



## ***MEDA GUBERNATORIAL FORUM AND ANNUAL MEETING***

**FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> – 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
 RED LION COLONIAL HOTEL  
 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena, MT

**Hosted by:** Montana Business Assistance Connection, Terry Myhre, Conference Chair  
**Lodging:** Make your room reservation by calling 406.443.2100 before February 10<sup>th</sup>; ask for the Montana Economic Developers Association group block to receive the rate of \$87.95.  
**Registration:** [Register online](#). Registration options and costs include: MEDA Members full conference and pre-conference \$89; Non-MEDA Members \$139. Tuesday only: \$60; Wednesday only \$35. Exhibit tables are available for \$30.

### **TUESDAY, February 28<sup>th</sup> TWO PRE-CONFERENCE CHOICES**

|                                                                                                                                                                     |                  |                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. USDA Energy Stakeholders Meeting</b><br><a href="#">See Full Agenda</a><br><b>Executive/Legislative Room</b><br><b>10:00am – 11:30am</b><br><b>Cost: Free</b> | <b><u>OR</u></b> | <b>2. 2012 BEAR Roundup</b><br><a href="#">See Full Agenda</a><br><b>Lewis and Clark Room</b><br><b>9:00am – 11:30am</b><br><b>Cost: Free</b> |
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### **2012 MEDA CONFERENCE**

**Noon – 1:15pm**

**Kickoff Luncheon - Greetings from Helena Mayor Jim Smith; Welcome from MEDA President Larry Mires**

**1:15-2:00pm**

**Discussion of MEDA's Legislative Agenda – Rick Edwards, Legislative Committee Chair**

**2:00 – 2:15pm**

**Break**

**2:15 – 2:20**

**MEDA Gubernatorial Candidate Forum**

Gubernatorial Candidates to respond to these three questions, plus Q & A from audience.

1. What would you do as Governor to strengthen and expand Montana's investment in key economic development tools?
2. Tell us how you would ensure the continued availability of these funds and what else would you do over the next four years to strengthen and expand our workforce training efforts?
3. What will you do as Governor to support and encourage the continued growth and development of the energy industry across the state of Montana?

|                                                     |                                                 |                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2:20 – 2:40pm</b><br>Candidate Larry Jent (D)    | <b>2:40 – 3:00pm</b><br>Candidate Rick Hill (R) | <b>3:00 – 3:20pm</b><br>Corey Stapleton (R)            |
| <b>3:20 – 3:30pm Break</b>                          |                                                 |                                                        |
| <b>3:30 – 3:50pm</b><br>Candidate Ken Miller (R)    | <b>3:50 – 4:10pm</b><br>Candidate Jim Lynch (R) | <b>4:10 – 4:30pm</b><br>Candidate Neil Livingstone (R) |
| <b>4:30 – 4:50pm</b><br>Candidate Steve Bullock (D) |                                                 |                                                        |

**4:50 – 5:30pm**

**Social** – Visit exhibits, speak with candidates, network!

**5:30 – 7:00pm**

**MEDA Membership and Partners Dinner; Greetings from Congressional Delegation**

# MEDA GUBERNATORIAL FORUM AND ANNUAL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, February 29<sup>th</sup>**

7:15 – 7:45am  
Leap Year Breakfast

7:45am – 8:00am  
MEDA Annual Meeting including: Your MEDA Board Working for You and Election of Board Members and Officers

8:00am – 8:25am  
Speed Networking – it's back! Facilitated by your speed networking professional, Tracy McIntyre.

8:25 – 8:40  
Break

8:40am – 9:00am  
Eric Smith – Boeing Helena Manager

9:00am – 10:20am  
It's all about Social Media – Tia Troy, Western Montana Glacier Country

10:20 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 10:40  
Update from USDA/RD Matt Jones, USDA/RD Montana State Director

Recap of Yesterday's Gubernatorial Forum  
Gubernatorial Candidate Forum Resumes:

10:50 – 11:10am  
Candidate Jim O'Hara (R)

11:10am – 11:30am  
Candidate Ron Vandevender (L)

11:30 – 11:50am  
Candidate Bob Fanning (R)

11:50 – Noon Forum Feedback, Wrap Up and Closing

## **Many thanks to:**

Your 2012 MEDA Annual Meeting Committee – Terry Myhre, Chair, Rick Edwards, Andy Poole, Karyl Tobel, Larry Mires, Paul Tuss, Tony Preite, Evan Barrett and Tracy McIntyre.

Special thanks to the MEDA Interim Legislative Agenda Committee – Rick Edwards, Chair, Jim Davison, Jim Smitham, Larry Mires, Sarah Converse, Pat Wise, Andy Poole, Pam Lemer, Marcy Allen, Paul Tuss, Tracy McIntyre, Evan Barrett, Karyl Tobel, Steve Arveschoug, Brian Gion, Sarah Converse and Phillip Fletcher.

Thanks to our sponsors for making this event possible:

