



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Adam Heft, CPG, AIPG 2017 National President

Greetings to all AIPG members! I hope that everyone had a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2016 and that your 2017 will be even better. I'd like to thank everyone again for the privilege to serve as your National President this year. I am honored and looking forward to advancing the Institute's mission and working with the other members of the National Executive Committee and Headquarters staff to provide increased value to all of our members.

As an example, this is where we have started to provide additional value this year. One of the agenda items that was discussed and approved at the first Executive Committee meeting on January 21st was the change to increase the length of time an individual can qualify as a Young Professional from the current three years to five years. This will encourage those individuals to remain as members while they gain the experience necessary to become members and eventually, CPGs.

We are always striving to add value to our members and will continue to do so in the future. AIPG would be an empty shell without our members and ensuring that we are providing value is critical to our very existence. As we continue to move the organization forward, this is a key function. The National Executive Committee has worked on identifying ways to provide value to our members for several years, and this remains a priority for the future. Each of our members are an important part of AIPG, and the Executive Committee values you and what you have to offer.

As an organization of professionals, we need to get the word out to the public and the government about why geologists are important. Most people have no idea what it is that geologists do and how we contribute to society. We need to educate those individuals about our vital roles in the responsible development and management of our precious natural resources, including minerals, energy, and water. As AIPG professionals, we represent our profession and conduct ourselves with ethics and integrity, which is something that appears to be in short supply in today's society.

We live in a time of change in today's world, where science in general is being questioned or ignored in policy decisions and general issues facing the public. As professionals, we have an obligation to tell the public and policy makers why geologists are important and why they need to be consulted. We need to be united and speak with one voice about this; we need to get this information out there. More than anyone else, we hold the keys to knowledge of the history of the earth. We know how its processes work and how those processes affect us all. When professional geologists have not been consulted, there have been serious consequences that have affected the lives and property of our nation's citizens.

As professionals, we have the ability and the responsibility to make a difference in our states, our country, and the world. There are many ways to do this, but the first step is to become involved and active. The first steps are always the most difficult, but they can be taken if our will to do so is strong. We can start small in different areas and build on those first steps to have a big impact. I challenge each of you to take that first step and join us in this endeavor.

Remember, *communication is key*. Not just within our organization, but outside it as well. Let's truly make AIPG the voice of the profession!