

Montana Trooper

President's Message



Brian Inman
President
AMT

Friends and fellow members,

This last year has gone by in a flash. The changes in the Highway Patrol have also been fast and furious. Since I last wrote you, Colonel Kenton Hickethier has retired, and our present colonel, Tom Butler, has been in place for about half a year. We have congratulated him, and we certainly welcome him and look forward to working with him. Colonel Butler is no stranger to the Association, as he has been on the AMT's Board of Directors for many years. He helped organize and set up our political action committee, which has been instrumental in achieving the changes through legislation from which we have all benefited. It is important to have partners with such experience and knowledge to count on for advice when needed.

With 2014 being a non-legislative year, there has not been as much activity to report on. It has been an excel-

lent time to collect ideas and analyze our goals and achievements to prepare ourselves to continue to make positive changes for all the members. Our fall Board meeting was last October in Helena. Members can view the agenda and meeting minutes on our web page, www.montanatrooper.com.

One proposal which was brought up which we are now looking into is a drop retirement program that the troopers could enroll in, if they so desired. In the next year, we are going to investigate the pros and cons of such a system and what we would need legislatively to make it available for us. We will pass more information on as we dig into the details. Our next Board meeting will be in May in Billings. We have again decided to combine our meeting time with the law enforcement memorial week and the opening ceremonies of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Last year this proved to be very productive and provided a positive Highway Patrol presence at the events.

This last year, the Association held a few board member elections, and consequently we have a few new faces on the Board. We would like to thank Kelly Mantooth for serving in District II and Tom Butler for serving as the head-

quarters representative. Taking their places are Scott Waddell for District II and Dustin LeRette for headquarters. Our secretary, Bryan Adams, has also needed to step down. He had served on the Board in some capacity for over two decades, and his presence will be missed. Bryan, thank you for your hard work and dedication these many years. The Board has positioned Scott Ayers as our new secretary. Congratulations to Mr. Ayers, and we look forward to having him in his new position.

We again had some outstanding events this last year. The Hope Project's Essex reunion, the AMT annual meeting and golf tournament, and Hope Project's Fairmont Christmas reunion were all great events with great turn-outs. We would like to thank all of you who put so many hours into organizing and running the events, as well as all those who took the time to attend the events. With that in mind, as you are organizing your calendar for the next year, save the time and come join the fun.

In closing, let us not forget where we came from and where we need to be going. There have been a few excellent troopers retire this last year, and many new faces need guidance. Welcome the new members, and keep doing the good work. □