



Central Valley Chapter - California Land Surveyors Association  
[www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](http://www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

# Central Valley Chapter THE PRISM



**Date:** July 26, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Perko's @ 901 North Carpenter Road, Modesto

**Business Meeting**

**Topic:** Open Discussion

**Date:** August 23, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Perko's @ 901 North Carpenter Road, Modesto

**Speaker:** TBD

**Topic:** TBD

- 2017 Chapter Officers**  
 President: Will Paul  
 Vice President: Rich Fultz  
 Secretary: Rich Brown  
 Treasurer: Warren Smith  
 Chapter Director: Warren Smith  
 Chapter Director: Rich James  
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 Alt. Chapter Dir: Rich Fultz
- 2017 Chapter Committees**  
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 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)
- 2017 Chapter Programs**  
 Public Outreach Committee:  
 Zachary Wong (Coordinator)  
 Workshops:  
 Rich Brown (Coordinator)

## Announcements

### VENDOR NIGHT SET FOR A TUESDAY IN SEPTEMBER

The Central Valley Chapter is in the works to have a Vendor Night for it's September Chapter meeting. **THIS MONTH ONLY, OUR CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH.** So make sure you **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

### CHANGES TO THE CITY

The Central Valley Chapter has been notified that Friday, July 14th will be Rich Fultz's last day with the City of Turlock. He will be starting with the Turlock Irrigation District (T.I.D.) on Monday July 17th. We would like ot thank him for all his service and contributions and wish he well in his new adventure.

### 2018 CLSA CONFERENCE HAS LOCAL VENUE

The CLSA Annual 2018 State Conference is set for March 23-27, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Downtown Sacramento. Go to <http://www.californiasurveyors.org/conference.html> for more information.

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## Classes, Training, and Continuing Education

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level I (3-Day Course)

July 31-2, 2017 Walnut Creek  
 Aug 14-16, 2017, Sacramento  
 Aug 28-30, 2017 Walnut Creek  
 Sept 11-13, 2017, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level II (2-Day Course)

July 24-25, 2017 Walnut Creek  
 Aug 17-18, 2017, Sacramento  
 Sept 5-6, 2017, Walnut Creek  
 Sept 25-26, 2017 Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level III (1-Day Course)

July 20, 2017, Walnut Creek  
 Sept 13, 2017, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - Civil 3D Introduction (3-Day Course)

July 24-26, 2017, Walnut Creek  
 Aug 7-9, 2017, Sacramento  
 Aug 21-23, 2017 Walnut Creek  
 Sept 5-7, 2017, Sacramento  
 Sept 18-20, 2017, Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - Civil 3D Advanced (2-Day Course)

Sept 7-8, 2017 Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

# Mark Your Calendars

### CAD Masters - Civil 3D for Surveyors (2-Day Course)

July 31-1, 2017, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Map 3D (2-Day Course)

Aug 7-8, 2017, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CLSA Webinars

Good Neighbor Fence Act of 2013

Aug 30, 2017, 11:00am-12:00pm

[Register here](#)

NGS State Coordinator/Regional Advisor Update

Sept 13, 2017, 11:00am-12:00pm

[Register here](#)

### Land Use Navigators - Subdivision Map Act

July 20, 2017 - Fresno

[Register here](#)

If you have information about a training or class, please submit to: [editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

## Editor's Message



Average membership attendance at recent Chapter meetings have been the lowest in several years. Membership involvement seems to be very low and it is very disturbing to me. I myself feel that donating a couple of hours a month to attend a monthly Chapter meeting is a not a waste of time, but an investment in a surveyors knowledge, and helps strengthen the profession as a whole. I try to bring in speakers that discuss current events and important topics for the area. The information gained/contributed at these meetings can then be taken back and applied to each persons business. On top of that, some are licensed in other states, which require continuing education. Up to 22 hours can be obtained just by coming to each monthly meeting, thus saving money from having to pay for classes or seminars, and saving time, because the meetings are local, so you don't have to travel more that 1 hour to attend.

So I ask you this, Isn't your business/profession worth the investment?

If you would like to comment on this topic or suggest another, please submit it to: [editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

## National News

### Preparing Surveyors for the Future

By Lee Lovell, PS

The decline in the number of individuals seeking licensure has raised concerns about the future of the profession. A logical solution to this problem is to find ways to make more surveyors. Some say the requirement for a BS in Surveying should be dropped. After all, there are few colleges offering this degree. Others suggest the number years and type of experience could be eased. Some have proposed a national license or simpler ways for surveyors to work across state boundaries. Alongside these logistical proposals are economic incentive arguments related to fees and compensation. While I am all for fostering conditions that will help the profession flourish now and in the future, I am a bit wary of ideas that imply professional work has somehow gotten simpler with the passage of time or advances in technology.

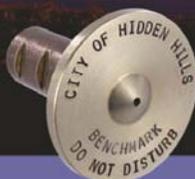
Advances in technology have given the day to day service provider the ability to do work that just a few decades ago was either too time consuming or in some instances, impossible to do. While technology has delivered ease of use in accomplishing complex tasks, this does not equate with being safe to use. A surveyor needs to understand the inherent strengths and weakness of a given technology. This understanding is gained by learning a certain amount of advanced math, science and other types of knowledge that are embedded in the technology. Further, some of the anecdotal evidence being presented in various forums point to the rise of questionable practices. Perhaps modern technology is simply exposing poor practices or disrupting standard practices in such a way that quality is being compromised. There are ample reasons to believe technological progress requires surveyors to continually engage in advancing their level of competence. The career of a typical professional spans at least 40 years. There is some expectation that a professional will continue to learn after licensure for reasons of self-interest and public need. Under these circumstances, proposals which aim at making more surveyors ought to consider the here and now, as well as, the distant future. In many respects this has always been the case, but now we have

Continued on page 6

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## State News

### The Meaning of Professional Responsibility

By BPELSG Board Staff

Whether repairing the spillway for the tallest dam in the United States, the Oroville Dam, or dealing with any one of many projects they're working on at any given time, the licensed engineers, land surveyors, and geologists of California are expected to adhere to professional responsibility guidelines set by the Board. Board staff members each gave their opinions on what constitutes professional responsibility.

#### Mike Donelson, P.E., Board Staff Senior Registrar for Engineering

Donelson chose two quotes that exemplify professional responsibility: "Engineering is a great profession. There is the satisfaction of watching a figment of the imagination emerge through the aid of science to a plan on paper. Then it moves to realization in stone or metal or energy. Then it brings homes to men or women. Then it elevates the standard of living and adds to the comforts of life. This is the engineer's high privilege." – Herbert Hoover

"As engineers, we have knowledge and skills well beyond those of most consumers of our work, who must trust us to produce systems that operate safely, reliably, and with minimal negative impact. Human lives can depend upon the quality of our work, and significant economic and environmental consequences can result from the things that we do. Therefore, we as engineers must always have an awareness of not only the benefits but also the dangers and limitations of systems that we design. We must never put forward results that we have not thoroughly evaluated, and we must never conceal the shortcomings of our products. This is the fundamental responsibility of our profession to our society." – MIT MECH: Ethics and Integrity (<http://meche.mit.edu/ethics>)

Continued on page 11

# Carlson for Surveyors

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## Preparing Surveyors for the Future, cont. from [page 3](#)

to take into account rapid rates of change.

Of all the knowledge that a technical professional learns over a career, the knowledge of technology and its related techniques is perhaps the least durable. It tends to have a short shelf life because it is steadily being updated and replaced. For example: many years ago I took a drafting class in high school. A few years later I took a similar class in college called engineering graphics. The drafting class largely focused on techniques related to geometric drawing tools while the other class included content on technical communication. The drafting skills were marketable until CAD came along. Communication abilities have remained relevant throughout my career. As the technical work became more complex, the ability to understand and communicate technical matters became more important. The same can be said for the difference between learning how to measure with a steel tape and learning measurement science. I learned both about the same time, but only one of these has proven helpful when it comes to working around GPS, LIDAR and UAS digital photogrammetry. These and other examples from less technical subjects reveal certain types of knowledge are more helpful than others over the length of a career especially when the future is a bit unpredictable. The knowledge of means taken will change frequently, while the knowledge of ends sought tend to persist over time. For example, boundary location technology has changed a lot over the millennia, but the desire for stable and identifiable boundaries was as important in ancient civilizations as it is today.

Some say certain forms of knowledge cannot be taught but they can be learned. This notion is partially correct in that certain learning opportunities require the student to take on more responsibility for getting results. A coach or a mentor can provide favorable learning conditions and insightful feedback, but the student has to want to learn what needs to be learned. Helping a person while they reason through an ill-defined problem takes some patience. Supporting a person while they wrestle through the complexities of exercising independent judgment takes mutual trust. There are few shortcuts when it comes to developing the performance-based knowledge which is at the core of professional practice. These learning opportunities are better characterized as helping a surveyor to mature in the professional role. The qualities of maturity can be difficult to describe, but the absence of these qualities is apparent. Given the nature of professional work, I suspect a licensed practitioner benefits from collegial relationships that serve as sounding boards when unique problems arise during the course of a career.

The preparation of every surveyor eventually comes to a moment of truth--will they voluntarily accept personal responsibility. The age of complex technology has produced a rhetoric of responsibility which puts some distance between a user's actions and the eventual outcome: mistakes happen, but what could I do about it? Overcoming this rhetoric involves a paradox. A professional can be confident in their competence and at the same time accept that their understanding is incomplete and their actions imperfect. Mastering this paradox allows the surveyor to internalize the ethical imperative of personal responsibility and develop the capacity to work beyond the confines of some technical recipe. Applying this imperative in real time requires judgement to assess what are often ill defined benefits and risks. A surveyor has to recognize and accept their role in learning from situations where good and harm can be done. This allows the mentor to make their understanding of these situations available as a resource for learning. I wish that I could report these moments of truth always go well. Some

mentees are reluctant to admit they lack knowledge or make mistakes. Some admit these things, but place the responsibility elsewhere. Others want pseudo mentoring--Can't you just tell me what I need to know and save me the trouble. I am a busy person. A few will commit to engaging in a mentorship. These are the folks who are prepared to do professional work now and in the future.

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# Just For Laughs

## Find the Differences

Find the four (4) differences between the two (2) pictures

## REBUS PUZZLES

Solutions for last months puzzles



Small Talk



Painless operation



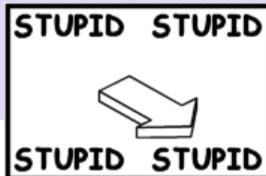
Cross Breed



Two left feet



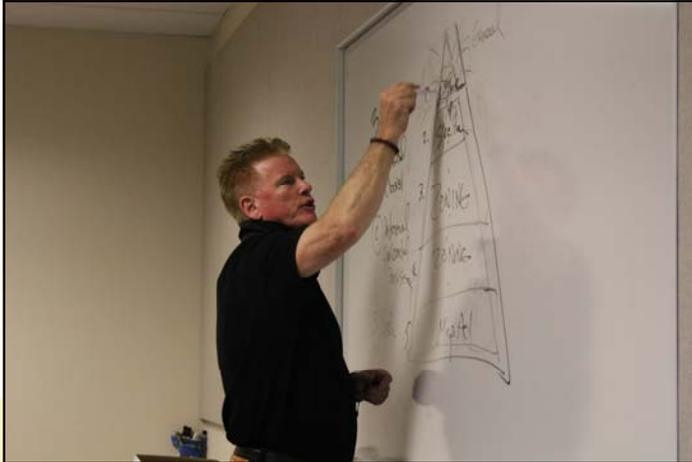
Get up and go



Downright stupid

# Pictures of the Issue

Subdivision Map Act Seminar April 26, 2017



Above: Michael Durkee explains the pyramid for California Planning hierarchy

Below: Kent Hysell and Brian Jones (NorthStar) listens to conversation about the SMA



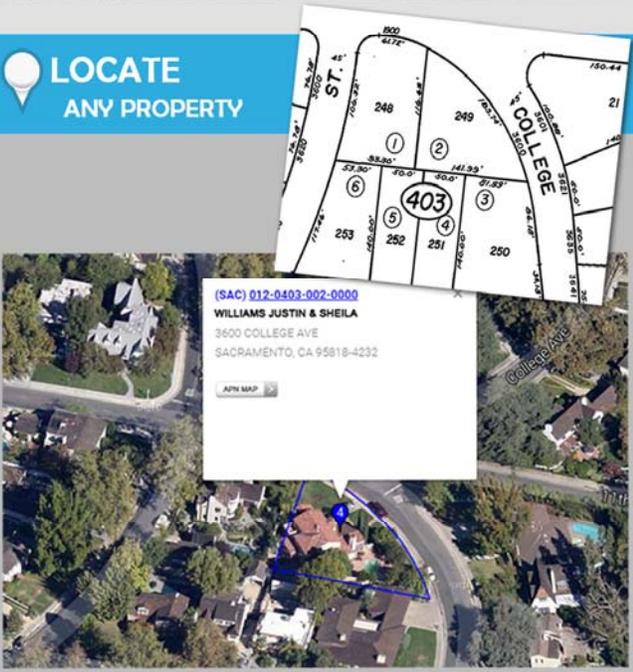
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### CITY OF MODESTO LOOKING FOR SR. LAND SURVEYOR

The City of Modesto will be recruiting for a Sr. Land Surveyor in the next few months, for the position description go to <http://modestogov.com/346/Job-Descriptions> . When available, the job posting will be available on the City of Modesto website at <http://modestogov.com/345/Job-Listings>.

### MID-VALLEY ENGINEERING LOOKING FOR SURVEYOR/L.S.I.T. TO FILL POSITIONS

Mid-Valley Engineering is looking to fill several Surveying positions including Licensed Land Surveyors and L.S.I.T.'s. Mid-Valley Engineering has been in business for more than 47 years and is always hiring talented people. Please go to <http://www.mve.net/career-opportunities.html> for more information. If you are interested in being a part of our team, please submit your resume to [jobs@mve.net](mailto:jobs@mve.net).

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#### **Key Requirements:**

- 5+ Years of Land Surveying experience preferred, LSIT preferred.
- Extensive mapping experience with AutoCAD is required, Civil3D preferred.
- Familiar with the reduction, analysis and incorporation of field data into a finished mapping product.
- Ability to read and interpret construction documents and plans to prepare staking calculations and facilitate the dispatch of survey field crews.

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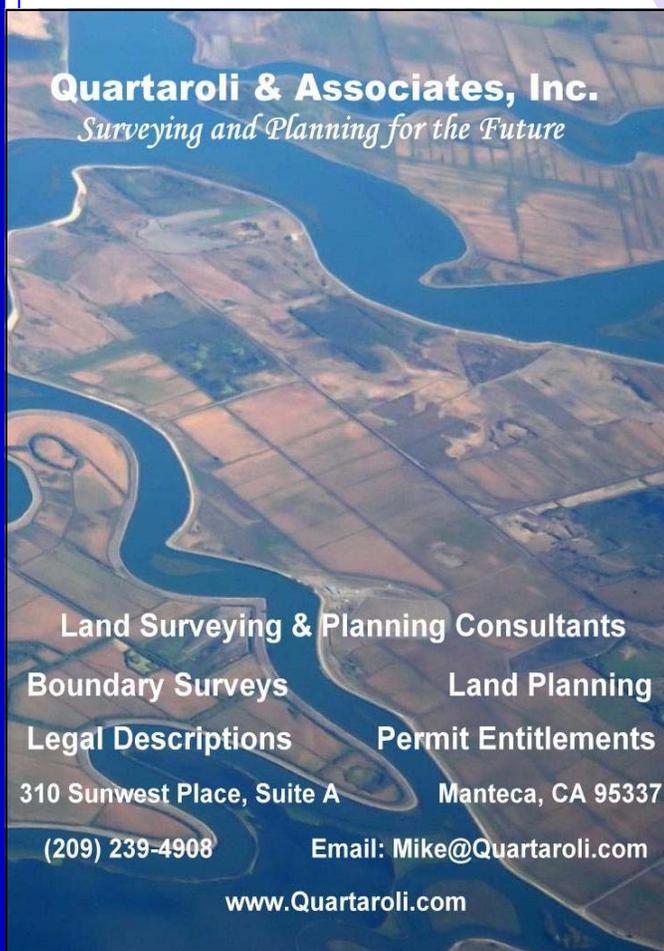
#### **Key Requirements:**

- 5+ Years of Land Surveying experience, 2+ as Chief of Party preferred, LSIT preferred but not required.
- Experience performing a multitude of different types of surveys, including but not limited to boundary, topographic, monitoring, GPS, ALTA and FEMA surveys.
- Strong knowledge of survey field operations using GPS, Robotic Total Station, Automatic/Digital Levels, and Data Collectors.
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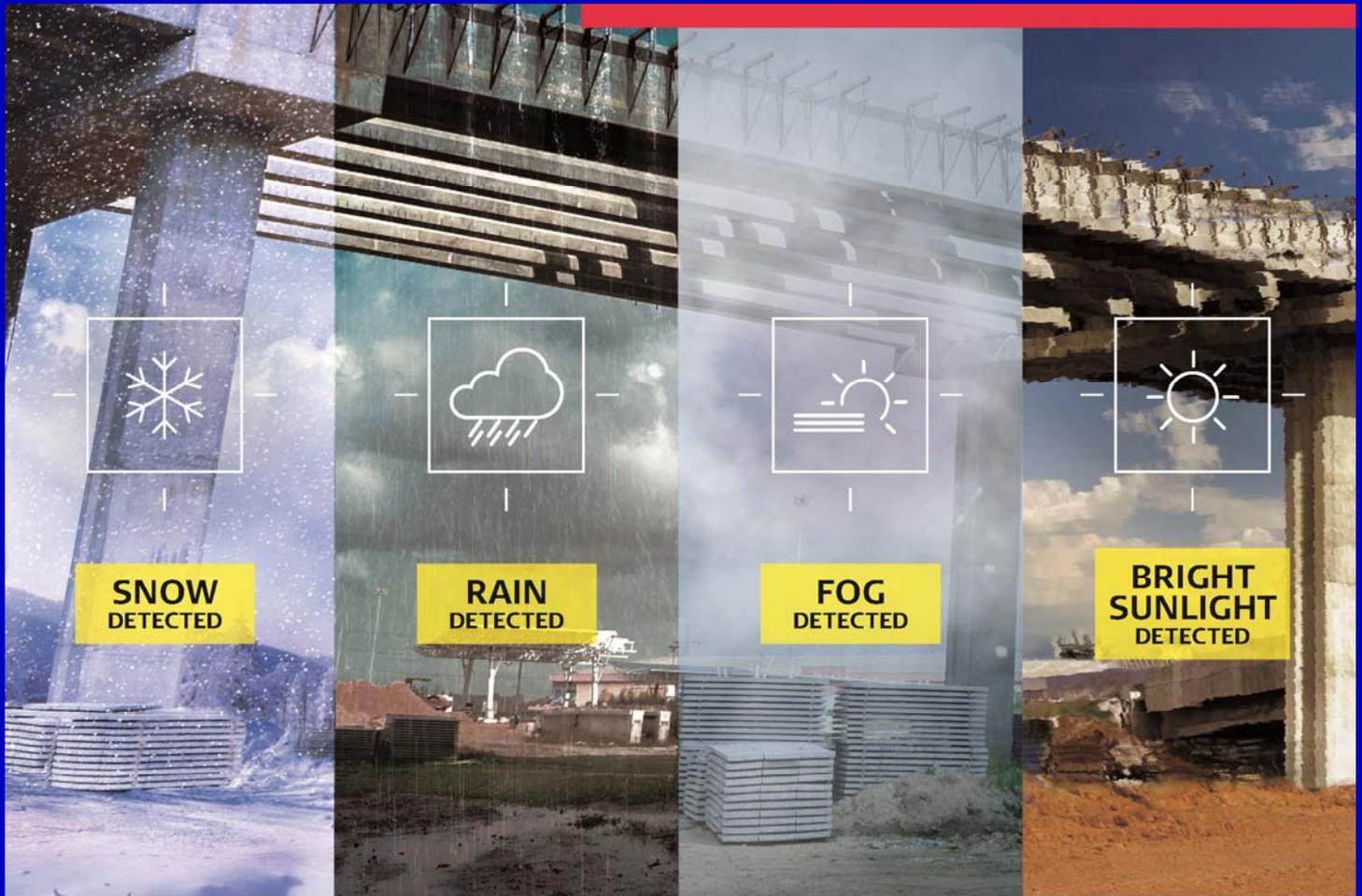
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## Professional Responsibility, *cont.* from [page 5](#)

### **Ric Moore, PLS, Board Executive Officer and licensed land surveyor**

Have you ever come across a licensed land surveyor who was reluctant to share their opinion on something surveying-related? Chances are if you asked this question to a group comprised of 100 licensed land surveyors, they would all laugh in unison, respond with a resounding “no,” and then provide 108 different opinions. My response would be “Yes, on a daily basis!” In my experiences working at the Board, I interact with those individuals authorized to perform/provide land surveying services (both licensed land surveyors and civil engineers licensed prior to 1982) who not only are reluctant to provide their professional opinion related to a survey they were in responsible charge of, but also spend a great deal of effort to argue otherwise. The epitome of irony. Whenever the opportunity arises when speaking with a group of land surveyors, I always ask:

- Who else has the legal authority to tell property owners where the limits of their property ownership is located?
- Who else has the legal authority to place a marker in the ground visibly telling owners on all sides of that marker where the dividing line is between their respective boundaries?
- Who else has the legal authority to express their professional opinion on a Record of Survey or Corner Record filed publically for all to see?

The answer to each question is “No one else.” Yet, many land surveyors either fail to or do not wish to recognize that by writing and enacting the laws they did, the Legislature essentially provided licensed land surveyors with the responsibility to express their own individual professional opinion on where to set monuments, to file a map documenting that opinion, and to represent to the public that their opinion can be considered reliable. (I do recognize, however, that some will argue that property owners can establish boundaries or that a court can establish boundaries—both of which are intricate aspects of law that goes beyond the topic of licensing and protecting the public.) Why some licensed land surveyors fail to or choose not to recognize and embrace these professional responsibilities that are solely granted to each one of them is an answer that may only be resolved by the same group that holds those responsibilities.

### **Laurie Racca, P.G., and Board Staff Senior Registrar for Geology and Geophysics**

My concept of professional responsibility has been shaped by three interrelated concepts: scientific integrity, open communication, and service—both to customers and community. A former boss of mine was fond of saying “It’s not WHO is right, but WHAT is right.” I’ve always understood that to mean that I should check my ego at the door and base my decisions on the data available to me. In my career, I have strived to listen to both concurring and dissenting viewpoints, and endeavored to offer clear explanations (backed by evidence) to support my professional opinions and decisions. I’ve always believed that customer service is integral to professional responsibility. As professionals, people come to us to help them solve a problem, advance their goals, or research an issue. Professional responsibility means clearly and concisely communicating what you did for that person and why, in a transparent and understandable manner. It doesn’t matter whether the “customer” is a paying client, a member of the public, or a colleague. My goal is to provide value to the interaction. In the context of professional responsibility, community service means that I actively seek opportunities to improve my professional and interpersonal skills. Doing so allows me to pass on what I have learned by mentoring younger geologists and encouraging personal growth in others.

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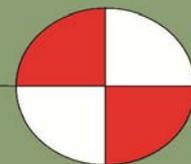
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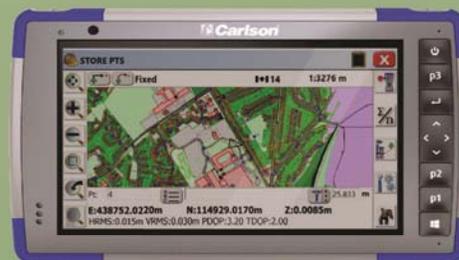
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California Land Surveyors Association Education Foundation would like to thank Bryant Sturgess for generously donating his collection of historic images.

The proceeds from the photos sold on this website will be used to fund scholarships for land surveying students.

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