



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | TIMOTHY MURPHY

Elevate Your Perspective and Reach For New Heights

Elevating your perspective means taking a step back and looking at the future. The guiding questions for who we are and why we do what we do. Why did we become land surveyors? What can we do to help future surveyors? Where is our profession heading? How do we protect our fundamental values? What legacy do we want to leave?

Greetings and best wishes to all of you out there in the surveying profession. I wanted to start off the spring newsletter with a continuation of the conference theme. This really hit home for me and spoke volumes to my drive and the drive that many of you also have for surveying and the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association. The IPLSA and its members continue to be very active on many levels, and as a group we have the potential to create effective change that will elevate all of our perspectives and make our profession stronger and more enduring.

The 2016 Conference was a great success and was filled with many quality opportunities for continuing education and networking. Judging from the many responses we received from our post conference survey the overwhelming majority of the attendees were very pleased with the conference. Please know that the Conference Committee looks at all of the comments we receive and are always looking at ways to improve the conference. Our goal is to make the IPLSA Annual Conference the “go to” place for you to receive your required continuing education and to network with your fellow surveyors. It always amazes me at the conference that as much as we are different we are also all quite alike! I would also like to extend a

special thank you to all of our exhibitors and sponsors that underwrite a large part of the conference; I hope you were able to spend some quality time with them.

The Executive Committee and many of the special committees have been working hard at the many challenges facing the surveying profession. We are starting our second year of a three year plan developed by a special task force that met in the fall of 2014. The three year plan included many initiatives and ideas for better ways to serve our members and promote surveying. Many questions have been asked about why we do things in certain ways and not try out other ways. Our special committees are working hard to find answers to the challenges we face and are exploring new ways to communicate with our members and enact change.

Now is the time to take a good look at the future of surveying and the IPLSA. We need to focus on helping the association examine the changing and emerging needs of land surveyors and the public. I encourage you to take an active role in the future of our profession and the association. Really think about those big picture questions and try to answer them for yourself. Help us guide the future of surveying in the state of Illinois. In years to come we will look back on this time and see how the IPLSA embraced the future

and took a proactive approach to building an enduring association for our profession. Please visit iplsa.org to check out the community pages and to view the three year plan. Stay tuned for future updates!

One of our greatest challenges is the need to train and mentor future surveyors. The average age of professional land surveyors continues to rise and surveyors are not coming into the profession at the higher rates we have seen in the past. We currently have three survey programs in Illinois and all of them, as well as our profession, would benefit greatly from having more students. We all need to do our part and get out to our local high schools and talk to the young students about a career in land surveying. It is essential to the longevity of our profession that we encourage students to consider a career in land surveying and that we mentor the next generation of land surveyors. This is kind of like church, it's not something you just do on Sunday, we need to get out there and be a mentor every day and every chance we get.

Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time to serve our profession. We would not exist without you and your efforts are greatly appreciated. If you have any comments or suggestions please take a moment to contact me. I can be reached at tmurphy@manhard.com or by phone at 847.343.1204.