

# Focal Point

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



July 2023

**This Month's Chapter Meeting is a Picnic!**  
**See Page 4 for details**  
***HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!***

## President's Message

Happy July Chapter Members,

I hope you all had a safe and wonderful 4<sup>th</sup>, as well as found a way to get away from the heat. With the hustle and bustle of the day to day, it's nice to be able to get together with family and friends to celebrate the holiday.

With July finally being here, it's time for the chapter BBQ! I'm really hoping that this will draw some additional attendees outside of our normal members. As much as I love seeing the same smiling faces each month at the chapter meetings, there are members that I've never met. I know there are quite a few of you out there, so please check and clear your calendars for Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Bring your families and your favorite side dish. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided by a generous donation from CSDS. I also hope to see several our neighbors from up the hill in the Gold Country Chapter.

If you plan to attend, please either respond to the evite or visit our Chapter webpage (<https://www.sacramento-clsa.org/>) where you can indicate your interest in attending.

I hope to see you all there!

Justin Lambert, PLS  
2023 Sacramento Chapter President

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 2023:

Justin Lambert PLS      President  
Russell Smith PLS      Vice President  
Annette Hovorka PLS    Secretary  
Adam Foster PLS        Treasurer  
Cameron Clark PLS      Board of Directors Representative  
Andrew Tapley PLS      Board of Directors Representative  
Carl C.de Baca PLS      Editor Focal Point  
Sherry Toutges PLS     State TrigStar Coordinator

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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.

The Focal Point is offering advertisements to our business partners, suppliers and other supporters with the proceeds going to our education fund.

- 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 [focalpointeditor@gmail.com](mailto:focalpointeditor@gmail.com)

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## **Ask a Title Officer** with Tom Bolinger of Fidelity Title

### **Tips to ensure smoother, accurate and timely mapping projects:**

It has been my experience that when surveyors communicate frequently with the title officer, during the mapping process, the projects are completed quicker. Minimizing the time to process a mapping project results in satisfied customers, and it maximizes the opportunity to get repeat business.

Issues to pay attention to are:

- Working off a title report that is not older than 6 months. Title can usually update the report in 2 days.
- Confirm with escrow and title that they are coordinating with the lender(s) on any Deed of Trust Modification, Consents, Partial Reconveyances etc. This process can take up to 6 months, so these tasks need to start at the beginning of the mapping process.
- Does your project require public notice to the surrounding property owners? If so, order an “owner and address radius report” for the properties that need to be notified. Give title at least two-week lead time to prepare this report.
- Engage the title officer to approve all new legal descriptions and exhibits on each submission to planning. This issue is very important, as title will be insuring the new map or lot line adjustment. If there is a discrepancy between the title officer and the surveyor, it should be resolved early. Do not stamp the new legal before obtaining title’s approval.
- Put the title officer and escrow officer on notice that resultant and transfer deeds may be required as part of the final recording. Provide ample time for the escrow officer to prepare these deeds.

I have found these tips make for a smooth project and happier clients.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Tom Bolinger

(916) 952-9800

## **Editor’s Message**

*The Focal Point is gradually changing its shape. We have regular columns, guest rants, chapter meeting minutes, miscellaneous announcements and a growing list of corporate sponsors, to whom we owe a great and hearty Thank You! In the interest of being both timely and relevant to local and regional surveyors, we want to encourage you to write stories, articles, opinion pieces and rants and bring us news we might otherwise have missed. And who doesn’t love a good photo! Send ‘em in and we’ll publish ‘em!*

# FIRE PREVENTION AND §8771

A small group of interested surveyors, headed up by Michael Quartaroli PLS has been systematically contacting the more rural and fire-prone counties this spring and summer, hoping to engage their county survey departments in conversations regarding monument preservation, especially with respect to fire prevention activities that many counties are undertaking. Clear-cutting and construction of fire breaks can have a drastic effect on monuments and the counties need to be aware that they are responsible under §8771 for getting these monuments tied, perpetuated via corner records, and replaced afterwards. Many of the counties contacted to date have been either completely unresponsive or minimally interested in the issue. Once local county that has been very interested and cooperative has been El Dorado County.

The El Dorado County Survey Department would like the local surveying community to know that they have started the appropriate conversations with the El Dorado County Department of Transportation and local utility companies regarding both the importance of and legal requirement for monument preservation. However, they report that progress is slow.

Perhaps the D.O.T. director and his management staff would be quicker to react if they were getting complaints from the public as well. If private sector surveyors and organizations like CLSA were also loudly advocating for monument preservation and compliance with §8771, it would likely carry a little more weight.

That's where you come in.

## MILESTONES

*THE CONGRATULATIONS OFFERED LAST MONTH TO ANNETTE HOVORKA ON HER RECENT RETIREMENT FROM CALTRANS ARE HEREBY PARTIALLY RESCINDED SINCE SHE JUST COULDN'T STAY RETIRED!*

## NOTICE:

Sacramento City College is recruiting applicants for the Surveying Adjunct Teacher pool. The closing date is August 19, 2023.

<https://jobs.losrios.edu/postings/22552>



## IT'S TIME FOR A BARBECUE!



Announcing the 2023 CLSA Sacramento Chapter Picnic!

This year the event will be held at Johnson Springview Park in Rocklin. Bring the Family!

Join us on July 15, 2023 for food fun, Survey Olympics and more! The park has a splash pad for the kids and a disc golf course for some good old-fashioned survey trash talk! **Please sign up at the chapter website!**

The chapter is providing the meat and soft drinks but you are encouraged to bring a side dish. Beer is permitted but only in cans and strictly BYOB!

*Volunteers for cooking should plan on arriving around 11:30am. Everyone Else can come at Noon and stay as long as you want!*



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## The Rant Zone

Thoughts on Math closures by Y. B. Asheepe

Generally speaking, a math closure is a good and necessary thing. It proves that the annotation on a map, or the bearings, distances and curve information contained in a land description is all correct as shown. and in the case of a closed figure, an indispensable by-product is an accurate computation of the area within the closed figure. If all this is true, and it is, then why would the subject of closures even come up?

This is why: There are instances on maps and in descriptions when a figure is not closed. A partial boundary on a record of survey, or a strip description that lists centerline courses may terminate at a point. How then, does one prove this annotation or course information is correct? Every local agency that reviews your work product will require you to somehow provide a closure for every figure. They leave it up to you how to do so. That is not very helpful to the preparer. In some cases we end up faking it, if you will, by introducing a random point into the closure after the termination point so that two completely random inverses get you back to the point of beginning and voila! the courses in question are now in a closure. But are they? What exactly does that prove?

In my capacity as a local agency on-call resource, I recently reviewed a waterline easement done by others, that serves a large warehouse building. The main waterline is described in typical strip/centerline fashion and where this line intercepts service lines, Point A, Point B, etc are called out. After the main alignment description, each service line is described, starting at the lettered points in sequence. Each is comprised of a single course terminating at a point in space. We encounter these types of utility easements all the time, right? As no doubt instructed to do so by the agency, the preparer had dutifully provided a closure for each of these containing one course from the description and two bogus courses to get the reader back to the Point of Beginning. Does this close anything? Does it prove anything? All this does is allow the reviewer to check a box – yep, everything is in a closed figure. And so I did.

There has got to be a better way.



**Morrow**  
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LAND SURVEYORS



4th Women Land Surveyors Summit. The Women Surveyors Summit, hosted by Future Surveyors Foundation is held to support and promote diversity in the land surveying profession. There are 8-10 PDH's available.

[Women Surveyors Summit 2023 Registration, Thu, Oct 19, 2023 at 3:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

October 19-23, 2023 Stillwater, MN

This in-person event is the 4th Women Surveyors Summit. This is a "for women, by women" event and will include opportunities for continuing education. 8-10 PDH's will be available.

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# Regulations We Know, (But Might Have Forgotten)

## California Code of Regulations

### Title 16 - Professional and Vocational Regulations

### Division 5 - Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

### Article 1 - General Provisions

### Section 476 – Code of Professional Conduct – Professional Land Surveying

To protect and safeguard the health, safety, welfare, and property of the public, every person who is licensed by the Board as a professional land surveyor or professional civil engineer legally authorized to practice land surveying, including licensees employed in any manner by a governmental entity or in private practice, shall comply with this Code of Professional Conduct. A violation of this Code of Professional Conduct in the practice of professional land surveying constitutes unprofessional conduct and is grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to Section 8780 of the Code.... *[readers are encouraged to review subsections a thru e]*

## California Business and Professions Code

### BPC § - 8780 *[readers are encouraged to review subsection (a) ]*

(b) By a majority vote, the board may publicly reprove, suspend for a period not to exceed two years, or revoke the license or certificate of any land surveyor licensed under this chapter or civil engineer licensed under the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) who is legally authorized to practice land surveying on any of the following grounds:

(9) A violation in the course of the practice of land surveying of a rule or regulation of unprofessional conduct adopted by the board.

*[readers are encouraged to review items 1 thru 8 ]*

*The nexus between these two codes is quite plain. On a side note, take a look at item no. 7 of 8780 – ‘Aiding or abetting’. Do you suppose sitting on your hands when you know of a violation by others would be considered aiding or abetting? That’s a discussion for another day.*



*Bigger must mean better, right?*



# Sacramento Chapter, CLSA

## Minutes for meeting of June 1, 2023

President Justin Lambert called the meeting to order at Logans Roadhouse. The following were in attendance and introduced:

Annette Hovorka, Carl C. de Baca, Birk Ellis, Michael Chiara, Frinees Prado, Caroline Joaquin, Jonathan Rohrs, Adam Foster, Brian Bullock, Scott Bryant, Russ Smith, John Wilusz, Caleb Keepen, Tom Bollinger, Jeff Van Valero, Cameron Clark, and Sean Davis

President Justin Lambert reported the following:

1. Andrew Tapley was voted in as Chapter Director during last ExCom meeting.
2. Moving forward with planning BBQ
3. If you are interested in volunteering or being a part of BBQ planning committee, let Russ know.

Vice President Russ Smith gave a detailed update on the upcoming plans for the BBQ.

Secretary Annette Hovorka presented the minutes in the Focal Point.

Treasurer Adam Foster reported favorably on the status of the Chapter's accounts. The Secretary was too slow to capture the details.

Directors Cameron Clark and Andrew Tapley are preparing for the Director's meeting on July 29, 2023. Reports are due July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Editor Carl C. de Baca requested ideas and contributions for the Focal Point.

We had an excellent presentation by Jeff Van Valer of Fidelity Title.

### ***SPOT THE ROD PERSON***



*NEXT TIME YOU ARE IN RENO, CHECK THIS MURAL OUT. IT'S AT THE CORNER OF STATE STREET AND SINCLAIR IN THE DOWNTOWN. YOU CAN FIND IT IN STREETVIEW. THIS ARTIST'S EXCEPTIONAL WORK CAN BE VIEWED AT [WWW.ERIKTBURKE.COM](http://WWW.ERIKTBURKE.COM)*



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