

ALASKA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

**AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS
MEMBER OF WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS**

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Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors President's Report

February 15, 2019

It has been an honor to serve with such a dedicated and distinguished group of people this last year. My thanks to Josh Varney, the past president, for his service to the ASPLS. Josh has been very effective as one of our Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC) representatives. He has served with distinction in this very important position.

Jake Maxwell has served as the ASPLS Secretary and as an APDC representative. His presence and influence have been critical to our success.

Richard Heieren after 10 years of service as the ASPLS Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WESTFED) representative, in which he served as Secretary/Treasurer in 2009-10, Chair-Elect in 2011-12 and finally as Chair in 2013-14, decided to step down. Richard was also one of the two land surveyors on the AELS Board, serving as Chair for 2 of his 8-year term, and was instrumental in writing bylaws for the AELS Board. During his tenure, he and Cliff Baker were instrumental in the development of the current education requirements for surveyors.

Steve Buchanan served the last six months of Richard's term and has been nominated as the new WESTFED representative. Steve has served as ASPLS president and was on the Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference (ASMC) Board and Planning Committee for 5 years.

Cliff Baker has been the Alaska governor of NSPS. Having some experience as a NSPS representative, I can testify that Cliff's service has been very professional and that he has contributed to the land surveying profession in Alaska and the United States.

I would like to thank the Chapter Presidents for their work and dedication in keeping this organization relevant to so many surveyors, associates and students: Fred Wagner, the Mat-Su Chapter President; Gwen Gervelis, the Anchorage Chapter President; Max J Best the Kenai Chapter President; and Patrick Kalen, the Fairbanks Chapter President. Special thanks to the University of Alaska Anchorage, Geomatics Student Association, Chapter President Matt Santiago for keeping their involvement in the ASPLS.

The work and vision of this organization is conducted in no small part by the committee chairs. Though too often they are a committee of one.

Karl Spohn has done a great job putting the new website together and getting on-line dues payments operational. Karl is also the ASPLS Treasurer. He has kept us honest and in the black for the last 3 years.

We all owe our thanks to Ken Ayers for keeping the important work of the AKLS Exam Review Committee going.

Jeremy Hurst, the new CEO of 49th Star Surveying, has been our Trig-Star committee chair. He has done a wonderful job of organizing this effort. He is on the ballot as the new President Elect.

Neil Robicheau served as the Nominating Committee Chair this year, which is like herding cats toward a fire. He is also on the ASMC Board and Planning Committee, and the ASPLS Membership Committee. All the while being the President Elect of the ASPLS. I look forward to his turn as President.

The one person, more than any other, who keeps this organization running as smoothly as possible given the personalities she tries to manage, is our Executive Secretary, Vicky Sterling. She works with a new inexperienced President every year, with people who disappear into the Alaskan back country just when they are needed, she graciously watches us make the same mistakes year after year and tries to guide us with facts.

The ASPLS Board voted unanimously to adopt new Bylaws, after nearly a year of examining the ASPLS Bylaws that were passed in 2-20-2013. This was a combined effort undertaken to make the Bylaws reflect what was being practiced, to modernize the Bylaws, to correct spelling and grammar errors, to eliminate some odd phrases that were incomprehensible, to make things more comprehensible, to eliminate redundancies and to incorporate some new ideas.

The major changes are:

The President and Past President are no longer automatically on the Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference Board and Planning Committee. Those positions are now committee positions selected by the President. It was obvious that that is too burdensome for the President to manage the ASPLS while serving on the conference committee. The new Bylaws are reflective of what was being practiced.

We have eliminated the Affiliate membership category. The definition of the Affiliate membership was similar enough to the Associate membership category to make them indistinguishable.

We created a new membership category, that of Ex-officio member. See the Bylaws for details.

We slightly changed the process of approving new Bylaws. Previously the Board could change the Bylaws by a two-thirds vote of elected Chapter Directors. Since not all our chapters are active, and since that eliminates the votes of the 5 directors elected by the entire membership, we amended the process to a two-thirds vote of all elected Directors.

I am sure the incoming president will want to continue the process of revising the Bylaws to incorporate new ideas and to increase the ASPLS membership. We encourage your participation and hope to hear new ideas from the membership.

The ASPLS web site is up and running. It includes on line membership registration and dues payment, the new Bylaws, and a revised professional look.

<https://www.alaskapls.org/>

We have purchased a GoToMeeting account that we will be using to broadcast and record meetings and training. The account can be used for chapter and state meetings. We may post the meetings (edited for content) on YouTube so that more members can see what we are doing and get involved.

Our biggest challenge is to increase the number of members. There are more licensed land surveyors in Alaska who are not members of ASPLS than those who are. It will take all of us working together to change that.

Respectfully,

Gary M Gervelis, PLS
2018 -2019 ASPLS President