

President's Message
March 21, 2011

Dear MLTA Member,

I am writing to bring you 'up to date' on the many happenings going on in your Association since my last message.

The By-Laws Committee has been working diligently on a much needed updating of our By-Laws. MLTA has existed since 1985, and there has not been a comprehensive review and restatement of those original By-Laws. With so many changes in our industry, it has become necessary to undertake this task to 'get us caught up with the times.' When the work is finished and has been approved by the Board, it will be presented to the membership for approval.

In keeping with the theme of 'catching up,' do plan on attending the upcoming Technology Seminar, on April 7th, at the Maritime Institute (near BWI). From a survey taken among the members, it is evident that many of us are not engaging in the use of social media (*e.g.*, Facebook, LinkedIn, and the like). For those of us who went, 'kicking and screaming' from a typewriter to a keyboard- it's time to 'hop on board and get with the times!' Time to learn how these tools can increase your visibility and perhaps generate new business!

Our Southern Maryland Chapter celebrated St. Patrick's Day with an outstanding educational offering that attracted approximately 85 participants for a day that was both informational and entertaining.

The Legislative Committee has been laboring in their weekly (sometimes even more frequent!) meetings over matters important to our industry. Once a bill is designated 'of interest,' its potential impact is evaluated, and appropriate action ensues in the form of political advocacy on the part of our Lobby, as well as various committee/Board members. Several members attended two dinners hosted on behalf of the MLTA in Annapolis over the past two weeks, to which key legislators were invited. Each member also plays an active role in this process by sending letters and e-mails to legislators and regulators, as the committee periodically requests, on topics deemed of critical importance.

We have seen the potential for growth in many committees - group meetings will be held the first week in April for the Industry Enhancement, Technology, Education, and Membership Committees. I was delighted to see so many familiar faces returning to a more active role in our Association, as well as many new ones!

Please refer to our list of Committee Chairman on the website (www.MDLTA.org), under "About Us" to see the list of those to thank for their dedicated work on your behalf, and to contact in order to 'get in the game!'

Last, but not least was our Association's representation at the ALTA Federal Conference and Lobby Day, which was held in the nation's Capitol, March 13-16th. There were approximately 200 attendees from around the country, and Maryland was represented by ALTA member and title industry 'elder statesman' William McAuliffe, Yvonne Deardorff, and Jennifer Greenberg (MLTA Members, Lakeside Title), as well as Sally McCash of O'Malley, Miles, Nylen and Gilmore (MLTA Past President, and current MLTA ALTA Liaison and Chair of the Agents Section), Ted Rogers of The Security Title Guarantee Corporation (MLTA Chairman of the Underwriters Section) and your MLTA President.

The most important aspect of this gathering is Lobby Day. Through the exceptional work of the ALTA staff, we were able to meet with many of our legislators, to discuss the critical importance of the role of the GSE (**Government Sponsored Enterprises; Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac**) to the continuing recovery of the housing industry, on both a state and federal level. If you are unsure as to how Fannie and Freddie impact our industry, I would suggest you read my report that will appear in the next edition of ***The Commitment***, which discusses their critical role in our business, and the need for the return to their original regulatory mission. These efforts would be impossible without the work of the American Land Title Association. I would strongly encourage you to considering lending your support and joining the ALTA (www.alta.org).

Regards,

John P. Micciche, CLTP
President, Maryland Land Title Association