

DRAFT

SOUTH CENTRAL CHAPTER PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 24, 2009

Coakley's, New Cumberland, PA.

ATTENDANCE

Honored Guest:

Richard L. Phillips (2009 PSLs President)

Chapter Officers Present:

David Anderson (President)
Ron Garis (Vice President)
Brad Foltz (Treasurer, State Director)
Tom Farcht (State Director)
Ruth Sitler (Secretary)

Others Present:

Clark Craumer
Paul Brinkman
Bill Davis
Michael Guise
Mikel Guise
Michael Kreiger
Ed McKay
Kenneth Scott
Greg Sorce
Steve Watkins
Zane Williams

Call to Order:

President David Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, at Coakley's in New Cumberland, PA. PSLs President Rick Phillips and Harrisburg Chapter member Mike Kreiger were welcomed.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March 25, 2009, were reviewed and unanimously approved.
Minutes from May 27, 2009, were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brad Foltz

Mr. Foltz provided a review of the Chapter's financial status and activity.

State Directors' Report: Brad Foltz

Mr. Foltz reported that there was no new information.

Other Old Business

It was suggested last year that the Chapter contact York County Recorder of Deeds and/or the York County Archives regarding the scanning of railroad plans, maps and unrecorded plans to CD. The Chapter could hire Print-O-Stat to do the work and sell the CDs to recoup expenses. A volunteer is needed to spearhead this effort. More details will be available after the June 30 meeting with the York County Recorder of Deeds.

The Chapter has discussed hosting a FEMA seminar with Wendy Lathrop as speaker. A preference for a 4-hour seminar was stated, as was a willingness by a few interested persons to pay up to \$75 to attend. It was suggested that the seminar might cover FEMA's e-LOMA process. It was noted that a FEMA representative recently presented information on elevation certificates and LOMRs to the Delaware Chapter; Rick Phillips will provide contact information for the FEMA representative to the South Central Chapter. Dave Anderson and Brad Foltz will continue to investigate this opportunity and will seek guidance from PSLS Education Committee Chair, John Fuehrer.

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteers Needed

The following requests for volunteers may be fulfilled by any licensed PLS. If any South Central Chapter member chooses to volunteer for any of these positions, he is asked to notify Chapter President Dave Anderson in order to minimize duplicate efforts.

Volunteers are being sought for the PSLS Speakers Bureau. Interested members should contact PSLS Public Relations Committee Chair, Bob Garlitz.

Volunteers are also needed for the PSLS Mentoring Program. Interested members may contact PSLS Exam Subcommittee Chair, Daniel Martone.

Boy Scouts of America is seeking representatives in each County to contact local Scout Councils regarding the requirements for the Boy Scout Surveying Merit Badge Program; instructors are also needed.

The Trig Star program needs sponsors. Interested members should contact their local high school mathematics department.

Other New Business

A meeting at the York County Recorder of Deeds office will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2009, to discuss accessing PENNDOT Right-of-Way plans.

Chapter President Dave Anderson thanked the members in attendance for their continued participation in Chapter events and activities.

Speaker

The evening's speaker was 2009 PSLS President Richard L. Phillips. Chapter President Dave Anderson offered a brief introduction praising Mr. Phillips' active participation in ACSM and PSLS, as well as noting his company's dedication to quality; ASH Associates' website states that "all services are conducted directly by a Pennsylvania Registered Professional Land Surveyor, not just under the supervision of one." Mr. Anderson then turned the floor over to Mr. Phillips.

Mr. Phillips began by thanking the Chapter for inviting him to the June meeting. He stated that one of his goals as PSLS President to visit each chapter and has only two remaining. The purpose of these visits, he said, is to spend time with each chapter and region in their own environments to get a better sense of Chapter involvement.

He continued by providing a summary of the current PSLS budget, pointing out that the Board of Directors worked together to develop a fair and balanced budget for the next year. Budget items and strategic planning topics discussed are summarized below.

Dues:

- Dues are currently set at \$165. A raise to \$175 was established three years ago, however, a raise to \$190 is necessary to meet budget goals. Understanding that difficult economic times may result in a loss of members if dues are raised, the decision was made to allow members to pay only \$175 if payment is made within 30-days of receipt of renewal invoices. If payment cannot be made within 30-

days of invoicing, dues will cost \$190 and an option will be provided to allow for payment through two installments.

Board of Directors Meetings:

- The costs associated with Board of Directors' meetings will decrease in response to a Board vote to contribute \$7.00 per member toward the cost of the luncheon.

Surveyors Conference:

- The profit goal for the 2010 Surveyors Conference is set at \$20,000. Any profit above this will be divided up between Chapters in lieu of a Chapter rebate. A profit of \$23,000 is anticipated for the 2010 conference.
- The 2010 Surveyors Conference will be conducted in a manner intended to save on costs compared to previous years. The Past Presidents breakfast and speakers luncheon will not be offered in January, and attendees will not receive bags. Additionally, vendors are being asked to sponsor portions of the conference.
- The 2010 Surveyors Conference will begin on Sunday night with a meeting of the whole, set to encourage general member involvement. This will set the stage for conference courses, reduced in number of offerings from ten to seven, to start at 8:30am on Monday morning.
- The Exhibitors Hall during the 2010 Surveyors Conference will be open from Monday morning through Tuesday evening only. This will be followed by the annual auction/raffle dinner. The dinner will not have a hired entertainer and the auction/raffle will be held in a different format.
- A mock trial is tentatively scheduled for the 2010 Surveyors Conference.
- Scheduled Keynote Speakers include Donald Wilson (2010) and Jeff Lucas (2011).
- Conference costs incurred by PSLs are related to the number of people staying at the lodge and registering for conference meals. The greater the number of people staying and eating at the lodge, the lower the cost to PSLs.

Design Center:

- Costs associated with the Design Center are currently non-negotiable.
- Design Center costs are shared equally between PSLs and ACEC.
- Detailed accounting requests for Design Center involvement in Conference planning activities will be made.

Field Personnel Seminar:

- October 16, 2009 (Location To Be Determined)
- Presenters include:
 - ✓ TDS survey products (whole day)
 - ✓ Carlson Data Collection (morning)
 - ✓ Carlson SurvCAD (afternoon)
 - ✓ AutoCAD (whole day)
 - ✓ Attendees are encouraged to bring their data collectors along with any specific questions. Watch for details later this year!!

Education Committee:

- The Education Committee is considering conducting local/regionalized training events to assist professionals with meeting continuing education requirements.
- The Education Committee will assist Chapters that wish to hold seminars with publications and other items.
- Continuing Education credit tracking is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2010.

Mr. Phillips then took questions and addressed comments from members present. The following is a summary of the comments made and questions raised during the open discussion period.

1. Greg Sorce asked what the benefits of PSLs membership are to professionals in light of an apparent lack of action by PSLs to preserve, then regain, control of GPS, GIS and other practices. Mr. Phillips responded by saying that there is no one willing to 'take the bull by the horns' and fight for those actions.
2. Bill Davis cited several incidents of non-enforcement of monument destruction laws. When reported to both Andrew Hilt and the State Police, no action was

- taken. Mr. Phillips responded that there has been at least one case of conviction due to monument destruction.
3. Several members stated frustrations due to wage imbalance and a lack of control over practices.
 4. Several members expressed concerns that the profession might be dead already due to a lack of interest from young people compounded with recent layoffs and licensed professionals seeking out new occupations.
 5. Mr. Phillips was sympathetic toward members' concerns and said he is and will continue to work with members and legislators to achieve the necessary goals. He went on to say that PSLS needs to continue working toward the future after the current leaders' term. He also stated that PSLS needs volunteers to do research to get something in writing to the Board of Directors and to take issues to the State Board of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Land Surveyors.
 6. Mr. Phillips asked what the South Central Chapter's legislative priorities were. Bill Davis responded by saying that priorities included whatever it takes to preserve the profession and referred to a list of priorities that has not changed since the 1970s.
 7. Ruth Sitler asked what specifically needed to be done by members and volunteers to push legislative priorities. Mr. Phillips stated that volunteers need to do research and preliminary legwork and then to present findings to the proper committees, as well as work with PSLS leaders and serve as the voice of members.
 8. Greg Sorce asked what membership dues were paying for if PSLS was incapable of lobbying on behalf and acting as the voice of member professionals.
 9. Brad Foltz stated that the South Central Chapter needs to choose one legislative priority per year to promote and present.
 10. Greg Sorce voiced frustrations surrounding the "Good Old Boys" actions in the past and dissatisfaction with deliverables from the Design Center. Mr. Phillips responded by saying that he is cognizant of the society's "Good Old Boys" image and confidence in future leaders as new people with new ideas. Mr. Phillips went on to say that the Design Center was hired because no one would volunteer to do work for PSLS at their headquarters. Currently the Design Center staff work to maintain the website, publish and send mailings, coordinate the planning and manning of the annual Surveyors Conference and facilitate Education Committee meetings, which occur once per month for one full day each month from March to December.
 11. Mr. Phillips stated that keeping PSLS alive is hard, but he is working hard to change that.
 12. Several members inquired about the status of legislation requiring property surveys for all real estate sales. Mr. Phillips responded by stating that the only way to get certain laws, such as these, passed is if it is initiated by others outside the profession.
 13. Tom Farcht commented that Andrew Hilt's past responses during an earlier meeting with the South Central Chapter relative to proposed legislative concerns tended to point out the negatives to be overcome which seemed to discourage any actions for fear of rejection. Mr. Farcht continued by expressing a need to reiterate to Design Center staff that the South Central members are in strongly in favor of pro-active legislation to preserve the surveying profession. Mr. Phillips responded by saying that Andy Hilt was recently evaluated by PSLS and ACEC. It was an opportunity for PSLS to express concerns and give direction to Andy. There was a very positive response from Andy. One of the products of the discussions was monthly reports from Andy on his activities.
 14. Tom Farcht stated that when the continued education requirements are instituted with subsequent increase in conference profits, the Design Center may be able to hire a retired PLS to do research on Andrew Hilt's behalf on a part time basis from training profits alone.
 15. Bill Davis cited an incident wherein multiple requests for clarification of discrepancies between the Uniform Condominium Act and the PA Municipalities Code that were sent to Andrew Hilt over the course of a year went unanswered.

16. Brad Foltz reiterated his statement that the Chapter needs to choose one legislative action each year to promote because it is senseless to diversify efforts and expect results. Tom Farcht supported this statement and suggested that the membership be polled every 3 – 5 years to reevaluate priorities.
17. Tom Farcht conducted an informal poll of those present that resulted in unanimous favor of hiring a PLS on a part time basis to do the legwork necessary to support achievement of legislative goals.

Mr. Phillips closed by expressing his appreciation for member participation and his dedication to accountability and transparency during his term as President. He also thanked everyone for their continued prayer and support during his daughter's battle with cancer.

ADJOURNMENT

The June 24, 2009, general membership meeting of the South Central Chapter of PSLS was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth A. Sitler, Chapter Secretary