Chairman and President’s Report

It is with great pleasure that I share our 2016’s successes with you.

One of the ways we are most successful is opening branches in new geographic areas. Scottsbluff, Nebraska is one of those success stories. Opened in 2013, loans in Scottsbluff have grown to $21.8 million with 1,700 members.

We continue the credit union’s success with loan growth in all branches, with the Downtown Cheyenne branch providing $68 million in loans, and the Cheyenne East branch at $39 million. Expanding across the western half of the state, Rawlins holds $32 million in loans, Jackson with $25 million, and Lander holding $30 million in loans. All total, we have provided $1.3 Billion in loans since 1954.

Locally we have finished a few projects, such as the downtown office remodel with reconfiguring of the elevator housing and sprucing up the interior.

We rolled out Apple Pay. As merchants start offering this service, you will be able to make purchases with your cell phone. We modernized our domain name to MyMeridianTrust.com. Easier to remember, easier to say, and easier to write down.

The credit union offered a wide array of products for the membership:

- 0% on all new VISA purchases for an entire year.
- Holiday Loan Special, with a new twist in letting the member decide their payment option that they are most comfortable with.

We revisited our telephone banking product because the number of users and transactions had fallen off over the years. The cost per transaction had grown from just pennies apiece to $7.62 each time someone used the service. We saw this as an opportunity to provide more hometown service by leaving that program behind and supporting our call center staff and adding an online chat program.

We also offered members a Home Equity Line of Credit at 1.99% for the first year and an unprecedented 10 year draw. Another feature of the new HELOC is that we only adjust the rate once a year.

We sponsored Wyoming’s 125th anniversary celebration at the capital with our past and present leaders in recognizing the State’s accomplishments and showcasing the beauty of Wyoming.

We’re now offering investment services to our members through CFS which was launched in the last half of 2015, offering affordable and diverse investment options beyond the traditional certificate of deposits.

For this year, we are excited about our new partnership and merger with Panhandle Co-operative Federal Credit Union in Scottsbluff. As of May 1st, we have 800 new friends and members who are now part of Meridian Trust.

Meridian Trust multiplied our efforts in sponsoring community programs and funding for the Heating and Energy Assistance Trust, known as HEAT. In the month of October, we had a “People Helping People” movement in honoring our past and paying it forward in our community. With the support of our membership, we provided 5,000 oatmeal containers to area food banks and shelters so others could “Eat Breakfast for a Week.” When Lusk, Wyoming was hit with damaging flood waters, our mobile branch, nicknamed Moby, was there on the spot offering clean up supplies and extending 0% loans for repairs to their cars or homes. Each year we also provide two college scholarships to our members as well.

We are a strong, safe and secure financial co-operative. We are strong because of our 25,000 members that cooperate... collaborating to supply millions of dollars in deposits for loans and to contain costs. We may have only this opportunity once a year to say, “Thank You!” but know that with every deposit you make and every loan that you have paid, you make the difference for someone else.
Meridian Trust’s strong financial performance continued in 2015. Assets increased 5.41% to $320,657,630, with shares increasing 5.55% to $283,251,644. Total loans increased 19.24% during 2015 to $238,695,587. The credit union remains well capitalized at 10.7% allowing us to serve our membership by providing competitive loan and savings products while keeping convenience for our members a top priority.

Mike Abel
Treasurer