

SCSPLS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 5, 2019
Magnolias at 26th, Myrtle Beach, SC

The meeting began with President Floyd Sweatt, PLS welcoming the attendees to the 1st membership meeting of the 2019-2020 SCSPLS year. He said he appreciates the fact that everyone took the time to come to the meeting. Thank you to Aaron Leach for the presentation on the Sandbox. I think this is going to help get the next generation interested in Surveying.

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM.

Sweatt asked SCSPLS Treasurer CA Shealy to bless the meeting and conduct the pledge allegiance.

Sweatt said the society uses the Robert's Rules of Order for all meeting.

The first order of business was the approval of the Agenda. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

The next order of business, was the approval of the Meeting minutes from June 28, 2019. A motion was made, seconded and approved. The meeting minutes will be posted on the SCSPLS website.

Next, Secretary Sandy Peabody called roll for the board members in attendance. The following board members were in attendance: President Floyd Sweatt, President Elect Dee Dee Schwacke, Vice President Chris Bass, Treasurer CA Shealy, Secretary Sandy Peabody, Past President Tim Davis, Chapter Representatives Aaron Leach, Ralph Vanadore, Earl Horton, William Martin, Terry Hatchell (proxy) District Representatives Dennis Clinkscales, and Michael Culler.

President Floyd Sweatt began his president's report by again thanking everyone for coming to the meeting and he is looking forward to the upcoming year and serving as your president.

Sweatt said his aim this year is to promote the "**Professionalism**" that Land Surveyors should exhibit each day. Our exciting and challenging career has been around for hundreds of years. In addition, there have even been several Presidents, three of which are on Mt. Rushmore, that have worked in this field. As Surveyors, we should strive to do our best to safeguard life, health, and property but most importantly promote the public welfare.

The ultimate praise for us is for the public to bestow the title of "Professional" upon us rather than to claim the title ourselves. The daily service and perception as land surveyors we exhibit will be forever etched in the minds of the public just as our plats are forever perpetuated in the courthouse records.

We need to ask ourselves this question each and every day – "Am I representing this profession as true and honest as the plumb bob and string represents straightness and honesty to the true line of sight?" If not, just like our surveying equipment needs calibrating on a regular basis, I find myself needing calibration to provide the best service for the betterment of all involved.

We, as surveyors, work hard to earn the title of **Professional** Land Surveyor as stated by the State of South Carolina.

The 2019-2020 meeting dates have been sent to you and are posted on the website. Please continue to attend our meetings. I want to ask you to encourage others to become active in the society. The state meetings are an opportunity to stay on top of the latest rules, regulations and legislation that affect our profession. We are also able to find out what is affecting surveyors around the state.

Adam Jones will talk about it more later in the meeting, but this year is important at the State House. Our lobbyists have started meeting with legislators at the State House. In the coming months, they may be in your region and we need you to attend meetings in your area.

SCSPLS spent its summer months working on outreach and ways to get our new Sandbox in front of others. Thank you, Aaron, for the presentation. Allison will talk more about this later in the meeting.

He said he is humbled for this opportunity to serve as your SCSPLS President, and looks forward to an awesome and rewarding year!

Next, SCSPLS Treasurer provided the financial report:

Scholarship - \$3,506.43

Business: \$152,539.81

Merrill Lynch -- \$47,913.86

Henry Dingle submitted an NSPS report to be distributed in his absence.

The NSPS Fall meeting was held in Orlando Sept. 24-28th.

Three (3) candidates are running for Vice President this year – ballots will be sent electronically. The candidates are Tommy Brooks – Alabama, Amanda Allred, and Bob Akins – Ohio. Dingle said to send a request for his recommendation.

Dingle reported it was nice to see our young surveyor, John Mark Mills, in attendance and Aaron Leach attending as a member of the Trig Star Committee.

We took action on several issues that have hung around NSPS for years.

We closed the door on the second organization from Arizona that petitioned to become an affiliate member of NSPS. We have to keep in mind that we have an allegiance to our state societies while still representing all surveyors that are and want to be members. We took a big step in clarifying this issue but there is more work to be done in our by-laws. The presentation of a succession plan, as presented, was a giant step forward. This issue has laid dormant in the back of our minds for many years. We have finally come to the realization that we will have to search for new management for NSPS someday. A realistic view of that situation has been put forth, a committee will dive deeper into the nuts and bolts of the plan and when, not if, such an instance occurs, there will be a positive route for NSPS to take.

Treasurer Bob Miller presented a budget that reflects the fact that the increase has started to come in. What amounts to three (3) cents per day to our membership has now taken the chains off of many possibilities for our committees and programs. This was a little contentious at times but the members all came together at the end.

A Railroad Abandonment Monumentation Plan, was submitted. This has been lying dormant for a decade. The wording will need some tweaking. There needs to be some allies lined up for its support but the legislation is on the table to be attached to a vehicle for enactment.

NSPS Railroad Legislation

Contents: Upon filing the notice to vacate railroad occupied lands, the railroad must document the location of any and all existing rail centerlines. The location of said rails must be documented under the supervision of a licensed professional surveyor, licensed in the state where said railroad is located.

The methods and accuracy of said location shall meet the state minimum standards of practice in the area in which it is located.

The rail centerline must be located at a maximum of 100' (one hundred feet) intervals. The beginning point, ending point and intermediate points, no more that ½ (one half) mile apart, shall be physically monumented, according to local surveying standards and tied into the National Spatial Reference System.

Legible valuation maps and historical surveys of said railroad lands, along with the rail location information must be placed on file with the local county (or equal) official responsible for overseeing the preservation of land survey information. A letter verifying receipt of said information from said county official will be required prior to the removal of any rail infrastructure. If the rail line overlaps political subdivision line (i.e. County and State lines) the survey information shall be filed with all said entities.

And finally, the NSPS Government Affairs Committee stays active in Washington monitoring and supporting our interests on a National level.

Henry Dingle, PLS
NSPS Director

Next, Sweatt reported on behalf of Bobby Foster and the Foothills Chapter. From Foster: On Tuesday, September 10, 2019 The SCSPLS Upper Piedmont and Foothills Chapters sponsored an all-day seminar on Carlson Surveying Software and Hardware. It was held at the SCDOT office in Greenville. Jennifer DiBona (That Cad Girl), Butch Herter, Scott Griffin and Mark Long were the presenters. We had two secessions going on at the same time in two rooms. They covered desktop Field to finish and Survey CE data collection while the second room was covering topo, 3D modeling. We had 59 attending surveyors and/or crew members. They had plenty of food and drinks at breaks. We had a catered buffet lunch by Bucky's BBQ and door prizes at breaks and lunch. The door prizes were donated by Carlson (hats), TPM Greenville (koozie and bottle opener) & a 8.5' Prism Pole by Eddie Clark & Hayes Instrument.

There were 8 Professional Development Hours earned by the PLS attendees. The Seminar was very well received by the attendees.

Thanks to Allison and SCSPLS for their help and support with this event.

Respectfully Submitted.

Bobby Foster

Foothills Chapter Rep.

Bill Tripp provided a report from Aiken. A joint meeting was held with the SC and GA surveyors in the Augusta/North Augusta and Aiken areas. They had a very well attended meeting on Aug. 5, 2019. Matt Wellslager of the SC Geodetic Survey made a presentation on the 2022 Datum updates.

Terry Hatchell reported there have been no meetings for the Low Country Chapter since the last SCSPLS meeting in June.

There were no further reports from chapter or districts.

Aaron Leach next provided a report on TrigStar.

Leach was excited to announce the winner from SC came in 3rd in the nation. The winner, Henry Hein attends Scholars Academy in Myrtle Beach SC. SC has been noted at the national level for the work with Trigstar. The TrigStar committee is finalizing this year's test.

Currently, 36 of the 50 states are participating in TrigStar.

He then gave a few pointers for when you get into a class or when you can speak with an administration. First, explain this will help students see the practical use of Trigonometry. Also, be sure to mention the monetary incentives for both the student and the teacher. He said once you get in with the right person at a school, keep the momentum going. Usually, once you get in, the school will continue annually.

Leach suggested you bring it up in any situation. He recently participated in a Dragon Boat race and mentioned it and he hopes this will get TrigStar into another school.

Brian Bonds advised the group that SCSPLS had its first member of the Young Surveyors Group. John Mark Mills of Glenn Associates attended the meeting in Florida.

Gene Dinkins was unable to make the meeting, but asked for the following to be reported. Midlands Technical College is trying to establish a 4-year surveying curriculum. The SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors is fully behind these efforts. Also, with the new effort made by the SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors by allowing unfilled classes to remain open for Surveying Students, there are 25 to

30 students enrolled this semester in their surveying program. Finally, at the last Board meeting, the director of SCLLR, Emily Farr, and her team proposed a reduction in fees for future licensees, renewals and COAs. The board agreed to the proposed reduction; however, it must be approved by the SC Legislature.

Next, Adam Jones gave the Legislative report. Joe Jones has met with the following House and Senate Judiciary Committee members when they were in Columbia on respective House and Senate Committee meetings. The week of September 9-12 Representatives Beth Bernstein (D-Columbia), Peter McCoy (R-Charleston), Mandy Powers Nowell (D-Lancaster) and were attending a House Ethics Committee meeting. Jones met briefly with each following the meeting. Mr. McCoy is currently the House Judiciary Committee Chair; however, rumor has it that he may be appointed to a federal position shortly. If that happens, a new House Judiciary Chair will be appointed.

The week of September 16-20, Senators Wes Climer (R-Rock Hill), Brad Hutto (D-Orangeburg), Gerald Malloy (D-Hartsville), Shane Massey (R-Edgefield), Scott Talley (R-Spartanburg), Ross Turner (R-Greenville), and Tom Young (R-Aiken) were attending several Senate meetings. Jones got to talk to each one before or after the meetings. Mr. Turner is a co-sponsor of S. 833.

The week of September 30, I met with Representatives Micah Caskey and Gary Clary telling them about H.4598. Adam Jones and I also met with Mr. Andy Fiffick, Senate Judiciary Chief of Staff.

Jones told the Judiciary Committee members his purpose for the “elevator speech” – (short individual conversations introducing an issue) was to let them know legislation had been introduced on behalf of the SC Society of Professional Land Surveyors in late May. The bills had been sent to the Senate and House Judiciary Committees. Moreover, Jones wanted to alert the committee members of the bills’ existence and that he and surveyors would be contacting them again about the bills and their progress.

In these conversations and follow-up emails Jones gave them the following information:

The main objective of this bill is to allow surveys to be filed with the appropriate governing authority without other political departments reviewing, delaying and/or denying them from being filed because they want more information than the actual boundaries of the parcel of land.

In 2016 a law was passed that we thought would remedy the problem, but some counties found a way around this law and still required information beyond that of a boundary survey.

Things the different departments are requiring before plats may be registered are storm water plans, “potential streets,” full landscape plans and environmental. I even heard some wanted future buildings. The lists are different in different jurisdictions. Some of these requirements are actually engineering responsibilities and not surveying.

When an owner can’t get his plat/survey registered with the county, moving forward with the sale is stopped.

The bill amends the definition of a subdivision, defines a plat and says land surveys must be filed directly.

As I said, I simply want to make you aware that bill was introduced last session and has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee. I want to acquaint Judiciary Committee members on this bill and let you know the South Carolina Society of Professional Land Surveyors is supporting this bill and that it was introduced on their behalf.

Next, Floyd Sweat addressed the SCSPLS Life Service Award. Last year, we awarded 2 Life Service Awards to 2 very deserving individuals – Van Clinkscales and Henry Dingle.

A few weeks ago, Brian Bonds, recommended a worthy candidate for this year.

First, I want to recap the purpose and procedure of this award. The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor individual(s) whom, through a life-time of actions, have contributed to the advancement of the profession of land surveying. This award is to be given only after careful consideration of the Board and does not have to be given each year.

Bonds suggested Cindy Polar with the SC Geodetic Survey.

With all of this being said, Cindy Polar of the SC Geodetic is going to retire this month. We all know Cindy and appreciate all of the help through the years.

We will move forward with obtaining the information I mentioned before to correctly nominate Cindy for the award.

We can award more than one person this award. Now that the guidelines have been covered, I would like to open the floor for any additional nominations.

Thank you all for giving this some thought. We will move forward with submitting for approval.

Next, Sweatt covered the Legislator of the year. He said, we are looking to give another award at the conference this year. We all know we have a fight this year, so we would like to award a legislator who has helped us with this bill.

The qualifications for this award are very similar to the life Service award. The purpose of the SCSPLS LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD to recognize and honor legislator(s) who have contributed to the perception and advancement of the profession of land surveying. This award is to be given only after careful consideration of the Board, and does not have to be given each year.

The upstate legislators have backed the legislation regarding the Enabling Act of 1994 from the beginning. Would the membership entertain recognizing Senator Dwight Loftis? Loftis has backed the surveyors and this bill since the beginning. While Loftis was in the house, he also backed the bill from 2016. He understands land surveying and the need for these changes.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to make Dwight Loftis the 2020 Legislator of the Year.

Sweatt said this recognition can only help our organization.

Allison King said ideally, we will recognize Loftis at our Conference. However, it is more likely we will recognize him at the State House on SC Professional Land Surveyor Day in March 2020.

Allison King then provided her reports.

As we all know, the Sandbox was completed by Aaron Leach. King thought the Charleston area would be having the STEM conference for middle and high school students as they have in the last 3 years. Wouldn't you know, as soon as we have the sandbox, it was postponed until Fall 2020 due to efforts going to the manufacturing expo.

She said, this got her thinking – we have this incredible new tool to show students. Henry Dingle reported in June that NSPS wants to get in schools. I had to find places to use it. So, she decided to focus on outreach.

Her goal this summer was to find new ways to get surveyors in front of students and the community. I thought this would be the time to talk to the district offices of school districts because their work load may be a little lighter with the majority of teachers and students off for the summer break.

While she works in Columbia, SC, King lives in Lexington SC in Lexington District 1. This school district has an innovative approach with the Lexington Technology Center (LTC).

King pulled this from their website: Lexington Technology Center serves students in specialized career development courses from Gilbert, Lexington, Pelion, River Bluff and White Knoll High Schools and supports curriculum coordination for career and technology courses at each high school.

LTC is designated as the school district's Center for Advanced STEM Studies. LTC offers 21 areas of specialized training. Each area has its own advisory council which works with the center's administrative advisory council. More than 150 community members serve on these councils.

With her poking around, King thought this would be an ideal place to start our outreach. She is EXTREMELY excited about this partnership. This will be the guinea pig. If it works in her backyard, we can use it as an example and try in other places around the state. When dates are provided, I will report to both the Midlands and Midstate chapter meetings to ask for volunteers.

The first “official” item that will happen will most likely be a Career Day at Lexington Technology Center (LTC) in the spring. This will be a 3-fold event for SCSPLS. I told her we would like to have a place to display the new sandbox. We would also like to get in front of as many students as we can to talk about surveying. While there, we would like to drum up some interest in TrigStar. The date has not been set. Once a date is given, I will be asking members of the Midlands and Midstate chapter to volunteer. However, if anyone from around the state would like to participate, that would be great.

Next, we want to incorporate more surveying in the current engineering track. King is currently working with LTC to see when local surveyors can speak to the engineering track. Right now, they cover surveying in one class per semester. I told LTC this is not enough time to learn about it as a profession or what it has to offer. LTC agreed.

SCSPLS Long Range Plans in partnership with LTC

1. Annual presentations – 2x per year. They will be opening this up to both career day as well as “random” days to speak in the engineering classes.
2. Volunteer surveyors for home building by students. LTC has a current program where the students build a building from the bottom to the top. We want to incorporate a Licensed Surveyor to show students how to survey the land before the engineering and architectural students begin with the design. Finally, the construction students will build. If we can show the students that Surveying is just as important as the engineering, architecture and construction, I think it will make a huge impact. By the time I spoke with LTC on this idea, it was too late to participate this semester.
3. Surveying Field trip. King’s brainstorm may or may not work, but my idea was to have students accompany a Surveyor into the field to see how it is professionally done. After the survey is complete, students will go to the office to see all the steps involved all the way to filing a plat. This may be too much to do in one day so I am working to see what the school will allow/want. Once it is cleared, I will contact various Surveyors in the area.
4. Apprenticeships in the next 2 years – per LTC, the apprenticeships could be CAD, office assistance or even could be crew. The goal is to generate a passion or appreciation for surveying.

Other ideas:

1. STEM Fair in Charleston. This is different than the one we’ve done the past. This is on a Saturday and last year 13,500 people attended. <http://charlestonstemfest.org/>. It is open to all ages and is a paid event. The date has not been set but it was March of 2019.
2. I’ve contacted the following school districts in hopes of attending STEM fairs, Career Day, etc. and followed up last week. I was much more hopeful, but as of now, I have not received the requested information. If any of you have contacts at these school districts, let me know.
 - a. Charleston County School District
 - b. Lexington School District 2
 - c. Richland Lexington School District 5
 - d. Richland School District 2
 - e. Greenville County School District
 - f. Spartanburg District 2
3. Booth at the Math Teachers Conference in Greenville in November – We’ve talked about this a few times but it was cost prohibitive for the booth and room nights. I’ve asked SCSPE and MATHCOUNTS to split a booth with us. MATHCOUNTS has been given a free booth for the last few years, but it was not in a great location because, well, it was free. MATHCOUNTS is the Engineering math test for middle schoolers and we all know TRIGSTAR is a math test for high school. If we have our famous sand box, we can talk to teachers across the state about Career Day, TrigStar, Stem Days, etc. SCSPE has to vote on approval, but we should know soon.

King's next focus is on Social Media.

King said she knows many of you think social media is not needed. She said she's received many calls and emails on the fact that it is a waste of time for SCSPLS to put any time and effort towards social media. King said she disagrees and why. While many surveyors may not participate in social media, the younger generations do. If we want to encourage younger boys, girls, men and women to look into surveying, Social Media is the way to get in front of them.

Since June, King has attended 2 seminars on social media. Here are some statistics for you from 2018:

Almost 90% of marketers say their social marketing efforts have increased exposure for their business, and 75% say they've increased traffic.

48 percent of Americans have interacted with companies or institutions on at least one social media network.

First and foremost, Facebook still reigns supreme as the most popular social media network, with 74.5% of Internet users in the U.S. logging on the site.

There are about 287 million Internet users in the United States. Of those, 214 million use Facebook.

What does this mean? 74.5% of the U.S. population is on Facebook.

About 58 million Facebook users are between the ages of 25 and 34.

The most important statistics – As of Feb. 2019, The percentage of Americans on Facebook by age are as follows:

Age 13-17 – 51%

Age 18-29 – 81% - this is the demographic we want to get in front of.

Age 30 – 49 – 78%

Age 50-64 – 65%

Age 65+ - 41%

So, to stay relevant on a constant on Facebook Timelines and to be one of the first returns in a search, we need to post at least 2x per week. I post when we have content, but sometimes we don't which is why I want to implement SCSPLS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT.

I sent something out about this in last week's blast. It went out yesterday as well. I've also included a form for you to fill out in your packet.

2019 – 2020 SCSPLS Schedule

Allison King said to go to SCSPLS.COM and view the schedule of events on the right side of the home page. You can click on the event and save to your computer, phone or tablet.

Design Construction Partnership Legislative Reception on January 15, 2020

USC Alumni Center, 900 Senate Street, Columbia, SC 29201

This is very important to have a surveyor presence this year. This is the year for the Enabling Act to move and the legislature needs to see you as a supporter of your profession. For those who have attended in the past, the location has changed to the USC Alumni Center. It is a beautiful facility just down the hill from the state house. We are hoping a change of venue will bring even more legislator and state officials this year.

Plat Contest Submissions are due Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Surveyor of the Year is due Wednesday February 5, 2020

SCSPLS General and Board Meeting at the 2020 Conference will be February 26, 2020 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29210

SCSPLS Convention and Technical Conference will be February 27, 2020 - February 28, 2020, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29210

National Surveyors Week is March 15, 2020 - March 21, 2020 which means SC Professional Land Surveyors Day at the State House on **March 18, 2020**. We had a great group this year, but we need you there again this year.

SCSPLS General and Board Meeting on April 18, 2020 at James Island County Park. I think the format worked well this year so we will do the same. We will have some snacks around noon and be extra hungry for the social afterwards.

SCSPLS General and Board Meeting on June 26, 2020 Finally, the last meeting of the year will be back to Saluda Shoals for the SCSPLS General and Board Meeting with Installation of Officers.

Allison King's final report is on the 2020 Convention & Technical Conference. She said to go to the SCSPLS website to book your room and sign up for the conference. SCSPLS is currently receiving speaker submissions. The courses have not been chosen as a lot more speakers are needed. If you have someone you would like to speak, please call or email Allison King and she will personally contact him or her.

Also, we are receiving Sponsorships and Exhibitors. Please talk to your vendors and tell them this will be the largest meeting of SC Professional Land Surveyors.

The last thing mentioned was Jones, McAden & Associates (JMA) has filled a position that has been vacant since April 1, 2020. She said JMA looked long and hard to make sure the company found a great addition to the team. She started last week, so she did not come with us this weekend, but you will meet her in February.

Matteah Taylor married and is the mother of three and grandmother of one. She said that seeing them smile is one of her favorite things. Matteah is an honors graduate from Limestone college. She is very proud of this as she should be. She is especially proud because she accomplished this by going to school while working full time, raising 3 children and had an ill husband. Her previous work experience includes working for the Cosmetology Board at LLR and a company that helps provide professional development hours. Matteah's hobbies include shopping and going to the shooting range. An interesting fact about Matteah is that she likes fast cars. Her ideal car is a 2014 Ford Mustang, Charcoal grey with a manual 6 speed. I look forward to you all meeting Matteah Taylor.

Floyd Sweatt again thanked everyone for attending the 1st meeting of the 2019 - 2020 SCSPLS year. He said if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns about the meeting or the society in general, please call him or Allison.

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Allison King.