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You could grow up to be President!

Sounds like a recruiting campaign? You bet! It's that time of year when we need to decide who's going to run our chapter next year. All we need is five surveyors with a can-do attitude. And only one of those five is required to be licensed. The rest just need to be members of our chapter.

I know what you're thinking. "Someone else can do a better job than I can." "I'm too busy." "There's plenty of people available to do it." Well let me tell you something. If we took that kind of approach to our work, we'd probably find ourselves unemployed. And if we continue to treat our CLSA chapter that way, there won't

be one.

On a more positive note, let me tell you why I became an officer. Prior to becoming a surveyor, I spent nearly 15 years in a career I didn't like. Getting into surveying

We're Looking For A Few Good Surveyors!

brought me enjoyment in my work, a sense of accomplishment on a daily basis, and within 4 years, more than doubled what I was making in my previous career. I feel that my family and I have benefited greatly from this profession. I wanted to give something back. So

when Jed DeGraff asked me if I would be willing to serve as chapter secretary, I said yes. The following year I became vice-president, and now I'm the chapter president.

Now, after serving three years as an officer, life's journey has taken me out of the Sacramento chapter's geographical area. However, next year I will still be a member of the chapter executive board as the Immediate Past President. That provision in our by-laws helps provide continuity in the event that all the officers are newly elected. Likewise, the provision that our state CLSA board reps are elected to a 2-year term also gives continuity. (We are currently

Continued page 5



August Meeting

On August 16th, come picnic with our neighboring chapters,
President Jim Herrick
and
CLSA President-elect, Matt Vernon!

Details on page 3!

Fall at SCC

The new schedules for Sacramento City College for the Fall Semester is available on the web.

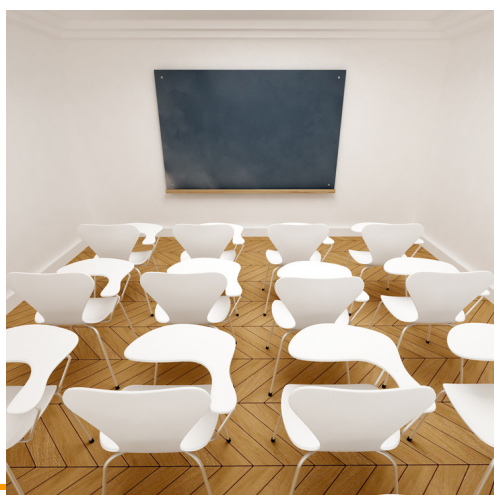
[Elementary Surveying](#)

[Survey Map Production](#)

[Advanced Surveying](#)

[Boundary Control and Legal Principles](#)

http://www.losrios.edu/class_schedules_reader.php?loc=scf/fall/Surveying-SURVY.htm

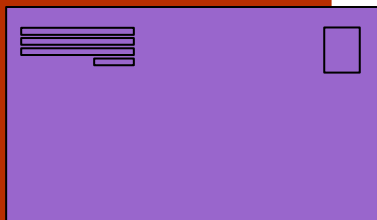


The envelope, please!

This is it. The envelopes are arriving to those who were in attendance at the April LS exam. I dare say these envelopes are opened with as much anticipation as the celebrated ones. Our red carpet event will also have joy jumping,

stunned speechless moments of silence, and professions of faith. Some will grab the prize after a number of tries and some will grab it on the first go around. Loved ones who supported us in the lean study days will be

happy and let's face it, a bit surprised. The event will be followed by food and drink, After the last one is opened, thoughts will immediately turn to the next round.



See page 6 for the list of new LS from our prep class!

CLSA
NORTHERN COUNTIES CHAPTER
BBQ PICNIC

COME SPEND AN AFTERNOON WITH US AND
SPECIAL GUEST PRESIDENT-ELECT MATT VERNON
AT THE
HAMMON GROVE PARK

APPROXIMATELY 12 MILES EAST OF MARYSVILLE ON STATE HIGHWAY 20, 1 MILE
EAST OF MARYSVILLE ROAD AT BROWNS VALLEY ON THE SOUTHEAST SIDE OF
THE DRY CREEK BRIDGE

AND ENJOY
A BBQ STEAK OR CHICKEN LUNCH

AUGUST 16, 2008, FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

NON-CHAPTER MEMBER COST \$10.00 PER PERSON

BRING A SIDE DISH OR A DESSERT
AND YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE AND LAWN CHAIRS

ICE COLD SOFT DRINKS AND WATER WILL BE PROVIDED

FRISBEE GOLF COURSE - HORSESHOES-HIKING-FELLOWSHIP

GUESTS AND FAMILIES ARE WELCOME

PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY 6:00 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

LET ME KNOW IF YOU WANT STEAK OR CHICKEN
AND HOW MANY PLAN ON COMING

E-MAIL ME AT GTLIP@AOL.COM OR GLIPPINCOTT@CO.YUBA.CA.US
OR MAIL GARY LIPPINCOTT
1652 YOUNG AVENUE, PARADISE, CA 95969
PH. 530-877-3567 (After 2:00 p.m.)

Applications Accepted by Bill Telling



CLSA is now offering the opportunity to voluntarily participate in a continuing education program. The initial cost for participation is \$50.00 for State members or \$125.00 for non-members for the first two years, and \$25.00 biannually, after that.

In addition, the Central Office is placing the form on their website so that you can track your hours as you earn them, and submit them electronically.

The required hours for participation are 15 professional development hours (PDH) per annum, and they are easier to get than you might think!

Attend a Chapter meeting with a guest speaker: 1 hour presentation=1 PDH

Attend a seminar put on by a Chapter or Central Office: 7 hour seminar=7 PDH's

Participation as an Officer in your local Chapter: 2 PDH's per year

Attend a college course: 84 lecture hours=84 PDH's

And, if you have more than the required 30 hours in a 2-year period, you can carry over up to 15 hours to the next biannual period!

(Please check with the CLSA Voluntary Professional Development Program guidelines on the CLSA website for complete qualifying hours and the application)

Advantages of participating in this program include:

1. By submitting an application, and upon satisfactory review, each participant shall receive a plaque recognizing the participation in the program with the immediate 2 years of participation listed
2. Upon renewal, each participant receives a certificate for the most recent 2 years and a tag of those 2 years to replace the old years on the original plaque.
3. Upon request, the Central Office will issue to the participant a digital logo that can be used on business cards, websites, letterhead, etc.
4. You are showing to the public that you are continuing to educate yourself in the profession in which you practice.
5. You are showing the State Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors that there is no need to implement MANDATORY continuing education requirements for license renewal, as is the case in some states, as you are doing so voluntarily.
6. You achieve the pride in knowing that you are continuing to pursue additional knowledge and skills in the profession in which you work!!

Be not afraid of greatness: some men are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them.

William Shakespeare,
'Twelfth Night'

The CLSA Voluntary Professional Development Program is now accepting applications!

<http://www.californiasurveyors.org/files/CLSA%20PDP.pdf>



President's Word In by Paul Tonn

I am excited about attending this year's joint chapter picnic, hosted

by the North Counties Chapter, at Hammon Grove Park. Although I would have liked to attend the last 2 years, scheduling conflicts prevented it. But this year, I've blocked out the day, and I am planning to be there with my whole family. I am looking forward to tasting Gary Lippincott's cooking, meeting president-elect Matt Vernon, playing games, and enjoying fellowship with

surveyors and our families in the great outdoors.

During the picnic, I will be conducting a brief Sacramento chapter business meeting for the purpose of nominating officers for 2009. The nominating committee will present their nominations, and then the members will have the opportunity to

nominate additional candidates. The elections will be held at our September meeting.

So come on out to the park, enjoy a great time, and help determine who will lead our chapter next year!

Paul Tonn, CLSA Sacramento chapter President, is a Transportation Surveyor with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and a Land-Surveyor-in-Training. When he's not surveying, he keeps busy as a husband and a father of 7 children.



Chapter Officers... continued from page 1

qualified for two reps, but only one term is expiring this year.)

Okay, so now you're wondering, "What do the officers actually do, anyway?" Well, the official answer to that is found in our chapter by-laws. But here is my version, based on experience:

President - determines the agenda for the business portion of each meeting; presides over the chapter meetings; functions as the leader for the executive board; serves as a point of contact for information about the chapter and its activities (all of the positions do that last one)

Vice-President - arranges the location

and speaker or special event for each meeting; fills in for the president if the president isn't available

Treasurer - handles the finances for the chapter

Secretary - maintains the chapter's records; takes the minutes at chapter meetings; coordinates with the Focal Point editor to disseminate information (the Focal Point editor is not an officer position; however, the current editor is also serving as the chapter secretary; the previous editor served in several officer positions over the years as well)

State CLSA board representative - attend the quarterly meetings of the state board; convey information between the chapter and the board

ALL POSITIONS - vote on chapter business; carry out chapter business between meetings; give direction to the chapter as a whole

So as I give a fourth year of service to our chapter and continue to give back to our profession, who will step forward and join me? If you're interested in serving, please contact our nominating committee, Oscar Jarquin and Rob McMillan, prior to the August 16th meeting. Or if you miss that deadline, show up at the September meeting and nominate yourself prior to the election.

And please, everyone come out in September and vote for our 2009 officers!

New LS...



LASKER THEODORE HARRIS	8420
RECIO FAITH BARBARA	8424
MELLO DAVID SAMUEL	8439
REMINGTON DANA JOHN	8448
GREGORY DANNY ALLEN	8454
MALLEN JOHN STEPHEN	8457
JUCHAU JAMES MICHAEL	8473
MONSOUR RON EDWARD	8474
KOEPKE JAMES AARON	8487
PACE JACOB CHARLES	8492
BUSH KEITH STEVEN	8494
MORROW MATTHEW DAVID	8501
BARNUM BRADEN DAVID	8507
HARRIS THOMAS ELLIS	8532
GASSER JASON E A	8536
DAVIS GERALD THEOPHIL	8545

**ALL 16
FROM OUR
CHAPTER
PREP
CLASS!**



Exam Stats...from Rob McMillan

Colleagues,

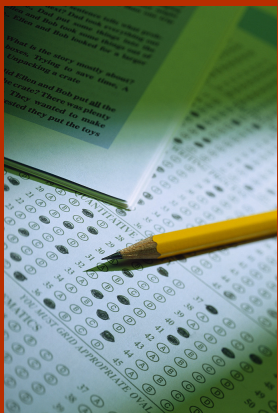
Please let your interested staff know that BPELS has adopted the cut-score of 221 out of 400 (55%) for the April 2008 California State specific PLS exam, and approved the results. This cut-score is a slightly higher passing score than previous years. Statistics are as follows: the number of candidates was 463, the number passing the California State specific PLS exam was 148, and the percentage passing was 32%. The number of candidates, the number passing and percent passing are slightly lower than the April 2007 exam's 519, 179, and 34.5%, but the April 2008 figures are still

considerably higher than the rest of the last decade.

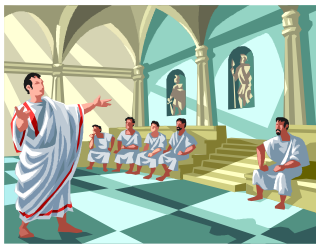
This high passing rate can again be attributed to several factors, including the numerous Caltrans/CLSA prep classes, the CLSA PLS Exam Guide, and an exam that according to candidates was more clearly worded and straightforward than some previous exams. A word of thanks should go out to all involved in LS Review classes, the CLSA Exam Guide, and BPELS Exam Development activities.

The anticipated mailing date for all exams is August 4, 2008. The result letters are mailed to the candidates at their addresses of record. If you

have changed your address of record since the examination and you have not yet notified the Board directly, you need to complete an Address Change Affidavit and fax it to the Board at (916) 263-2246. Submitting a change of address or forwarding request to the U.S. Postal Service is not sufficient; you must notify the Board directly. Result letters are sent by U.S. Postal Service. We will not send out duplicate result letters until the dates listed below. Therefore, please do NOT contact the Board to request a duplicate result letter prior to the 10 day limit.



New Things...



Do you like to try new and different foods? I do. I always say, "I eat haggis. I will try any food at least once." Well, sometimes that adventuresome thinking spills over into doing new things as well. Thursday, July 31, 2008 was my first Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BPELS) meeting.

I had been watching this meeting because the Board was to approve the cut scores for the exam. Being a facilitator for our Sacramento Chapter LS review class, I was hoping that this year we might top San Diego's effort and have more of our students pass than theirs this year. (Considering their fine showing last year, that is a tall order. Friendly competition is a good thing especially when the exam is yielding such great

"lend me your ears"

results.) Anyway, several other items sounded interesting, so I took the morning off to attend.

I was not bored at the Board. I saw a new member (David Luzuriaga) sworn in. Tom Wilford (PLS 4342) commented on unlicensed activity in his area. I learned what "license by eminence" means and why it is not used by the Board.

I got to see our own Pat Tami become the President of the Board. (Yeah!) I learned that a licensee must sign contracts, even though other corporate officers may need to sign as well. I learned about funding and the Board loaning funds to the General Fund. (Our activities are not cheap!)

The Staff Land Surveyor position is being reviewed by DCA and should start to move after the budget is signed. A Local Officials' Guide to Board Rules and Regulation is forthcoming. NCEES taking

over the administration of the exam could save us money by removing the need for the Board to a reserve fund in case an exam is lost during testing.

I learned the Board is very busy watching out for us. Proposed legislation is being watched, supported and opposed. (Did you know our Board is one of the few who approve test cut scores? Others have delegated that responsibility to staff. Check out SB1780.)

Board members observe ABET reviews of colleges and the annual NCEES meeting to look out for us, our fellow taxpayers, and our future Land Surveyors and Engineers.

Some exemptions to the Governors executive order were required to continue with testing in October and to keep contracts going (like the one for Ric Moore, PLS).

FINALLY, the cut scores were announced! (You can check them out on the board website!) http://www.pels.ca.gov/applicants/exam_statistics.shtml

**Pat Tami is
the new
BPELS
President!**

Mark Your Calendar!
CLSA Conference 2009
March 28 - April 1, 2009
Hilton San Diego Resort (Mission Bay)
San Diego, CA

CLSA SACRAMENTO - 2008 CHAPTER OFFICERS

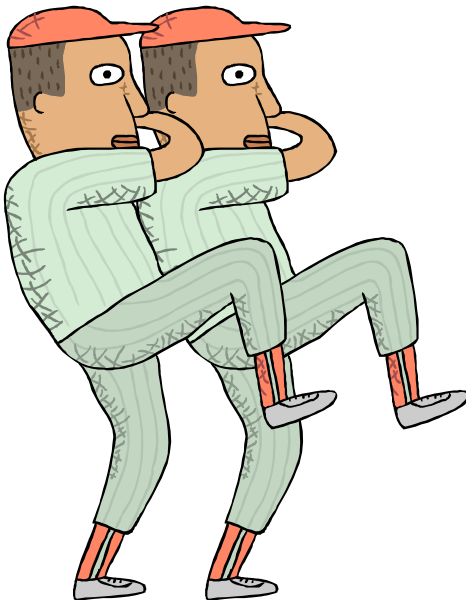
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The FOCAL POINT is a publication of the Sacramento Area Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association and is pleased to publish letters from land surveyors and other interested persons on subject matter relevant to the land surveying profession. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Views expressed are the opinions of the individual writers and are not necessarily those of CLSA, the Chapter, or the editor. FOCAL POINT accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information given. Letters may be edited and published in any format. All letters submitted become the property of the Focal Point. Due to space restrictions, FOCAL POINT reserves the right to hold letters for publication at a later date.

sac-surveyors.org



Baseball, Hot Dogs and Ice Cream

What could be better than an fine summer evening lounging at the ball park with the greatest surveying minds of the greater Sacramento Area? How about watching our River Cats come back to tie the game up and then to only to lose by one run in the 9th. An exciting game of ups and downs.

Our star for the evening had to be the pitcher for the River Cats. In a game that could not be called until the last, he hit 5, yes, I said 5, batters in one evening. A rare feat indeed!

Thanks to those who shared the evening and the roasted peanuts with us. An extra big thanks to Nick and Jeremy for pulling off the always difficult ticket sales!