

Focal Point

A publication of the Sacramento Chapter
of the California Lands Surveyors Association



April 2025

**The next Chapter meeting will be held on
Thursday, April 10th, 2025**

**Come join us at Riley's on Sutter, 702 Sutter Street in
Folsom, CA. Dan and Shelli Moreno of Finish Line will
discuss Title issues!**

President's Message

Annette Hovorka, PLS

2025 Sacramento Chapter President

Spring Forward

Spring is a season of renewal, a time when the warmth of the sun begins to thaw outside places and our schedules. As the weather improves, so does the intensity of our work, with long and busy days replacing the calmer activities of winter tasks.

The season brings renewed energy, fueling our readiness to take on new construction and boundary projects. Tackling these tasks in early spring ensures a smoother path for summer endeavors. It's a time to plan, build, and to make progress. Preparation during this season not only prevents delays but also sets the stage for success in the months ahead.

While I may not be a fan of outdoor activities that keep me under the sun for hours, there is something about this time of year that lures me outside. The fresh air reminds me of the joys of working out in the field. I hope the season inspires you to find joy in your own excursions, whether they're for work or play.

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The **Focal Point** newsletter is a publication of the Sacramento Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association. Check us out at <https://www.sacramento-clsa.org>

Who's Who in the Sacramento Chapter for 2025:

Annette Hovorka PLS	President	Andrew Tapley PLS	Board of Directors Representative
Morgan Thalken PLS	Vice President	Vacant	Board of Directors Rep. <i>Alternate</i>
Vacant	Secretary	Sherry Toutges PLS	State TrigStar Coordinator
Laird Nelson LSIT	Treasurer	Morgan Thalken PLS	Editor Focal Point

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If you would like to sponsor a student dinner, the fee is \$25 and that comes with 1 month of Business Card placement.

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- Business Card \$100/year
- 1/4 page ad \$250/year
- 1/2 page ad \$325/year
- Full page ad \$400/year

You can post job ads in the Focal Point for \$100 and they will run for a maximum of 1 year. And, you can take home one of our attractive slate CLSA coasters for a \$10 donation!

Contact the Focal Point editor at mthalken@reyengineers.com

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President's Message

Continued from page 1

Speaking of excursions, I encourage you to join us at our next meeting. Morgan, our Vice President, has been working diligently to line up exciting venues and engaging speakers. It's an opportunity to not only learn but also connect with others who share our passion for surveying. Your presence makes a real difference and shows your support for our community.

Annette Hovorka, PLS
2025 Sacramento Chapter President

Editor's Message

Well Y'all,

I have had a roaring good time editing this newsletter for the past two years, but it's time for me to ride off into the sunset (or sunrise, actually). I am headed east for good. I hope to attend a few chapter meetings a year when I can make it back over the hill. The Focal Point has maintained its relevance by discussing local, state and national issues, making it a leading voice in California Surveying. I am confident that it will continue to do so long after I am gone. I encourage all of you to participate in Chapter activities, issues and committees and send in materials for publication; you have a profession to protect.

Cheers!

-CRC

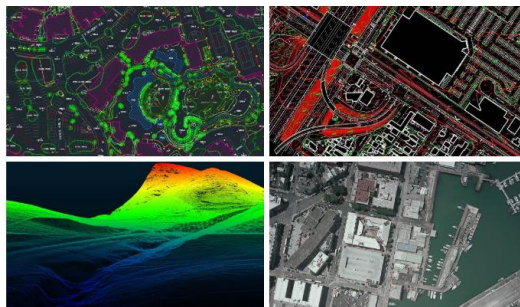
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Minutes for meeting of March 6, 2024

The March 6th, 2025 meeting was held at Riley's on Sutter in Historic Folsom, and called to order by Vice President Morgan Thalken at 6:30

In attendance: Eric Thalken, Dan Forgey, Dan Beever, Sean Davis, Michael Chiara, Roger Perez, Brian Gilooly, Madison Gruginski, Jon Scarpa, Morgan Thalken, Brandon Bickley, Russel Smith, Curt Burfield, Jim White, Laird Nelson, Jonathan Rohrs, Kyle Brook, Michael Farrauto, Mike Woodell, Jimmy Byrum, Ric Moore, and Dallas Sweeney

No President's Report

Vice President's Report:

1. Appreciation for the attendance at the new venue
2. Chapter dues are due (last day for early bird pricing)
3. We have speakers lined up for April and June. Title professionals Dan and Shelli Moreno will be joining us for April, and Brian Frazier and Justin Cisneros will be joining us in June. Morgan is asking for suggestions for other speakers for the Summer and Fall
4. May 31st has been accepted as our picnic day and Morgan will book Johnson Springview Park in Rocklin.
5. All are encouraged to submit articles to the "Rant Zone" or any other healthy content for the Focal Point

(Continued on page 5)

Upcoming Speakers

April 10	Dan & Shelli Moreno of Finish Line – Title Services and the L.S.
May 31	Chapter Summer Picnic Johnson Springview Park Rocklin. Survey Olympics! Disc Golf! Splash Pad!
June	Brian Frazier & Justin Cisneros from El Dorado County Surveyors office



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Chapter Meeting Minutes

(Continued from Page 4)

No Treasurer's Report

Guest Speakers:

Ric Moore and Dallas Sweeney from the Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists (BPELSG) touched on a few topics that we felt were important. Firstly, they gave us the run down on the pass / fail statistics over the last few years. They provided graphs showing a small growth in the number of newly licensed surveyors.

They briefly talked on the topic of responsible charge. When a surveyor becomes responsible for the data published, that responsibility does not end.

There was a healthy amount of crowd interaction in the discussion of PPCs. The Board members were in favor of such committees but felt in the past, most surveyors were unaware of the committees, and thus not utilized.

Continuing education was also discussed. Dallas and Ric mentioned that in a survey that was put out most surveyors in California were not in favor of continuing education requirements, but many attended continuing education programs/seminars.

The crowd participation was excellent in this presentation. In fact, we went quite a bit longer than normal, and closed Riley's down that Thursday evening.



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DISASTER RELIEF FUND

In the past few years we have seen several horrendous wildfires in California. Santa Rosa, Paradise, Grizzly Flats – those are just some of the places that have been devastated by wildfire. But we have never seen anything like what has just happened in and around Los Angeles.

As these communities begin the long road to recovery from this conflagration, it is important to point out that many surveyors have no doubt had their homes or businesses destroyed and they need our help.

Please consider donating to the NSPS Disaster Relief Fund. The funds go to surveyors and their families as they try to sustain their businesses and rebuild their lives.

THE NSPS FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND HELPS THOSE IN NEED AND EVERY PENNY YOU DONATE GOES TO THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TODAY!

Donations of any amount are being accepted to the fund as we try to build it back-up after disbursements are made. You can donate online or make checks payable to the NSPS Foundation and write Disaster Relief Fund in the memo field. Mail to:

NSPSF DR Fund. 21 Byte Court, Suite H, Frederick, MD 21702

Thank you in advance for your support of the Foundation and your fellow surveyors.

<https://www.nsps.us.com/page/DisasterRelief> Questions: Email
us - info@nsps.us.com

IT'S THE LAW!

As Professional Land Surveyors, we are all aware, or should be, that there are a suite of related laws and regulations in the LS Act and the Board Rules that govern how we deal with the subject of monument preservation. But are you aware of the various suite of laws that govern how defacing or destroying survey monuments is handled in the courts? Destroying a monument is defined as a crime in California Penal Code and also in Street and Highways Code. Just don't forget that failing to protect or perpetuate a monument is a crime, too.

California Penal Code § 605

Every person who either:

1. Maliciously removes any monument erected for the purpose of designating any point in the boundary of any lot or tract of land, or a place where a subaqueous telegraph cable lies; or,
2. Maliciously defaces or alters the marks upon any such monument; or,
3. Maliciously cuts down or removes any tree upon which any such marks have been made for such purpose, with intent to destroy such marks;

--Is guilty of a misdemeanor.

California Penal Code § 615

Every person who willfully injures, defaces, or removes any signal, monument, building, or appurtenance thereto, placed, erected, or used by persons engaged in the United States Coast Survey, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

California Streets and Highways Code

DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 3, Section 732.

Any person who willfully injures, defaces, breaks down or removes any monument or stake placed, erected or used by the department to designate any point in the boundary or survey of any State highway or proposed State highway is guilty of a misdemeanor.



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The End Zone

By Lee Ving Soon


Some April Headlines That Would Not Be Surprising :

- NGS announces Datum 2022 is now Datum 2222 and will (hopefully) be rolled out on time.
- 9th Circuit Court issues decision that GIS linework is the 'best evidence' of a boundary.
- Governor Newsom repeals LS Act, replaces with DEI/LSG guidelines.
- LS licenses can now be purchased over the counter at any sporting goods store.
- Trump insists the world is flat.
- NASA subsequently reports that the world is "not exactly flat, but sort of". The European Space Agency is apoplectic.
- Elon Musk declared "Emperor of the Galaxy". Calls on NASA to survey Uranus (or was it his...)
- Sacre Bleu! Records show that US never finished paying France for the Louisiana Purchase – France takes area back.
- Federal Government announces GNSS satellites will start broadcasting on FM. Tune in to Live 105 for all your positioning needs. *Be careful with positions determined during the morning show.*
- Trimble Geospatial introduces skull-implant GNSS antennas – batteries not included.
- Trump cancels National Surveying Week then tops himself by cancelling national surveyors.
- International Foot renamed Non-binary Foot.
- Canada- the 51st State, eh?

April Fools!



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