

## Montana Trooper

# President's Message



Sgt. Art Collins  
President  
AMT

Fellow members,

I can't believe it is December already and time to write to you all again. We made it through another year and another election cycle. To say 2012 was a year of change would be an understatement. We have a new attorney general, colonel, lieutenant colonel, and as I write this, four new district commanders. At the moment, we also have over thirty troopers waiting anxiously to see if they will be selected to move to the next step in their careers as detachment commanders. Whether we are happy or not with the election results or promotional selections, we all have to continue to be the best we can be to insure this organization continues to be as successful in the future as we have in the past. To me, this means supporting our leaders, day in and day out, by not only doing our jobs, but providing meaningful feedback up the chain of command.

I would like to thank Attorney General and Governor-elect Bullock for his support and leadership during his tenure in the Montana Attorney General's Office. He worked diligently with the Montana Highway Patrol to make sure important legislation was passed during the 2011 session that will not only make our jobs easier but hopefully make our highways safer in the future.

To say Mike Tooley and Butch Huseby will be missed would be a gross understatement. These are two men that just seemed to "get it." I've known both of them since the beginning of my career and have come to think of them

both as friends. I've know them to be men of integrity, who held to their values no matter what the cost to them personally might be at the end. They have both taken risk after risk because of what they believed in. It doesn't matter if everyone in uniform agreed with what they were doing at the time, I do know that every decision they made was not made selfishly, but rather with the best interests of the MHP and troopers in mind. I wish the best of luck to both in their next adventure in life.

As these dedicated people move on, we are blessed to have some equally talented people moving into their vacated positions. With that in mind, I would like to publicly congratulate Attorney General-elect Tim Fox on his election win. I have only known Mr. Fox for a little over four years, but I have had the pleasure to visit with him a few times during that period of time. I am encouraged by his obvious excitement when he talks about working with the Highway Patrol. I am excited to see what the next four years hold under his leadership at the Department of Justice. Also, congratulations go out to Colonel Hickethier and Lieutenant Colonel Watson. I still remember Trooper Hickethier teaching us traffic stops and drug interdiction at the Academy nineteen years ago. I think his record speaks for itself, and we should all look forward to what he has in mind

for the Highway Patrol. LTC Watson has been a good friend of mine since we started out together working on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. For my part, I haven't had a better friend in that time and would follow him anywhere. I am very excited to have him in the LTC position.

As you are reading this, we are in the midst of the 2013 legislative session. The AMT, the MHP administration, and our lobbyist, Mark Taylor, are working hard to ensure bills important to us are passed. Chief among these is the bill to fix our retirement system. I would like to commend you all for voting the way you did on this matter. Your vote was a vote of selflessness, and you showed great wisdom and courage to want to tackle this issue head-on. There will also be a few public safety bills we will be following and supporting as well. Of course, the primary seat belt law is something we will always support until it is passed. As troopers, we all know how important those safety belts are, and when 75% of the fatalities in this state were not using seatbelts, their importance should be readily apparent to anyone.

Until next time, stay sharp, work smart, and be safe.

Fraternally,

*Art Collins*



## Montana Trooper

# From the Attorney General



Montana  
Attorney General  
Steve Bullock

Collectively, we have put on a lot of miles and accomplished some major milestones over the past four years. We've stood together through some sorrowful times, and emerged stronger and even more committed to our mission and to each other.

In this, my final column as Attor-

ney General, I would especially like to thank Colonel Mike Tooley, Lt. Colonel Butch Huseby, and Major Butler for the outstanding leadership they have provided within the Patrol and as part of my administration at Justice. I am confident that we are leaving the Patrol stronger and better equipped, with new laws and new tools to help troopers get the job done.

Thanks to the efforts of the department's Information Technology and Motor Vehicle Divisions, troopers now have online access to vehicle insurance information so they can verify that motorists are carrying the insurance coverage required by Montana law.

With the support of Trooper Mike Haynes' wife Tawny Norton, Representative Steve Lavin, and MHP lead-

ership, the 24/7 Sobriety Program was authorized statewide in 2011. As of December 2012, that program was holding repeat drunk drivers accountable and keeping them sober in 28 counties throughout the state.

I'm sure I will see many of you as I continue to travel the state in connection with my new responsibilities as Montana's Governor.

You will always have my thanks for all you do and all you risk every day to keep my family and all who travel our roadways safe.

Thank you and take care.  
Sincerely,

Steve Bullock  
Attorney General  
and Governor-elect

## Montana Trooper

# Colonel's Message



Colonel  
Mike Tooley

Whenever I walk through the rotunda of the Capitol, I can't help but think of a day in June 1984 when I stood there with my six classmates and took the oath of office as a Montana Highway Patrolman. It was one of the proudest moments of my life.

I looked forward to hitting the highways and working to make our state safer as part of a great organization. Never in my wildest imagination could I imagine two things. One is becoming the chief of that organization, and the other was leaving it. I was honored to be selected as chief in January 2009, and my last day as a member of the patrol is December 28, 2012.

The past four years have been one of the greatest challenges of my life as well as the greatest blessings. The losses of great people like Mike Haynes and David DeLaitre in the line of duty have been very painful. Equally as difficult for me was the passing of Chris Hoyt and Vern Wise. The entire organization has suffered through some tough times, but I am proud of how you have all responded.

At the same time, watching the progress of technology in the Patrol and the improvement in DUI laws has been incredibly rewarding. Watching new troopers enter our ranks and great people being promoted has been a privilege.

The state of the Patrol is strong. The new generation of leaders coming through the ranks is going to take the agency to new heights. I am excited for what lies ahead for the Patrol and the AMT.

Normally, I would spend some time talking about what I see coming up for the Patrol and the Association, but not this time. This time I simply want to say thank you. It has been a privilege to work with the AMT to advance important initiatives to support active troopers and retirees. Also, the Association has been a strong advocate for improving public safety through effective legislation. It has been a great partnership!

In conclusion, besides thanking the

membership, I would like to thank our outgoing Attorney General Steve Bullock for the opportunity to lead this organization. Also, I would like to congratulate our newly elected Attorney General Tim Fox and the newly selected Patrol management team. I wish all of you the best luck in the future.

Respectfully,  
Colonel Mike Tooley,