



From the President: Gwen Howard

Dear IAP2 members,

We are currently living in some anxious and confusing times. On top of that, we are being bombarded with Coronavirus communication from our places of work, companies we do business with, companies we don't do business with and companies who simply have a large presence in our world. I know it's a lot. As not to detract from the more immediate things on your mind i.e. jobs, employees, family, food and shelter, etc, I wanted to offer a brief introduction and a call to action.

First of all, let me start by saying how much we appreciate your understanding and resilience during this time. We know it's not easy. Second, as a member of your Board, and recently named President of IAP2 USA, I am honored and humbled in this role. It's a difficult role to step into during this time making it a tough transition. But I also know that choosing not to lead in times of great disruption and distress is not leadership at all. We all know that out of adversity, we see what we each other is truly made of.

Having said that, we are all leaders either through formal or informal channels. I beseech all of you to continue your strong leadership in your circles and let us know how we can help. In the upcoming months, when we begin to move past the crisis and when we are all ready, I'd like to share some ideas and changes as we continue to meet the needs of our committed membership. And we continue to welcome your ideas.

We are strong and are going to get through this. But we cannot do it without each other. Let's show what engagement is truly about. It's about connecting with our family, our community and each other. As public participation practitioners/members, we all know you do not have to be in the same room to truly engage with each other and we need to employ those principles and practices now more than ever. Thank you for your

leadership and I hope to meet each of you if not in person, then virtually in the upcoming months.

In addition, don't miss IAP2 USA and Canada webinars outlining strategies and tools for dealing with the Covid 19 business challenges. Recordings are available.