

## President's Message 2008-01



I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for electing me President of the Maryland Land Title Association, for the November 2007 – October 2008 term. It was only 6 years ago, for the 2001-2002 term, that I was first elected President. At that time, I thought “maybe I’ll try this again in 15-20 years, or so,” never imagining that I would be back in only six years. To be the first member of the MLTA to be elected President a second time is an honor and a privilege.

The MLTA would not be what it is, today, without the dedication of its Officers, Directors, Executive Director, Committee Chairs, Committee Members and YOU. Throughout my years of participation in the MLTA, I’ve had the pleasure of working with some of the most distinguished members of our industry. I’d like to personally thank each and every one of you for your commitment to our industry.

As a special “thank you” to the long-term supporters of our Association, for the upcoming 2007 – 2008 year, the Board of Directors has agreed to waive Membership Dues for those who have been members of the MLTA for 5 or more years.

During my first few weeks in office, we have already been facing challenges in our industry. With a Special Session of the Legislature, several bills were presented that impact us. We are fortunate that Bill Pitcher (our lobbyist) and Jim Cosgrove (Chair of the Legislative Committee) were actively monitoring proposed legislation and sending out notices to our membership. Their hard work, and dedication, is keeping us all up-to-date with the most recent actions on the Hill. If you receive future “Calls To Action” please take it to heart, and act accordingly.

There are several other initiatives that will be happening this year.

Our website is in the process of a complete overhaul. Watch for significant changes, including a member-interactive website that will allow you to make changes to your membership information “on the fly.”

In addition to our ongoing commitment to pre-licensing classes, the Education Committee has arranged for Continuing Education Classes to be presented each and every month at various locations throughout the State.

You can view the upcoming schedule (which is constantly being updated) at our Website. Additionally, as locations are being selected, and classes are being arranged, you will receive updated e-mails.

The Convention Committee is well on its way preparing for our Convention in Ocean City Maryland, which is scheduled for September 11 – 14, 2008 at the Clarion Resort, Fontainebleau. They have just told me their “theme”, which I’ve been asked to keep “hush”, and some of their other plans. All I can say is that this is going to be a Convention not to be missed, so mark your calendars now!

In addition to our “thank you” to “5+ Year Members”, the Membership Committee is working diligently on providing our membership with a Health Care Plan for those members who are currently not covered under an Employer’s Plan; a Cellular Telephone Plan; a Mid-Year Bull Roast and/or Crab Feast, and other new initiatives for this year.

The Board also recognizes that further inclusion, recognition and understanding of the needs of the Title Insurance Producer Independent Contractors (TIPIC) is essential to the health and growth of the MLTA. To help me achieve this goal, we have established a TIPIC sub-committee to specifically address the needs and concerns of our newest influx of members. This sub-committee will work directly with the Membership Committee and allow us establish a better line of communication with the TIPICs.

These are just a few of the objectives for this year. If anyone has any other suggestions for what we can do for you, please contact the Committee Chair, get involved and let yourself be heard. If you’d like, CALL ME. Let me hear your thoughts... your ideas. It may just be the next task that we accomplish for YOU.

Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to work with you this upcoming year.

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