



# Focal Point

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

June 2023

Guest Speaker for June 1 Chapter Meeting:  
**Jeff Van Valer**  
**Fidelity Title**

## President's Message

Hello Chapter Members,

It's hard to believe we're almost halfway through the year! It's gone quick, but I feel good about the progress that we have made as a chapter so far, and I am fully anticipating that we can keep the momentum up. I have to give a big shout out to Russ Smith, our Vice-President, for knocking the meeting presentations out of the park. He's done a great job of finding interesting subjects and great presenters. In fact, he already has all of the presenter slots filled for the rest of year, some of which include our Chapter BBQ coming up in July, a visit from our State CLSA president Kevin Hills, our always popular vendors night, and he's even started planning the holiday party for December! Great job being on top of it Russ. I think the uptick in attendees at our meetings really show how great of a job you are doing.

A quick update on the BBQ, we are continuing to plan and prepare. If you are interested in assisting, please respond to the email that was sent out from the chapter. We can use assistance with the grilling, helping with the survey Olympics, along with a few other things. We expect to have a meeting the second week of June with the volunteers to figure out the fine details and appreciate anybody who is willing to help out! There is also a spot on our Chapter webpage (<https://www.sacramento-clsa.org/>) where you can indicate your interest in attending as well as help to give us an idea of how many might attend.

Speaking of the website, I need to thank Adam Foster who has done a great job of keeping the site up to date with a lot of great information. Thanks Adam!

I hope to see you all at the meeting at Logan's on 6/1.

Justin Lambert, PLS

2023 Sacramento Chapter President

# Ever Spend Much Time Poking Around Here?

[https://geodesy.noaa.gov/web/science\\_edu/webinar\\_series/](https://geodesy.noaa.gov/web/science_edu/webinar_series/)



## National Geodetic Survey

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### NGS Webinar Series

Join us as we highlight geodesy and coastal mapping programs, products, and research.

Each webinar features an NGS employee delving into a topic of interest, and generally includes a moderated question and answer session. These webinars are geared toward geospatial professionals as well as educators/students of geodesy and remote sensing.

Registration is free, webinars are streamed via GoToWebinar, and video recordings are made available for later viewing.

NGS offers two types of webinars:

- **Monthly Webinars** are generally held on the second Thursday each month from 2-3 pm eastern time. Monthly webinars generally offer certificates of attendance, and live captions in English are available.
- **"Special Edition"** webinars generally highlight timely topics and/or engage users of particular products or tools. Certificates of attendance – along with other "monthly webinar" features – may or may not be offered for such events.

The Sacramento City College has added the Surveying program to its schedule for the Fall Semester so the rumors are true! The program is indeed returning after a long hiatus. However much still needs to be done.

Persons interested in helping the program return to life by serving as an adjunct professor, assisting with Labs or simply acting as a guest speaker in one of the classes are encouraged to contact John Wilusz at:  
[john.wilusz@scc.losrios.edu](mailto:john.wilusz@scc.losrios.edu)

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

An associate of Mr. Bolinger will be speaking at the Chapter meeting on June 1. You can ask questions and get an answer in real time! Hope to see you there. In the mean time, if you have title questions, please feel free to call him. Tom Bolinger, Vice President of Fidelity National Title, (916) 952-9800.

If you would like to sponsor a speaker dinner, the fee is \$35 and that comes with 2 months of Business Card placement.

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.

- Buysiness 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)

Here are our first two supporters of the Focal Point.  
We hope more of you choose to join us – it's for a good cause!



## Editor's Message

The BPELSG just released its 2022 enforcement report. Of the eighteen reported citations, there were seven surveyors (44% of the total citations) and one engineer who had a surveying violation. Five of the seven citations were either contract related or failure to file a Record of Survey. This should be of interest and of concern to you dear reader because historically, surveyors have had a low percentage of violations and/or citations but now we have climbed to 44% of the total. What's up with that? Is this a failure of mentoring or something darker? How do we reach our brethren and encourage them to avail themselves with a detailed reading of the Business and Professions code (AKA LS Act), so as to stay on the right side of the law? Obviously they need to join their local chapter of CLSA and operate like the rest of us.

-ED.

# The Rant Zone

Of the current NSPS Officers and Executive Committee, there are only 3 out of 11 representing states this side of the Mississippi and only 1 of those 3 could be considered from the 'West'.

## **NSPS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President, Robert Akins (OH)	Director, Jeff Clendenning (AL)
President-Elect, Davey Edwards (TX)	Director, Tim Murphy (IL)
Vice President, Linda Foster (SD)	Director, Tim Brewer (MS)
Treasurer, Bob Miller (PA)	Director, Henry Dingle (SC)
Secretary, Craig Amey (MI)	Executive Director, Tim Burch (MD)
Immediate Past President, Amanda Allred (WA)	

Say, didn't we just deliver this organization over 2,000 new members?



*Lemme tell ya pardner, back in 2015 everybody was a cowboy.*

## **MILESTONES**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNETTE HOVORKA ON HER RECENT RETIREMENT FROM CALTRANS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATE & CARLYE BUCHHOLZ ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR SON Beau Nathan Buchholz!



## 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!

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!*

### **Job Opening**

The Placer County Community Development Resource Agency has posted an opening for a Survey Associate. This is a permanent position. For more information go to [jobs@placer.ca.gov](mailto:jobs@placer.ca.gov) or phone 530.886.4607.

**The Sacramento Chapter welcomes  
Andrew Tapley to a director's  
position on the CLSA Board of  
Directors**



# 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 411 - Seal and Signature

The seal required by Section 6764 of the Code shall be not less than one and one-half (1 1/2) inches in diameter...

*In the age of digital stamps and digital signatures, this often gets missed. We've all seen plats to accompany land descriptions containing stamps reduced in size in order to fit in whatever space is available on the sheet. This is a reminder that the stamp has a legally specified minimum size.*

*You might also take a look at (h) 3. The days of signing over your stamp are long gone. There is at least one county recorder that rejects such signatures because in her opinion, the stamp is obscured when its been signed over.*

### Section 463 - Notice of Association or Disassociation with Partnership, Firm, or Corporation

A licensed land surveyor and/or civil engineer who practices or offers to practice land surveying, according to the provisions of Section 8729 of the Code, as a partner, member, or officer of a partnership, firm, or corporation shall advise the Board within thirty (30) days of such association or termination of association on a form approved by the Board.

*And related to the Board Rule 463 is this regulation, for professionals in public service:*

The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists has created a form to be completed by governmental agencies to identify the professional engineers and land surveyors in responsible charge of performing the respective engineering and land surveying duties for their agency. The [Notice of Department Designation form](#) must be filed by all governmental agencies that perform civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering or land surveying services whether that agency is a State, city, county, or city/county agency, or a district or special district. The form will provide the Board with a record of who, whether an agency employee or a contracted individual, is in responsible charge of the engineering and surveying services for each department or agency.

If an individual listed on the form leaves the agency, or is no longer in responsible charge at the agency, the individual must complete the [Disassociation Notice form](#).

*Note: Disassociation forms are available at the BPELSG website  
<https://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/>*

# Sacramento Chapter, CLSA

## Minutes for meeting of May 4, 2023

The meeting of May 4, 2023 was called to order by President Justin Lambert. The following were in attendance and gave self-introductions:

Adam Foster, Carl C. de Baca, Annette Hovorka, Russ Smith, Andrew Tapley, Adam Forth, Birk Ellis, Justin Lambert, Kevin Akin, Bob McKenzie, Jonathan Romps, Sean Davis, Roger Perez, Nick Labedzki, Scott Bryant, Andriy Buchko, Nick Hancock, Kimberly Edwards, Caleb Cooper, Brandon Bickley, John Wilusz, and Michael Chiara

President Justin report included an announcement of Annette Hovorka's retirement from Caltrans. He also called for volunteers for the remaining vacant Director's seat.

Vice President Russ Smith reported on the upcoming Chapter barbeque on July 15. It will be held at Johnson-Springview Park in Rocklin with a potluck and survey Olympics to be had.

The minutes of the previous meeting were published in the Focal Point.

The Treasurer reported 44 total members with 27 being licensed land surveyors. The total in the treasury being \$8100 with an outstanding commitment of \$1000 to TrigStar efforts.

There was not a director's report.

Carl C. de Baca reported on the availability of advertisements in the Focal Point and the passing of Albert Thorn. He also reported that he and John Wilusz checked the equipment at Sacramento City College (SCC), charged the batteries and will be going back next Saturday to recheck the equipment.

John Wilusz spoke on the need at SCC for an auto level. Classes will start in the fall with enrollment being offered now. The school will be offering an AA degree and certificate. Class schedule will be starting at 6 pm and will be online with in person labs from 10 to 5 on Saturdays. Volunteers are needed for assistance in the Labs. Please get the word out. Each class will hold 25 students.

Kevin Akin spoke on Forensic Surveys and other surveying efforts at Cal Fire.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Annette Hovorka, PLS  
Secretary 2023*

*I suspect that whatever cannot be said clearly is probably not being thought clearly either."*

-Peter Singer in the introduction to his new book "Ethics in the Real World: 82 Brief Essays on Things That Matter".