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Montana Contractors' Association Newsletter

November 15, 2011



"A countryman between two lawyers is like a fish between two cats." Benjamin Franklin

Lawyers often get the short end of the stick from non-legal professionals in society. "Why don't sharks eat lawyers? Professional courtesy." But much of that humor comes from our admiration of those with such a great knowledge of the law that they can defend us in the courts. After all, it was layer Daniel Webster who convinced a jury 'with the fires of hell still on them' to decide against the devil himself, as the jury said, "...even the damned may salute the eloquence of Mr. Webster."

Hopefully none of our members will find themselves facing Mr. Scratch in the type of court portrayed in the classic tale of The Devil and Daniel Webster, but we think our [Legal Issues for the Construction Industry](#) workshop might help if you do!

The workshop will cover legalities concerning safety, contracts, insurance, hiring/firing practices, and recent changes in Montana's laws as they concern to business and construction. This workshop is an excellent opportunity to discuss and confer with legal experts, as American businessman and financier J.P. Morgan was prone to do. He noted, "I don't want a Lawyer to tell me what I cannot do; I hire him to tell me how to do what I want to do."

Quick Links

[MCA Newsletter](#)

[MCA Training Page](#)

[MCA Website](#)

[MCA Winter Convention @ Big Sky](#) -

Online Registration is up!

Calendar

Nov 16

Highway Technical Committee
MCA Office, Helena
9:00 am

CANCELLED

Nov 17-18

ACI Field Testing Technician
Bozeman

[Registration](#)

Nov 17

Bid-Letting
MDT, Helena
9:00 am

Dec 1

Legal Issues for Construction
Industry
Helena

[Registration](#)

Bid-Letting
MDT Offices, Helena
9:00 am

Dec 7

Highway Technical Committee
Helena, MCA Office

We hope to see you on December 1st, in Helena!



Associate Division Looking for Directors

There are three open board positions on the Associates Board of Directors to be filled at the 2012 Annual Convention. Any Associate member interested in running for one of the seats please contact Maryann, MCA, 406-442-4162.

Each open position is for one three-year term beginning in 2012. The positions are for: 1) Insurance/Financial Surety Products & Services; 2) Transportation Products & Services; and 3) Concrete Products & Services. These members shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting to be held at the Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, on January 13, 2012.



Baucus' Highway Bill Gets Green Light

Montana's senior U.S. Senator Max Baucus announced November 9 that the new Highway Bill he's co-sponsoring received unanimous, bipartisan support in a key Senate committee today. The legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), aims to reauthorize the nation's transportation programs for two years. It cleared the Environment and Public Works Committee today.

"Montana jobs rely on our highways. Because we're a highway state, we know firsthand that investing in transportation infrastructure creates good-paying jobs in the short term and for the long haul. Highways are our lifblood in Montana and this bill is a smart place for us to find common ground for our nation," said Baucus, Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee. "This bill presents an important opportunity for people to work together for the good of our country. People of all walks and every political background rely on strong roads and safe transportation to work and to raise their families."

9:00 am

Dec 8-9

ACI Flatwork Finisher Certification
Missoula
[Registration](#)

Dec 15-16

ACI Field Testing Technician
Helena
[Registration](#)

Quote of the Week

"A strong leader accepts blame and gives the credit. A weak leader accepts credit and gives the blame."

- John Wooden

Header Info

Schellinger Construction completed a 5-mile highway widening project south of Townsend on MT 287 this summer.

If you have pictures you'd like to see headline the e-brief, send them to keith@mtagc.org.

Baucus was a key author of the last Highway Bill which passed in 2005 bringing more than \$2.3 billion to Montana for highway construction projects and jobs. The legislation helped create and sustain more than 18,000 good-paying jobs across the state. The new Highway bill known as "MAP-21" maintains funding at current levels, reforms the nation's transportation programs to make them more efficient, and provides robust assistance for transportation projects under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program to leverage state, local, and private-sector funding.



Participating Partner:



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"Surviving the Economic Recovery"

Come enjoy the slopes of winter fun while you learn how to survive the steep slope of economic decline that leads to prosperity for those firms positioning themselves for the recovery. Dr. Thomas Schleifer is back as the featured Keynote speaker.

January 11-13, 2012
Big Sky Resort
Big Sky, Montana

Watch for the registration form in the November MCA newsletter. Or register online at www.mtagc.org.



MSU Recognition Dinner Slated for February 24

On Friday, February 24, 2012, the 8th Biennial Construction Recognition Dinner (CRD) will be held in the Strand Union Ballrooms on the campus of Montana State University-Bozeman. The purpose of the dinner is to recognize the entire construction industry for its contribution to our society and honor the Montana professional who work in it. Awards will be presented to outstanding Montana contracting professionals as well as several CE/CET alumni who have made significant contributions to the construction industry.

We invite you and your company to sponsor a table of eight at this banquet, which will include up to four designated attendees from your company. The remaining four or more sponsored guests at your table will include upper division construction students and faculty from Montana State University plus distinguished guests. The cost to sponsor a table of eight is four hundred and ninety-five dollars (\$495) and the check needs to be made out to: CE-CONSTRUCTION RECOGNITION DINNER. Please fill out this [table sponsorship request form](#) and return this form and your payment to the address listed on the table sponsorship request form.



AGC Offers Safety Award

The AGC is happy to announce the 13th annual Construction Safety Excellence Awards (CSEA) program. This awards program is the industry's elite safety excellence awards program which recognizes companies that have developed and implemented premier safety and loss prevention programs while

achieving continuous improvements and maintenance of their safety and health management systems.

The deadline for submitting the application to national AGC is by COB December 9, 2011. You can download the [application form](#) here, or access the application by visiting www.agc.org/csea.



Our Mission

To help our member companies become the best construction firms in Montana.



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Montana Contractors Association | 1717 11th Avenue | Helena | MT | 59601