



Idaho Association of  
Commerce & Industry  
The Voice of Business in Idaho®



## 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT: SHORE LODGE — McCALL

Wednesday, June 23, 2010



The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual IACI Public Policy Conference was held on June 13-15, 2010 at the Shore Lodge in McCall. The activities began at the Whitetail Clubhouse patio, with welcome remarks by special guest **Congressman Walt Minnick**, who provided his insights into the business issues facing the nation.

Monday's full agenda was kicked off by **Lt. Governor Brad Little**, who provided a good introduction into the issues on which IACI member employers were focusing in the panel discussions that followed.



The first panel on **Tax Policy** featured **Randy Nelson** of the Associated Taxpayers of Idaho and long-time attorney/lobbyist **Bill Roden**, 2010 Recipient of the Pat K. Harwood Award, along with IACI President, **Alex LaBeau**. Randy Nelson opened the presentation with an overview of the anticipated legislation for consideration in 2011 and the current state of tax policy. He indicated that there would likely be several bills introduced which are designed to create tax credits for various sectors of the economy, including energy production and infrastructure development.

Alex LaBeau and Bill Roden followed up with an outline of the process leading up to the current draft of the Personal Property Tax elimination legislation. The legislation was provided for distribution, and IACI requested comments and suggestions on the proposed language. There will be a request for introduction and full consideration of the bill in the 2011 legislative session.

The **Health Care** panel included three of the state's leading experts in the field: **Dr. David Pate**, President and CEO of St. Luke's Health Systems, **Jeff Sayer**, Chief Financial Officer of Mountain View Hospital in Idaho Falls, and **Zelda Geyer-Sylvia**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Blue Cross of Idaho. All three presenters also serve on the IACI Board of Directors.

For much of the last year, the national political scene has been focused on the federal government's attempt to pass a national health care plan. This panel discussed how the federal health care plan might potentially affect our state's employers, as well as the state budget, now that the bill was passed. One point that was agreed upon by the entire panel is the uncertainty facing the state due to the many of the rules that will dictate the by which the legislation will operate have yet to be written with some not being done until 2014. While this legislation has the potential to be very burdensome to business, as most folks believe, there are some potential opportunities the presenters outlined that could help create a better health system for employees and employers.



The keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon (see sidebars at right) was **Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter**. Governor Otter provided an update of economic development efforts being made both within the state and abroad, and his participation at the conference was appreciated by both IACI members and legislators.

The concluding **Budget** panel featured the Co-Chairs of Joint Finance and Appropriations (JFAC), **Sen. Dean Cameron** and **Rep. Maxine Bell**, as well as the Governor's Chief of Staff, **Jason Kreizenbeck**. The panel focused on the past year and how Idaho was able to manage the finances better than nearly every other state in the union. Through a combination of judicious use of reserve funds and a careful reduction in budgets of specific agencies, the state has weathered the recession much better than most.



Idaho has also refrained from any general tax increase to cover the current economic losses. This has impressed the financial advisors in New York who set the rates for Idaho Bonds and financing. This reduces the overall cost to the taxpayers in Idaho and sets the stage for success as we emerge from the recent downturn.

All panelists indicated that there would likely not be any appetite for new general tax increases in the 2011 session. Additionally, if revenues come in at a reasonable level, there was a commitment to reconsider education budgets first. Even so, the decisions the Legislature and the Governor made in the last session regarding caution with respect to the budget were well-founded. The cautious approach has resulted in a realistic and attainable budget. IACI appreciates the forward thinking of Idaho's elected officials.

In addition to a full slate of speakers and discussion forums, members also had various opportunities to visit directly with legislators, both at the Sunday opening reception as well as at member-hosted dinners on Monday evening. Members additionally approved the current Financial Report and the slate of new directors at the **Annual Meeting**. The Board ratified those Board members for new three-year terms, and additionally approved IACI's **2011 Public Policy Priorities**.



This year's conference provided a good opportunity for business leaders and elected officials to work together — sharing ideas to help navigate through these challenging economic times, and to give Idaho's employer base a strong foundation to build a bright future for all its citizens.

### In Appreciation of our Conference Sponsors

We greatly appreciate the sponsorships of our members at this year's conference, which was a success in large part due to their generous support:



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Questions or comments? Email us at [iaci@iaci.org](mailto:iaci@iaci.org) or call 208-343-1849.

### Pat K. Harwood Distinguished Service Award 2010

**William "Bill" C. Roden**, a long-time attorney/lobbyist with an outstanding career in public policy, has been awarded the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Pat Harwood Distinguished Service Award, the highest service honor given by the Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry.

"Bill was chosen for this award due to his leadership, service, courage, sense of humor, political wisdom and integrity," said IACI Board Chair Trent Clark, Government & Public Affairs Director for Monsanto.

Bill has combined an active law practice with his work on behalf of diverse national and state clients on major legislative and administrative matters before the Idaho legislature as well as local and state administrative agencies. He has been not only a legislative and public affairs advisor to his clients, but a primary draftsman of significant and complex legislation. He is regarded by many as the single most effective lobbyist in the state. Read further details in the [news release](#).



### IACI Environmental Excellence Award 2010

The IACI Environmental Excellence Award provides annual recognition to businesses which, through innovative environmental leadership and accomplishment, have achieved outstanding results in environmental protection and enhancement.

**ConAgra / Lamb Weston** was recognized this year for the implementation of a condensing economizer which has



saved 1.3 MM therms per year of natural gas with an annual greenhouse gas reduction of 6,300 metric tons.

Also nominated for the 2010 award were **CH2M-WG Idaho** and **Union Pacific Railroad**. Full award details are included in the [news release](#).

### IACI Annual Golf Tournament Winners



Congratulations to the golf team of **John Eaton, Pam Eaton, John Revier & Jeremy Pisca**, who won the scramble format tournament with a six under par, and to **Jack Lyman** who won the individual competition with a score of 75! They and all the teams beat the storm to enjoy a bright sunny day at the Whitetail Club.

#### ▶ SAVE THE DATE! ◀

Mark your calendars now for next year's Annual Conference set for **June 12-14, 2011**, with more details to follow in the coming months!

#### ▶ Coming Soon! ◀

We value your input and will soon give you the opportunity to provide feedback on conference venues and formats. Stay tuned for more information on a survey!