

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.

WINTER 2012 ISSUE

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1984-2012

28

YEARS OF
DEDICATION

*Thanks to the
Dynamic-Duo of
Lisa Perry
and
Dr. Joe Michels,
there are 24
(and counting)
sponsors for
The 2012
Montana Ambassador
Annual Meeting.*

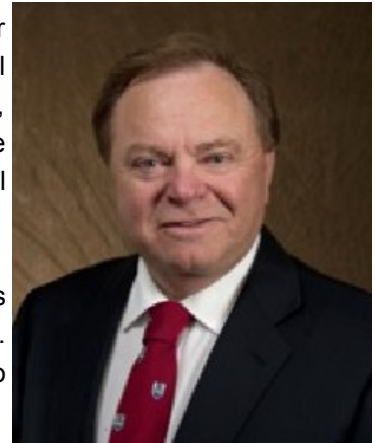
Don't miss it!

“IMAGINE THE POSSIBLE” With Governor Schweitzer and Harold Hamm

This will be Brian Schweitzer's last Montana Ambassador Conference as Governor....and what a conference it will be! Governor Schweitzer has invited Harold Hamm, Chairman and CEO, Continental Resources to give the keynote address at the Montana Ambassador Annual Dinner March 22nd, in Billings.

Unlike most of his peers, Harold Hamm didn't get his start in the oil field with degree in geology or engineering. Harold Hamm drove a truck. Harold was able to imagine the possible and focus on making "it" happen.

Imagining the possible allowed Hamm to build the nation's 14th-largest oil company, Continental Resources, based in Enid, Oklahoma. Harold Hamm is an American oilman who was ranked in the March 2011 issue of Forbes as the 33rd richest person in America; Hamm was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2011.



**Harold Hamm, Chairman/CEO
Continental Resources**

Continental Resources, Inc. is an independent oil and natural gas exploration and production company. Chairman and CEO Harold Hamm founded the predecessor company in 1967 as an oilfield service provider, later expanding to focus on the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas properties in Oklahoma. In 1993, Continental Resources expanded into the Rocky Mountain region, first into the Red River Units of Montana and the Dakotas, and then into the Bakken Shale play in Montana and North Dakota. The company is now the third largest crude oil producer in the Rocky Mountain region, the largest leaseholder and driller in the Bakken Shale and the largest leaseholder in the Anadarko Woodford in Oklahoma, with additional operations in the South and East regions of the United States.

You will no doubt enjoy hearing the thoughts and ideas of Mr. Hamm—and join him as together we Imagine the Possible regarding energy development across Montana and throughout the region.

[REGISTER TODAY FOR THE 2012 MONTANA AMBASSADOR ANNUAL MEETING](#)

MONTANA

AMBASSADORS

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

2012 Board Members Pending Elections

* Executive Committee

*Jeff Laverdiere—Helena
President/Chair of Board

*Tagen Vine—Kalispell
First V.P./President's Circle

*Dale Mahugh—Butte
Second V.P.

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

*Jon Marchi-Polson
Treasurer

* Rick Edwards—Butte
Immediate Past President

Other Directors:

*Evan Barrett; Jackie Williams Helena
(Ex-Officio) Governor's Office of Ec Development
Tyler Disburg—Missoula,
Melanie Schwarz-Billings , & Chapter V.P
Dale Mahugh-Butte & Chapter V.P.
Leslie Messer—Glasgow/Sidney & Chapter V.P.
Channing Hartelius-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
Carol Donaldson, Billings
John O'Donnell, Bozeman
Linda Gray, Missoula

Staff

Gloria O'Rourke
Montana Ambassadors Coordinator

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Message from your Outgoing President: **RICK EDWARDS**



Rick Edwards
Outgoing
President

As we transition to a new and exciting year, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your commitment to the State of Montana. As a result of your efforts, we are optimistic about the economy across the state. That is not to say that we do not face challenges, because we do. But, Montanans in general and you, as Montana Ambassadors, have a tremendous work ethic and the drive to succeed. Because of those traits, I am confident that we will continue to be successful across the state and solve the challenges that lie ahead.

We have long recognized the opportunity of networking with former Montanans who now live out-of-state in an attempt to attract businesses back to the state. Through the leadership of Governor Schweitzer and Ambassadors such as Kirk Van Alstyne and Lynda Colucci and many others, the formation of out-of-state chapters has become a reality. The Pacific Northwest Chapter continues to showcase the business opportunities in Montana, and we have already seen success as a result of our efforts in California. Depending on the results of the upcoming gubernatorial election, we are looking forward to the possibility of similar outreach efforts in Austin, Texas, Dallas or Houston, Texas, Chicago, and possibly New York City.

We are in the midst of planning for the 2012 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held in Billings on March 22nd and 23rd. Please plan to join Governor Schweitzer and many of your fellow Ambassadors to recognize this year's award winners and participate in a truly dynamic program. As a featured event, we will have the privilege to listen to Harold Hamm, the Chairman and CEO of Continental Resources at our Annual Dinner.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my wish that each of you have a prosperous 2012. I continue to be extremely grateful for the rich lives we have in Montana and for the opportunity to serve the Montana Ambassadors!

Rick Edwards



MONTANA AMBASSADOR

News, Events, Trainings, Resources...and More

- ⇒ **New Montana Ambassadors:** We continue to grow! **Elizabeth (Honey) Richardson**, UPS Northwest District, was nominated for membership by Lynda Colucci and Ken Richardson. Lynda and Ken also nominated **Tyler Delaney**, First West Incorporated, Helena. Welcome!
- ⇒ **Montana Ambassador Don Collins** and the Missoula Children's Theater: The Forest Service and Missoula Children's Theatre once again partnered for a special performance of the play *The Secret Garden* on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Harmony Hall Regional Center in Fort Washington, Md.
- ⇒ **Kalispell Chapter:** Jeannie Luckey, Chapter V.P., held a meeting recently for all Kalispell area Montana Ambassadors. Jim Oliverson reported on the amazing activities of the Kalispell Regional Medical Center, Steve Luckey reported on a new Flathead Valley business called NEMO and Tagen Vine provided an overall update on Montana Ambassador activities. The Kalispell Chapter is determined to submit applications for each award category for the 2012 Awards.
- ⇒ **Butte Montana Ambassadors Honored:** Paul Beatty and Mike Thatcher were part of a group recently honored by Butte Cares for making Butte a better place to live.
- ⇒ **More from Kalispell:** Jeannie Luckey, Kalispell Chapter V.P., has been named the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce Great Chief. She is the 40th Kalispell community leader to receive the chamber's oldest and most prestigious award that recognizes leaders whose civic and volunteer service has spanned a lifetime.
- ⇒ **Montana Ambassadors Channing Hartelius and Bob Nystuen** recently both received the University of Montana Community Service Award.

JOIN US IN BILLINGS MARCH 22nd AND 23rd TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR OUR 2011 AWARD RECIPIENTS

2011 Michael Malone Educator of the Year: Dr. Waded Cruzado, President, MSU
Dr. Cruzado was nominated by Ken Richardson.

2011 Montana Ambassador Business of the Year: Stillwater Mining Company
Stillwater Mining Company was nominated by Chantel Schieffer.

2011 Montana Ambassador Entrepreneur of the Year: Sarah Calhoun
Sarah Calhoun, Red Ants Pants, was nominated by Susan Hay Patrick.

2011 Montana Ambassador of the Year: Leslie Messer
Leslie Messer, Richland County Economic Development, was nominated by Lisa Perry and Melanie Schwarz.

2011 Outreach Montana Ambassador: Lynda Colucci
Lynda Colucci, California Chapter, was nominated by Rick Edwards.

2012 MONTANA AMBASSADOR ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE
IMAGINE THE POSSIBLE

March 22 – 23, 2012 Crowne Plaza, Billings, MT

Lodging and Registration: A block of rooms has been reserved for Montana Ambassadors at the Crowne Plaza Billings with the group rate of \$97. Phone 406.252.7400 before March 1st to receive this rate. Click here for [Online Registration and Payment](#), or contact *Gloria* at 406.563.5353. Registration options (register prior to March 10th for these prices): Entire Conference \$90; Buchanan Award Social and Keynote Dinner with Governor Schweitzer and Harold Hamm \$70; Thursday Only Events \$75; Friday Only Events \$35.

Thursday, March 22

12:30pm **Registration Opens**; Ballroom B

1:00pm – 1:20pm **Orientation for New (and not so new) Members of Montana Ambassadors**
Liz Marchi (Past President) and Jeff Laverdiere (Incoming President) Montana Ambassadors

1:30pm – 1:45pm **Welcome and Introductions**
Yellowstone County Commissioner, John Ostlund; Mayor Tom Hanel; Conference Chair Lisa Perry; Incoming President Jeff Laverdiere

1:45pm – 2:15pm **Special Presentation** by Kevin Kooistra

2:15pm – 2:30pm **2011 Montana Ambassador of the Year – Leslie Messer**

2:30pm – 2:45pm **2011 Outreach Ambassador of the Year – Lynda Colucci**

***** PRESENTATIONS BY 2011 AWARD WINNERS – includes Q & A Time for each Presenter *****

3:00pm – 3:30pm **Montana Ambassador Entrepreneur of the Year: Sarah Calhoun, Red Ants Pants**

3:30pm – 4:00pm **Montana Ambassador Business of the Year: Frank McAllister, Chairman & CEO, Stillwater Mining Company**

4:00pm – 4:30pm **Montana Ambassador “Michael P. Malone” Educator of the Year: Dr. Waded Cruzado, President, MSU**

4:30pm – 5:00pm Break and stroll to **Buchanan Capital, LLC**, 201 North 28th Street

5:00pm – 6:00pm Social and Reception hosted by **Montana Ambassador Gary Buchanan**
Photos with Governor Schweitzer for 2011 Award Winners

6:30pm – 8:00pm **MONTANA AMBASSADOR ANNUAL DINNER “IMAGINE THE POSSIBLE”**
Special Presentation in recognition of Governor Brian Schweitzer; Keynote Harold Hamm

Friday, March 23rd

7:15 – 8:00am Big Sky Breakfast; Ballroom A

8:00 – 8:30am **Congressional Greetings, Montana Ambassador Membership Annual Meeting**

8:30 – 9:00am **Imagine the Possible for Montana’s Future Workforce: - Arne Siegel**

9:15 – 11:00am **Imagine the Possible for Montana Energy:**

Moderator: Evan Barrett, Governor’s Office of Economic Development
Coal – Matt Evans, Head of Government Relations, Boich Energy (Signal Peak)
Wind Energy – Bill Alexander, Naturener USA
Transmission Lines – Bob Rowe, Northwestern Energy
Pipelines – Scott Farris, TransCanada

11:00 – 11:30am

Montana Ambassadors Actions and Activity

MT Ambassador Business Open Report – Dale Mahugh, Tournament Co-Chair
Innovate Montana – Liz Marchi
Outreach Activities – Ken Richardson, Past President Montana Ambassadors
Chapter Updates – V.P.’s Introduction of New Members and Updates
The Arts and Montana Ambassadors – MT Arts Council

11:30 – 11:45 Conference Closing – Lisa Perry, Dr. Joe Michels and Jeff Laverdiere