

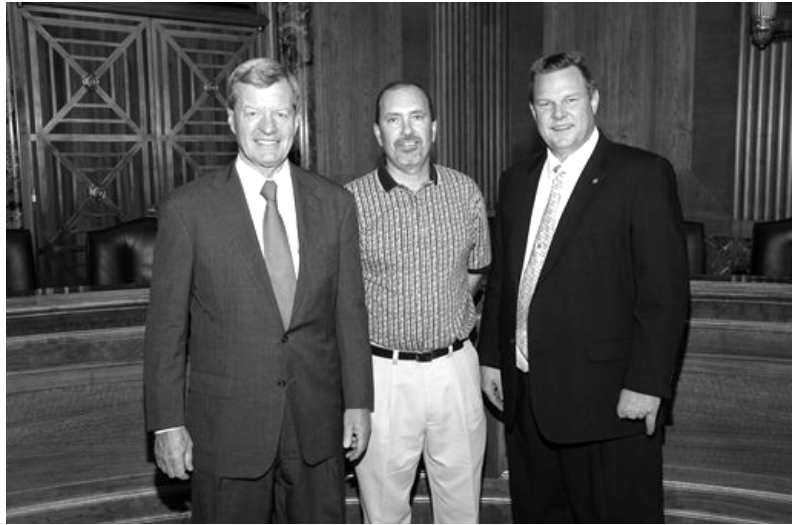


President's Message

October 2009

Dear MARLS Membership,

Here we are with our first snow on the mountain peaks, the colors of fall all around us and fading light in our days. It seems like we just started having summer weather and now the snowy days are inevitable.



I recently returned from our nation's capitol and what I think was a productive trip. I joined our NSPS Governor, Debi Anderson, for the annual ACSM Lobby Days. I was fortunate to speak briefly with Senators Baucus and Tester in their offices, however, most of our lobbying efforts were carried on with the Senators' staff. The lobby efforts involved requests for appropriations for the BLM and the Trig-Star program. We also made requests to support the Railroad Monument Preservation Bill and NOAA Coastline Mapping Bill. We were privileged to be invited to the unveiling of the 2009 BLM Manual and presentation to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior – a long anticipated event to say the least. We did actually see a copy, but we will all have to wait a few more months for the printing to be completed.

I have never been very politically active; however, visiting Washington, D.C. can make the most apathetic of Americans proud of their country. There are so many memorials and museums which represent those who have given time, talent, knowledge and their life so that we all have the privilege to live and earn a living in the greatest nation in the world. It is easy to be proud while wandering the halls of our Capitol, Supreme Court, National Archives and other national landmarks, to see the birth of our country through documents, statues and historic buildings. One tidbit of information I learned while visiting these memorials was that one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence was a land surveyor – and I'm not referring to Thomas Jefferson; this man was John Morton of Ridley, Pennsylvania. While in the Smithsonian I saw an exhibit on the development of GPS which displayed a Trimble 4800 on a staff and utilizing a TSC1 data collector. I guess we are part of history; the sad part was that I was thinking I could sure use that TSC1. I enjoyed every part of my visit to Washington DC, especially the part of being in a large city and realizing how lucky I am to live in Montana.

On Thursday, October 1st a rather unpublicized public hearing was conducted by the Montana Board of Registration with several proposed ARM amendments. One of those amendments proposed drastic changes to our Continuing Professional Competency requirements to "protect the public." MARLS takes the position that the proposed changes are unwarranted and unneeded and would cause undo hardships on all registrants as well as professional organizations. I was not able to personally appear, but I did draft a letter which was delivered to the Board which set forth the problems the MARLS board felt there were with the proposed changes. We were represented by our CPC Committee Chairman, Bob Rux, who commented verbally on the proposed changes and submitted written comments as well. We are not in favor of the changes being presented and strongly opposed them. We have until October 9 to submit written comments to the Board. I urge all members of MARLS to send or email your comments to the Board at dlibsdpels@mt.gov. My thanks go out to all who have taken the time to comment and especially to Bob Rux for taking time out of his schedule to represent MARLS at the hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kurt Luebke". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kurt Luebke
MARLS President