



Montana Trooper

President's Message



Brian Inman
President
AMT

As most of you are aware, there has been a record movement of management through the Highway Patrol. With this movement, we congratulate our Past President Art Collins with his promotion to captain and district commander in District 7, Bozeman. I, Trooper Brian Inman, have been the District 3 representative for the Association for the last three years. I have been involved in and have seen first-hand the changes in our member's lives from the endeavors that come from our Association. I threw my hat in the ring to fill the President's shoes and was accepted as the new President. I look forward to working for the membership, and I will do my utmost to keep the membership's goals and future in mind in all my dealings. My door is always open to suggestions or ideas from any of the members.

The Patrol is growing! There has been approval for five new positions and a new detachment in the eastern por-

tion of the state. With the increase in population and traffic due to the oil industry, the calls for service in that region have increased greatly. It is going to be a great relief not only to the troopers, but the citizens in that area as well. With these new positions and replacement from attrition, we have had one academy class graduate and another class in the academy since the last magazine was published. We have a record number of female troopers currently in the academy. We would like to welcome these new members and troopers to the Highway Patrol family. Please give them friendship and advice as they learn to serve the people of Montana as we do.

The Association had a very successful legislative year. The most significant of these accomplishments was our new retirement bill. The changes to our system may seem drastic to some and the extra money we decided to put in may appear to be too much. However, I assure you, if we did not make these changes ourselves, we would have lost much more by allowing others not in our retirement system to change it for us. We have a unique system that others may not appreciate as much as we do. With the changes we made, it has the potential to make the system once again sound within eight years. When the system is solvent again, we

can look at changing it again to benefit current troopers and future troopers. Thank you for your support, and thank you to our attorneys and lobbyists, Mark Taylor and Jessie Luther, for their hard work to get things done.

If you haven't had a chance to log onto our web page, www.montana-trooper.com, please take the time to do so. One will find a new selection of merchandise in our catalog, thanks to our treasurer Keith Edgell. One can also access an online version of *Montana Trooper* magazine, a member's section, and much more. Thanks to editor Scott Ayers for all the work he does to make this magazine what it is. Also, remember that we have the restored patrol vehicles available if a member would like to display them for an event. The calendar and ability to make requests for these vehicles 24/7 can be found in our member's only section. If you are a dues paying member of the Association and have not yet applied for access, please do so.

On another note, the Association annual meeting and golf tournament is August 10 and 11 in Lewistown. If you can make it, please come and join us. You can contact Sergeant Kelly Mantooth for more information.

Keep up the good work and stay safe! □





Montana Trooper

From the Attorney General



Montana
Attorney General
Tim Fox

After Montanans chose me to be their new Attorney General last year, one of the first things I did was a ride-along with a Highway Patrol trooper. I spent several busy hours with one of Montana's finest law enforcement officers. I learned a lot and gained an even deeper appreciation for the work our troopers do, the dangers they face, and the help they give to Montanans.

One of my first official duties was speaking at the Highway Patrol change-of-command ceremony and formally welcoming Colonel Kenton Hickethier aboard as the new chief. My team and I put considerable time and effort into the search for a new chief, knowing that it is one my most important appointments to make. While several outstanding candidates came forward to seek the position, I chose Kenton because of his extensive law enforcement background, administrative experience, and strong relationships with the local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working to protect Montanans every day. I

have the utmost confidence in Colonel Hickethier and his leadership team.

Not long after the change-of-command ceremony, I stood with Colonel Hickethier to commission and welcome nine new troopers into the Patrol. I was honored to shake the hands and meet the families of these outstanding men as they embarked on a noble calling and entered the ranks of Montana's finest law enforcement officers.

The truth is that Montana's Highway Patrol troopers and the vital support staff that help them carry out their mission inspire me. It's one thing to work on law enforcement issues in the Attorney General's Office at the Department of Justice, but it's something altogether different to be out there on the front lines protecting the public. Our troopers work long hours and often face dangers in situations where back-up is too far away to make a difference. As I told all those gathered at the Law Enforcement Memorial event in Billings this spring, Montana's law enforcement officers are her true unsung heroes.

During this year's legislative session, the Patrol's leadership team and I worked hard to make sure law enforcement concerns were heard in Helena. I am happy to report we were successful on many fronts.

We secured funding for five new troopers who will serve in regions impacted by the Bakken oil boom. That

will mean faster response times and a greater ability to intervene when public safety is in jeopardy.

Troopers know well the toll that driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs takes on our communities. That's why we advanced a bill that allows a judge to go back further in a repeat DUI offender's record to deliver stiffer penalties and get them into successful treatment programs. We also passed a bill establishing a THC impairment standard for all Montana drivers.

In response the growing threat posed by new drugs such as "bath salts" and "spice," we brought forward a bill targeting these drugs that mimic dangerous, illegal drugs. When I took office, these drugs were not designated as unlawful in state law. Because of our bill, any dangerous drug compound will soon be illegal in Montana.

We also succeeded in passing bills aimed at protecting kids from sex offenders. Sex offenders who move into Montana will soon be required to provide a DNA sample to our state crime lab. Montana was one of only four states in the country lacking such a requirement, but we closed the loophole. Another bill allows a district judge to designate a tier level to sex offenders who lack one. The majority of sex offenders in Montana do not have a tier level because they predate the tier system, did not receive one at sentencing, or come from a state with a different tier system.

What we accomplished together this session is just the beginning. Giving our troopers the resources and tools they need to make Montana's highways safer will be one of my top priorities in the months and years to come.

It's an honor to be your Attorney General, and it's a privilege to be able to work with the Montana Highway Patrol's dedicated troopers and support staff every day. □





Montana Trooper

Colonel's Message



Colonel
Kenton Hickethier

Montana's Highway Patrol troopers stand watch in every corner of our state, often working in situations where backup is too far away to be of help in an immediate crisis. They work long hours and are asked to spend considerable time away from their families. Behind every trooper is a dedicated team of professional dispatchers, communications specialists, technicians, and administrative support staff making sure that the Highway Patrol is ready to meet every challenge along the way. Too often, the work of the Highway Patrol is taken for granted by the very citizens they serve.

Traffic fatalities increased 2.94% in 2012. The increase was influenced in large part by an 18.18% percent increase in fatalities in which alcohol was a factor. We had a 52% increase

in commercial motor vehicle fatal crashes and a 15.5% growth in commercial vehicles in the eastern Montana oil region. Additionally, motorcycle fatal crashes increased 47.37%.

Traffic flows across the state have increased approximately 2% this past year. In the Bakken region, traffic flows have increased significantly; 36% in Richland County, 31% in Dawson County, 26% in Custer County, and 16% in Roosevelt and Sheridan Counties. This has dramatically affected our ability to meet our mission needs to take care of the citizens of Montana.

I am optimistic that Montana has begun to address its long running issue of drinking and driving. The Montana Highway Patrol has led the way by educating all our troopers with Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program. We were the first law enforcement agency in the nation to have everyone trained in ARIDE. The Montana Highway Patrol currently has 25 certified Drug Recognition Experts (DRE), which encompasses over 40% of Montana's DRE's. We currently train Montana law enforcement agencies across the state in these two important areas of expertise.

The Montana Highway Patrol will continue to support the efforts of the Montana legislature as they seek to create effective public policies that address the issue of impaired driving. Even one DUI fatality is too many. We will continue to progress towards the vision of becoming one of the top law enforcement agencies in the northwestern United States through technological improvements and selection of the best suited personnel. We will also continue to play a role in support of larger DOJ initiatives as our mission and abilities allow.

Montana is a great place to live and work, and through partnerships with other law enforcement agencies and the Department of Transportation, we will continue to work towards an even safer future.

I want to thank each and every one of you for making a difference. We have a great tradition, and our goal will be to build upon our proud legacy that is the Montana Highway Patrol. I know I'll have the help of all of you, sworn and civilian alike, to keep us moving forward with the guiding principles of service, integrity, and respect.

Be Safe! □

