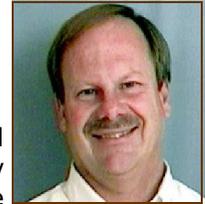
Gloria O'Rourke  
Montana Ambassadors Coordinator

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### Message from your President:

## RICK EDWARDS



Rick Edwards  
also served as  
President in 2006.

Well, the kids are back in school, and our beautiful autumn season is in full bloom. This has been a very busy summer, and many folks took advantage of the amenities that our State has to offer. Unfortunately, weather conditions delayed our onset of summer, and the fires impacted some of the areas of the state. Both impacted tourism and scarred some of our beautiful forestlands. But, Montanan's are resilient and continually looking to make lemonade out of lemons!

From an Ambassador perspective, I am excited. Our 7th Annual Business Open Golf Tournament was a rousing success. Over 60 golfers participated, and we saw the Grizzly Golfers (representing the Missoula Chapter) walk away with the low gross honors and NorthWestern Energy #1 (representing the Kalispell Chapter) repeat as the low net winner. I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge the Tournament Coordinating Committee which included Dale Mahugh, Lisa Perry, Chantel McCormick, Gloria O'Rourke, and Heather Bellamy for their efforts to make the tourney a success. I would also like to thank all of our hole sponsors and prize donors for supporting the event, especially Alaska Airlines for our grand prize and Thompson Distributing, Sun Mountain Sports, Helena Comfort Suites, PPL Montana, Grasslands Renewable Energy, NorthWestern Energy, and Big Sky Resort for the other great prizes. Mark your calendars, and plan to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Open on August 16, 2012 at the Old Works Golf Course.



Candice Payne  
Alaska/Horizons Air

I know that I am singing to the choir, but I must emphasize that Montana is a great place to do business and to raise a family. Many of you probably noted many of the accolades that the State has received. A few examples include Forbes' recognition of Montana as the 'Fastest Climber' in the category of Most Business Friendly State in the nation. Also, the US Department of Commerce and the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation recognized Montana as the #1 state for entrepreneurship and overall business start-up activity.

In closing, we are now accepting nominations for the many awards that are presented during our Annual Meeting in February. The awards are for outstanding businesses, entrepreneurs, ambassadors, and educators. *The form is included in this newsletter.* Throughout this great state, we have many outstanding candidates for these awards. I encourage you to take a minute and nominate someone that you feel is worthy of the awards.

*Rick Edwards*

**FYI!**

**MONTANA AMBASSADOR**  
News, Events, Trainings, Resources...and More

⇒ **Wow! Free Montana Ambassador business cards** from PrintingForLess.com. Thanks to Russ Fletcher for making the connection with PrintingForLess, the company has offered to print at NO COST your new business cards. You simply pay shipping. Email [gloria@montanaambassadors.com](mailto:gloria@montanaambassadors.com) if you are interested. The front of the card will have your information; the back of the card will state:



Thank you to  
PrintingForLess  
for this free offer!



⇒ A host of Montana Ambassadors attended and assisted at the **Western Wind Energy Summit** that was held in Big Sky, September 25-28, 2011. Those in attendance wore the new Montana Ambassador shirts and represented our organization well.

⇒ **New Montana Ambassadors:** We continue to grow! New Ambassadors include Scott Billadeau, Liquid Planet Holdings; Cynthia Andrus, Andrus Consulting; Mike and Gloria O'Rourke, Montana Economic Development Services, PLLC.

⇒ Have you checked out [Innovate Montana?](#) Montana Ambassadors are on the founding board for this exciting venture. In the near future, Montana Ambassadors will play a very interactive role with the project.



⇒ **2012 Montana Ambassador Annual Meeting and Conference:** The date is still pending for our 2012 conference, but it will be held in Billings. Your Agenda Committee is: Lisa Perry, Chair; Dale Mahugh, Tagen Vine, Terry Beaubois and Melanie Schwartz.



**Kalispell Chapter** greets and lends a hand: Jeannie Luckey, Chapter V.P. and Tagen Vine, 2nd Vice President, took time to assist with the Montana Economic Developers Association Fall Conference, recently held in Kalispell. Jeannie and Tagen assisted with registration and welcomed the attendees to Kalispell.

Pictured standing: Larry Mires, MEDA President; Tracy McIntyre, Treasurer. Seated: Jeannie Luckey and Tagen Vine.



Thanks for making the 2011 Business Open a success! Catch all the photos on the Montana Ambassador home page.

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

### **YOUR NOMINATIONS ARE DUE OCTOBER 21ST!**

### **Here is the Montana Ambassadors Annual Awards Nomination Process:**

**Nominations may be made by any member of the Montana Ambassadors organization. If an individual wishes to nominate a business for both Entrepreneur of the Year and Business of the Year, they must fill out a second application and explain how the individual or business meets that award criteria.** A dual nomination on one form will not be accepted.

**Nominations for Annual Awards will be reviewed by the Montana Ambassadors Awards Committee. The committee recommendations by category will be submitted for approval to the Montana Ambassadors Board of Directors at the quarterly meeting scheduled on November 18, 2011. Awards to selected nominees will be made at the Montana Ambassadors Annual meeting in early 2012.**

**Montana Ambassador Plenipotentiary.** The Governor may, upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors, confer the title and rank of Ambassador Plenipotentiary upon any member of the organization who has rendered especially meritorious service to the industrial or economic development of the State. This title shall be honorary in nature and shall continue throughout the lifetime of the recipient. No more than three such titles shall be conferred in any one calendar year.

**Montana Ambassador of the Year.** The "Montana Ambassador of the Year" award may be presented annually to a Montana Ambassador who performed exemplary service in the preceding year to assist in the State's industrial and economic development effort.

**Montana Ambassadors' Entrepreneur of the Year.** The "Montana Ambassadors' Entrepreneur of the Year" award may be presented annually to one Montana business person who is committed to ensuring Montana's quality of life and has demonstrated a sense of leadership and innovation in their field of endeavor and an entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to the economic development of the State of Montana.

**Montana Ambassadors' Business of the Year.** The "Montana Ambassadors' Business of the Year" award may be presented annually to one Montana business that has demonstrated extraordinary innovation and success in their field of business. The business will also have demonstrated a commitment to their employees, community and to the economic development of the State of Montana.

**Montana Ambassadors' Educator of the Year.** The "Montana Ambassadors' Mike Malone Educator of the Year" award may be presented annually to one or more educators who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishment, excellence and leadership in the field of education. This award embodies the values of Mike Malone, PhD, former president of Montana State University.

**Montana Ambassadors' Legislator of the Year.** The "Montana Ambassador's Legislator of the Year" award may be presented annually to one or more legislators who have demonstrated outstanding service to the industrial or economic development of the State.



**D.A. Davidson & Co.**  
member SBC

2010 MTA Business of the Year



Lisa Perry, 2010 MTA  
of the Year



Kirk Van Alstyne 2010  
Outreach MTA



Frank Gilmore 2010  
MTA Educator



Mike Yinger, 2010 MTA  
Entrepreneur of the Year

# MONTANA

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## AMBASSADORS

### **Awards Nomination Form** **(Deadline 10/21/2011)**

- ( ) **Ambassador of the Year**
- ( ) **Montana Ambassadors' Entrepreneur of the Year**
- ( ) **Montana Ambassadors' Business of the Year**
- ( ) **Montana Ambassadors' Educator of the Year**
- ( ) **Montana Ambassadors' Legislator of the Year**
- ( ) **Plenipotentiary**

**Nominee Name:**

**Company/Institution:**

**Full Address:**

**Narrative: (why nominee is deserving of the award):**

**Nominated by:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email:**

Please mail the completed form to: Montana Ambassadors, P.O. 722, Anaconda, MT 59711 or email the form to [info@montanaambassadors.com](mailto:info@montanaambassadors.com) or fax 406.563.5476. If you have questions please call Gloria O'Rourke, Montana Ambassadors Coordinator 406-563-5353.