

# MONTANA

## AMBASSADORS

### MT AMBASSADOR BOARD MEETING

February 22, 2017

10:30AM – 2:00PM

Radisson Colonial, Helena

Dial in: 712.432.0175 pin 217279

**Present: Brent Campbell, Melanie Schwarz, Andy Gordon, Rick Edwards, Dale Mahugh, Heather Bellamy, Jon Marchi, Andy Shirliff, Ken Fichtler, Lynda Colucci, Bill Johnston, Tyler Delany, Tom McGree, Brigitta Miranda-Freer, Mike O'Rourke, and Gloria O'Rourke. Guests: Jan Stoddard, and Jeff Wright.**

#### 1. Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes

President Brent Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following introductions, Brent asked for a motion to approve the November 18, 2016 minutes. After a brief discussion, Dale Mahugh moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Brigitta Miranda-Freer. Motion carried.

#### 2. Election of Officers and Board of Directors

All voted in favor of approving the officers as presented below:

Past President: Brent Campbell (2<sup>nd</sup> 12/31/19)

President: Melanie Schwarz (3<sup>rd</sup> 12/31/19)

1<sup>st</sup> V.P.: Andy Gordon (1<sup>st</sup> 12/31/17)

2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.: Brigitta Miranda-Freer

Secretary: Doug Mitchell (Acting MDOC Director)

Treasurer: Rick Edwards (1<sup>st</sup> 12/31/17)

Ex Officio: Ken Fichtler, GOED

Note: Melanie was elected to serve another term on the board.

Outgoing President Brent Campbell turned the meeting over to President Melanie Schwarz.

#### Board of Directors for 2017

All voted in favor of renewing the board terms as presented below:

Melanie Schwarz, Billings (2<sup>nd</sup> – 12/31/19)

Chantel Schieffer, Bozeman (2<sup>nd</sup> – 12/31/18)

Heather Bellamy (2<sup>nd</sup> – 12/31/18)

Brent Campbell, (2<sup>nd</sup> 12/31/19)

Channing Hartelius (2<sup>nd</sup> – 12/31/18)

Pete Akey (1<sup>st</sup> – 12/31/17)

Andy Gordon, Missoula (1<sup>st</sup> – 12/31/17)

Bill Johnston, Missoula (1<sup>st</sup> – 12/31/17)

Rick Edwards, Butte (1<sup>st</sup> – 12/31/17)

Tracy McIntyre (1<sup>st</sup> – 12/31/18)

#### The following are serving on the board as Chapter V.P.'s:

Dale Mahugh, Butte Chapter

Brett Doney, Great Falls Chapter

Tagen Vine, Kalispell Chapter

Wayne Rebich, Seattle, Pacific Northwest Chapter  
Leslie Messer, Sidney/Glasgow/Glendive Chapter  
Tom McGree, Helena Chapter  
Brigitta Freer/Cate Sundeen, Missoula Chapter  
Greg Kohn, Billings Chapter  
Lynda Colucci, California Chapter  
Tyler Delaney, Bozeman Chapter

### **3. GOED and MT Ambassadors – Ken Fichtler**

#### **a. Strategic Plan**

Ken reviewed the Proposed Strategic Plan for Montana Ambassadors. The document noted weaknesses of the current organization set up such as the issue of non-paying dues members. In summary, the following topics were set forth:

In state Montana Ambassadors:

- Provide Mentorship to Montana Businesses
- Networking Opportunities
- Advocacy (Committee)
- Outreach and Marketing

Out of state Montana Ambassadors:

- Identify and Recruit Top Quality Talent and Businesses to Montana
- Networking Opportunities
- Outreach and Marketing

Discussion and Vote:

After discussing the document and making suggested changes, Ken will re-draft the document. It was noted a 501c6 is limited on advocacy; a 501c7 allows more advocacy.

Bill Johnston moved to accept the draft with the discussed changes; Rick Edwards seconded the motion. Motion carried. An email vote will be taken once the document is finalized.

#### **b. Innovate MT Symposium:**

The vision for this event is that it will become the premier economic development meeting in the region. July 11<sup>th</sup> will be the date for MT Ambassador Awards; July 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> are set for the actual Innovate Montana Symposium. Davey shared the draft agenda which will include pre-conference workshops and the MT Ambassador Awards dinner. Montana Ambassadors are to assist with fundraising, sponsoring, attend the event, and spread the word about the event.

#### **c. New Member Update**

Now that the Strategic Plan is progressing, Ken thinks new members will be approved soon. It was suggested Submittable be used to accept applications for new Montana Ambassadors. New Montana Ambassadors could be announced at the Awards Dinner on July 11.

### **4. 2016 Montana Ambassador Awards**

#### **a. MTA Business of the Year**

Following a discussion, Ken Fichtler moved for the MT Ambassador Business of the Year to be Xtant Medical (Bacterin). Jon Marchi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **b. MTA Entrepreneur of the Year Award**

Brigitta moved to change this award to fit two categories. Lynda Colucci seconded the motion; motion carried. It was decided to name an Innovator Entrepreneur of the Year as well as a Placemaker Entrepreneur of the Year for the 2016 round as well as in years to come. The Innovator Award would name a company or person who is transformative, emerging, and impactful. The Placemaker Award would name an entrepreneur who has made a difference in where they live.

Innovator: Randy Reibel and Blackmore Sensors and Analytics were voted Montana Innovator of the Year.

Placemaker: Angie Dickinson , Style Alley, of Forsyth.

**c. MTA Mike Malone Educator of the Year**

Following a discussion and vote, MT Ambassador Educator of the Year is Paul Gladen.

**d. MTA of the Year**

Melanie Schwarz was voted Montana Ambassador of the Year.

**e. MT Ambassador Outreach Ambassador**

As has been done in the past, there will be two Outreach Ambassadors named. Peter Rosten, MAPS, will reflect in-state outreach and Lynda Colucci will be named for out-of-state outreach.

**f. Plenipotentiary**

John Rogers was voted 2016 Plenipotentiary. Note: Bill Johnston abstained from this vote.

Next steps: Ken will run these names by Governor Bullock.

**5. Pending MT Ambassador Events and/or Activities**

- a. Innovate MT Symposium July 2017 as discussed above.
- b. Annual Meeting – will take place at the Awards Dinner.
- c. Annual Awards and Videos – due to budget constraints, it is unlikely videos will be produced
- d. Business Open – August 18<sup>th</sup>; the Rick, Dale and the Butte Chapter will organize the event.

**6. Chapter Updates**

Lynda Colucci reported the California Chapter is holding a special event on Thursday, April 6th, with the Montana Film Commission. A made in Montana movie clip will be shown and those working in film with Montana connections will network.

**7. Misc. and Next Meeting**

Melanie thanked everyone for attending and expressed appreciation for the work accomplished today. The next meeting will be held July 11<sup>th</sup>, prior to the Awards Dinner and Innovate Montana Symposium.