



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



## 2013 Conference Summary!

Friday, June 21, 2013



**Phil Baker** of **Hecla Mining** and one of the IACI Conference sponsors, kicked off the day of meetings at the 2013 IACI conference with a [summary of the work Hecla has done](#) to expand and improve the Lucky Friday mine — the deepest in North America and set to surpass 8,000' in depth. He emphasized the importance of the mining industry to Idaho and how much Hecla has grown in recent years, including a recent purchase of a mine in Canada that will increase the capacity of precious metal production by nearly 30%. Our thanks to Hecla for the warm northern Idaho welcome!

Two attorneys from **Hawley Troxell** gave the attendees a new perspective on **health care reform** and **Medicaid redesign**. The focus gave an unvarnished view of the total costs associated with PPACA and how much of the taxes would continue if the state chose to take additional Medicaid money or not. They covered a wide range of taxes on business, including direct taxes already being paid through property tax, and state taxes like the health insurance premium tax, to indirect costs to businesses for unreimbursed care for individuals with no private or government covered health care. IACI is in the process of condensing the information presented to a one page summary that will outline what opportunities Idaho may have to reduce business costs in the next legislative session, as well as the ongoing taxes and costs if no action is taken. Our thanks to **Rick Smith** and **Tom Mortell** for compiling this great [one-of-a-kind Summary](#).

**Commerce Director Jeff Sayer** made an appeal to both business leaders and elected officials in the room for Idaho to [get realistic about Economic Development](#) and to give Idaho the tools it needs to be successful. Director Sayer pointed to several examples in which Idaho simply wasn't being competitive with even neighboring states offering incentive packages seven to ten times larger for businesses that would bring tremendous

opportunities to Idaho to grow. The centerpiece of the appeal was for the state to consider using a rebate system similar to other states that attracts business through negotiated rebates on taxes paid — the state would be using a company's own taxes to incentivize locating in Idaho. The program would be open for both companies already in Idaho, as well as those seeking to relocate here. The revenue generated from the program would bolster the economy and be a boon for Idaho that is already an attractive location for many businesses to consider.

IACI members **Deborah Herron** of **Wal-Mart** and **Pam Eaton** of **Idaho Retailers Association** made an [appeal for Idaho to join the Streamlined Sales Tax program](#) that is designed to level the playing field between retailers selling products online and those with a physical presence in Idaho. While in the past the issue has gained little traction, with the passage of the **Marketplace Freedom Act** in the US Senate and a likely consideration of a similar measure in the US House, Idaho could be poised to collect taxes on sales coming into the state and ensure those already located in Idaho would not be disadvantaged by the sales tax. Frankly, businesses have enough costs carving into their bottom lines without a sales tax system that puts them at an automatic six percent disadvantage. Savvy consumers currently avoid taxes by shopping locally then buying online, which is a practice that hurts commerce in general.

**Lt. Governor Brad Little** was the luncheon keynote speaker, acknowledging that Idaho has worked hard to be business friendly, but recognizing we can still do more. He spoke of Idaho's frugal nature and the ongoing stability of our fiscal structure, but noted we must address infrastructure needs to ensure businesses can get their products to market.



**Governor C.L. Butch Otter** spoke the final morning, providing a look at his agenda being formed for the next few years. While the big question is whether or not he will run for re-election, it became clear from his speech that he is in it for the long haul to ensure policies put



### Pat Harwood Award

IACI's highest honor, the Pat K. Harwood Award for distinguished service on behalf of business in Idaho, was presented to a surprised but pleased **LaMont Keen**, CEO of Idaho Power Co. A long-time IACI Board Member, he was a guiding force in developing and implementing IACI's new strategic plan and mission in 2006. [Read more!](#)



### Environmental Excellence Award

The **Upper Blackfoot River Initiative for Conservation (UBRIC)** was recognized with this year's IACI Environmental Excellence Award for completing a watershed assessment for the Upper Blackfoot River, then working with local irrigators to restore upstream fish passage and install fish screens at two irrigation diversions on Lanes and Diamond creeks. [Read more!](#)



into place over the last few years bear fruit. He indicated that Idaho was growing, but not enough, and he supported Director Sayer in his initiatives. He indicated the need for Idaho to be serious about future transportation funding, and that ongoing tax reduction was a high priority for his administration.

We appreciate all our speakers for providing timely, informative and interesting presentations to make for a very successful conference!

## Golf and Sporting Clays Tournaments



The annual tournament was played on the Coeur d'Alene Resort course on a warm and sunny afternoon. **Ben Yursa** won this year's net individual competition, with **John Revier** winning the gross score. The team scramble was won by **Sally Jeffcoat, Alan Jeffcoat, Senator Chuck Winder** and **Dianne Winder!**

The 2nd IACI sporting clays tournament at the Coeur d'Alene Skeet & Trap Club in Hayden was a big success. This year's winners were **Rich Hahn** in the advanced group, **Sen. Steve Bair** and **Rep. Joe Palmer** with an intermediate group tie, and **Jason Jedry** in the new shooter category.



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