

President's Message



Reflecting back to 1987, I was a young surveyor with an LSIT working for an Engineering & Surveying firm in Bakersfield. The owners, Gene Martin and Roger McIntosh, thought it was important that their employees be involved in the local Chapter of CLSA. Therefore, they paid for their dues and meals at the meetings. It was at those meetings that I was able to meet knowledgeable surveyors who were willing to share their insight into the profession.

These were people who worked for both the public and private sectors. What impressed me most was the comradery and fellowship followed with a deep respect for each other. The second was their willingness to mentor us “up and comers.”

I looked forward to each meeting not just because of the excellent Basque food but also to interact with those who were more experienced than me. Their stories were filled with adventure not only on the professional but on the personal level. Their discussions on methods and procedures proved a valuable insight even today.

They interacted on where certain documents could be found or the latest on the filing procedures of the County Surveyor. This was information that would have been difficult to find had I not attended those meetings.

Soon I received a license to practice Land Surveying in California and I felt I owed it to myself to continue attending those meetings where I could find friendship and solidarity. And because the Chapter belonged to the State Association, I was able to keep up with the latest technological advances, as well as recent legislative actions. It also provided me with avenues to attend workshops and conferences where I could gain proper methods and procedures.

Through the years I have found being an active member of CLSA has provided new relationships that are priceless. Today, I still find the local Chapter meetings valuable to interact with other surveyors where they promote the profession to higher standards of ethics and practice.

If you are not a member of CLSA, I would invite you to become one. I think you will find it to be worth your while and will pay huge dividends. You will find that CLSA represents all land surveyors whether you are in the public or private sector.

Ron Nelms
CLSA President