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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

An affiliate of the National Society of Professional Land Surveyors

Kevin M. Schwacke, Editor 121 Executive Center Drive, Suite 248 Columbia, S. C. 29210-8419 (803) 750-7524

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# NSPS GOVERNOR

Henry B. Dingle, PLS

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Brenda S. Smith

# 2009 CONVENTION



Lee Frank - Induction into Past President's Council



Joe Baird, NSPS Area 3 Director



John Matonich, NSPS President



Seminar Participants: Surveying in Autodesk



Lee Frank and Lewis Moore - Passing the Gavel

# President's Message

Greetings to All:

Board for the countless hours they spent to make the Society run smoothly for the 2008 – 2009 year. I would also like to thank the incoming officers who have volunteered their time to SCSPLS for the upcoming year to help better the surveying profession.

The Executive Board met on July 24, 2009 to discuss the upcoming fiscal year and plan the work of our Society. The Executive Board appointed Lee Frank and Ben Christensen to review the different classifications of membership and their benefits. They will present their recommendations for the restructure of the membership levels at the December general membership meeting. They are also reviewing the Constitution and By-Laws and reviewing some wording that need to be addressed. This too will be discussed at the upcoming general membership meeting.

Section V of the By Laws states that the Society shall hold no less than four general membership meetings and four Board of Directors meetings in a fiscal year. The Executive Board recommended to the Board of Directors to hold only three general membership meetings this year, and was unanimously approved. Therefore, the general membership meeting that is usually scheduled for the fall has been cancelled. The first membership meeting will be held December 5, 2009 at the Sullivan's Island Fish Fry Shack. This is the same location

of the evening social that was held after last year's meeting in Charleston. The Board decided to move the meeting and social to one location this year in hopes of boosting attendance. We are tentatively trying to schedule a seminar on first aid for that day.

Dale Swygert is working hard with his convention committee in planning the next convention. Our contract has expired with Kingston Plantation and we hope to have a date and new venue set in place soon. We are looking at different hotels in the Charleston, Hilton Head and Myrtle Beach areas. The committee will finalize a location and will discuss the location at the December meeting.

I encourage you, if you are not a Society member, to consider joining the SCSPLS and a local chapter and supporting your surveying profession. Your input is greatly needed! If you are a SCSPLS member and know other surveyors who have not joined, I challenge you to invite these surveyors or field crew to a local meeting and encourage chapter and state membership.

I hope you all have a great and prosperous year and I look forward to meeting many of you in the following year.

Sincerely, Lewis S. Moore SCSPLS2009-10 President

# **NEWLY ELECTED 2009-10 OFFICERS:**

President Lewis S. Moore

(elected in 2008-09 for 3 yr. term)

President-Elect Dale C. Swygert
Vice President Kevin M. Schwacke

Secretary Frances M. A. Manhardt (Frankie)

Treasurer Benjamin B. Christensen

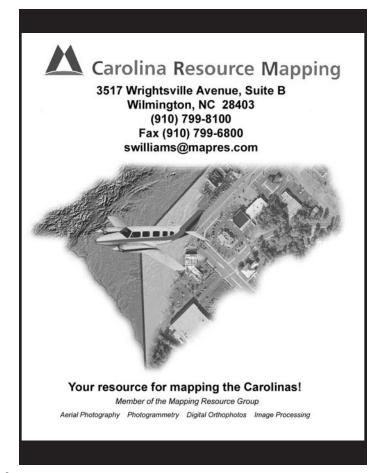
Past President R. Lee Frank, II

(elected in 2007-08 for 3 yr. term)

# Following were elected for a 2 yr. term beginning 2009-10 fiscal year:

NSPS Director Henry B. Dingle
District 1 Charles F. Dawley, Jr.
District 3 Thomas B. Abraham

District 5 E. Burnett Jenkins



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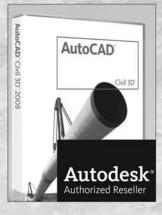












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# MINUTES OF SCSPLS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

# Saturday, June 13, 2009 • Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC

A meeting of the general membership of the Society of Professional Land Surveyors was held on Saturday, June 13, 2009, at 9:30 AM, at Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Those in attendance were:

#### Officers:

 President R. Lee Frank, II President Elect Lewis Moore Vice President Dale Swygert, Absent Robert Praete Secretary Treasurer Ben Christensen •Immediate Past President Bobby A. Foster

**Delegates:** 

•SC Council of Eng. & Surv. Soc. Carl Bostick, Absent Henry Dingle NSPS Governor Jody Mitchell •SMAC/GIS Delegate Aaron Taylor •SC Utilities Committee Lesa Jenkins, Absent The Auxiliary

**Chapter Representatives:**  Aiken Chapter Bill Tripp, Absent •Central Chapter Brian Pate Coastal Chapter Tim Maull •Foothills Chapter Bryan Gosnell •Grand Strand Chapter Wendell Powers •Low Country Chapter Ray Cook, Jr. •Midlands Chapter Rick Inman, Absent •Mid-State Chapter **Bart Dominick**  Northwest Chapter Greg Sosebee •Pee Dee Chapter Ferrell Prosser •Thomas C. Anderson Chapter Wayne Reynolds •Tri-County Chapter **David Thomas** 

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Joe Mitchell, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Thurl Amick, Paul Henson – TAPS Pres., Frankie Manhardt, John Matonich - NSPS Pres., Tim Nash - VAS Pres., Steve Smith - NCSS Pres.

MEMORIALS: Memorials were given for the following who passed away during the past Society fiscal year: Gregg A. Bishop, Gene Edwards, William Hampton, Donald T. Taylor, Jr., Larry T. (Tommy) Wolfe.

REPORTS FROM OUT OF STATE GUESTS AND **NSPS:** 

#### NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PROFESSIONAL

SURVEYORS (NSPS): Mr. John Matonich, President of NSPS, updated the membership on programs currently available through NSPS. NSPS has a strong insurance program which continues to grow. CST program is doing well despite the struggling economy. The Trig-Star Program has proven to be a significant way to introduce surveying to high school students. Wayne Herbert (NSPS) is promoting the Boy Scout Surveying Merit Badge at the upcoming Boy Scout National Jamboree. NSPS is trying to get Railroad Monumentation legislation introduce and passed, requiring the existing features of a railway be monumented before being abandoned. The Brooks Act is being interfered with and they will address that issue also. They are currently working with FEMA to implement a Certified Flood Surveyor program and working on a similar program for Federal Surveyor. Mr. Matonich asked that all chapters consider Geocashing. It has become a popular hobby and is a good way to introduce surveying and the benefits of both being a surveyor and having a survey done.

#### VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SURVEYORS (VAS):

Tim Nash, President of VAS updated the membership on the issues facing VAS this year. Their convention numbers were down in 2009 but their membership numbers continue to hold strong. They are currently working on ideas to help the surveyors who are not financially able to pay their dues renew their membership. Beginning April 1, 2009 registered surveyors in their state will have to receive 16 continuing education credit hours bi-annually. Virginia legislators had a short session. VAS monitored fifteen bills mostly concerning soil scientist. One bill would have eliminated the requirement for LSIT's to work under a PLS. Virginia does not have a right of entry law and they have dropped the issue for this year in consideration of the fact that they could not find anyone who had ever been sued for trespassing. VAS will focus this year on reviewing and updating their Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. They have begun geo-cashing and it has been popular.

# NORTH CAROLINA SURVEYING SOCIETY (NCSS):

Mr. Steve Smith, President of NCSS, updated the membership on events in the NC Society. Like VAS, they are currently working to find a way to help members who are not financially able to renew their membership for 2009-10. Mr. Smith stated the surveying program at NC A&T University was not going well. A new promoter has been hired in hopes of turning that around. North Carolina is not currently doing anything concerning a right of entry law. There has been concern over the price of business licenses scheduled to quadruple this year. So far they have not seen the inflated price. They are working on putting plats on a website documenting right of ways for North Carolina railroad. Their society office has moved to Wake Forest. The new facility should save the society money on seminars and meetings.

TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS: President Paul Henson stated the main issue September 2009 THE CAROLINA BENCHMARK

# MINUTES OF SCSPLS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (CONT)

for his society this year would be to re-write their Standards of Practice. Thus far they have created new categories of surveys and added GPS. They have included standards in addition to the federal standards already put in place. They are looking for ways to boost their membership and have found that they are competing with online vendors when it comes to sponsoring continuing education seminars. Tennessee does require surveyors to receive 15 continuing education credits each year. TAPS is setting up an education foundation to give one scholarship to a deserving student entering surveying curriculum. They intend to amend their by-laws to allow out of state directors at large move up on the board to eventually be able to become President. Their lobbyist and legislative committee are dealing with a bill introduced by legislatures that would prohibit surveyors from being able to calculate drainage levels. The society is also working on a 10 year strategic plan.

President Lee Frank opened the meeting with prayer and called the General Membership meeting of the SCSPLS to order Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 9:30 AM at Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC. President Frank stated that the meeting would be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order.

**AGENDA:** A motion was made to approve agenda as written. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

**MINUTES:** Motion made to approve minutes from March 7, 2009 General Membership meeting as written, with a second. Minutes unanimously approved as published.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Treasurer Ben Christensen reported that the Wachovia CAP account and Wachovia Sweep Account balances are now \$227,846.63, and Merrill Lynch scholarship account is approximately \$51,312.66.

#### **DELEGATE REPORTS:**

SC COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING SOCIETIES: No report.

**NSPS:** No report. Mr. Henry Dingle deferred to March 7, 2009 report and update given by Mr. John Matonich.

**SMAC/GIS:** No report.

SC UTILITIES COMMITTEE: Mr. Aaron Taylor gave both a written and oral report. The committee held a meeting February 10, 2009 in Lexington, SC. Laura Comstock, manager of compliance, safety and training with Carolina Gas Transmission was the speaker. She gave a comprehensive review of the Transco Pipeline Explosion that occurred September 14, 2008 in Martinsville, VA and discussed new regulations related to gas lines, signage and inspections. Footage of the accident can be viewed at www.pstrust. org/transcovirginiaaccident. This grassroots group of utility owners/operators and locaters will continue meeting to come up with updates to the current PUPS/Call Before You Dig laws. Issues to be addressed include mandatory participation, fine enforcement, tolerant zone and positive response. Reports can be expected on this over the next year to year and a half.

THE AUXILIARY: Mr. Burnett Jenkins gave an oral report

for the Auxiliary stating the Auxiliary was in need of leaders. **CHAPTER REPORTS:** 

Chapter reports are written and no oral reports will be made unless there are additions to the written reports.

**Aiken:** The Aiken Chapter meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at Eejay's Restaurant in the Kalmia Mall in Aiken. Their written report indicated they had 3 meetings since the last general membership meeting with an average of 8 in attendance. At the April 14, 2009 meeting SC State Rep. Jim Stewart spoke on the "State Plan for Stimulus Money & Other Matters Under Consideration". At the May 12, 2009 meeting abstractor Will Harper spoke on "Courthouse Research".

Central: No report.

Coastal: Mr. Tim Maull's written report stated the chapter meets the last Tuesday at 6:00 pm at various locations around the Charleston area. The locations for the meetings in March, April and May were Crab Shack on W. Ashley, North Towne Grill and Seafood in N. Charleston and Gilligan's Raw Bar and Steamer in Summerville. Two speakers from the Center for Heirs Property Preservation were at the March meeting discussing the requirements for performing surveys involving heirs' property. At the April meeting Dan Bonenfant from Duncan-Parnell talked about the newest AutoCAD release and discussed scanning and GPS. Mandi Herring from the City of Charleston spoke about plat requirements for major and minor subdivisions, property line adjustments and upcoming regulation changes at the May meeting.

Foothills: No report.

**Grand Strand:** Mr. Aaron Leach gave a verbal report. He expressed the chapter's appreciation for the state society hosting the convention in Myrtle Beach. Their recent meetings have included Gene Dinkins and Lee Frank as guests.

**Low Country:** No report.

**Midlands:** Mr. Henry Dingle gave a verbal report. Columbia attorney Crosby Lewis is expected to be at either their June or July meeting to speak to the group about the Rails for Trails act. This is something that many in the society should be interested in so once they know for sure which date he will be at the meeting someone from the chapter will let Brenda Smith know so she can get an email out to the entire society.

Mid-State: Mr. Bart Dominick's written report stated the chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the Stable Steak House in Prosperity. Average attendance is 11 members and 2 guests. In April Dr. Michael Hodgson, USC spoke on LIDAR. In May Dan Bonenfant spoke on AutoCAD Civil 3-D. Officers were elected at the June meeting and general chapter business was conducted.

Northwest: No report.

**Pee Dee:** The chapter newsletter stated that the April meeting was attended by 13 members and 5 guests. Speakers were Mr. Matt Wellslager and Mr. Dick Woods both of the SC Geodetic Survey. They presented a map of the work that is going on with the Height Mod Project in an effort to gather input for the location of the new control and recovery of the existing

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# MINUTES OF SCSPLS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (CONT)

monuments. All in attendance were given 2 CEU's. Mr. Matt Wellslager and the SCGS field crew held a workshop May 13th from 3pm-5pm to demonstrate how the crew makes its evaluation of the monument and how to set the new adjusted values for the station.

**Thomas C. Anderson:** Mr. Wayne Reynolds reported that their meetings are the second Tuesday of each month and they have changed their meeting location to Fatz Café on Hwy. 25 outside of Greenville.

**Tri-County:** See District 5 Director's report.

**Upper Piedmont:** No report.

#### **DISTRICT DIRECTORS REPORTS:**

District 1: Defer to Chapter Reports. Mr. Kevin Schwacke gave an oral report stating they are having a hard time with chapter meeting attendance. The Low Country chapter has not met since December, 2008.

**District 2:** Defer to Chapter Reports.

**District 3:** Defer to Chapter Reports.

**District 4:** No report.

District 5: Mr. Burnett Jenkins' written report stated meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at Fire Bones in Rock Hill. They have held 3 meetings since their last report with an average of 15 members and 3 guests in attendance. A representative from Duke Power spoke to the group about the correct datum for Lake Wylie and the York County Flood administrator spoke about using cross section sheets in order to get more accurate BFE's. The last meeting of the year was held at Joe Baird's cabin on his farm with Bill and Miriam Coleman. Society president Lee Frank was also in attendance. Their SOY was awarded and his name forwarded to the state society as the Tri-County Chapter's nomination for the state society's SOY.

**District 6:** Defer to Chapter Reports.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Activities: Mr. Kevin Schwacke reminded everyone of the survey games being held on the hotel lawn immediately following the meeting and the banquet being held in Palmetto's Pavilion this evening.

Constitution and By-Laws: No report.

2009 Convention: Mr. Lewis Moore thanked those attending and working at the convention. The dress for the banquet will be "business casual", less formal than in the past but still nice.

**Education:** President Lee Frank reported the convention seminar was a success. The education committee has done an outstanding job all year with the seminars including the Education Conference and Trade Show in February.

Ethics & Standards of Practice: Mr. Bobby Foster reported the proposed Minimum Standards should go into effect July 1,

Four-Year Degree Program: Mr. Thurl Amick reported for Mr. Gene Dinkins. USC is near or has already put a 4 year program together. Clemson is working on their program and SC State is now hinting at developing a 4 year program for

**GPS/VRS:** Mr. Bobby Foster reported that the Pickens VRS site is up and running now. Discussion from the group followed on making sure due diligence is done before working on a job for accuracy.

**Insurance:** President Lee Frank reported that the society's Disability policy with Aetna was terminated June 1, 2009 due to lack of enrollment. Letters of termination from Aetna were sent out to those enrolled. The Aetna policy along with the majority of other policies available, require 25% of the membership to enroll to qualify for the insurance. With the current economy it is unlikely that we will be able to get that amount of participation. The best alternative was a policy that would be 3 times the cost of the original policy. The society will not pursue a replacement disability policy at this time. All society members are encouraged to join NSPS which currently offers a disability insurance policy.

Legal and Legislative: Mr. Ben Christensen reported that the society's lobbyist, Mr. Joe Jones will continue to monitor for the society but there is not anything on the horizon at this time. Mr. Christensen is working the co-chair Mr. Skyler Ericson to find a way to have counties and cities with municipal zoning laws to require and enforce 2 surveys to prove that structures are built within the minimum building lines. Charleston currently has this requirement but most other counties leave it up to individual builders to verify the building location. They feel a foundation survey is needed at minimum but both the foundation survey and an asbuilt survey are preferred. Mr. Christensen encouraged all surveyors to go to their local Registrar's office and look at their old plats. Many counties, including Aiken, are allowing builders to bring old plats to the building official's office with a hand-drawn sketch of where they intend for a structure to go and this is being counted as a sufficient site-plan. This is an encroachment on the surveying profession and needs to be stopped. All counties, cities and municipalities must be expected to enforce their zoning laws to protect the public. Membership: The membership at present is 538. Renewals for 2009-10 are continuing to come in with 237 already renewed. This number is consistent with last year at this time.

**Newsletter:** No report.

Past President's Council: Mr. Bobby Foster reported that the Council met at the convention. They discussed ways to boost the convention. One suggestion was to raffle convention packets off next year giving members an opportunity to win a free trip to the beach and add more numbers to the convention.

**Plat Contest:** Mr. Lewis Moore reported the winning plats have been hung for display in the Palmetto's Pavilion for all to see. The winners will be announced at the banquet tonight.

Public Relations: No report. **ROD Liaison:** No report.

S. C. State Parks: Mr. Mike Culler updated his written report stating both Myrtle Beach State Park and Sesquicentennial State Park have been completed. Santee State Park is nearly complete with only some information from the park officials needed. Kings Mountain and Paris Mountain State Parks are still outstanding and may require some assistance from additional surveyors.

Scholarship: Mr. Burnett Jenkins committee will meet after the general membership meeting this morning to review the scholarship candidates. The winners will be announced at

# MINUTES OF SCSPLS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (CONT)

tonight's banquet and the drawing for the raffle items will be held.

**Survey Contest:** Surveying games will be held immediately following the membership meeting on the front lawn of the hotel.

**Surveyor of the Year:** Mr. Lewis reported the Surveyor of the Year would be announced at tonight's banquet.

Website: No report.

**Yearbook:** Mr. Robert Praete reported that work on the 2008-09 yearbook has begun and the society is in need of advertisements.

#### **BUSINESS:**

State Board Report: Mr. Thurl Amick reported the new Regulation and Minimum Standards were stalled in legislative committee because there was no opposition. They will automatically become law without the Governor's signature when they are placed in the State Register. With the new Regulations out of they way, the State Board is focusing their attention on updating policy statements. The book compiling all of the old statements was misplaced so they have worked to find the majority of the old policies and have begun updating and creating new policies where needed, ex. 3D modeling and construction staking. They were asked for a policy concerning critical line surveys. Mr. Amick did some research and submitted a written opinion but asked anyone more familiar with critical line give him their opinion as

well. Mr. Bobby Foster asked for clarification of the "Drop Dead Statement" sent out by Mr. Gene Dinkins. Discussion followed with the issue being if an aspiring land surveyor had to pass the LSIT by July 1, 2010 to be considered to be "in the process". The resulting opinion was if someone had gotten their hours, their application approved and were eligible to take the LSIT by July 1, 2010, they would be considered "in the process" to sit the LS and would not have to meet the 4 year requirement.

Election Results for 2009-10 Board of Directors Officers: The election results are as follows: President Elect - Dale Swygert; Vice President – Kevin Schwacke; Secretary – Frankie Manhardt; Treasurer – Ben Christensen; District 1 Director – Chuck Dawley; District 3 Director – Tom Abraham; District 5 Director – Burnett Jenkins; NSPS Governor – Henry Dingle (2 year term); President - Lewis Moore (was elected last year for the three year term of Pres. Elect; Pres., and Past President).

President Frank thanked those in attendance for their support of the Society. With there being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn with a second. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Praete, SCSPLS Secretary





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July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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NSPS DELEGATE

Henry B. Dingle B. P. Barber PO Box 1116 Columbia, SC 29202 803-254-4400/ F- 771-6676 hdingle@bpbarber.com



# **SCSPLS COMMITTEES**

# **COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN FOR 2009-10**

Activities & Programs*	Mike Johnson
Auxiliary•	
Constitution & By-Laws*	Ronnie Tyler/Lee Frank
Education*	Joe McIntyre
NSPS Delegate•	Henry Dingle
Convention*	Dale Swygert
Council of Engineers & Surveyors Societies Carl Bostick	
Ethics & Standards of Practice*	Bobby Foster & All Chapter Representatives
Four-Year Degree Committee	Bart Dominick
GPS-VRS	Chuck Dawley
Insurance	Lee Frank/Dennis Clinkscales
Legal & Legislative*	Ben Christensen
Membership*	Frankie Manhardt
Newsletter*	Kevin Schwacke
Past Presidents Council	Lee Frank
Plat Contest	Kevin Schwacke
Public Relations*	Perry Gerard/Nancy Hopper
SC Utilities	Aaron Taylor
Scholarship*	Robert Praete
SMAC/GIS Committee	Ben Christensen
State Parks Committee	Mike Culler
Survey Contest	Grand Strand Chapter
Surveyor of the Year	Kevin Schwacke
Trade Show	Executive Board
Web Site	Dale Swygert
Yearbook	Frankie Manhardt
*Standing Committees (10)	
•Elected Position	

2009 CONVENTION • KINGSTON PLANTATION, MYRTLE BEACH

# Lee Frank Selected 2008-2009 Surveyor of the Year



The South Carolina Society of Professional Land Surveyors recently honored R. Lee Frank, II, of Edisto Island, SC, owner of Robert Frank Surveying, by selecting him South Carolina "Surveyor of the Year" for 2009. Mr. Frank was presented with this honor at the Society's Annual Convention on June 13, 2009 at the Kingston Plantation Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The Surveyor of the Year Award is presented annually by the Society to a surveyor who has made outstanding contributions to the profession of land surveying in the State of South Carolina.

Mr. Frank was born in Fairfax County, Virginia on January 15, 1967. A year later his family moved to Charleston, SC where they have resided ever since. Lee comes from a family of Surveyors. His great-grandfather was a registered surveyor and engineer. Although his grandfather never received his

registration, he worked under surveyors most of his career. Lee now works with his father who is a registered surveyor in their family owned surveying business, "Robert Frank Land Surveying" located on James Island. Lee grew up in Charleston and graduated high school at College Prep in 1985. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Business in 1989 from the College of Charleston.

Lee has been a registered land surveyor since June 2000 and immediately became a member of the Coastal Chapter of Professional Land Surveyors where he has rarely missed a monthly meeting. Lee served with the Coastal Chapter as Director, Vice President and President as well as serving as Chairman of the Insurance Committee and Education Committee. He joined the State Society in 2001 and is currently serving as their President. He has also served as Secretary and Vice President.

Lee had the privilege to speak at this year's Licensing Ceremony at the State House where he addressed the newly registered land surveyors. Lee's dedication to the surveying profession is seen through his willingness to serve on committees and boards that contribute significantly to our profession. He played a major role in reviewing and providing comments on the proposed minimum standards changes for SC Professional Land Surveyors that is currently being reviewed in Legislation. In Charleston, he has spearheaded meetings with SCDHEC/OCRM Officials in helping determine new policy and procedures as it relates to dock permit submittals and critical line reviews.

Lee currently resides with his wife and daughter on Edisto Island just outside of Charleston. He enjoys boating and fishing along the coastal waters of Charleston and attends Trinity Episcopal Church.



# SCSPLS DONATES TWO SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE NSPS YOUTH OUTREACH

At the SCSPLS Annual Convention, SCSPLS donated \$1,390 to the NSPS Youth Outreach for two scholarships. SCSPLS Governor to NSPS, Mr. Henry Dingle, presented the donation to NSPS President, John Matonich, at the SCSPLS Convention in June. These scholarships help support the efforts for the Boy Scouts Merit Badge and Youth Outreach efforts of NSPS. This money also helped in providing Student Staff members to attend the Jamboree held in June. A banner/poster at the Surveying Merit Badge Booth recognized the State Affiliates and other donors that participated in this effort at the Jamboree.

# 2009 Plat Contest Winners

Congratulations to the following. First Place winning plats will be entered in the NSPS Plat Contest to be held in February, 2010.

# **Category and Winners:**

#### Subdivision:

First Place: Sal Chaves, Thomas & Hutton Engineering Second Place: Jason Deitle, Thomas & Hutton Engineering

Boundary/Cadastral:

First Place: Joe E. Frick, Jr., Glenn Associates Surveying Second Place: Phillip P. Gerard, Thomas & Hutton Engineering

Topographical:

First Place: B.P. Barber

Second Place: Lewis Moore, Forsberg Engineering & Surveying



#### ALTA/NSPS:

First Place: Keith A. Wilson, PLS, Cornerstone Surveying &

Engineering

Second Place: Clifton W. Wilson, Thomas & Hutton

Engineering *Miscellaneous:* 

First Place: Aaron T. Taylor, Cornerstone Surveying &

Engineering

Second Place: B.P. Barber

# **2009 Survey Game Winners**

Distance Pacing – Brandy Pratt-Thomas Distance Supposition – Van Clinkscales Elevation Presumption – Van Clinkscales Projecting A Line – Frankie Manhardt Angle Reasoning – Ben Christensen Magnetic North Reasoning – Brandy Pratt-Thomas



# Convention Golf Winners

1ST PLACE TEAM: Dennis Johns, Chris Knight, Scott Williams & Boyce Young Closest to the Pin – Chris Knight Longest Drive – Sam Pratt

# 2009 Scholarship Winners

McSwain Armfield, The Citadel Student - \$500 scholarship Justin W. Smith, Clemson University Student - \$500 scholarship Samuel C. Cooper, Trident Technical College Student - \$250 Winners of scholarship raffle:

Shotgun: Dennis Johns

Wii Game System/HDTV: Donna Foster

# **Convention Door Prize Winners**

Charleston Sweet-grass Basket: Dana Gasque Kingston Plantation Two-night Lodging: Annette Quinn



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Grand Strand Chapter Low Country Chapter Midlands Chapter Terry M. Watson, RLS

Friday, June 12, 2009

Lunch for Past PresidentsE & O Liability ConsultantsSeminar BreaksGrand Strand Chapter

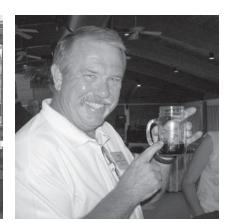
Saturday, June 13 2009

Survey Contest Awards
Awards Banquet Prizes
Awards Cartographics of America
Midlands Chapter

# **2009 CONVENTION**







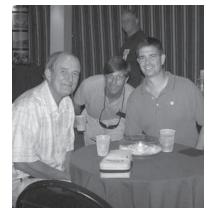














# **Ed Woodward Awarded Life Service Award**

On July 24, 2009, the SC Society of Professional Land Surveyors Board of Directors unanimously voted to present Mr. Ed Woodward with the Life Service Award. He was presented with a plaque at a ceremony honoring him held July 27, 2009 at the hospice house in Rock Hill.

Mr. Woodward was nominated by fellow surveyors Joe Baird and Dennis Johns, along with signatures



from fifteen past presidents of the State Society's board. Mr. Woodward joined SCSPLS in October, 1981. He is one of the founders of the Tri-County Chapter and served both his Chapter and the State Society for many years in a number of different positions including Tri-County Chapter President, District 5 Director and SCSPLS Secretary/Treasurer. He was the

Committee Chairman for Scope of Practice, Constitution & By-Laws, Public Relations and SC Utilities Committees.

If you ask his colleagues, his biggest contribution to his profession was his willingness to mentor younger surveyors. Having worked for his father as a teenager who was also a surveyor, he knew how to nurture those learning the surveying business. His opinion and advice was also sought by established surveyors who considered him to be a voice of reason and knowledgeable resource. All those that benefitted from his wisdom agree he was the best around.

His heart for service did not stop with surveying. Mr. Woodward was a Vietnam Veteran. He served as an active member of Lakeview Baptist Church where he chaired the building committee and spent seven years on the York County Planning Commission, three of those years as the chairman of the Commission.

After fighting cancer for little more than a year, Mr. Ed Woodward passed away on July 29, 2009, at the Wayne T. Patrick Hospice House in Rock Hill. His life impacted many and he will be greatly missed by all.

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:21

# **PROCLAMATION**

Whereas, Edward F Woodward has served his profession for over four decades by providing leadership, advice, and inspiration through his membership in the Tri-County Surveyors Association and the South Carolina Society of Professional Land Surveyors; and,

Whereas, Edward F. Woodward has served his fellow professionals by mentoring numerous aspiring registrants; and,

**Whereas**, Edward F. Woodward has served his nation through his service in the U.S. Army and by being a participant in the Viet Nam War; and,

*Whereas*, Edward F. Woodward has served his community through his service on the York County Planning Commission as a member and as Chairman; and,

**Whereas**, Edward F. Woodward has served God by giving unselfishly of his time and talents in leadership and teaching roles in his church and by living a Godly life; and,

**Whereas**, Edward F. Woodward has lived a life dedicated to his family, nurturing two accomplished children, Forrest and Madeline, and sharing his life with his loving wife, Joy;

Be it therefore resolved that the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Society of Professional Land Surveyors, an affiliate of the National Society of Professional Surveyors, on this the twenty-seventh day of July in the Year of our Lord two thousand nine and the two hundred thirty-fourth year of Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America, in recognition of his lifetime of service and the recognition he has brought to our profession, does hereby honor and bestow upon Edward F. Woodward, PLS, the Life Service Award of the South Carolina Society of Professional Land Surveyors, together with all the rights and privileges which accompany it.

# SCSPLS LIFE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The SCSPLS Life Service Award recognizes lifetime contributions toward the advancement of land surveying as a profession in South Carolina. The SCSPLS Board of Directors voted to approve the Policy Statement of the SCSPLS Life Service Award at the April 26, 1996 Board meeting. *The following are recipients of this award:* 

- 1. Mr. Sid Miller, Easley, SC, Convention 1996, Springmaid Beach, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 2. Mrs. Mary M. Law, SC Department of LLR, Columbia, SC, July, 1996, SCCESS Awards Dinner
- 3. Mr. Gary Thompson, NSPS Area 3 Governor, Convention 1999, Landmark Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 4. Mr. Thurl and Mrs. Helen Amick, Simpsonville, SC, 2000 Convention, Landmark Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 5. Mr. Larry Coker, Lexington, SC, Convention 2003, Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 6. Mr. Al Whitworth, Lexington, SC, 2003 Convention, Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 7. Mr. Terry M. Watson, Conway, SC, 2005 Convention, Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 8. Mr. Charles J. Ido, SC Department of LLR, Columbia, SC, 2006, Convention, Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 9. Mr. Joe H. Baird, Clover, SC, 2007 Convention, Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 10. Mr. Edward F. Woodward, Rock Hill, SC, 2009, Given while a patient at Hospice House & Community Care, Rock Hill, SC

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

# The following new members were approved at the July, 2009 Board meeting:

**Full:** John H. Gray, Gray Surveying and Mapping, LLC, Port Royal, SC; Robert (Bob) J. Tuten, Liberty, SC

**Associate:** Raymond W. Billbrough, III, SC Dept. of Transportation, Branchville, SC

**Complimentary:** Thomas F. Brant, Jr., Bonneau, SC; Monte C. Bruner, TSD Engineers, Inc., Sandy Springs GA; Christy K. Davis, Duke Energy, Alexis, NC; James A. Parler, Jr., Engineering Resources Corporation, Inc., Orangeburg, SC;

Emeritus: Lucian D. Adams, Greenwood, SC; Thurl M. Amick, Sr., BP Barber, Greenville, SC; William A. Blackwood, Jr., Blackwood Associates, Inc., Spartanburg, SC; Carl W. Bostick, Bostick Surveying, Irmo, SC; Martyn J. Cavanaugh, Newberry, SC; Michael S. Culler, Jr., Culler Land Surveying Co., Inc.,

Surfside Beach, SC; Archie S. Deaton, Spartanburg, SC; Jacob B. Ervin, Sr., Ervin Engineering Co., Inc., Florence, SC; John Quinn Hall, John Q. Hall Land Surveying, York, SC; Robert L. Hiers, Walterboro, SC; Bobby J. King, Summerville, SC; Carl Maness, Maness Surveying, Bennettsville, SC; Ralph J. Parler, Barnwell, SC; William Porcher, Charleston, SC; Ferrell J. Prosser, Prosser Surveying Co., Inc., Florence, SC; W. Gene Whetsell, W. Gene Whetsell Land Surv., Walterboro, SC; William A. Whitworth, Sr., Whitworth & Associates, Inc., Lexington, SC; G. Albert Wolfe, Inman, SC

**Student:** Michael A. Brown, Midlands Technical College, Lexington, SC; Meghann A. Lapine (2008-09), City of Columbia, Columbia, SC

# LICENSING CEREMONY

The S.C. Department of Labor and Licensing announces the following were recently licensed as a Professional Land Surveyor.

# Those passing PLS exam in April, 2009:

Zachariah T. Andersen, Turbeville, SC Thomas F. Brant, Jr., Bonneau, SC

Monte C. Bruner, Sandy Springs, GA

John W. Cole, Enka, NC

Christy K. Davis, Alexis, NC

Timothy L. Davis, Loris, SC

Franklyn W. Fairey, IV, Myrtle Beach, SC

Thomas C. Garner, Garner, NC

Wesley A. Greene, Ravenel, SC

Todd D. Harris, Murrells Inlet, SC

Kevin S. Herring, Spartanburg, SC

Kent C. Hudson, Lancaster, SC

Jesus J. Lajara, Riverview, FL

John A. Lester, Charleston, SC

Nicholas L. Mansfield, Mauldin, SC

Chris E. Morelli, Clover, SC

Garren B. Mullinax, Saluda, SC

James A. Parler, Jr., Elloree, SC

James M. Pearsall, Charlotte, NC

James E. Safrit, Dalls, NC

Daniel E. Smith, Rock Hill, SC

Randall L. Stepp, Flat Rock, NC

Michael J. Zoltek, Crestview, FL

#### Congratulations to those passing the LSIT exam in April, 2009:

Timothy A. Brutcher, Beaufort, SC

Michael L. Crews, Andrews, SC

Lawrence C. Hammonds, Columbia, SC

# **Dinkins Elected NCEES Treasurer**

At the 2009 National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Annual Meeting, delegates elected Gene L. Dinkins, PE, PLS, as NCEES treasurer for a two-year term (2009-11).

A resident of Columbia, South Carolina, Dinkins has been a member of the South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors since 2004, and is currently serving as board chair. Dinkins also served as 2007-09 NCEES Southern Zone Vice President. Mr. Dinkins has over 35 years of experience in land surveying and engineering. He is the president of Cox and Dinkins, Inc., a land surveying and civil engineering firm. He is a past chair of the Richland County (SC) Planning Commission and the City of Columbia (SC) Planning Commission. He has also been a guest lecturer at the University of South Carolina's School of Law and its College of Engineering. Dinkins holds a bachelor's degree in

chemical engineering from Clemson University as well as a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of South Carolina.

The NCEES Annual Meeting was held August 12 – 15, 2009, in Louisville, Kentucky. The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying is a national nonprofit organization composed of engineering and surveying licensing boards representing all US States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. An accredited standards developer with the American National Standard Institute, NCEES develops, scores, and administers the examinations used for engineering and surveying licensure throughout the United States. NCEES also provides services facilitating professional mobility for licensed engineers and surveyors. Its headquarters is located in Clemson, SC.

September 2009 THE CAROLINA BENCHMARK

# Revised Regulations and New Standards of Practice Manual for South Carolina

The Board of Engineers and Surveyors' revised Regulations became effective June 26, 2009. The newly approved Regulations as well as the Standards of Practice Manual for Surveying can be found on the SCSPLS website at www.scspls. com and on Board of Engineers and Surveyors' web site at http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/engineers/ and the SCSPLS website http://www.scspls.com The Standards of Practice Manual is actually Article 4 of the Regulations, but has been excerpted to make it available as a stand-alone Manual for surveyors. They are also published under "Laws/Policies" at http://www.llr.state. sc.us/pol/engineers/index.asp?file=laws.htm. Also published on this page under Archives are the old statute (replaced in June 2007), old regulations and old Minimum Standards manual,

available for reference only. At the main web page, you would click on Laws/Policies to get to this. Since law/regulation booklets are no longer printed, the LLR web site is the main source of information for licensees and others. SCSPLS members in good standing that are not able to get the new regulations from the website may call the SCSPLS office and request a copy of the revised regulations and new standards of practice manual be mailed directly to their office.

Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently on the revisions to the regulations and Standard of Practice Manual for Surveying and for following through to get it passed in the General Assembly.

# **Attention Station View Users**

The NGS data sheets for South Carolina and roughly a five mile border band of North Carolina and Georgia, publication date July 10, 2009, are available from the following web site: http://uts.sc.edu/csg/stationview\_update

# From SC DNR

Lisa Jones, CFM, CPM, State Coordinator for Flood Mitigation Programs with SC DNR has set up a Twitter account to keep surveyors informed of announcements, new map updates and releases, grant application deadlines, new floodplain management publications, CFM exam dates, training/workshop dates, employment or contract opportunities, etc. This account

will provide timely information that you may need to do your job. The account will only be updated when there is important information to share. This is a "private" account so you have to request to join. The link is: www.twitter.com/SC\_FLOOD\_LADY

# SCCESS Taking Applications for Seat on SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors - Application Deadline: Sept. 18, 2009

Governor Mark Sanford has the opportunity to appoint a qualified **engineer** to the SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors for a term beginning January 1, 2010. Charles M. (Chuck) Joye, II, P.E., currently holds this seat and is eligible to be reappointed.

Each engineering member of the Registration Board must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of South Carolina, must be licensed in this state, must have been engaged in the practice of engineering in this state for at least 12 years, and must have been in responsible charge of important engineering work for at least five years. Responsible charge of teaching engineering may be construed as responsible charge of engineering work. The primary responsibility of board members is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public of South Carolina.

The South Carolina Council of Engineering and Surveying Societies is charged by law to make recommendations to the

Governor from which he must appoint engineers and surveyors to the Registration Board.

The South Carolina Council of Engineering and Surveying Societies is accepting letters of applications from engineers who meet the state's minimum requirements that wish to be considered for a Registration Board position.

The following information should be included in interested engineers' letters of applications: education and collegiate achievements, engineering achievements, professional and technical society activities, civic and humanitarian activities, continuing competence, professional experience, general personal data and engineer references.

Send applications with the above information to Mr. Carl Bostick, PLS, President, South Carolina Council of Engineering and Surveying Societies, P.O. Box 263, Irmo, SC 29063. **The deadline for applications is Sept. 18, 2009.** 

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# In Memorium

**DONALD W. TAYLOR, JR.** July 21, 1929 – May 21, 2009 **BEN J. MAKELA** December 29, 1939 – June 21, 2009 **ED WOODWARD** August 10, 1945 – July 29, 2009

# Permanent Damage Being Done to the Land Surveying Profession... What is it worth?

By Trent Turk, LS - SAMSOG

Hello Land Surveyor Friends---

I feel compelled to send a message out to my friends (and competitors) in our beloved profession. It isn't news to anyone that our profession and industry has suffered greatly during the last couple of years, primarily as a result in the downturn in construction throughout the Southeast. This leads to a simple economic reality...if there is less demand for a service, the price for that service (or product) typically falls. How far does it fall, though??

Here is what distresses me. We all spend YEARS preparing ourselves for becoming a Land Surveyor. Many of us get degrees....we all get education of some sort in our field. On top of that, we trudge through swamps, swat bugs, pull out ticks, face owners with guns...etc. We work very hard to "earn our stripes" and to eventually get our license to offer our services to the general public. This all begs the question...Just what is all that worth? What is it worth to deal with the stress of establishing property corners in the right place? What is it worth to accept the liability and responsibility that goes along with certifying that you've performed and ALTA/ACSM Land Title Survey that meets the standards in the certification? What is it worth to certify that you've got that flood plain established absolutely correct for someone to design a building using your data?

I implore all of you to stop and consider what your profession is worth? Is it worth more than the yard caretaker charges? Is it worth more than the guy that fixes your computer charges? Is it worth more than the tire shop that swaps your tire on your truck charges? Where do we fit in? Are we really a profession...or a skill offered up to the public on a lowest bid basis?

I know I've asked more questions than I've offered answers here. My point is to get some of you to do a gut-check and realize that the fees some of you are quoting for your services are doing serious damage to our profession which will take years to recover. Re-read the certifications you are placing on the face of your surveys. Remind yourself that your work product has value to the public...and don't sell yourself short as though you are providing an hourly service.

Take a closer look at what your real costs are per month...can you really continue to provide your services at the dirt-cheap prices you are quoting and keep your enterprise afloat? If this keeps up, we all may need to just buy lawn mowers and start competing in a different industry. That seems to pay more, lately, and sure has a lot less liability.

# **LLR Board Report**

Board of Prof. Eng. & Surveyors: Mr. Gene Dinkins, Chairman of the Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors, updated the SCSPLS Board on several items of interest being handled at this time. He has been contacted by SC State University regarding an approved four year program in surveying technology. Mr. Dinkins and the Board have reviewed the proposed curriculum and it met with their approval. The university would like for this program to be in place by 2010 but may face a financial obstacle in trying to get the classes CHE approved. Those completing the program will receive a Bachelor of Science in Land Surveying and will be taught by the Civil Engineering Dept.

An inconsistency in statutes and regulations between PS and PE was brought to the Board's attention. The FE exam is waived for those with a PhD and appropriate background when working toward a PE license. This has not been the case with a Professional Surveying license. The Board reviewed the inconsistency and upon advice from the Board's attorney adopted a new policy allowing anyone with a PhD in an appropriate background to apply for a waiver from the Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exam when working toward a Professional Surveying license. All other licensing requirements still must be satisfied prior to obtaining a Professional Surveyor license. Discussion pursued on this matter.

The Board will begin requiring any applicant that has had their application rejected twice to start the application process over. New references and another application fee will be necessary.

A question was brought to the board on the use of a laser scanner as a survey function. Based on the statutes and regulations, it is the opinion of the board that the laser scanner is a tool just like any other piece of surveying equipment. If that tool is being used in survey work for another party other than for one's own personal use, then it requires a licensed surveyor to do the work. Construction staking layout firms operating without a licensed surveyor will be stopped. If anyone is aware of a firm or individual providing construction staking services for hire, they should to send a letter to the board. It is imperative that the board receive a written letter and not a phone call.

Digital Terrain Model (DTM) coordinate points have to be prepared by a PS or PE. Contractors can do this for their own purposes under the existing industrial exemption but can't hire unlicensed persons to perform this work.

Title Companies are allowing owners to sign Survey Affidavits in lieu of having a survey done when a property is bought or sold. The Survey Affidavits reference a previously recorded survey and state that no changes have been made to the property since that time. It is the opinion of the Board that such affidavits constitute surveying without a license. A "cease and desist" letter is being sent to the insurance commission notifying them that these affidavits should not be allowed in lieu of a new survey.

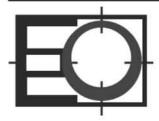
The new Minimum Standards and Regulations have been approved into law and are now in effect. Everyone present should help get the word out. LLR will not be printing and distributing hard copies of the new regulations to licensed surveyors. The regulations can be found on LLR's website.

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PRINCIPAL

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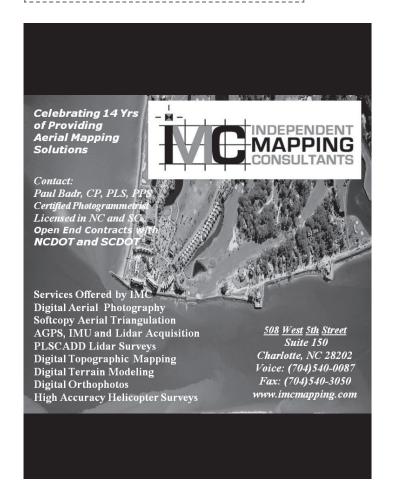
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# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SCSPLS 2009-2010 MEETING DATES

**Board Meetings:** 

July 24, 2009 Columbia, Synergy Business Park, Congaree Board Room 1:30 PM

Dec. 5, 2009 Sullivan's Island, SC, Fish Fry Shack, with GM meeting Hickory Knob State Park, McCormick, SC with GM meeting

May, 2010 Convention

(SCSPLS Board meetings, Synergy Business Park, Congaree Board Room #200, 121 Executive Center Dr., Columbia, SC unless otherwise specified.)

**General Membership Meetings:** 

Dec. 5, 2009 Fish Fry Shack, Sullivan's Island

March 27, 2010 Hickory Knob State Park, McCormick

May - June, 2010 Convention

(At July 24th meeting, Board unanimously approved to have only three general membership meetings for 2009-10.)

# OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

EDUCATION CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

RADISSON HOTEL COLUMBIA & CONF. CENTER:

MAY, 2010

FEBRUARY 11-12, 2010 (date and location to be determined)