

Focal Point

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



November 2024

The next Chapter meeting will be held at Logan's Roadhouse in North Natomas on November 7!

Come join us to meet CLSA President-Elect Joe Padilla, PLS of Johnson-Frank & Associates, Inc. and hear CLSA's goals for 2025 and beyond!

President's Message

Annette Hovorka, PLS

2024 Sacramento Chapter President

Embracing Gratitude in a Fulfilling Career

This time of year, we are reminded to take a moment to reflect on those things that we can be grateful for. Gratitude is a powerful practice that can transform our outlook on life, especially when we acknowledge the blessings in our careers, finances, and the opportunity to give back.

For those in our profession, there's much to appreciate. It's a profession that allows us to take advantage of our education and talents but also has a significant impact on the community, influencing everything from infrastructure to environmental preservation.

For me, the most fulfilling aspect is the ability to share our good fortune with others. Whether it's through acts that assist others, supporting family and friends, or contributing to charitable causes, giving back enriches our lives in ways that salary alone cannot. Sharing strengthens our connections with others and brings a deeper sense of purpose.


Of course, we should take a moment to be grateful for our association. To me, the time we can spend together in the discussion of shared issues and experiences is something I really look forward to. Our meetings also allow us easy to contribute to education and other related causes. As your president, I hope that I create an environment where you can feel these things as well.

(Continued on page 3)

The **Focal Point** newsletter is a publication of the Sacramento Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association. Check us out at <https://www.sacramento-clsa.org>

Who's Who in the Sacramento Chapter for 2024:

Annette Hovorka PLS	President
Currently Vacant	Vice President
Andrew Tapley PLS	Secretary
Laird Nelson LSIT	Treasurer
Cameron Clark PLS	Board of Directors Representative
Andrew Tapley PLS	Board of Directors Rep. <i>Alternate</i>
Sherry Toutges PLS	State TrigStar Coordinator
Carl C.de Baca PLS	Editor Focal Point



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- Business 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 alidade.nv@sbcglobal.net

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President's Message

Continued from page 1

Our profession allows many opportunities to express gratitude through fulfilling career, financial stability, and the ability to make a difference. I hope that you take advantage of the chance to embrace gratefulness as an empowering mindset. Take a moment to remember that success isn't just about what we achieve but also about how we use those elements, both financial and interpersonal, that uplift and enhance to lives of others. As we expand our thankfulness and sharing throughout the year, we find a richer, more meaningful way to live.

Annette Hovorka, PLS
2024 Sacramento Chapter President

Editor's Message

This month we have guest rant, a new committee announcement, an announcement of new survey law taking effect on January 1, Some discussion of the new datum and the federal government's intent therewith, a brief discussion of a new no-cost survey program for victims of the Lahaina wildfire, and "Save the Date" information on our Holiday Party, the spring 2025 CLSA/NALS Conference and in case you find yourself tired of the long wet winter, the spring 2025 Hawaii Survey Conference.

Happy reading!



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Sacramento Chapter, CLSA

Minutes for meeting of October 3, 2024

The meeting of October 3rd, 2024 was held at Logans Roadhouse in Natomas and called to order by President Annette Hovorka at 6:00 PM.

Going around the table, the following people made self-introductions:

Annette Hovorka, Constance Herrick, Kevin Akin, Dan Beever, Andriy Buchko, Curt Burfield, Carl C. de Baca, Eric and Ann Vance, Birk Ellis, Madison Gruginski, Brian Gilooly, Marti Ikehara, Bob McKenzie, Laird Nelson, Russ Smith, Morgan Thalken and Jill Van Houten.

President's Report (Annette Hovorka):

1. Still working on a speaker and location for the November meeting.
2. Still working on a location and date for our annual Holiday Meeting.

Vice President's (Acting) Report (Annette Hovorka): No Report

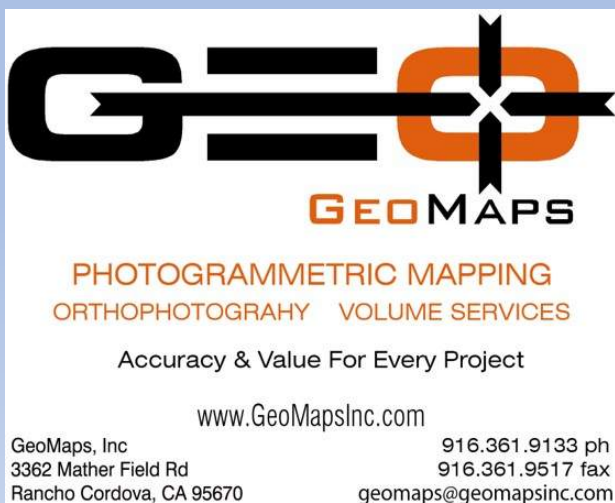
Treasurer's Report (Laird Nelson):

1. Invoices were sent out for Focal Point advertisers and sponsors, payments are starting to come in.
2. We currently have \$9635.02 in our account. \$3000 of that will go to our scholarship commitment, as voted on last month.

Focal Point Editor's Report (Carl C.de Baca):

1. The Focal Point extended an offer of a free page to use however they saw fit, to the three vendors who came to support the chapter for Vendors Night. Only one of the three took us up on the offer. But thanks again to Leica, Javad and CSDS for helping make Vendors Night a success!
2. The editor is now coauthoring with Mike Quartaroli a recurring column on Wildfire and Monument Preservation in the NSPS News and Views.
3. The editor noticed in a review of the most recent Nevada Traverse that NALS is planning on hosting a FEMA workshop in October, 2024. (*Workshop was cancelled due to scheduling*)

(Continued on page 5)




The Sacramento Chapter of CLSA thanks our sustaining members


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October Meeting Minutes (continued from page 4)

New Business

1. Morgan Thalken offered a motion to create an ad-hoc Continuing Education Committee in order to emulate NALS and host workshops by FEMA, NGS and others. The motion was seconded by Carl C.de Baca. Discussion included the fact that Dana Caccamise, California's NGS Advisor has a travel budget and could potentially come speak to us. The committee could be charged with contacting with the surrounding chapters, securing a date and a large room to host such an event. They can reach out to NALS and ask for the contact at FEMA, as well. Two or more of these events a year is an achievable. The motion passed unanimously and Morgan was appointed chair of the new committee.

After informal conversation while dinner was served, the chapter was privileged to see an enlightening presentation on Surveying in Alaska by Kevin Akin. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

We have wildfires in California. We have avalanches, mudslides, seasonal flooding, and outright collapse of segments of Highway 1. But even with all these natural disasters, we rarely if ever reach the level of devastation being experienced by people in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, this year. These people have been hit by a barrage of tropical storms and hurricanes that have destroyed whole towns, killed dozens of people and displaced hundreds of thousands, if not millions more. They need our help. Please consider donating to the NSPS Disaster Relief Fund. The funds go to surveyors and their families as they try to sustain their businesses and rebuild their lives.



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Thank you in advance for your support of the Foundation and your fellow surveyors.

**<https://www.nsps.us.com/page/DisasterRelief>
Questions? Email us - info@nsps.us.com**

New Law Going into Effect

Just a reminder, 8771.6 the new monument rehabilitation law, goes into effect on January 1. If you don't recall the particulars of this new section of the LS Act, it says:

8771.6

In every case where a monument or corner accessory is found with a physical condition that is less than permanent and durable, the licensed land surveyor or registered civil engineer using that monument or corner accessory as control in any survey shall reconstruct or rehabilitate the monument or corner, so that the same shall be left by them in such physical condition that it remains as permanent a monument or corner accessory as is reasonably possible and so that the same may be reasonably expected to be located with facility at all times in the future.

The CLSA Monument Preservation Committee is currently working on a guide to be entitled "Suggestions for Satisfying New Requirements under 8771.6". A draft of this guide is available by contacting the chair of that committee, Mikey Mueller.

If you wouldn't mind some editorial input here, I'd just point out that if you don't have any questions about the intent or extent of this new regulation, then you aren't reading it closely enough. If you accept a monument during a survey you are performing, and that monument is in marginal or bad physical condition, then you are responsible for rehabilitating it, with all that implies. It's a noble piece of law created with nothing but the best of intentions, but we'll see how map checkers, up and down the state interpret the language. It could be weaponized and might end up generating a few arguments between surveyors in the coming year.

This kind of change to the law, created by, or sponsored by the organization that represents us Surveyors, doesn't happen in a vacuum and should have been debated at the chapter level before being finalized, but in this case it seems to have sailed through to legislation without much mention, at least in our chapter. But now that it is a done deal, perhaps we should make a point of discussing, what it says and what it means, at a chapter meeting. And, we should reach out to the local County Surveyors to see how they intend to deal with it, don't you think?

-ED.



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FEDERAL REGISTER

The Daily Journal of the United States Government



A Notice by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on 10/09/2024

AGENCY:

National Geodetic Survey (NGS), National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION:

Notice of upcoming changes.

SUMMARY:

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) is in the process of modernizing the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). NGS plans to replace all three North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) frames and all vertical datums of the NSRS, including the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88), with four new terrestrial reference frames and one new geopotential datum to which all geodetic coordinates and derived coordinates within the NSRS will be referenced. NGS is releasing key details of the transition to the new datums in the modernized NSRS to help users and interested parties prepare for the coming change.

DATES:

The modernization of the NSRS is scheduled to occur in 2025 or 2026. NGS intends to release associated tools and services within five years of the modernization.

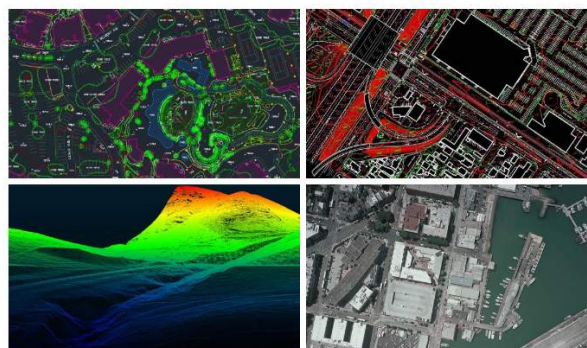
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The Rant Zone

By S.N. Founde

Fighting Occam's razor

Also known as interpretation or as often as not misinterpretation. Occam's razor is the philosophical principal that has come to be understood as "The simplest explanation is the best one". I am certain there are a few of you out there that will have a long convoluted explanation of what William of Ockham really meant. It seems that many interpretations of what seem to be simple statutes require many steps of logic (or illogic?) to arrive at the desired conclusion. A guide, as in a logical proof, where the steps are enumerated to take the reader to the conclusion. In my experience one of steps inevitably states that $2+2=3$ or 5 or 6 or 8 or 9-anything but Sue. I once received the "interpretation" (quotes are quite intentional) of a code that was three paragraphs long and involved an elucidation to the intent of the original version of the code dating back over 100 years must mean something contrary to what the current version explicitly states. Something along the lines of and seemingly as simple as "the document must be signed in blue or black ink", and then anything other than black fountain pen is rejected. Here is an excerpt of an actual exchange: *Well you see in 1778 when the original statute was written, all they had was black ink in wells with feather quill pens and so it's quite clear that that a fountain pen and black ink is the evolution of the tool that the statute intended. Therefore, my interpretation of the statute is that "blue or black ink" means "black fountain pen"*.



I suppose I at least should be grateful that I ever receive anything at all since many arguments are simply met with silence (agencies were ghosting long before Gen Z). Some of these interpretations are pretty mundane and don't make much of a difference either way, except for the wasted time to go through the process of discussing and revising whatever the subject of the action was. Some of the interpretations are much less so, costing time and money to everyone involved (except the interpreter of course) for little to no benefit at all (see the ink example and the first one of you to mention smudging gets a special hat).

Question for the room: If there is no statute or code, is something prohibited or allowed? I have seen that one both ways from the same agency. Perhaps we've been using the wrong word and it does not mean what we think it means. I suggest we replace interpretation with rationalization. At least then everyone will understand it's bullshit without any initial misconceptions. Can someone please explain this to me? On second thought, nevermind.

2025 CLSA/NALS CONFERENCE

MARCH 29 – APRIL 1, 2025

RENO, NV

SILVER LEGACY

**SAVE THE DATE!
MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON**

Introducing New Chapter Continuing Education Committee

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Morgan Thalken. I have spent the majority of my eighteen year career as a field surveyor with the union. Over the last six years I have made an effort to boost my knowledge of survey with a goal of career advancement and longevity. In an ever-changing and multi-faceted industry, I believe we all have certain voids that can be filled in our repertoire.

It was with this idea, and a little coaxing, that I brought forth the motion to begin a continuing education committee within our chapter. I have taken part in programs offered by other chapters as well as our associates in Nevada. I feel like we can and should offer the same to our chapter members. I feel like there is some solid interest in this idea, and Birk Ellis has already offered to join the committee. However, this shouldn't be an effort of a few. I welcome help and suggestions from all.

I have reached out to the Operating Engineers Local Union 3 to use their large meeting room as a venue for our events. Pending scheduling conflicts this should work out just fine. I also suggested OE3 advertise any events we hold to their survey apprentices, and any other union surveyor looking to advance.

This is the first time I have tackled anything of this nature. My goal for 2025 is to put together at least two of these events. I welcome all feedback and suggestions. If you have any ideas for speakers, or workshops please let me know at the next chapter meeting.

Free Lot Surveys in Lahaina (!!?)

According to the Island News, October 22, 2024 edition, a Lahaina Homeowner Recovery Program has been established, and with the help of a 3 million dollar grant from the Maui Strong Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation, the recovery program is offering no-cost lot surveys for any Lahaina homeowners who lived in their home before the wildfire devastated the town.

This is significant, (and tremendous!) for a variety of reasons but the one that sticks out for readers of this newsletter is that finally, Surveying has been recognized as a critical part of any rebuilding effort. While FEMA routinely provides money in the wake of disasters, they do not make money available, per se, for Surveying efforts, and no states, Hawaii and California included, have any policies or funds to make such an important gesture to the public.

Maybe this will serve as a wakeup call to NSPS and to our legislators that FEMA, when stepping in to assist with a disaster, should make funds explicitly available for the Surveys that everyone knows need to be completed before rebuilding can begin.

If you want to read about this wildly innovative program, go here:

[Lahaina Homeowner Recovery Program offers free lot surveys to homeowners affected by the fires | News | kitv.com](#)

Save the date!
See you there!

2025

2025 HLSA-HIGICC
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05 MAR 2025 (WED) - CONFERENCE
06 MAR 2025 (THU) - CONFERENCE
07 MAR 2025 (FRI) - WORKSHOP

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