Over this past year I have had the opportunity to attend several Chapter board meetings and\or functions that proved to be very educational and beneficial. At times the meetings would have a guest speaker presenting a topic of interest to the surveying community. However, most of the meetings involved just the chapter BOD discussing problems they may have encountered, technology, or issues affecting their geographical area.

This type of information related to technology issues (availability of VRN’s or user base stations in the area), problems with radio or cell phone coverage, level of services provided by firms (niche services, specialized technology, etc.), experience and local knowledge of surveying issues from companies that we may be able to team up with on projects, etc. has provided me with a tremendous amount of insight. The contacts made at these meetings also provide opportunities to team with others since they also know what services we may be able to provide as well. Without being a member of the PLSC I would not have been able to take advantage of this business networking.

The 3rd Annual Rocky Mountain Surveyors Summit is fast approaching and provides just one of the many "values" that PLSC membership affords. The Summit boasts a full slate of 3 days and four tracks (Professional, Technical, Business\General and Technician) of presentations, seminars and discussions for professional land surveyors and non-surveyors alike. There will be nationally recognized surveying experts such as Jeff Lucas, PLS, speaking on “The Pincushion Effect,” Larry Phipps, PLS speaking on traverse analysis and adjustment, 2011 ALTA\ACSM standards and how to apply them, ethics for land surveyors, and implementation of value pricing for projects, and Mark Smirnov, PLS, speaking on the Rocky Mountain Riparian boundaries, as well as local Colorado speakers touching on a wide range of subjects, and National Geodetic Survey representatives. Exhibitors, who are also PLSC sustaining members, will be on hand to display a variety of products and services useful to the surveying industry. In addition, we will be having a Chapter Summit where the 7 PLSC Chapter representatives will have a forum to interact with each other and indicate to the PLSC leadership what issues and\or items of concerns they would like to have addressed in the coming year. This year we will be returning to the Arvada Center for the Performing Arts, in Arvada, Colorado.

We received many positive comments from attendees and exhibitors from last year’s conference, including, "Parking is no longer a hassle,” "There were several seminars that were presented at the same time and it was difficult to choose which to attend,” "The food was terrific and plentiful,” “A wide variety of speakers and tracks provided something of value for everyone.” A significant reduction in cost is offered for the attendees to the conference who are PLSC members, which nearly offsets the cost of a yearly membership. We set a record for attendees at last year’s conference and hope to repeat that feat this year. Please see the program lineup of speakers and presentations in this issue of Side Shots. For additional information and registration for the conference, please visit the PLSC website at www.plsc.net.

This year we are introducing a “Surveyors Symposium” with the intent of discussing “Improvement Location Certificates” in order to potentially task the PLSC Legislative Committee with proposed new legislation regarding this hot topic for surveyors in the state. This is an opportunity to join in the discussion that may affect your industry in the state! We hope to repeat this event for future years on subjects that are of interest to the surveyors in Colorado.

The PLSC actively participated in the Sunset Review Process with the State Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. The PLSC employs a lobbyist whose services can involve the monitoring of the State of Colorado legislature regarding upcoming proposed laws that can affect the surveying profession, to securing bill sponsorship of proposed association legislation, drafting of legislation, coordinating committee presentation, lobbying for passage of the legislation and securing gubernatorial approval.

The PLSC has a designated National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) representative who attends the meetings throughout the year. This organization is dedicated to the Surveying professional and serves as our representative organization on a national scale. The PLSC is also a member of and has representatives who attend the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors meetings throughout the year.

The PLSC is a member of the Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) Board of Directors. This organization is dedicated to the goal of basing selections by state and local governments for Architectural, Engineering and Surveying contracts upon qualifications and not only on fees.

PLSC sponsors educational opportunities for members and future land surveyors: The annual LSIT and PLS Refresher Course at the Jefferson County Administration Complex (for 2013), designed to help prepare survey interns to take their fundamentals and professional land surveying exams. Scholarships in surveying, GIS or other mapping-related programs are available through the PLSC and the associated chapters.

The PLSC, over the past several years, has coordinated a speaker track at the annual “GIS In The Rockies” conference, further extending our profession into other related industries. This event provides an opportunity for GIS professionals to interact with, and understand more about, the Surveying profession and leads to a better understanding of the similarities and differences between the two professions.

The PLSC journal, Side Shots, is an award-winning, quarterly publication that keeps members up to date on important activities of the PLSC, the latest legislative information, articles of interest written primarily by Colorado professionals, and listings of upcoming events of interest to surveyors.

However, all these benefits and services do not completely convey why a PLSC membership is so important to Land Surveyors in Colorado. Perhaps the most important benefit is the dissemination of information, including news of what is going on in our profession, data on the latest technologies, trends in and development of rules and legislation and government regulations, and the list goes on.

Finally, there is the benefit of active participation in the future of our profession. Surveying is rapidly changing - LIDAR, GIS and land information systems, GPS, CAD, new standards for surveys (2011). How many were involved in these just a few years ago? We are truly in the digital age. These new technologies are revolutionizing the way we do our work! We are facing higher educational standards, stricter requirements for financial responsibility and a mutual responsibility for competence. Beyond all of this lies the ability to help shape the future, in cooperation with other surveyors, doing collectively That which we cannot do ourselves. PLSC is and will be at the forefront of these developments.

PLSC Membership – it is definitely worth the price of admission! Please consider joining or renewing if you have not already done so, and help spread the word to other surveyors who are not yet members.