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MEMBER—WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

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VOLUME 14, NO. 3

OCTOBER 2002



W.P.L.S.W.



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☐ APPROVED BY BOD ☐ REJECTED BY BOD SEC./TREAS. _____ DATE _____

2002 PLSW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF WYOMING

AFFILIATE — AMERICAN CONGRESS ON SURVEYING AND MAPPING
MEMBER — WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS



NAME _____ DATE _____

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EMPLOYER: _____ YOUR TITLE: _____

States other than Wyoming in which you are registered: _____

Additional information or comments (optional): _____

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP APPLIED FOR: (check one only and please submit dues with application, prorated for the remainder of the calendar year)

☐ MEMBER, ANNUAL DUES \$75 (Persons duly registered, PLS or PE&PLS in Wyoming.)

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIPS

- ☐ Associate Member, annual dues \$50. (Persons employed under the direction of a PLS and working toward PLS registration in Wyoming.)
- ☐ Special Member, annual dues \$50. (Not meeting above qualifications but with a particular interest in, or association with, the profession of land surveying.)
- ☐ Special Member, Student, annual dues \$15. (Pursuing a post secondary academic course of study, and currently enrolled.)
- ☐ Sustaining Member, annual dues \$100. (Persons, institutions or corporations desiring to assist PLSW financially.)

I AGREE TO OBSERVE THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF WYOMING AND THE CHAPTER THEREOF TO WHICH I WILL BELONG AND TO SUPPORT SAID ORGANIZATIONS IN THEIR ENDEAVORS.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE
(For Affiliate Member applicants only.)

NOTE: All portions of the state have chapters. Chapter dues or assessments may vary in amount. Applications are considered by the board of Directors at quarterly meetings. Send completed application to PLSW, c/o Herbert W. Stoughton, Sec./Treas., 2021 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

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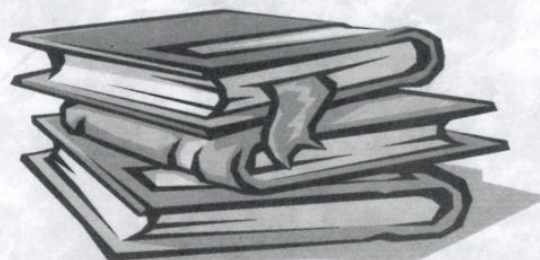
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The "Old" Farmer

An old farmer had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back forty, had it fixed up nice: picnic tables, horseshoe pits, basketball court, etc. The pond was fixed for swimming when it was built.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinnydipping in his pond.

He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end of the pond.

One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man replied, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim or make you get out of the pond. I only came to feed my alligators."

Old age and treachery will triumph over youth and skill every time!

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EDITORIAL POTPOURRI

O NEW MEMBERS OF PLSW - The Board of Directors announced the approval of Warren Latvala for membership in PLSW. Congratulations and welcome.

O BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS - The board meeting for the balance of 2002 will be during the technical session on 15 NOV 02 at 12:30 p.m. in Casper at the Parkway Plaza.

Contact your director for additional information. All are welcome.

O FALL TECHNICAL SESSION: The 2002 fall technical session will be on Thursday and Friday November 14th and 15th at the Parkway Plaza in Casper. The times will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm on Friday. The session are *Today's Real-Time GPS Surveying* and *What Tomorrow's GPS Can and Will do for the Surveying Profession*. The speaker will be Ari Silkey and his fee is \$1,500 plus expenses.

The cost of the session is as follows:

Member	\$100
Associate Member	\$ 50
Non-Member	\$175

Additional information is presented in this newsletter.

O Lines & Points FAX - Our fax numbers are 307-235-5604 or 307-235-8184.

O Lines & Points E-MAIL - Contact dond@wlcwyo.com or johnhh@trib.com.

O PLSW PARAPHANALIA - The South Central Chapter lapel pins for sale. Contact the South Central Chapter or *Lines & Points*.

Survey Video Tapes Available

TAPE ONE

1. *Professional Land Surveyors & GIS; Mapping the Future*; New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors.
2. *Professional Land Surveying: A Career Without Boundaries*; New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors.
3. *A Matter of Degrees*; American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, National Society of Professional Surveyors (1986).
4. *Surveyors of the Sixth Principal Meridian*; Bureau of Land Management

TAPE TWO

1. Wyoming T2 Center: *Surveying Crew Orientation: Surveying Options, Part I*.
1. Wyoming T2 Center: *Surveying Crew Orientation: Surveying Options, Part II*.

TAPE THREE

1. *Introduction to Legal Research*; by West Publishing (nine chapters).



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PLSW (Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming) is a statewide organization of Registered Land Surveyors licensed to practice in the Equality State of Wyoming. PLSW is dedicated to improving the technical, legal, and business aspects of surveying in the State of Wyoming. PLSW is affiliated with the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and the Western Federation of Professional Land Surveyors.

Editorial Staff: John Hibsman, Steve Strang, Don Davis.

Lines and Points subscription \$50/year Advertising Information

Camera ready advertisements with payment should be mailed to
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Advertising rates are as follows:

	Year	Issue
Full page	\$300	\$80
Half page	\$175	\$50
Quarter page	\$100	\$30
Business card	\$ 30	\$10
Classified	40¢ per word/issue	
Employment	Free	

Special Rates for PLSW Chapters

Deadline for next issue — 15 DEC 2002

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Horizontal Datum Transformations Used in GPS Data Observations

Herbert W. Stoughton, Ph.D., P.E., P.L.S., C.P.
Head, Surveying and Mapping Program
Metropolitan State College of Denver

The original geodetic positions obtained in GPS observations are the earth mass center WGS 84 coordinates. When computer software transforms the coordinates from WGS84, there must be a transformation function (mathematical equations) which state a geometrical relationship in three-dimensional space between the GPS coordinate system and the surveyor's desired system. There are a number of approaches to this computation. It is not the intent of this document to attempt to address the complex

ASPRS has been requested by NIMA to publish the following notice for readers of the Grids & Datums Column.

NOTICE TO USERS

Regarding Local Datum Transformations and Geotrans Software

Local Datum Transformations

IMPORTANT NOTE: APPLICATIONS REQUIRING PRECISE POINT POSITIONS SHOULD NOT USE COORDINATES DERIVED FROM A DATUM TRANSFORMATION. USERS WITH HIGH ACCURACY REQUIREMENTS SHOULD CONTACT NIMA FOR ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE.

The National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) provides an official set of transformation parameters between local datums and WGS 84 in NIMA TR8350.2, Third Edition, 4 July 1997, entitled "Department of Defense World Geodetic System 1984, Its Definition and Relationships with Local Geodetic Systems." The parameters should only be used to transform local datum geodetic coordinates (j, l) to WGS 84 geodetic coordinates or vice-versa. Datum transformation parameters are available at the NIMA web site <http://164.214.2.59/CandG/>.

Wherever possible, error estimates with one-sigma (1s) uncertainties are included for each Dx, Dy, and Dz datum transformation component. These estimates do not include the errors of common control station coordinates that were used to compute the shift components. The estimates were assigned after careful consideration of datum transformation solutions and related geodetic information.

Transforming local datum coordinates to WGS 84 coordinates does not improve the accuracy of the transformed coordinates. In fact, transformed geodetic coordinates will be less accurate because the errors in the datum transformation are added to the errors in the original local datum coordinates.

Datum transformation parameters should only be used for the region for which they are specifically defined in NIMA TR8350.2, Appendices B and C. If there is a need for datum transformations outside their defined regions, contact the NIMA Customer Service numbers below.

GEOTRANS Software

GEOTRANS is the official software for datum transformation and coordinate conversion applications. The datum transformation error estimates output by GEOTRANS are only for guidance in assessing the limitations of the transformed information for a particular application.

Customer Service:

NIMA Geospatial Sciences Division (314) 263-4071, DSN 693-4071, gandg@nima.mil

NIMA Help Desk 1-800-455-0899, (314) 260-5032, DSN 490-5032, chdesk@nima.mil

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mathematical formulations used to develop transformation functions.

There are two basic transformation philosophies. These are geodetic accuracy/precision and cartographic accuracy/precision. Basically, in the former, the transformation is to transform between datums with an accuracy/precision at the centimeter level, and thus maintain the geometrical interrelationships of the ground geometrical networks at the level of precision of the original field observations. In the cartographic approach, the problem is to maintain the geometrical interrelationship of cartographic/map features at the level of map compilation (i.e. 0.01 inch on the map).

For many years the DMA/NIMA have published sets of transformation functions and associated numerical coefficients for various areal locations world wide between the various datums. Many users of these data are unaware of the significance of the published data. The late Thomas A. Perrott and I vigorously argued with DMA that published information on transformations was valid only for cartographic transformations. For over one decade, Mr. Perrott had computed and analyzed hundreds of geodetic projects where geodetic datum transformations were required and understood the problem.

In the October 2002 issue of *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing* (American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) appeared the following official NIMA announcement concerning datum transformations. The announcement appeared in conjunction with the column *Grids & Datums* by Professor Clifford Mugnier (Louisiana State University).

The surveyor should carefully review the transformation software used to convert GPS observed positions (earth mass centered coordinates) to another reference ellipsoid and datum.

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PLSW Investment Report

Total asset value of the account on 1 January 2002 . \$36,390.36
Total asset value of the account on 31 July 2002 \$36,073.54
Gain/(Loss) (\$316.82)

Note: The Board's recommended investment of funds in stocks has not occurred because of the state of the market. However, additional monies have been invested in certificates of deposit to take advantage of the higher interest rates than available in the money market accounts.



REPRINTED MAP

SOURCES OF SNAKE RIVER

SNAKE RIVER EXPEDITION -
JAMES STEVENSON, DIRECTOR

The Northwest Chapter has reprinted, from an old (perhaps first printing) lithograph found in a cabin west of Cody, the map of the Hayden - Stevenson expedition and survey of Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park and surrounding vicinity. The map shows the campsites of the expedition, from July 12th, 1872, at Fort Hall, Idaho Territory, up the Snake River, into Yellowstone, and returning to Fort Hall on October 11th.

The reprint measures approximately 28 inches by 29 inches overall, black printing on white background, and is printed on heavy photographic paper.

The map is representative of the cartographic style of the time and uses shading to depict mountain ranges, water lining on lakes and artistic profiles of various ranges including the Tetons.

A 39-page excerpt from "Great Surveys of the American West", by Richard A. Bartlett, published by University of Oklahoma Press, is to be included with the map (reprint permission pending) and details the progress of the expedition.

THE CHAPTER IS OFFERING PRINTS TO PLSW MEMBERS AT THE INTRODUCTORY PRICE OF \$40 PER PRINT, POSTPAID.

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PLSW, NORTHWEST CHAPTER

R. L. Hudson, Secretary / Treasurer

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P.L.S.W. TECHNICAL SESSION

November 14 & 15, 2002 • Parkway Plaza Hotel • Casper, Wyoming

General Information

PRE-REGISTRATION:

FEE: \$100 PLSW Members,
\$50 PLSW Associate Members
\$175 Non-Members

A \$10 late registration fee will be added to all registration received after November 11, 2002.

Agenda:

November 14th	7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Registration Seminar
	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	
	12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	Luncheon
	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Seminar
	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Social Hour
November 15th	7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet
	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Seminar

Location & Lodging:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Parkway Plaza Hotel, 123 West "E" Street, Casper, Wyoming. Rate: \$50.00 per night. Telephone: 1-800-270-7829

Professional Development Hours

12 Professional Development Hours will be awarded for the entire seminar.

For More Information, Contact:

Joel Ebner 686-6750

NSPS Map/Plat Competition

The Wyoming Land Surveyors NSPS Map/Plat Design Competition will be held in conjunction with the seminar. Send your entries to Jeff Jones or bring them to the seminar.

- Scaling coordinates to the ground
- Transforming to different coordinate systems
- Working in local coordinate systems

CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations)

- Adding an additional GPS receiver to your survey
- Tying into State Plane control

Efficiently Planning GPS Surveys

- Utilizing your equipment in an efficient manner
- Mixing GPS and Total Stations
- Mixing Static and Real Time
- Optimizing Productivity

Presentation By: Ari Silkey

Ari comes from a background in the surveying industry. His experience in GPS surveying is broad and diverse. He has worked with the Leica GPS equipment for over five years in a wide variety of field surveying applications. Ari has a balanced mixture of education (B.A.) and surveying background (including both field and office experience). Currently, Ari is the Leica GPS Specialist for the Northeast Region of the United States. He is a Certified Leica GPS Trainer, who has successfully trained many firms throughout the United States.

"Today's Real Time GPS"

Basic GPS Theory:

- Fundamental Theory of GPS
- Review of Basic Principals and how they are important in the Real World of GPS Surveying

Basic Geodesy:

- Fundamental Geodesy
- Practical field applications that require geodesy knowledge

Principals and Understanding Real Time GPS:

- How Real Time works
- Different types of Real Time GPS

Radios and Cell Phone Technology used with Real Time GPS:

- Getting Maximum productivity out of Radios in Real Time
- Using Cell Phone Technology to increase range of Real Time operations

Optimizing GPS Productivity:

- Tips on increasing Real Time Productivity
- Using the most efficient type of GPS for the job

Map Projections:

- Understanding Map Projections



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- ❖ To acquaint the high school trigonometry student with the use and practical application of Trigonometry in the Surveying and Mapping professions.
- ❖ To build an awareness of careers in Surveying and Mapping among high school students, guidance counselors, and mathematics teachers.

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A local sponsor is needed for each participating High School. Only one TRIG-STAR will be allowed per high school per year. The local sponsor must apply to NSPS on this application form and list the name of the High School where the contest will be held. A contest packet containing contest instructions, a test packet, an award plaque (if ordered), and a sample news release will be forwarded by NSPS to the local sponsor. The local sponsor will be responsible for making all the local arrangements. The winner will be eligible to compete in the NSPS National Trig-Star Contest and contest information will be supplied with the contest packet.

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PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF WYOMING

2821 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

PLSW OFFICER JOB DESCRIPTIONS

INTRODUCTION

In an effort to encourage more members to serve as an officer of Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming, the Board of Directors issued a recommendation that job descriptions be prepared for the four state level positions; President, Vice President, Secretary / Treasurer and Director. One of the concerns of the board, in that recommendation, was that members were unsure of the duties of a specific office and therefore reluctant to accept the nomination.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Nominations and Elections Committee is responsible for submitting a slate of candidates to the Board of Directors. This is normally done at the last board meeting of each calendar year, usually in late November or early December. It has always been the desire of the board to have at least two candidates for each of the three offices elected by the general membership; President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. Directors are elected by each of the eight chapters, during annual elections in December.

The committee is composed of the last three Past Presidents of PLSW. This composition was chosen to provide "hands on" experience in selecting and contacting potential candidates. Many of our past presidents served in several of the above mentioned offices and have insight into specific duties of each office. They also have had the opportunity to work with other members at the statewide level.

DUTIES SET FORTH IN THE BY-LAWS

Article VII of the PLSW By-Laws, adopted on February 1st, 1990, titled "Officers of the Corporation" sets forth the qualifications, term of office and duties of each officer. Summarizing: 1) All officers must be Members in good standing or Life Members during their term of office which is a minimum of one year and commences at the annual state meeting; 2) Each officer has specific mandatory duties as well as other general duties; 3) No officer shall be paid or receive directly or indirectly, any profit or pecuniary advantage...." for their service to PLSW.

Article V of said By-Laws, titled "Board of Directors" sets forth similar requirements for Directors. Summarizing: 1) All Chapter Area Directors must be Members in good standing and reside in the Chapter Area they represent; 2) Each shall hold office until a successor is elected but may resign by written notification; 3) Directors have specific duties and are obligated to serve, in good faith, in the best interest of PLSW, without payment of "any profit or pecuniary advantage.. ." for such service.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meet four times each calendar year and all officers are expected to attend all meetings. In accordance with the By-Laws, the first meeting must follow the annual state meeting. Traditionally this has been at the Wyoming Engineering Society convention, the first weekend in February. Previously the spring and summer meetings rotated around the state and were hosted by individual chapters; usually in late April or early May and late August or early September, respectively. More recently, the spring meeting is held in Casper and the summer meeting has been by telephone conference call. The final meeting

immediately follows our "Winter Technical Session", in early to mid December in Casper, the primary purpose being final preparation for the next annual state meeting.

Those Directors who know in advance they will be unable to attend a meeting are expected to contact their chapter so that an alternate can be designated. According to the By-Laws, the alternate must have previously served as Director. It is important that all eight chapters be represented at each meeting; not only for voting purposes, but also for first-hand reporting to the other members of your chapter. Often a considerable amount of printed material is handed out at these meetings for distribution to chapter members.

PRESIDENT

Mandated Duties - Section 6, Article VII, By-Laws

"The President shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation and supervise and control all of the business. . . preside at all state meetings may sign membership certificates and other instruments and in general, shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

Other Obligations

The President conveys the integrity of the PLSW membership, as well as the perceived representation of our profession, to the public. As the CEO, you must exercise discretion when expressing opinions regarding controversial subjects with "the public" and more particularly with "the media".

(Continued on Page 8)

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October 1995 -

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E-mail - Todd@inlandgps.com

Mobile - 406-360-0464

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-COPING WITH COMPLAINTS

(Continued from Page 17)

- o What is the evidence?
- o Is this reasonable to me?
- o Are the complainants giving sources of information?
- o Are there alternatives?
- o Is this consistent with my past experience? Be aware of filtering and distortion.
- o Don't discount bits of information.
- o Don't magnify beyond their intent. This is most likely to happen when they are threatening or hostile.
- o Don't attach additional information or meaning to what they say. Watch for signs that the complainant is winding down.

TAKING CHARGE

Express your concern and your understanding of the complainants' frustration. Tell them you are sorry they have had this problem. State that you will work with them toward finding a solution.

As they calm, begin to ask questions. This will force them to organize their thoughts, put you in control, and give you information you need to address the problem.

Be sure to ask the six questions every good investigator asks—

who, what, when, where, why and how. Use active listening skills and give them time to fully respond to each of your questions. Paraphrase their statements, asking "Is that right?" or "Is that correct?" and give them opportunity to respond. When you and the complainants have agreed on a definition of the problem, ask what they seek in terms of a solution. Paraphrase again to make sure you understand.

Do not make any commitment or promise at this point. Do not make any statement about fault. Do not agree with them about the cause of the problem or about any responsibility for its remedy.

You have reached an agreement on their perception of the problem and what they believe the solution should be.

Closing the Discussion

Tell the complainants you need to research the problem with your boss or staff.

Tell them a time when they will hear back from you. Then call back even if you have not yet reached a decision. Failure to call back typically results in their seeking help further up the chain of command, and then you will be complained about along with the original problem.

Give yourself a pat on the back for a job professionally and well done. Recognize that you cannot "win them all", and that you are not expected to win them all.

Reprinted from the Illinois Interchange, Spring 2002.

The National Society of Professional Surveyors Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote educational, scientific and charitable activities in the field of surveying and mapping.

Over the years, surveyors have demonstrated with pride, a desire to support the preservation and development of the surveying profession both on the state and national levels. The **NSPS Foundation** needs your help and guidance now to enhance the profession nationally. All contributions are tax-deductible. THE FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES SINCERELY APPRECIATES YOUR SUPPORT!!!

MEMBERSHIP

Four categories of membership have been established as follows:
(Please check one.)

- | | |
|---|--|
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| ☐ 2. Century Member \$100 contribution | ☐ 4. Lifetime Member \$5000 contribution |
| (Single payment or extended over a 5-year period) | |

The regular, century and sustaining memberships cover a period of one membership year and the lifetime membership is for the duration of the life of the contributor.

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Internet: <http://www.survmap.org>

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-PLSW JOB DESCRIPTIONS

(Continued from Page 6)

An essential function of the President is personal attendance at various (non-PLSW) events such as the meetings of other professionals and civic organizations. One such event is the quarterly meeting of the Wyoming Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. Traditionally PLSW desires that one officer, preferably the President or Vice President, attend each such meeting. Non-representation at those meetings where matters involving the interests of our membership are discussed is inexcusable and avoidable by advance planning.

To help defray the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the President approximately \$400 is allocated each year, with an additional amount of approximately \$250 in the "President's Discretionary Fund".

The President is expected to provide an article, titled "President's Message", for each edition of our quarterly publication "Lines & Points".

VICE PRESIDENT

Mandated Duties - Section 7, Article VII, By-Laws
"In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of the President, may sign membership certificates and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

Other Obligations
Serving as Vice President has traditionally been a voluntary precursor to the presidency of PLSW. Knowledge of current programs, policies and goals of our organization has proven beneficial in effecting a smooth transition between administrations.

Aside from being "on-call" to replace an absent President, two additional duties are assigned to the office. Congratulatory letters are sent to each new PLS registrant along with the invitation to become a member of PLSW, dues free, for one year. Previous holders of the office can provide additional information regarding the particulars of this offer. Prior to the end of term of the current President, the Vice President procures an appropriate plaque then presents it to the outgoing President at the annual state meeting. Particulars regarding this award can also be obtained from previous holders of this office.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mandated Duties - Section 8, Article VII, By-Laws
"The Secretary / Treasurer shall: (a) keep the minutes of the proceedings of the state meetings of the Members and all meetings of the Board of Directors. . . (b) see that all notices are duly given. . . (c) be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the

corporation... (d) keep a register at the post office address of each Member... (e) sign with the President or the Vice-President membership certificates and membership cards. (f) have general charge of the books. (g) have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities. . . (h) receive and give receipts for monies due and payable and deposit all such monies in the name of the corporation. . . and (i) in general, perform all of the duties incident to the office of Secretary / Treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Other Obligations

SECRETARY

The primary responsibility of the Secretary is recordation, transcription and compilation of the minutes of the four board meetings and annual state meeting each year. The format of such minutes has been chosen by each Secretary with both the narrative and outline forms having been employed. Either a summary, or a full draft, of the minutes of each meeting is also required to be sent to the staff of our newsletter "Lines & Points" prior to the quarterly deadline. A copy is also sent to each board member as well and all other members in attendance at the specific meeting.

Board meetings are usually attended by approximately nine (of the twelve) officers and perhaps three to six other members. An attendance list is circulated so that all in attendance, including guests, are accounted for. In the past, complex or lengthy motions were taped, otherwise the recorder was not used and the minutes are taken holographically. Such motions can also be submitted in writing. The minutes are transcribed later and sent out prior to the next board meeting.

The minutes of the previous annual state meeting are prepared and submitted to "Lines & Points" no later than for the Number 3 edition, after the summer board meeting. They can be prepared and submitted shortly after the meeting if desired, are designated "draft" and are reviewed, amended if necessary, and approved at the following annual state meeting.

Additional work performed by the Secretary includes the preparation and mailing of the meeting notice/agenda to appropriate members, approximately two weeks prior to board meetings and three weeks prior to the annual state meeting.

Arrangements for board meeting time and place should be made at least a month prior to the meeting. The specifics of the arrangements including time, location and meal arrangements, are left to the hosting chapter. PLSW, not the hosting chapter, pays all costs for the meeting, which usually amounts to approximately \$100 if a meal is included. Board meetings have almost always been on Saturdays; most members prefer a starting time no earlier than 10:00 A.M. and meetings typically last three

(Continued on Page 9)

Metropolitan State College of Denver now offering
Surveying and Mapping degree program on DVD

NEW OFFERING ENABLES RURAL STUDENTS TO EARN A SURVEYING DEGREE "AT A DISTANCE"

Denver (August 30, 2002) — The Surveying and Mapping Degree program, headed by Dr. Herbert W. Stoughton, at Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD), is pleased to announce that it will offer Boundary Law I on DVD. It is the first surveying and mapping course available on DVD, and will provide rural students with immediate access to important coursework.

"By putting this very important course on a DVD we're enabling students who can't attend classes regularly in Denver, to earn key credits towards their degree without ever having to come to the campus," said Stoughton. "Because of the demographics of many potential and existing surveying students, the Surveying and Mapping Degree program at Metro is a perfect fit for courses on DVD."

Stoughton offered courses on videotape to students for the

past several years, and more than 75 students signed-up. With the expanded capabilities of DVD, Stoughton has recorded the entire Boundary I Law Course, more than 28 hours of important material for surveying students. The course will be available to students beginning this fall, along with lecture notes.

"We're excited about its potential, and we're looking forward to the success it will bring to the distance delivery of the Surveying and Mapping degree completion program," said Barb Omdahl, MSCD's Extended Campus Coordinator of Continuing Professional Education.

The Surveying and Mapping Degree Program at MSCD is supported by the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado. Since 1997, its enrollment has increased by 150 percent.

The Western Laramie County Historical Project Presents
"Researching Title Records and Abstracting Titles"

Instructor: Dr. Herbert W. Stoughton, Head, Surveying and Mapping Program, Metropolitan State College of Denver, is the instructor. Dr. Stoughton is a registered land surveyor in Wyoming and seven other states, a professional engineer in three states, and a certified photogrammetrist. Professor Stoughton has taught numerous seminars on researching land records, and serves as an expert witness in this area. He has had over forty years experience performing land records research throughout the United States. Currently, Dr. Stoughton is preparing a documentary history of the General Land Office surveys in Wyoming from 1870 to 1910.

Purpose: The attendees will be introduced to the complex relationships of land title records and documents which are necessary to develop a chain of title and abstract for real property (lands). The student will be introduced to the concept of the title record from the "first deed". A detailed explanation of sites and locations where records might be found and the types of records which can assist in researching title are presented. Types of deeds,

descriptions, and encumbrances to land will be addressed.

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall; 507 West 28th Street (just west of Randall Avenue); Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Date: Saturday, 26 October 2002.

Time: On site registration: 8:00 a.m. Class 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00 cash or check only. Please make checks payable to: Wyoming State Historical Society, Laramie Co. Chapter (W.S.H.S.L.C.C.) [P.O. Box 412; Cheyenne WY 82001].

Credit: Professional credit and certificate of attendance will be issued to attendees.

Registration: Due to limited attendance (150), early registration with tuition payment is recommended.

Points of Contact: Dr. Herbert W. Stoughton, instructor, (307) 632-7460 [Cheyenne]. Ms. Ann Shields, program coordinator, (307) 632-1798 [Cheyenne].

COPING WITH COMPLAINTS

You are part of the "frontline troops". You are possibly the only personal contact complainants will ever have with the government. When they have a problem and no one will fix it, they are apt to be hostile by the time they get to you. Your skill in handling their problem may confirm or change their perception of their local government

When you are called into a firing line situation and are confronted by angry or hostile citizens, the following steps will help defuse the situation.

Defusing

Greet the complainants with a smile and friendly handshake.

Tell them as quickly as possible that you want to work with them to solve the problem. This will move the conversation onto a constructive basis and away from government or individual attacks.

Ask them to move with you to a quiet location where you can talk uninterrupted. Ask them to tell you about the problem.

Listen to them. By listening, not just hearing, you begin to put their problems into perspective and questions start to formulate in your mind.

Do not interrupt the complainants at this point. Mentally set a reasonable time limit and let them tell their whole story without interruption. Anything you say while they are venting may just provoke more anger. Note your body language. Hands should be loose or folded, not crossed over the chest. Compensate for mental lag time. People talk at 150-200 words per minute; you think at 600-800 words per minute. Use the time constructively. Ask yourself:

o What is the main point?

(Continued on Page 18)



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Why are Surveying Programs Struggling?

By David Zenk

We've all struggled to find the answer to why our surveying education programs are having problems with inadequate enrollments at a time when the need for surveying services is at or near historical maximums.

- I used to ask:
- Is the instructor competent?
 - Is the equipment adequate?
 - Is the building functional?
 - Is the location attractive?
 - Is the career viable?

But, in reviewing the surveying programs in Minnesota, the answers were always yes

So What's The Deal?

I believe that the surveying profession, like others, must compete with the job market for its successor members. The job market is bigger than any of us, bigger than any profession, bigger than we imagine.

Prospective career seekers look at a few questions, like:

- Is the career rewarding financially?
- Is the career rewarding personally?
- Is the career stable?
- Will I like the career?
- Will I be respected in the community?

Each career seeker places a value on the answers to each question, weighs the results, and makes a decision.

The outcome clearly depends on the relative weight of the answers to the questions that career seekers ask. If all things were equal, which they never are, then compensation might be the determining factor in the career selection decision.

By way of illustrating my point about choices, consider these facts gleaned from the following website:

(<http://www.it.umn.edu/career/students/salary.html>) which shows that a new graduate from the Institute of Technology can, by choosing certain technical degrees, expect annual salaries ranging from \$38,744 in chemistry to over \$52,000 in electrical engineering and computer science. Civil engineers were shown as receiving \$40,979 per year. I leave it to you to compare these numbers to the compensation structure of your choice.

I'd love to say that a simple pay raise would attract all the career seekers we need. Indeed, a healthy pay raise would probably be sufficient to satisfy many of our other problems as well.

However, as a profession, we must address the total picture of what career seekers look for in choosing a career...

- Competitive compensation.
- Personally rewarding.
- Stability for the future.
- Professional and community respect.
- Interesting, challenging, and meaningful work.

Is There A Solution?

If we expect enrollments to increase, we must entice future career seekers to the surveying professing by clearly articulating the value of our profession, not just in dollars and cents, nor solely by the intangibles.

It's the total package that matters.

-PLSW JOB DESCRIPTIONS

(Continued from Page 8)

to four hours.

Another important duty of the Secretary, which overlaps with that of the Treasurer, is the collection of dues each year. Notices are sent out in early December by the Membership Committee. The Secretary provides a set of mailing labels for this purpose, using the current list of members and affiliates. PLSW has not adhered to the policy stated in the By-Laws regarding those members who fall behind in dues; and they have been reinstated (returned to the roster) upon payment of current dues. No member or affiliate has ever been formally banished, as set forth in the By-Laws.

The preparation and mailing of the ballot is also the responsibility of the Secretary. As a practical matter, it should be included with the notice of the annual state meeting. Ballots are sent to all Honorary, Life and (full) Members. Affiliates have no voting privileges.

Preparations for the annual state meeting consume approximately ten days in early January. Notices are sent out to all members and affiliates; requests for reports are sent to committee chairmen; and the "History of PLSW" is updated. Approximately sixty sets of handouts are printed for distribution at the meeting. Those that are not distributed at the meeting are mailed to all out of state members and selected honorary members. Mailing of the notice is required, according to the By-Laws, as not less than ten days nor more than fifty days before the meeting.

During the year there is an intermittent flow of correspondence which must be answered or passed on to the president or committee chairmen as well as inquiries regarding membership and services to members and others.

As the secretary of this non-profit corporation, you are responsible for filing an annual report with the Secretary of State, each September, which essentially involves listing the names and addresses of the officers and enclosing payment.

A budgeted item provides for the use of outside secretarial services and has proven beneficial in easing some of the above mentioned workload. These services can be "in-house" or, if you have no employees, those of a "temporary employment service" as may be available. Assignment of routine duties, such as copying and mailing, is appropriate. The writing of summaries, transcription of minutes and preparation of various reports is your responsibility as an officer and should be done personally.

TREASURER

The primary responsibility of the Treasurer involves the receipt, disbursement and accounting of PLSW funds and securities. Historically, we maintain checking and savings accounts with Hilltop National Bank at Casper. PLSW also receives dividends each month from MFS, of Boston, which are used for the "S.O.S." Honorarium. More recently an "Investment Policy" has been approved wherein funds are invested upon the advice of Dain-Rauscher at Cheyenne.

Since the principal source of income is membership dues, the timely collection thereof is critically important to our organization. Those who have not paid by the annual state meeting are sent a second notice, then dropped from the roster if no payment is received during the balance of the year.

Deposits should be sent to the bank monthly during the

December through February. Cash, primarily from the annual raffle, has been converted to personal check and deposited. Conversion to cashier's checks or money orders only adds an unnecessary expense.

All bills are to be paid promptly upon receipt of an invoice or statement, thus providing a "paper trail". The policy of "no payment without a bill" has worked well and establishes such paper trail of documentation.

As with the minutes, the format of the Treasurer's Report is chosen by each Treasurer. The use of "spreadsheets" can significantly reduce the volume of paperwork and lessen the time and effort spent on this activity.

The coming year "Budget" is presented, reviewed and agreed upon at the last board meeting of the calendar year. The final version is approved at the annual state meeting.

The By-Laws require an annual audit and the Board of Directors has designated the Past President once removed as the chairman of the committee charged with that responsibility. As a practical matter the committee consists of only that member. After closing the books for the year send copies of the following: 1) bank statements and deposit slips; 2) the appropriate pages of the checkbook; 3) final budget, expenses and balance sheet for the year. The auditor's report will be presented at the annual state meeting.

Lastly, in an overlapping job with the Secretary, you must prepare a voting eligibility list for the Teller. This is based on receipt of dues at the time of tabulation of votes at the annual state meeting. You will most likely find yourself receiving dues literally minutes before the beginning of the annual state meeting. Traditionally, ballots have been validated by each member writing his/her registration number on the back of the envelope containing the ballot. The membership roster database, sorted by registration numbers, provides the teller with an easy to use checklist for validating the ballots.

SUMMARY

The office of Secretary/Treasurer requires approximately two to three days per month on an average throughout the year. Ten days to two weeks should be set aside in January as preparation for the annual state meeting. Very little time is required during the summer months of June, July and August.

Additionally, it is essential that all four meetings of the Board of Directors and the annual state meeting of Members be adequately prepared for and attended. While the Vice President can adequately fill in for an absent President, the attendance of

(Continued on Page 12)

-THE REBIRTH OF ACSM

(Continued from Page 14)

While the influence of ACSM is felt in every related arena, such as geographic information systems and cartography, the ACSM community dearly has not been unified as strongly as it could be Today, the leadership, which is being castigated by some, is dedicated to strengthening the organizations unity and is not afraid to propose concepts to its members that could accomplish this collective goal. The leaders are aware of the potential pitfalls of their proposed model and, after a period of study, may conclude that another approach is more effective. Until the concept is thought through and offered to membership for discussion, there is no way to access its validity.

Over the next few months, our members and other interested parties will be able to review and respond to the detailed implementation plans being developed. Documents for review will be posted on the ACSM Web site (www.acsm.net).

After a detailed implementation plan is developed, the proposed concept will move forward if the ACSM membership votes to accept it. If it does not, other alternatives will be considered. Whatever the outcome, ACSM'S leaders and members will continue their efforts to enhance the public's awareness of its members' professional value, which has been one of ACSM's primary goals from the beginning.

Let's wait until there is more than a concept to address before tar-and-feathering people who are putting themselves on the line by suggesting a way to nurture ACSM's rebirth.

Curt W. Sumner L.S., is executive director of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. E-mail: CSumner@ACSM.net

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In Land Dispute, Fence Is No Defense

FENCE LOCATION FAILS AS DEFENSE IN LAND DISPUTE

BY ELIZABETH NEFF, THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Good fences may make good neighbors. But if the good fence isn't on the legal property line, Leo and Virginia Ault have a warning for you.

Tell the neighbors where you really draw the line.

It took the Aults four years of legal wrangling in a case that reached the Utah Supreme Court to learn that having had such a conversation about the true property line was enough to protect their ownership while a neighbor used a portion of their land.

The Aults' neighbor in Vernon, a small town south of Tooele, had used a long strip of the Aults' property for years. The fence between the families was placed north of the actual property line, and Darrell and Patsy Holden used the Aults' land immediately south of the fence a 30-foot by 553-foot area.

But when the Holdens erected another fence and shed on the strip and claimed the property as their own in 1997, the dispute wound up in court.

The high court resolved the case late last month by interpreting a century-old legal doctrine known as "boundary by acquiescence." The doctrine allows property owners to legally acquire a neighbor's adjoining land under these conditions if the area being used is delineated by a visible line - marked by a monument, fence or building - and if the neighbors have acquiesced to using the line as the boundary between them for at least 20 consecutive years. Third District Judge David Young had ruled the Aults had "acquiesced" to the boundary and given up their land since they did not earlier try to oust The Holdens or file a lawsuit against them. But the justices disagreed, holding that conversations the Aults had with the Holdens — where both acknowledged the fence did not represent the true property line - were enough to protect the Aults' rights.

"Record property owners are not required to take legal action or otherwise 'oust' someone adversely occupying their property to maintain their legal rights in their property," wrote Justice Leonard Russon in the unanimous decision. "They must only take some action manifesting that they do not acquiesce or recognize the particular line, eg. a fence, as a boundary between the properties."

Karra Porter, who represented the Aults, said the ruling has a huge impact in out lying counties, where fences commonly do not mark actual property boundaries.

"The district court had ruled even if you and your neighbor acknowledge the fence is not the right boundary, you still have to file suit against him or basically punch him in the nose to keep your property," she said. "This says a conversation is enough as long as you as the owner point out to your neighbor that this isn't the boundary, you are protected."

Scott Broadhead, who represented the Holdens in the appeal, did not return calls. But he contended in court documents that the Holdens were entitled to the land, under the doctrine of acquiescence and because the Aults' deed allegedly was defective.

The history of the case dates to 1962, when Leo Ault decided to purchase a farm in Vernon that included the John C. Sharp Mansion, a run-down home built in 1880. The property's water rights gave his family's sheep a place to water, and he and his wife soon began restoring the old home.

In 1969, the Holdens began leasing property just south of the Aults, to raise hay and live stock. A fence ran between that property and the Ault farmland, but it was placed north of the actual property line. The Holdens bought the land in 1973, using the area up to the fence for crops.

After making a series of payments, the Aults recorded the deed to their property in 1974. The Holdens purchased another parcel just southwest of the Ault property in 1976 and also leased the Aults farmland from 1972 to 1977. In 1978, the Aults and Holdens had the first of several conversations, during which each agreed the fence they shared was not the actual boundary.

But the Holdens kept using the strip of land south of the fence, and leased the Aults' farmland again from 1982 to 1997. When the Holdens put up a shed and the additional fence against the Aults' wishes and refused to take it down in 1997, Leo Ault said he ordered the Holdens to leave their land.

The Holdens then obtained a restraining order against the Aults, claiming the strip as their own. They argued the boundary description of the disputed strip of property was incomplete in the Aults' deed. Among other arguments, Broadhead also claimed the Holdens' deed entitled his clients to the property, as it was recorded before the Ault deed.

They also claimed the strip of land was not the subject of any of their leases with the Aults, because they were the true owners of the property.

The Aults responded to the restraining order with their own lawsuit. "They knew where the lines were, and we didn't ever agree to give any property up," said Leo Ault, 70.

The high court ruled the Ault deed clearly was intended to include the strip of land. The justices also found the Holden deed had not specifically included the strip, and that the Holdens had no possession rights to the disputed property because they were occupying it through a lease agreement when the Aults recorded their deed.

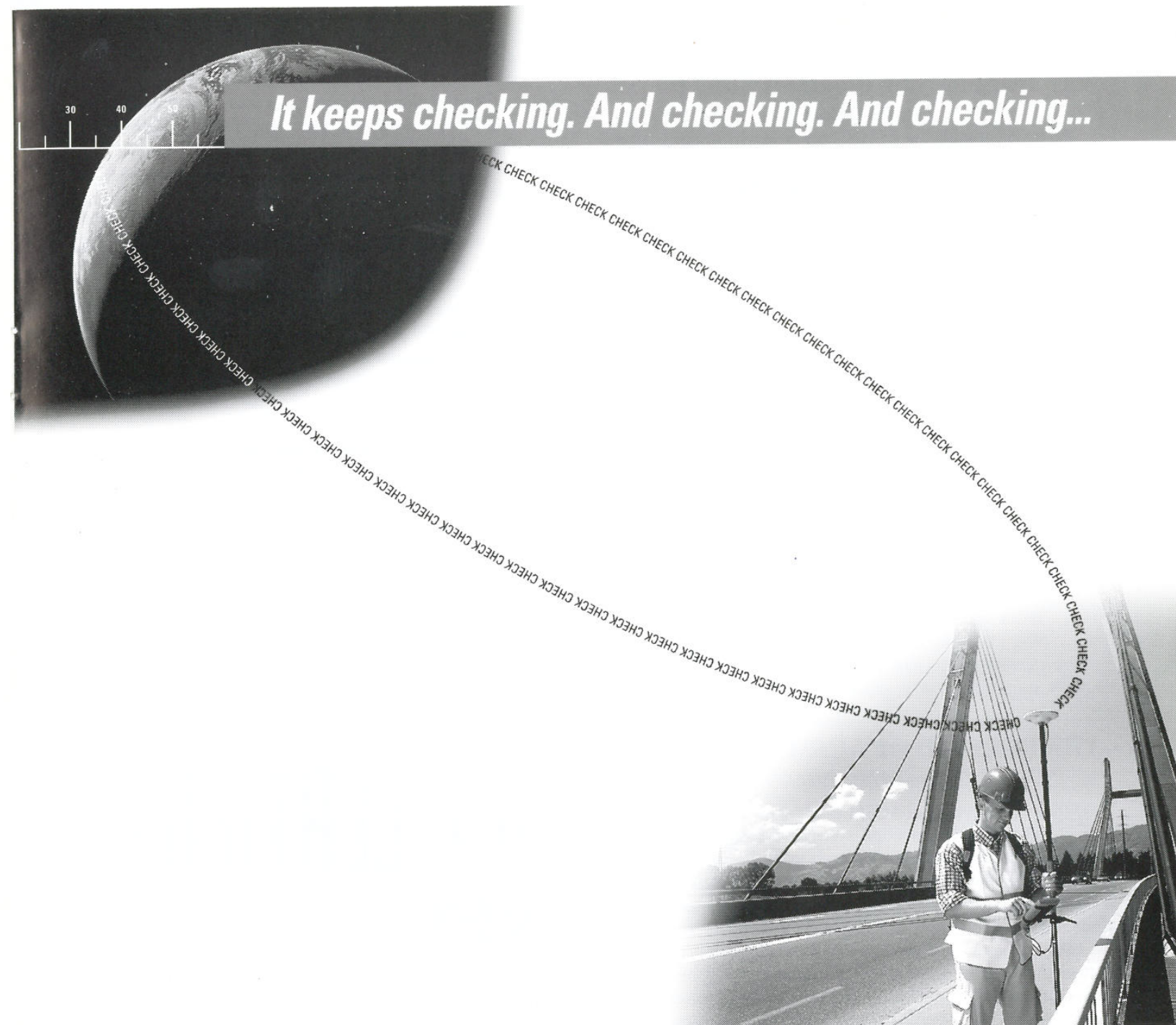
The opinion also reverses some \$17,000 in attorneys' fees and Costs. Young had ordered the Aults to pay the Holden's. The Aults' claims against the Holdens for unjust enrichment and trespass should now be heard by a trial judge, the justices ruled.

"When Judge Young handed the first ruling down it was so devastating for us," Leo Ault said. "We are trying to restore everything in its original state, and that includes the land around it."

"They knew where the lines were, and we didn't ever agree to give any property up."

LEO AULT - Vernon Farmer

Reprinted from the Utah Foresights Newsletter, Spring 2002



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—THE DEATH OF ACSM

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prospect. Who will see the big picture?

By way of example I am convinced that we missed the geographic information system (GIS) revolution because we chose to argue endlessly about minutia instead of taking a leadership position. Every person in the surveying and mapping profession, and the people of the United States in general, all would be far better off if we had understood GIS for what it is: a surveying and mapping endeavor — not a land surveying responsibility not a cartographic exercise, not a database — but a vital service built from the whole.

Even with ACSM, we weren't able to lead the GIS movement because we were weak and consumed with infighting. Without ACSM, we would not have had any chance at all. So, instead of making our organization stronger, our "leadership" seeks to destroy it completely. I ask you to consider what important new fields will we miss in the future.

All that being said, in the near future, probably nothing will seem to change. For at least 20 years, ACSM has been ineffective — since it "reorganized" into the special interest groups that now destroy it. It will continued to be ineffective. An organization of 7,000 members cannot succeed, and splinter groups of 1,000 to 4,000 will be even weaker. Some seem to have forgotten the old adage about strength in numbers.

For quite a long time, ACSM has lost members steadily, and this will not be arrested by splitting up — in fact, the opposite may be true. For years, the surveyors who have become fed up with the endless battles over power left the organization. Personally, I see little in the "new ACSM" to entice surveyors and mappers into joining.

In the long run, however, we will all suffer the loss of a national presence, which, however ineffective, represented the whole being of our profession. Next year there will be a vacuum. Land surveyors will argue endlessly over how to set the center of a section, cartographers will issue mapping standards, geodesists will squeeze every possible millimeter out of global positioning system coordinate, et cetera — but no one will advocate for what we might create by combining our talents.

Fortunately, nature hates a vacuum. We can hope that we will not be without a national presence in the surveying and mapping profession for long. The popularity of geomatics is growing the idea of surveying and mapping as a total approach cannot be denied. Into the wreckage wrought by our suicidal "leadership" may come the Phoenix of an enlightened idea and a new day.

So mourn the passing of a great organization. Remember its selfless people, its high ideals, and its farsighted view. It was ahead of its time. Think about what could have been. It will be dead, soon, of suicide committed by people so self-absorbed they know not what they do.

Rest in peace, ACSM.

James P. Weidener, P.L.S. is vice president of Widener Surveying & Mapping P.A. based in Miami. E-mail: weidener@cenews.com.

The Rebirth of ACSM

Curt W. Sumner, PLS

In response to the recent announcement about a concept dubbed the "new ACSM," most people's comments have been positive but concerned for how the organization's new structure will be implemented. Some people, however, have been vehemently negative — vilifying the ACSM leadership and predicting the "death" of ACSM. Such a position is unfortunate and premature.

Rather than creating the split that is predicted by our detractors, the a new ACSM is intended to do just the opposite; establish equal partnerships pursuing common goals. (Previously, the four member organizations [MOs] of ACSM were not represented individually.) The MOs, the National Society of Professional Surveyors, the American Association for Geodetic Surveyors, the Cartographic and Geographic Information Society, and the Geographic and Land Information Society, will comprise the "new ACSM. This is not to say that every goal of each MO will be shared by the others. But, the parity created through the new structure will allow MO members to work together as equals as those common goals are identified.

The structure also opens the door for other organizations with similar interests to participate in ACSM, which is the only national organization of its type that strives to bring together groups of professionals with distinct disciplines of practice. The makeup of any one group's membership will not be an issue The "new ACSM" concept recognizes distinct disciplines and attempts to bring them together rather than deny that any distinction exists.

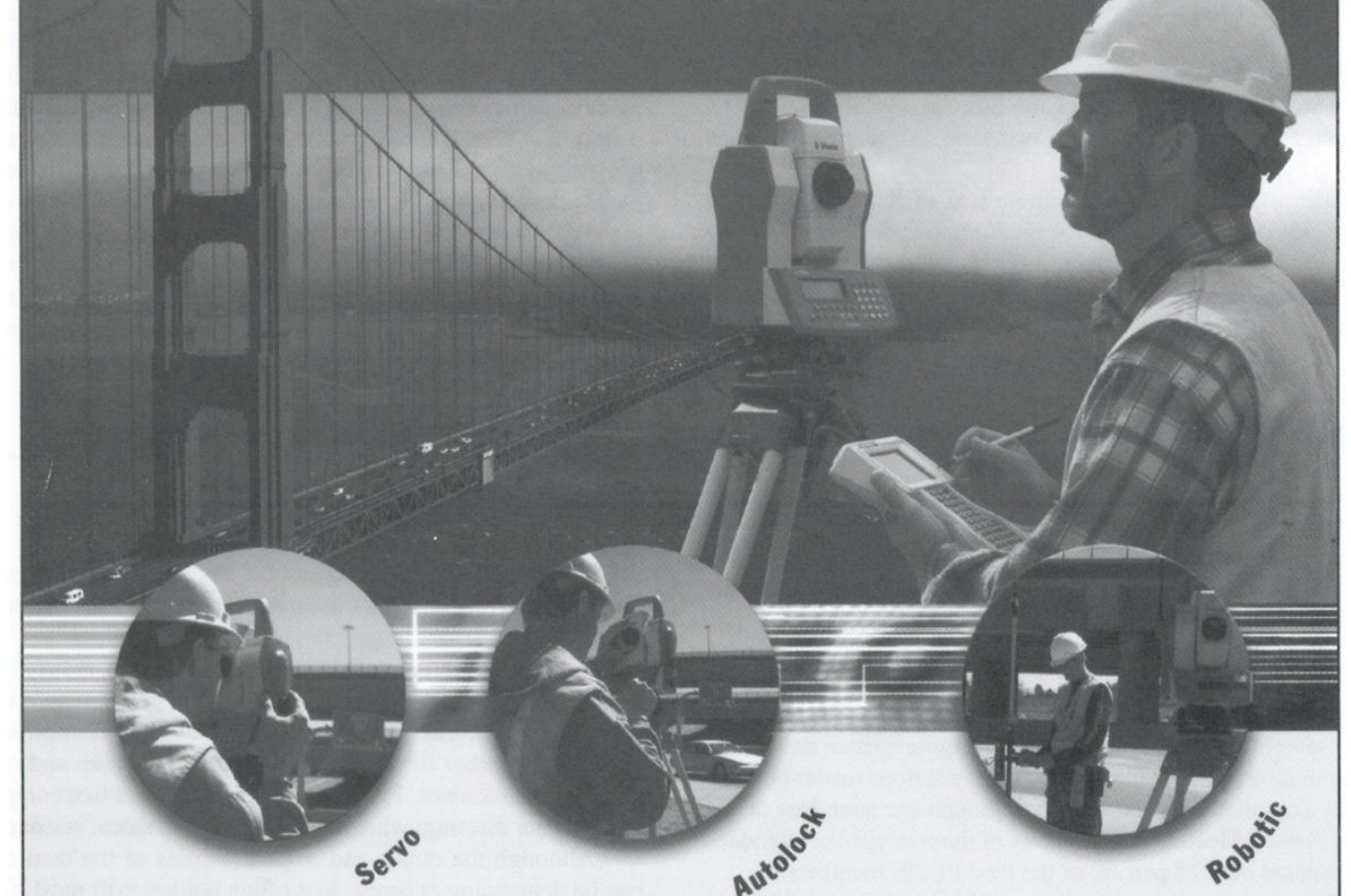
The fact is that the "old ACSM" is already dead. During the past few years, the MOs' leaders worked diligently to strengthen their relationships with each other. Their objective has been to provide individuals with the opportunity to participate in an entity that has the autonomy to pursue its own initiatives, while still working within a broader alliance That is the essence of the "new ACSM."

Even though the lines between professional activities in this vast community are becoming more difficult to identify, practitioners will still associate themselves with some activities more than others. By recognizing this and building an atmosphere of trust, it has become possible for ACSM leaders to consider the bold "new ACSM." The movement is not the result of power struggles among the leadership; that is a perception perpetuated by people wanting to create divisiveness.

Some critics say that ACSM has been eroding for a long time. Declining membership is evident, although the reasons for this trend are still unclear. While it is easy to point to one issue or another and make the claim that it is the root cause, we all know that such problems are not that easily explained.

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Q&A About NSPS Restructuring

MEMORANDUM

Background. At the 2001 Annual Meeting the concept of joint membership in PLSW and ACSM/NSPS was introduced. The attendees had several questions, and requested the PLSW Board of Directors write a letter to ACSM. The letter was written and mailed on 25 February, 2001 to Mr. William D. Braman, then NSPS Governor.

On 29 April 2002, Mr. Curt Sumner, ACSM Executive Director, submitted a written response to the six questions contained in the original letter.

The following is the complete text of the letter and Mr. Sumner's responses. I have combined the two documents so that the questions and answers appear together. I respectfully request that this document be discussed at the Chapter meetings and be published in the next issue of *Lines & Points*.

INTRODUCTION

At the 2001 PLSW Annual Meeting the issue of dual membership in PLSW and NSPS took place. The PLSW Board of Directors was instructed to send a letter to ACSM requesting information about their concerns. PLSW President S. Dennis Dawson wrote a letter, which PLSW Governors William D. Braman and Jeffrey B. Jones submitted to ACSM. Below is the letter and the responses provided by ACSM Executive Director Curt Sumner.

At the PLSW Board of Directors Meeting last Thursday (1 February 2001), a considerable amount of time was spent discussing the proposed restructuring of NSPS. At this time, we have several specific issues which we require written answers in order to inform *all* the members. This is a serious matter because of the potential financial outlay. Although the attendees of the 2001 Annual Meeting were in favor of the concept, the attendees represented only 25 percent of the total PLSW membership.

The questions are:

PLSW: What autonomy is lost when this joint venture occurs? Is there any documentation/agreement which stipulates what is expected of each organization? Is their a "trial period" in which one or both organizations could rescind the joint venture?

ACSM - Sumner: There is no autonomy lost for the state society with the joint membership program. It is simply a mechanism to promote membership in both the state and national organizations. There is typically some form of agreement between the state and national regarding how the program will work for that particular state, and how the dues structure will be established. Most state societies prefer to collect the dues and send the national dues money to NSPS/ACSM. There is usually no long term arrangement for the program. If a state sees that it is not working for them, they will stop it. The same is true for the national.

PLSW: Has there been any consideration as to the potential loss of dues to the state organization because of membership enrollment declines, because some state members will not endorse the restructuring?

ACSM - Sumner: Most states are either already pursuing, or are in discussions about, the program that is known as the "sliding scale". This program was devised because there is reluctance by the state societies to commit to 100 percent participation by their members for fear of losing some of them. In the sliding scale, the amount of national dues paid by state

members is dependent on the percentage of the state's members who commit to national membership. The state society conducts a poll using information provided by national to find out how many of its members are willing to commit to national membership. The results of the poll are compared to the existing number of national members within the state society. If the percentage of state members willing to commit to national membership increases enough to assure that the exercise will not simply just give reduced dues to existing national members in the state society, plus maybe a few others, the program can begin. Each year at dues time, the number of national members within the state society is assessed, and the national dues rate for the coming year is established based on percentage. This approach gives incentive to current national members at any given time to recruit new national members within the state society because, as the percentage increases, their own national dues will drop. The

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-PLSW JOB DESCRIPTIONS

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the Secretary/Treasurer is essential if and when questions arise regarding the minutes, the treasurer's report or other documents he or she has prepared.

In theory the term of office is one year; in reality each member who accepts the position should expect a tenure of at least three years. The first year can be extensively disruptive for yourself, the other officers, the general membership and other professional societies. The second year marks your first complete annual state meeting; while the third year provides "wisdom".

Although the duties and responsibilities of the dual roles can be demanding at times, past office holders will most likely tell you their service to PLSW as Secretary/Treasurer provided gratification and was well worth the effort and time they invested.

DIRECTOR

Mandated Duties - Section 8, Article V, By-Laws

"All Directors shall perform their duties as Directors. . . including their duties as members of any committee of the Board upon which they may serve, in good faith, in a manner they reasonably believe to be in the best interest of (PLSW) and with such care as an ordinarily prudent person . would use

Other Obligations

The Director is the link between the local chapter and the state organization. It is essential that holders of this office conscientiously perform their duties to insure the flow of two-way communication. Obviously this requires regular attendance at both chapter and board meetings, with attention being given to the preparation and timely delivery of both oral and written reports.

A critical element to being an effective Director lies in the ability to persuasively communicate the desires and concerns of your local chapter members to the other members of the Board of Directors. Likewise, there is an obligation to fully report the opinions and actions of the board to your constituency.

Prepared August 2002, by R.L. Hudson, Nominations & Elections Committee.

The Death of ACSM

James P. Weidener, PLS

Should its membership concur with the current plan, the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), will die on Dec. 31, 2002. The 61-year-old professional society will expire because of myopic surveyors who insist that their narrow view of surveying is the only view.

These surveyors deny the importance of a total surveying and mapping profession and insist upon painting themselves into a corner. I hope they plan to hold a fine funeral over what was once a proud and dedicated organization.

This has been coming for a long time. When I was a member of the ACSM's board of direction, we fought a prolonged battle over the division of the organization into special interest groups. The desire of some for self-gratification and the quest for individual power, at the expense of the organization, astounded me then as it does now. All that was gained then was to embarrass the secessionists and to force a delay. But the cancer planted then has now consumed the organization. Now it looks like those who did not have political agendas, who only wanted to give something back to their profession and who tried to do some good, ultimately will be defeated, and we all will be the poorer for it. What a pity!

However, never say that I misled you. The professional

-Q&A ABOUT RESTRUCTURING

(Continued from Page 12)

state societies like this program because there is no risk for them.

PLSW: Does NSPS have a plan to address the matter of the national portion of the dues for an individual on a regional basis for those state members also affiliated with other state organizations?

ACSM - Sumner: The approach for those who belong to more than one state society is that the member will pay national dues with the state society in which their principle place of business resides. If that state is not in the program when another state society to which the member belongs begins to participate in the program, the person can join national with that state until his/her state of business residence begins to participate. Members will not pay dues to national with more than one state.

PLSW: How will a member pay national dues while belonging to several state organizations

ACSM - Sumner: The joint membership program only applies to ACSM and NSPS dues. This is because the other member organizations within ACSM do not have state affiliates with which to participate. Those who participate in the joint membership program for ACSM/NSPS, and who belong to other of the ACSM member organizations, will receive a dues notice for other member organization dues from ACSM headquarters. These notices will be for the additional member organization dues only. They will not include basic national dues because they will be included in the national dues collected by the state society for national membership in ACSM/NSPS.

PLSW: Does NSPS have a plan to provide regional professional development opportunities, rather than on a national basis (i.e. one day's drive from Wyoming)?

ACSM - Sumner: ACSM has shied away from providing educational and professional development opportunities except during national conventions because the state societies perceive

membership organization called ACSM will be replaced with a "new ACSM" — a loose confederation of four individual groups, each of which will attempt to advance their individual interests at the expense of the others. There will no longer be individual members in ACSM, which will become nothing more than an administrative support service. Supposedly, the special interest groups will participate in a "forum for activities of mutual interest" But how these people could ever agree to anything that does not satisfy the immediate gratification of the special interest is beyond me. What will remain in the "new ACSM" will bear absolutely no relation to the old except the name. After the New Year there simply will be no more voice for the surveying and mapping profession at the national level.

National Columnist Bill O'Reilly recently complained of Americas propensity to elect people who are ... cowardly and self-interested." Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the "leadership" of ACSM.

When you think about it, there is nothing at all to say for a splintered and divisive group whose sole purpose will be to argue with one another or issue manifestos. Talk about dilution of power. Apparently, we are to be doomed to smaller and smaller specialties; in other words, we will know more and more about less and less until we know everything about nothing. What a

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that doing so would compete with those offered by them. The national organization is not opposed to providing such opportunities, but does not want to alienate its state affiliates. Where such education opportunities may be desired, ACSM/NSPS would be very interested in providing them. During the recent national conference, closer ties between the state affiliates and the national were established. A national speakers list is being developed through which to share information about speakers used by national and the state affiliates.

PLSW: How do you accommodate ACSM members who are not PLSW members (associated with any one of the other ACSM Member Organizations). Also, there are some ACSM members who are Fellows, and other individuals who do not pay national dues, because they are Life Members.

ACSM - Sumner: In the sliding scale approach, ACSM members who are not members of the state affiliate are not required to join the state society. If they do not, however, their dues will not be affected by the joint membership arrangement with the state society. As noted earlier in No. 4, membership in other ACSM membership organizations is not affected by the joint membership program. With regard to Fellows, those who are in that category will continue to pay Fellows dues in addition to whatever their national dues are according to the sliding scale, or if they are not members of the state society their dues will not change at all. With regard to Life Members, those who do not pay national dues now will not pay them in a joint membership program. Whatever dues they may pay to their state society will be determined by the state society.

ACSM - Sumner: I hope these comments are helpful in answering Dennis' questions. Part of my job is to visit with the state societies to share information about what is going nationally, and to respond to issues they may have. I am very happy to visit