Central Valley Chapter

2019 Chapter Officers
President: Rich Fultz
Vice President: Will Paul
Secretary: Mike Dorsey
Treasurer: Rich James
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Alt. Chapter Dir: Will Paul
Alt. Chapter Dir: Rich Fultz

2019 Chapter Committees
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Keith Spencer (Chairman)
Education Committee:
Keith Spencer (Chairman)
Membership Committee:
Rich Brown (Chairman)
Monument Pres Committee:
Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)
Newsletter:
Rich Brown (Editor)
Professional Practices Committee:
Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)
Website:
Keith Spencer (Web Master)

2019 Chapter Programs
Public Outreach Committee:
Zachary Wong (Coordinator)
Workshops:
Rich Brown (Coordinator)

Announcements
SURVEY EXAM SCHEDULE
FS (LSIT) - Computer based, offered year round
PS (NCEES LS) - Computer based, offered year round
CA LS - October 29, 2019
April 16, 2020
October 27, 2020

2019 LAWS AND REGULATIONS NOW AVAILABLE
The 2019 Laws and Regulations are now available on the BPELSG website, at the following address: https://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/laws/index.shtml

If you have news or an event that you would like to announce, send it to: editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org

Central Valley Chapter - California Land Surveyors Association
www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org

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Classes, Training, and Continuing Education

CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level I  (3-Day Course)
  July 15-17, 2019 Sacramento
  July 29-31, 2019 Walnut Creek
  Aug 12-14, 2019 Sacramento
  Aug 26-28, 2019 Walnut Creek
  Sept 9-11, 2019 Sacramento
  Sept 23-25, 2019 Walnut Creek  Register here

CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level II  (2-Day Course)
  July 31-1, 2019 Sacramento
  Aug 19-20, 2019 Walnut Creek
  Sept 19-20, 2019 Sacramento
  Sept 30-1, 2019 Walnut Creek  Register here

CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level III  (1-Day Course)
  Aug 15, 2019 Walnut Creek  Register here

CAD Masters - Civil 3D Introduction (3-Day Course)
  July 22-24, 2019 Walnut Creek
  Aug 5-7, 2019, Sacramento
  Aug 19-21, 2019, Walnut Creek
  Sept 4-6, 2019, Sacramento
  Sept 16-18, 2019, Walnut Creek
  Sept 30-2, 2019, Sacramento  Register here

CAD Masters - Civil 3D Advanced (2-Day Course)
  July 29-30, 2019 Walnut Creek
  Sept 3-4, 2019 Walnut Creek  Register here

CAD Masters - Civil 3D for Surveyors (2-Day Course)
  Sept 5-6, 2019, Walnut Creek  Register here

Lorman Education Webinar
  Subdivision Map Act in CA  Register here

Current Issues in Plat and Subdivision Law in CA  Register here

ESRI Users Conference
  July 8-12, 2019 San Diego  Register here

Land Use Navigators - 2019 Subdivision Map Act
  Sep 6, 2019 Bakersfield  Register here

If you have information about a training or class, please submit to: editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org

Editor’s Message

December, 2010 the first edition of the Central Valley Chapter’s newsletter, “The Prism”, was sent out. That first edition was 4 pages long and had only 2 sponsors. Our hope was to get enough funds coming in every year to help with a student scholarship. Since then we have grown considerably, thus allowing the Chapter to expand in not only the amount of it’s scholarship, but the quantity as well. I think that this is a wonderful thing that we are able to do for our up and coming surveyors. BUT, we couldn’t do it without the continued support from our great sponsors. NorthStar Engineering Group has been with us from day one, with Engineering Supply Company (ESC) joining just a couple months later. These are just two of the great companies that support our Chapter scholarships by advertising in “The Prism”. We need to make sure that we let these businesses know that what they do is appreciated. So, when you are doing business with these companies, make sure you thank them for supporting our Chapter, and that you saw them in “The Prism”.

If you would like to comment on this topic or suggest another, please submit it to: editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org
Monument Obituaries
By Mike Quartaroli, PLS

CLSA
CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER
Survey Monument Conservation Committee

MANTECA MONUMENT PRESERVATION DISASTER

Yosemite Ave.
1/2” x 24” Pipe tagged “HHH 5100” destroyed before it could be referenced. Fd. 4” x 4” CM below.

South Main St.
3/4” x 24” Hex Bolt stamped “RCE 25392” hit by asphalt grinder before it could be referenced. Removed and reset with 5/8” Rebar with cap stamped LS 4450

Two separate CIP Projects in the same town administered differently and both projects failed to comply with PLS Act Section 8771.

Yosemite Ave.:
Engineering design firm provided Pre-Construction Monument Preservation. Six easy monuments in monument wells were referenced. No monuments along the project right-of-way were searched or referenced. Construction in progress as of June 18, 2019.

South Main St.:
No Pre-Construction Monument Preservation was included in the engineering design firm contract. Construction in progress as of June 18, 2019.

How can this still be happening?!!!
More Education is Needed!

Ask about the “Adopt A Monument” program. Make a lasting contribution to the Land Surveying Profession.

Paid for by the Survey Monument Conservation Committee
No doubt we are in the information age and some are saying we are entering the knowledge age. Land records are at the core of our free society. We have every opportunity in front of us to harness the digital revolution and perpetuate this foundation of liberty.

Our society is saturated with frivolous angst from the intravenous delivery of inconsequential news feeds “twenty four seven”. The mindless and brain numb of the next college-educated generation may be incapable of disseminating the importance of evidence not spoon fed through social media. These same folks may also be the underachievers that show up at their government jobs for eight hours a day and adopt records policies approved by old Zuckerberg and crew over at faceplant.

Surveyors are a small but leading voice that can speak to the value and necessity of land records. We need to be extremely vocal with our elected officials when we smell bad policy from the kids down at Tammany Hall. The old adage “You don’t know what you don’t know” is welling up in the digital realm and I’ve been left with a bad taste in my mouth at both the municipal and state levels. The phenomenon I’m seeing is sort of a “disposable information” attitude. Database managers and GIS folks are having trouble digesting relevant historical information that has been superseded.

Reversionary acts seem to be especially problematic. This is a place that information can easily be lost. When a roadway is vacated it is generally assimilated with the title of the underlying land. Extinguishing the public right does not extinguish the historic proceedings affecting the chain of title. Yeah, sure remove the road from google maps to keep people off of it but develop a placeholder for the legal actions that now appear invisible. Without a placeholder for a reversionary act, future researchers are left with nothing but a null search result.

Believe it or not my state land database showed nothing for a current main county highway built by the state DOT with federal money over 50 years ago. The hiccup came when the right of way was assigned from the DOT to the county automatically under an operation of law. The DOT’s new alignment was accounted for under their realignment project. The state acknowledged the old road in a simple “paper” memo to the county at the time. The wires got crossed somewhere along the line when a database manager assumed that the re-alignment documents were the “current version” and decoupled the older right of way document from the database. Poof! It’s erased and the poor girl at the counter could no longer find the original documents. It took some ironing out between agencies but we resolved the issue without harm. And for the record, the state’s team was in no way the cynically fictitious beasts I described earlier, in fact just the opposite and very concerned with the synapse.

They never told me in school how devastating Sherman’s March through south really was to our citizens. As Decided Guidance in this issue examines a case in South Carolina we are reminded of the atrocities and undue destruction unleashed on Americans and our land cadastre. The repercussions of destroyed land records were felt many decades later and continue to this day. The heroic surveyors of Carolina were forced to cobble the fabric of society back together from seemingly thin air. Whether it’s fire, or war, or apathy, we must be vigilant toward the enemies of cadastral records. The surveyor is the knight of the American land cadastre.
Successful Projects Start with CSDS

ABOUT CSDS:
Established in 1986, California Surveying & Drafting Supply Inc., a leading solutions provider serving architects, engineers, contractors, land surveyors and GIS professionals throughout California, is the largest provider of geospatial tools, technology and training in the western US, and is one of the top 5 largest dealers of Trimble products in the country. We are highly respected for our knowledge driven solutions for some of the largest businesses and government agencies throughout California, including CalTrans, PG&E, USDA and many others. Additionally, we are the top HP DesignJet reseller in the United States.

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FACTORY TRAINED & AUTHORIZED SERVICE
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A complete line of survey and construction rentals is available on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

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CSDS operates California's largest RTN, providing precision positioning with one-centimeter accuracy for surveying, mapping, engineering, forensics and agricultural applications.

SUPPLIES
We stock and provide free local same/next-day delivery of supplies including lath, flagging, paint, tape measures, survey markers and more.
State News

2019 CLSA/NALS Conference Wrap-Up
By Carl C. de Baca (with a few additions from Paul Mabry)

Well it’s been a while since our two sister states got together for a conference and it looked like the vast majority were happy that it finally took place! If you didn’t attend, go ahead and take just a minute ...and kick yourself. Some five hundred Californians and Nevadans met at the Silver Legacy in Reno from March 23rd to the 26th for fun, education and an opportunity to renew friendships.

The event started, ran, and ended like clockwork. It was an extremely well attended affair, with a lot of moving parts taking place over several days. For this correspondent, it is gratifying to know that our two fine organizations were able to work together so flawlessly. We have laid out a blueprint for how to do this again, perhaps on a semi-regular basis (pardon the blatant editorial opinion).

Day One

On Saturday the 23rd, the pre-conference workshops ran throughout the day, while the vendors started assembling their booths and the silent auction materials were slowly accumulated on the tables in the main hall. It looked to our cub reporter as though this was the best-attended set of pre-conference workshops in our history together. With Jeff Lucas offering two half-day workshops, the first on “Boundary Retracement Cases” and the second on “Deeds, Conveyances and Boundaries”; and an all-day class on Autocad “Civil 3D for Land Surveyors” put on by Rick Ellis, there was no shortage of educational opportunity, right out of the starting gate.

Meanwhile the LS Review track started in earnest with classes on the CA PLS Act, GPS Geodesy and Water Boundaries filling out the day. A bevy of students and volunteers ported donated equipment, books, knick-knacks, gifts and artwork here and there, while the auction tables slowly took shape. It was poetry in motion. Sometimes awkward and clumsy, but poetry nonetheless.... A big thanks to everyone who donated items, everyone who bought items and all those responsible for bringing order to all this chaos!

The vendor’s hall sold out this year. In fact, it did so quite some time ago. Clearly there was a pent-up appetite for having a joint conference. With a change in process this year, the vendors showed up to assemble their wares on the first day, so that the exhibit hall could open along with the Opening Ceremonies. This was a great idea and should be carried forward in future conferences.

And, finally, the first day culminated with the Scholarship Bowling Tourney at the National Bowling Stadium. More about that later!

Day Two

On Sunday the 24th, the proceedings got under way in earnest. Instead of kicking off at noon as has been the case in the past few joint conferences, we got underway at 8:00 am with the Opening Ceremonies. Co-presidents, Annette Hovorka from California and Jason Higgins from Nevada welcomed the attendees, introduced their officers and made a few announcements. An honor guard provided by the local Boy Scouts opened the formalities followed by a historical skit starring Aaron Smith (CLSA Past President) and Matt Gingerich (NALS Past President) and narrated by Steve Parrish. The Opening Ceremony was packed with standing room only.

The historical skit re-created a conversation between two famous (or infamous) surveyors, Alexey von Schmidt and Daniel Majors, who each separately located the common line between Nevada and California, in particular near the
SANDIS IS HIRING!

SANDIS is hiring numerous employees throughout the Central Valley to staff our work with California High Speed Rail.

CLICK THIS AD TO SEE OPEN JOBS!

ABOUT SANDIS

SANDIS has been in the engineering and surveying industry for over 50 years and has over 165 employees. We actively recruit well-rounded individuals whom are technically skilled, team oriented, honest, optimistic, energetic and communicative. Through structured internal and external training programs, we continuously invest in our people to ensure that skill proficiency remains at the forefront of technological and industry advancements.

BENEFITS

SANDIS employees enjoy numerous benefits including medical, vision, dental, 401k matching, health savings accounts (HSA), transportation benefits, and educational reimbursement. We do more than the benefits you see on paper though, this year employees were treated to motorcycle rides, a family trip to Great America, and multiple ski trips.

OPEN POSITIONS

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Project Surveyor | 3+ Years of experience | Selma, CA

CAD Technician | 3+ Years of experience | Manteca, CA

CAD Technician | 3+ Years of experience | Selma, CA

Field Party Chief | 5+ Years of experience | Selma, CA (multiple positions open)

Field Chainmen | 2+ Years of experience | Selma, CA (multiple positions open)
north corner common to both states. Through the narrator we learned that each surveyor relied on different methods and technologies to establish their respective lines of latitude and longitude. Majors traveled overland with a chronograph with time initially set at Ft. Bidwell, CA. Von Schmidt on the other hand used more modern technology, the telegraph, to determine his time. One method was arguably more accurate, but regardless, the lines established by the two surveyors were hundreds of feet apart. Aaron and Matt acted out a fictional conversation where Majors and Von Schmidt met and discussed the reasons why their surveys differed. At the conclusion of that fictional meeting, an auspicious toast with Irish whiskey and a promise to meet again left the audience with a hope that perhaps it wasn’t inevitable that the states would resort to litigation for over a century to resolve their boundary ambiguities. The clear message for all attendees: Talk with your fellows and save everyone headaches later!

With the conference workshops starting right after the Opening Ceremonies, it was time to let the learning begin. Over the course of the day Jeff Lucas held forth on a variety of topics, while Forest Decker, Scott Peterson and Chris Facque offered classes on respectively, the US Forest Service, Accuracy of LiDAR Point Clouds, and Water Rights. The LS Review track covered construction survey calculations, and Public Lands.

Day Three

On Monday Dave Doyle spoke throughout all four sessions, the first two on modernizing the national spatial reference system and the second two on the history of geodetic datums. Dave is a great and enthusiastic speaker who salts his speech with the occasional Grateful Dead reference, (like a true master). Also happening on Monday, Steve Parrish and Byron Johnson teamed up for a presentation on private-federal boundary determination. Boy, talk about eminently qualified.

In addition to our featured heavyweights, James Johnston outlined Least Squares Adjustments, Michael Hartley spoke on QBS, Logan Campbell discussed collecting survey-grade data with drones and Mike Barger spoke
EBMUD IS LOOKING FOR A SURVEY TECHNICIAN II

East Bay Municipal Utility District’s (EBMUD) Construction Division, part of the Engineering and Construction Department, is seeking a highly qualified individual with exceptional technical, interpersonal, and communication skills.

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about remonumentation in Michigan. All in all, a great day for PDH’s. The LS Review track tackled legal descriptions and boundary analysis.

Day Four
Ahh, Tuesday – the last day and lucky for everyone, it only went until noon. Scott Peterson gave a talk on boundary lines versus property lines, Dana Caccmise gave an NGS update, Laura Ledbetter discussed drone liability exposure for surveyors and Karl Eitenmiller discussed water rights.

A Panel Discussion with a Surveyor, Attorney and a Title Company (actually a title officer) was a two-session open dialog between the audience and the panel. It started off slowly and gained speed like a snowball rolling downhill until just before the end. With about ten minutes to go it became patently obvious that the crowd was all ‘conferenced out’ and the questions tapered off to silence and fatigued stares. You know it has been a successful affair when a room full of surveyors runs out of things to say. A special thanks is owed to the attorney, Steve Silva and the title officer, Lisa Quilici, (mostly for putting up with the moderator). And it must be said that the surveyor, Dan Church is a true professional!

Panel Discussion and Round Table Meetings
Aside from the previously mentioned surveyor/attorney/title officer panel discussion, this conference featured several other workshops done in a similar format, all of which were well-attended and gave those who came an opportunity to speak up on many issues of great relevance. Panel discussions included Meeting the NALS Officers, Meeting the CLSA Officers, Meeting the CA BPELSG and Meeting the NV BPELS. Round table sessions, all very informally moderated, covered Education and the Four-Year Degree, Women in Surveying, Concerns Facing the Profession, Workforce Development, Recruitment and Mentorship, and Outreach. Hopefully notes were taken at these jam sessions, because plenty of sage advice was offered!

The LS Review Track
CLSA once again put on a terrific LS Review track with John Adam, Mike Hart, Bill Hofferber, Armand Marois, Steve Martin, Rob McMillan, Evan Page and Ian Wilson all contributing their time and knowledge for the greater good. Attendees told your correspondent that this was terrific set of classes and that all of these volunteer instructors did a great job. Sadly, this effort probably does not get as much recognition as it should. Next time you see any of these fellas, be sure to thank them!

Social Activities
Well we did it! On Saturday night we sold out all ten lanes in the ground floor alley and packed the house at the National Bowling Stadium Bowling tourney. At this rate, we might have a stab at filling the 78 lanes upstairs someday. CLSA has a long history of bowling as an Education Foundation fundraiser, and many enthusiasts, NALS, with its brand new Education Foundation, has only been doing this for three years, but is rapidly developing its own cadre of bowling nuts. Consequently there were plenty of bowlers from both groups and some teams had members from each state on board, as the liquid refreshments and gutter balls flowed. The winner was the Diamondback team from Las Vegas.

On Sunday night the two presidents hosted their hospitality suites. Traditionally, these events are a great opportunity to get into deep and often loud off-the-books conversations with people you might never have met before. For the first time in many years, if not ever, both states’ center of hospitality could be found on the same floor, in adjoining suites, a most welcome innovation. And as always, what happens in those suites, stays in those suites!

Awards Luncheon
The Awards Luncheon on Sunday was jampacked with touching moments as many deserving folks from both states received recognition from NALS and/or CLSA for their efforts on behalf of their organizations and the profession.
Pictures of the Issue

TRIG Star 2019 Competition
By Derek Waggoner, PLS & Jill Van Houten, PLS
Benjamin Holt College Preparatory Academy - Stockton, CA
Instructor - Russell Hess  Winner - Conner Lanz
Sponsors

CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER

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