

SCSPLS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, April 13, 2019
James Island County Park, Conference Center
Charleston, SC

SCSPLS President, Tim Davis, welcomed all to the 3rd Board and General membership meeting of the 2018-19 SCSPLS year. He said he knows it is spring break for many people, baseball season and wedding season and a lot is going on for this time of year. He thanked all for coming to James Island County Park for the meeting.

Davis called the SCSPLS General Membership Meeting to order at 12:08 PM.

Davis asked Treasurer Chris Bass to bless the meeting and lead the group in the pledge of allegiance.

He said SCSPLS uses the Robert's Rules of Order for this and all meetings.

The first item is the Approval of Agenda. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Next, the minutes from Feb. 27, 2019 were approved after a motion was made and seconded.

Secretary CA Shealy called roll for the SCSPLS board. With proxies, there was a quorum for the meeting.

Davis made the President's report. First, he thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said he appreciates their dedication to the Society.

He said this is first meeting since the successful 2019 SCSPLS Convention and Technical Conference. He said Allison King will give an update later, but we had attendees from 8 states, 263 attendees and thanked all who attended. Davis reminded the group it will be a renewal year in 2020 so make sure you attend.

Next, Davis said a constant discussion this year has been the Enabling Act of 1994. Adam Jones will give a full report later in the meeting, but told the group the first step happened this week.

Then, he also wanted to thank all that came to the State House for Surveyors Day. Allison King will say more about this at the end of the meeting, but SCSPLS and specific surveyors were acknowledged in both the house and senate.

He said he got married since the last meeting.

Finally, he said he knows there was a lot scheduled during the first part of the year, but it was needed and had to happen during the session at the legislature.

Treasurer Chris Bass Provided the Financial Report:
As of April 12th (day before meeting)

Checking – \$7,572.66
Savings- \$157,482.14
Scholarship – \$5,206.43

Davis asked if there were any Delegate reports. No Delegate reports were given.

Next, he asked if there are there any districts or Chapters that would like to give a report.

Aaron Leach reported for the Grand Strand Chapter. He said the date of the Grand Strand Chapter meetings will change from the 3rd Tuesday of the month to the 3rd Monday of the month starting April 15, 2019. The Meeting on Monday, April 15 and All members are invited to attend.

Next, Chuck Dawley reported for District 1 and the Coastal Chapter. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 30 at the Harbor Breeze Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant. Aaron Leach will be speaking on how to get TrigStar into the schools. Dawley urged all to attend and to try to get Trigstar in schools around SC.

Then, CA Shealy of the Midstate Chapter provided an update. The Mid State Chapter had a meeting on NADA 2022 and the state law as it relates to the coordinate system for SC. NADA 2022 impacts a lot of different items including everything with SCDOT and GIS every county uses. If it was adopted by our state, everyone would have to use it. Shealy said there will be issues with federal funding. If passed, this is what everyone is tied into using. Do we need to push forward with that? Midstate is in favor to adopt standard so no changes need to be made every few years because there is so little change anyway. Shealy said as surveyors, we can do it based on conversion factors, but would cut down on decisions. Shealy asked everyone to go back to your groups and discuss NADA 2022.

Chuck Dawley said, in 2022, when the projection is adjusted again, we will be converting back to because there will be 2 different dimensions - both vertical and horizontal. Shealy said the conversion is simple, but the problem is communication. That is a lot of responsibility. It must be consistent with the information that is supposed to be presented.

Shealy said FEMA will eventually catch up, based on an adoption process.

Shealy said the point he is making is that if in the state law, eventually every municipality and county will have to go toward it. FEMA would be the only issue. FEMA is currently switching to 88.

He said this is something surveyors have dealt with forever.

Next, Davis asked if there are any committees to give a report. No reports were made so Davis moved to the Normal Agenda Items.

The first item on the agenda is TrigStar and Scholarships with Aaron Leach.

Leach began with scholarships. He informed the group SCSPS gave away 2 Scholarship for the first time in 9 years. One scholarship was given to a part time student and one scholarship was given to a full-time student. This is a great start to getting SC surveyors back in the classroom to earn the required hours for a Professional Land Surveyor license.

Next, Leach discussed the Sandbox. He said the goal is to have it completed by the June meeting in Columbia. Leach has purchased the computer. Michael Culler, Jr is going to build the sandbox. Leach is excited for people to see it.

Then, Leach reported on TrigStar. The new test is written and SC will have a total of 4 schools participating. As Dawley mentioned, he will be giving a presentation how to make the presentation to schools. Leach concluded saying we need to get into more schools and different school districts.

Next, Lobbyist Adam Jones gave the Legislative Report. Jones said it was a big week at the General Assembly. April 10 was a very significant date. It was what is called the "crossover day". Any bill that has not passed one body and "crossed over" to the other body is pretty much dead for the year. Barring special order and rules bills that have not crossed over by this date cannot be taken up by the other body this legislative year.

That doesn't mean bills are dead, as this is the first session of the 132 South Carolina General Assembly. These bills are alive and well next year they just can't pass this year. With last day of Session on May 9, 2019, we only have four weeks left. Next week the House is on furlough and Senate is working on the budget, so in reality that is only about three legislative weeks left, but a lot can still happen.

There are five bills that I'm monitoring for SCSPLS that are still alive this session. S. 180 a bill dealing with use of drones near military bases made it over to the house on crossover day, so that bill may pass this year. It went to a very busy committee and Jones thinks it is more likely to pass early next year.

S 455 / H. 3263 the bills dealing with licensure by comity for military spouses will probably pass this year. Both bills made it over before crossover. Jones hopes the Senate version passes first so that is the bill that is used once they go to conference committee. This bill is a little stronger in my opinion with the ability to deny a license. Both require applicants to meet the education, examination, and experience needs, but the Senate version is just a little more black and white.

S. 530, a bill dealing with the procurement code is still alive. It also went to a busy committee, so again it may be early next year before it passes.

The bill dealing with using purple as a visible painted boundary for no trespassing passed the house in late March and is sitting in the Senate Judiciary committee. It has a chance to pass this year, but the Senate Judiciary Committee only meets two more times this year; so, Jones doesn't know if it will pass or not.

S.401 / H.3799 the bills dealing with the relocation of water and waste water utilities when transportation improvement projects are happening, we do think will pass this year. It made it over before crossover and is slated for a subcommittee hearing on April 23, 2019. It should pass this year.

Bills Jones is following that are dead for the year are: S. 266, the bill that gave some compensation to State Guard volunteers, S. 689, a bill that would allow licensure to people who were part of a federally accepted mentor program, H.3404 a bill that gave a path to licensure to people who have a lawful presence in this state that are not citizens are all dead for the year. These bills had no subcommittee hearings this year and have seen no movement.

The Fair Share bill, the bill dealing with Joint & Several Liability will not pass this year, but we are still trying to get a subcommittee hearing. This may be an area that we make a call to action and ask you to call your House member and demand a hearing.

Those are all the bills that have been introduced that we are watching. Now, Jones covered the surveyor bill dealing with the definition of subdivision. Jones said he thought he would be bringing a bill number to you today. Representative Burns took the language SCSPLS produced and got it to Legislative services this week. The bill has been drafted, and it is in the hopper to be introduced on Tuesday April 23, 2019. Senators Loftis and Corbin will also be dropping it in the Senate. Though it will not pass this year, we will be pushing for subcommittee hearings early next year. Jones said he has copies of the bill here; it doesn't have a number yet. The underlined portion is the new language. In my opinion, legislative services made it even stronger than the language we gave them. This language will make it so the local planning agency are informed, "But are not to be reviewed, approved, or commented upon. By any political subdivision of this state including any county or municipal government or any of its departments, divisions, review boards or commissions. "

Davis thanked Adam for his presentation and asked Treasurer Chris Bass to talk about his work with University of South Carolina.

Chris Bass reported that he helped a group of engineering students at the University of South Carolina with the Concrete Canoe Competition put on through ASCE. This year the competition was at North Carolina State. USC sent about 20 students to compete. Other schools in attendance were Clemson, UNCC, UGA, Duke, NC State, Horry Georgetown Tech, NC A&T and a few others.

USC received 4 awards. They placed 2nd overall, 3rd in the Concrete Canoe and 2nd in the Quiz Bowl and the three students who competed in Surveying placed 1st.

Bass knows 2 of the surveying competitors. One currently works with Bass and the other is the son of someone Bass knows.

Bass was asked to help at the beginning of February. He helped the students with pacing, leveling, coordinates and with the written test.

In 2020, the competition will be held at USC. Bass brought it to the attention of the membership that there are no surveying courses at USC. USC has a Top Con Level, but it has never been taken out of the box.

In conclusion, Bass said it started with 3 kids that new a little about surveying, but were interested enough to see where they could go with this competition. All 3 of the surveying competitors are Juniors, so they will be back to compete in 2020.

Davis said this is another great way to get surveying in front of college students and thanked Chris. Next, he asked Allison King to cover the remaining items on the agenda.

3 Year Plan: Last year at the Charleston meeting, Allison King introduced the 3-year plan with an hour and 15-minute presentation. Due to low attendance at the meeting, she wanted to give a quick update.

Mission and Vision Statement cannot be changed without changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

We are trying to build and Promote Land Surveying. I hope you guys are interacting with our social media posts. I think the sand box will do wonders to promote land surveying.

We had 3 STEM conferences in 2018-19. We hope to do more every year.

The website has been updated and SCSPLS has increased our number of speaking engagements.

Constitution and Bylaws: Allison King said we all know; the constitution is very out of date. She included the Constitution and Bylaws in your packet for the meeting. Please take the time to read them carefully. We have a list of items that need to be addressed. Please email any suggested changes to me. I cannot guarantee it will be changed, but it may bring light into a section of the constitution, that no one else has thought of. Don't assume because you think it needs to be changed, that everyone will catch it.

2019 SCSPLS Convention and Technical Conference: King thanked all that attended. She said it was the biggest event she's ever done for the land surveyors. At the conference, Tim Davis reported in the General Meeting there were 248 attendees. By the end of the conference, with walk ups, we had 263 attendees, 23 speakers, 48 exhibitors. There were 26 people from out of state and 237 in state attendees.

The out of state attendee breakdown is as follow:

Ohio – 1, West Virginia – 1, Virginia – 1, Florida – 2, NC – 7, GA – 11, NJ – 1, TN – 2 (not including ETSU)

As she reported to the Board of Registration, King would like to make it the largest in the southeast. Is it possible being one of the smaller states she asked? Yes. Are we getting the reputation for a great conference for the money she asked? Yes. Finally, she asked, can we do it? Yes, with your help.

On the whole, most of the post conference surveys were very positive. The most common complaints King found were:

- Temperature in the Classroom – I wish I could control this, and I reported to the hotel every time a complaint was made.
- Number of hours at the conference.
 - Ironically, she received complaints on both sides of the spectrum. A few people wanted fewer hours so Friday could be a ½ day. Others wanted more hours to be used in states where more hours are required. For now, we will keep the 15 hours per conference as required by the State of SC.

- Food Quality – when you have your conference in a hotel or convention center, you are not allowed to bring in outside catering or food. You must use its catering department.
- Tight Classroom – with conference this large, the rooms were going to be tight.

On the positive side, the following were points mentioned in 4 or more reviews.

- Track 3 on Friday is a keeper. Offering Business classes for attendees seemed to benefit attendees from large firms to small, one-man companies. A few suggestions were made for additions to this track.
- Sit down banquet rather than a buffet seemed to please quite a few people. If you will remember, this is one of the items on the “fix it” list from last year.
- Another item on the fix it list is the signage outside of the classrooms. We added a sign outside of each classroom showing what class is outside of each room. We will continue to do this in the future.
- The location seems to be appreciated by many.

About 17 people took the time to recommend topics for next year. THANK YOU. If you have any suggestions, please let Allison King know by email. She starts reaching out to the larger speakers around July.

A suggestion was made for a “Back to Basics” track. Another suggestion was for a CST – Certified Survey Technician. Aaron Leach said NSPS would send someone for free of charge. Finally, King was asked if we invited NSPS to attend the conference. King said no, she has always only invited neighboring states, but will gladly add NSPS to the 2020 Invite list.

Finally, the last thing I want to talk about is the cost of the conference. She had a few people tell me in person, calls after the conference or on the survey the cost of the conference is too high. Conferences cost A LOT of money. More than \$50,000. Without the help of a grant from LLR, the cost would be substantially higher. Be sure to thank our board members, Henry Dingle and Gene Dinkins for approving our grant request. Also, please thank any of the other board members if you have the chance – Mack Kelly, who is a PLS and a PE, Jimmy Chao, John Peeples, Dennis Fallon, Tim Rickborn and Baker Cleveland.

Tim Davis thanked King for her reports. He asked if there is anything that is not listed on the agenda?

Chuck Dawley stood to inform the group Curtis Lybrand of Charleston is very ill with Cancer. Allison King said she has a few SCSPLS note cards. She will write a note and would like to have everyone sign it in attendance.

Thank you for attending the meeting today. We are going to give you a break for a little over a month. Our next meeting will be June 28 at Saluda Shoals River Center in Columbia. We will be swearing in the new officers.

Davis said, if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns about the meeting or the society in general, please call me or Allison King.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 PM.