



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



2012 Conference Summary

Friday, June 29, 2012

The 38th annual IACI conference was just held June 10-12 in beautiful Sun Valley. It was another record turnout in attendance for both members and elected officials, which included **Congressmen Mike Simpson** and **Raúl Labrador**, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter, Lt. Governor Brad Little, Secretary of State Ben Yursa, and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna, as well as over 40 legislators from around the state.

This year the agenda was packed full of public policy discussions facilitated by several executive branch agency directors providing updates on some of the many different issues facing the state.



Superintendent Tom Luna kicked off the discussions by updating the group on the implementation of the IACI-supported *Students Come First* initiative and discussed the upcoming referendum election.

Tom was followed by **Curt Fransen**, the new director of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, who discussed some of the environmental issues facing our state, including the ongoing case regarding water quality anti-degradation.



Marty Peterson, currently director of the James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research at the University of Idaho, gave a [sneak peek](#) at the recently completed survey of Idahoans' thoughts on energy issues in our state.

Paul Steinman, the COO of the Idaho Department of Transportation, gave an [overview](#) of ITD's current vision, goals and projects under the helm of Director Brian Ness.



The final policy speaker was **Jeffery Sayer**, Director at the Department of Commerce, who discussed many of the exciting concepts his department is currently working on in the area of [economic development](#). These concepts are directed toward accomplishing the *Project 60* goal of achieving \$60 billion in GDP for the state.

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter was the keynote speaker for the IACI Annual Meeting lunch. The Governor provided updates on a number of issues, including education reform and the IGEM legislation that was successfully passed last legislative session. Governor Otter also reminded attendees that his support and commitment for eliminating the personal property tax is undaunted.



The conference concluded with a [fascinating presentation](#) on national election perspectives from **Joel Searby**, the executive vice president with Strategic Guidance Systems, the consultant contracted by the Idaho Prosperity Fund for research, polling and strategic planning for its public policy and election efforts.

Pat Harwood Award

Guy G. Hurlbutt, a current trustee for the College of Western Idaho, and a former IACI board member with Boise Cascade Corp., was presented with the 20th Annual Pat K. Harwood Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by the Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry.

"Guy was chosen for this award for his leadership, service, courage, political wisdom, integrity and sense of humor," said IACI Board Chair Mark Benson, Vice President with Potlatch Corp., in presenting the award. A very surprised Guy was awarded the honor just minutes before giving an update on CWI at the Annual Meeting lunch. Read complete details in the [news release](#).



Environmental Excellence Award

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

J.R. Simplot Company's Don Plant in Pocatello was recognized this year for continuing its transformation efforts of using fewer resources to produce its products by changing the culture of water utilization. Read more in the [news release!](#)



Golf and Sporting Clay Tournaments

The annual tournament was played on the front nine of the Trail Creek Course and the back nine of the new White Clouds Course on a wonderful sunny afternoon. **Mark Benson** won this year's individual competition with an 84, and **Steve Thomas, Maureen Thomas, Dan Jones, and Rep. Eric Anderson** won the team scramble with a score of 64.



The inaugural sporting clays tournament at the Sun Valley Gun Club was a big success, and participants are excited to have the tournament included again at next year's conference. This year's winners were **John Watts** in the advanced category, **James Cagle** in the intermediate group, and candidate **Jason Monks** in the beginner group.

In Appreciation of This Year's Conference Sponsors!



▪ Save the Date for Next Year's Conference — June 9-11, 2013 in Coeur d'Alene! ▪