

MISSISSIPPI SURVEYOR

December 2022



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS, INC

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patrick@martinosurveying.com

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Tim Brewer ,PS



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Email Change?

Don't Miss out on anything .Let Us Know.

MAPS only emails . We do not mail any longer .

There are two ways to let us know

- 1) Email to : maps4debra@bellsouth.net
- 2) drop us a note to the above address

President Message

I hope everyone has had a safe and prosperous year. It is hard to believe that it is already December, and that the year has almost past us by! From what I am hearing, it was a good year for most, which is a blessing. With business being as busy as it was this year, it can be challenging to juggle what is truly important and what is not. In conversation with other surveyors, it seems many of us have a common struggle, with one of our biggest challenges being the ability to find a good balance between family, friends, and work. I hope that with the upcoming holidays and the New Year, that we are all able to find that balance.

As your current president, I would like to personally thank everyone for their current MAPS membership. Your membership is vital to keeping our profession strong and moving forward in a positive direction. Nationally, NCEES is reporting that the number of new licensed survey professionals is on the rise, which is a step in the right direction! Our numbers are not growing rapidly according to the U.S. Labor of Statistics, but at least they are growing. I do have mixed feelings about this report due to not really seeing that many new surveyors along the coast. I am also concerned that due to robotic total stations, GPS, and now drones that the number of people involved in surveying is decreasing. Most of the survey crews I see along the coast are 1 man survey crews. As a young surveyor, I can remember a minimum of at least two of us on the crew, with one of us being a Crew Chief, that had a vast amount of knowledge that was passed along to the rodman. With the current technologies, those days seem to be diminishing.

Hopefully, everyone had a great Thanksgiving and will have a wonderful Christmas and a safe New Year. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again at the 2023 Annual Convention this year! Mr. Dick Elgin will be giving us a presentation on "How to Make Our Surveying Business Better", which is something I am excited about.

Again, we appreciate everyone, who is a MAPS Member, and are grateful for your continued support of our Profession. We hope all of you will be able to take the opportunity to attend the 2023 Annual Convention, so we are able to take the time to meet with colleagues face to face and get to know others in the profession better. In addition, please let us know if you have any ideas that you feel would help the MAPS Board improve our organization. The MAPS Board values your opinion and takes into consideration every questionnaire that is filled out at our conventions to help serve you better.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you as the MAPS President and am grateful to be able to work alongside such an amazing group of professionals in our field of work.

Sincerely,

Patrick Martino, PLS

MAPS CALENDAR

Upcoming Seminars & Workshops

February 9 & 10, 2023: MAPS 2023 Annual Convention
Vicksburg Convention Center, Vicksburg, MS

July 20 & 21, 2023: MAPS Summer Seminar
Golden Nugget, Biloxi, MS

Executive Director Message

Debra Byrd

It is hard to believe another year is coming to an end.

It is dues time again and our convention is on the website and in this newsletter. There are some changes on the Dues form this year. Everyone will need to fill out a new Dues form for 2023. The board is working on a possible members directory. And with asking about your employer is to make it easier for me to give surveyors and company's names out to people when they call.

Thank you to all the membership for your support of MAPS. Without the membership MAPS would not be able to help the surveying profession.

Remember, everything will be emailed out again this year. So please, if you change your email let MAPS know.

Please encourage anyone you know that is not a MAPS member to join. We are only as strong as our membership.

The contact information for MAPS:

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 3549

Brookhaven, MS
39603

Phone Number

601-757-7691

Website: www.mississippisurveyor.com

Email:

maps4debra@bellouth.net

YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE: ANSON BLACKBURN CALL: 205.310.7279



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NSPS REPORT – FALL 2022

NSPS held its Fall Business Meeting on October 13-15 at the Marriot Tulsa Hotel Southern Hills. A series of motions were delivered to Board of Directors for approval.

A motion was presented by the Certified Floodplain Surveyor Committee (CFS) Committee to establish a Certified Floodplain Surveyor Board. Being that flooding is the number one loss of property and life during the occurrence of natural disasters, the board would further educate and license surveyors to a higher degree of flooding expertise. Another motion was made by the Executive Committee to retain former Executive Director Curt Sumner as Executive Director Emeritus for 2023 to continue with projects that require his institutional knowledge on a project-by-project basis to be determined by the Executive Committee. Additionally, a motion was made by the Fellow Membership Committee to elevate members Danny Martinez, NSPS Director from Nebraska and Brent Jones, Survey Director of ESRI to Fellow Membership. All motions were approved by the Board of Directors.

While the national mid-term elections are complete, NSPS elections are currently are right around the corner. There are some very talented, quality candidates on the ballot. I would like to encourage each member to research the candidates and exercise your right and cast your ballot.

On the legislative front, NSPS has been very active in the past year. There are several issues that affect our profession. Risk Map 2.0 was implemented in April of this year, reducing the number of elevation certificates that our profession provides. Another issue that has an affect is the Ligado (Formerly LightSquared) Order, adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 2020. Opposition to the order includes federal and commercial users of Global Positioning Systems (GPS), satellite communications, and weather forecasting services. After adoption of the Order, Congress mandated an independent technical review to further assess the harmful interference caused by the proposed Ligado network and the millions of everyday users. Currently, more than twenty parties have supported the reconsideration of the Order. A decision to move forward for Congressional approval will come from the Federal Communications Commission. Currently, the Commission is comprised of 5 members, with one vacancy. An appointment has been made by President Biden, but has yet to be accepted by the potential Commission member.

California has elected to join NSPS as a 100% member, leaving only Arkansas as the non-100% member of NSPS. The Membership Committee, along with NSPS executive leadership are in discussions to recruit Arkansas as the final state to 100% membership. As a committee, we are considering additional membership categories to increase the membership and new members of our profession. The Bylaws and Resolution Committee, along with the Bylaws and Policy sub-committees are reviewing and updating the bylaws and policy of NSPS.

The NSPS Spring Business Meeting will be held at the Hilton Arlington, March 29-April 1. Capitol Day will be held on March 28 and will be in-person for the first time since pre-Covid.

The FIG 2023 Working Week will be held May 27 – June 3, 2023 at the Hilton Bonnet Creek and Waldorf Astoria, Orlando, Florida. The event will be hosted by NSPS and will be the first time in the United States since the 1980's. The event is expected to host an excess of 5000 surveyors from across the globe and will feature the most current equipment and gadgets. I hope to see you there!

Submitted by C. Tim Brewer, NSPS Director - Mississippi

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Senior Survey Team Lead
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CALL US TOLL FREE
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VISIT OUR SITE
neigps.com

Kevin Rainey
Mississippi Survey Sales
Kevin_Rainey@neigps.com
601-604-9498



Issue 30 October 2022

NSRS Modernization News

For all issues of **NSRS Modernization News**, visit:
geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/TrackOurProgress.shtml

Achieving GRAV-D 100% Completion

At the outset of GRAV-D (2007–9), NGS drew geographic “target polygons” for collecting airborne gravity data. A re-consideration of those targets was done in 2012, with adjustments made to size and shape (some being quite substantial). That second generation of target polygons has stood for ten years. As NGS approaches completion of the GRAV-D airborne mission, we are making final adjustments.

The first adjustment is to slightly tweak each polygon edge to conform to the “as flown” flight lines. Some lines go a little over the original target edges and some under, though such over/under flights have no significant impact on the final geoid model. The second adjustment is removal of 12 flight lines over the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) trench. While scientifically interesting, NGS has determined that this data will not impact the final geoid in Guam or CNMI, the U.S. territories nearest the trench (results will be shown in a forthcoming NOAA technical report). Removing these 12 lines from the plan will allow NGS to use its limited GRAV-D resources to fly other high-priority areas. Having made these adjustments to the target polygons, NGS can now report with confidence our progress toward a more accurately defined 100% goal. These final polygons are reflected in the GRAV-D progress chart herein.

Progress in ongoing Projects

There are currently **33 ongoing projects** related to NSRS modernization around NGS. Here are some highlights:

GPS Campaign for Transformations (Project Manager: Galen Scott)

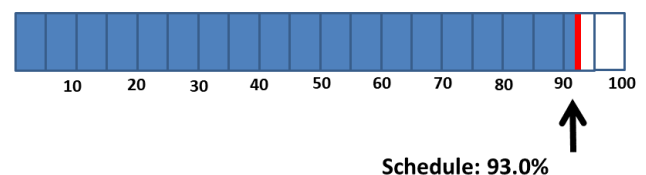
NGS has extended the deadline for submitting GPSONBM data for transformation tools through September 2023. Data submitted before then will be considered for use in the 2020.00 REC adjustments. Marks with valid geodetic coordinates in both the current NSRS and the modernized NSRS will be used to create updates to NADCON and VERTCON. Observations submitted to NGS after September 2023 will have RECs and Survey Epoch Coordinates (SECs) computed in the new frames, however they will not help define the transformations between the current and modernized NSRS.

SPCS2022 (Project Manager: Dr. Michael Dennis)

NGS completed review of SPCS2022 zones designed by state stakeholders. Designs were submitted for 806 zones in 28 states, and nearly all are low-distortion projections. Most of the zone designs were approved as submitted, with NGS and stakeholders working cooperatively to modify some. When completed, these SPCS2022 zones will add to the 160 zones designed by NGS.

GRAV-D progress last quarter: **up 1.7% to 96.4%**
AHEAD of Schedule!

Recently: WY, MT, SD





Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors

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Phone (601) 757-7691

Email: maps4debra@bellsouth.net Website: www.mississippisurveyor.com



BUSINESS DUES / MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION STATEMENT

Dues Period: January 1-December 31, 2023

Company _____

Company Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ County _____

Contact Person _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

****All correspondence will be by Email**

Membership Applied for:

___ **BUSINESS MEMBER: Annual Dues \$ 170.00**

A Firm engaged in a business related to Surveying and interested in the advancement of the Surveying Profession with this membership, we will print company business card (**please include business card**) in MAPS newsletter.

- *I agree to abide by the By-Laws and Constitution for the Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors.*
- *Membership dues are payable on January 1 and must be paid prior to February 1 each year. If the dues are not received by or postmarked by January 15, a 25% late fee will be assessed. If the dues are not received February 15, the membership will be considered inactive.*

Signature _____ Date _____ Year _____



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Phone (601) 757-7691

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MEMBER DUES and MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION STATEMENT

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Name: _____ MS PS Number _____
First Last MS PE Number _____

Address: _____

City & State _____ Zip Code _____ County _____

Cell Phone: _____ Employer _____

Email: _____

***All correspondence will be by Email**

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP-

Check One

REGULAR MEMBER:

A registered surveyor in the state of Mississippi (includes NSPS Membership dues)

Annual Dues \$ 160.00

NON- RESIDENT REGULAR MEMBER:

Surveyors registered in the State of Mississippi, but not a resident of Mississippi.

Annual Dues \$ 120.00

NON- RESIDENT REGULAR MEMBER (WITH NSPS MEMBERSHIP):

Annual Dues \$ 160.00

ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

Any person registered as a Surveyor Intern (SI) or interested in becoming licensed as a Professional Surveyor, one engaged in surveying or related work.

Annual Dues \$ 70.00

ASSOCIATE MEMBER (WITH NSPS):

Associate member that would like to be a NSPS member

Annual Dues \$ 110.00

STUDENT MEMBER:

Any person, who is enrolled as a full-time student (taking a minimum of 12 semester hours) at any school in the State of Mississippi, or enrolled in high school. (includes NSPS Student Membership dues)

Annual Dues \$ 20.00

- *Membership dues are payable on January 1 and must be paid prior to February 1 each year. If the dues are not received by or postmarked by January 15, a 25% late fee will be assessed. If the dues are not received by February 15, the membership will be considered inactive.*
- *I agree to abide by the By-Laws and Constitution for the Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors.*

Signature _____ Date _____ Year _____

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Thoughts on Professional Practice and Education

Article 8: State Specific Exams

by Knud E. Hermansen[†]

P.L.S., P.E., Ph.D., Esq.

This is the eighth article I have prepared in the series offering thoughts on professional practice and education. In this article, I wish to discuss state specific exams.

Most states require the applicant for licensure in the state pass an exam on surveying topics the state board of licensure believes is important for surveying practice in the state. Even surveyors applying by reciprocity or comity that have already passed NCEES exams must take and pass the state specific exam to be licensed.

I have had or hold surveying licenses in six different states. In all but one state, I had to take a state specific exam. I have also aided in the preparation and grading of state specific exams. Based on my experiences, I have opinions on state specific exams that I will share with the reader. Without question, I am going to stir up some controversy. Take heart for those that disagree with me. I have absolutely no influence other than these words to change any policies. Furthermore, to date, my words have had no influence in modifying a licensing board's policy. I will also add that I have never shown a proficiency to predict the future. If a reader does not agree with me, fear not. My arguments will likely not persuade members of licensing boards. Go to bed believing you will prevail, despite my arguments, and sleep in peace.

We will start with the premise that I believe to be true, that there is law in one state affecting surveyors or surveying practice that is unique to that state. It follows that a surveyor should know that law before practicing or offering services in that state. The relevant question I ask is whether a state specific exam is the method to assure the surveyor knows state specific law.

There are seven deficiencies I have observed with state specific exams.

First, contents of some state specific exams are not state specific. Some licensing boards test knowledge that is common to all or many states. In one state specific exam, I was tasked with calculating coordinates and calculating the area of a parcel. Testing for this knowledge is done on the national exams.

Second, many exams ask questions that are state specific but are not required for competent practice within the state. For example, one state specific exam question I had to answer asked for the penalties imposed for certain infractions by a surveyor. I would suggest that a surveyor could perform services required in the state competently for their entire professional career in that state without knowing what the penalties are for certain infractions in surveying practice. Such knowledge, when necessary, can be addressed and found if and when the surveyor faces discipline. This is akin to asking drivers on their driving exam what the dollar fine is for speeding.

Third, it is not reasonable to test on topics that ordinarily require the surveyor investigate the law as a matter of course during practice. For an example of this deficiency, I saw a question requiring a surveyor to know, on a state specific test, what are the number of hours of

continuing education allowed for writing an article. The surveyor can find this information when and if they decide to write an article. What is appropriate is to ensure the surveyor knows continuing education is required for renewing a license.

Fourth, testing should only focus on common and widespread knowledge to practice in that state. A state should not test on knowledge that most competent surveyors in the state do not know or need to know. I have seen a state specific exam composed of questions that the vast majority of competent surveyors currently practicing in the state would not be able to answer. If the knowledge is not necessary for current surveyors to competently practice, why is the knowledge necessary for new surveyors? These are 'gotcha' questions that have no place on a state specific exam. I would go so far as to claim the exam would not survive legal scrutiny if challenged by a test taker.

Fifth, testing should only test on knowledge necessary for practice not knowledge useful for practice. Let me give an example what I mean by necessary versus useful knowledge. An example of useful knowledge would be the time period comprising the statute of limitation for the state. This is not necessary knowledge to practice surveying. The surveyor should not and cannot offer legal advice. Therefore, the surveyor cannot tell a landowner if adverse possession or prescription has occurred or not. It follows, while the surveyor may find the statute of limitations useful knowledge to know, knowing what the statute of limitation is for the state is not necessary knowledge for surveying practice.

Sixth, testing should be confined to fingertip knowledge versus lookup knowledge. Fingertip knowledge is knowledge that the surveyor must know without reminder when offering services. For example, fingertip knowledge would be the knowledge that a written contract is required for surveying services or there are mandatory standards that the surveyor must adhere to when providing typical surveying services. Lookup knowledge is what procedure is required to comply with a right of entry law. Using a non-survey related example, fingertip knowledge is the knowledge that a person must periodically renew car registration. Lookup knowledge is what procedure or paperwork is required to renew car registration.

Seventh, testing should focus on critical knowledge for common services, not unusual services that few surveyors provide. For example, if a state has survey standards for laying out solar envelopes and less than one percent of the surveyors in the state will ever attempt to lay out a solar envelope, questions on solar envelope standards are not appropriate. Knowledge of unusual services would be akin to a person seeking a driver's license in order to drive their Ford 150 pickup being asked on their driver's exam how many hours a commercial truck driver is allowed to drive before resting.

I would offer the opinion that if a licensing board eliminated from their state specific exams the deficiencies I have noted, the licensing board would substantially reduce the contents of the exam or even eliminate the state specific exam altogether - perhaps go with an on-line study course and test.

I will focus the remainder of this article discussing the future of state specific exams by suggesting three options. One option is to eliminate state specific exams. The second option is

to offer alternatives to examination. The third option is to modify the testing procedures of a state specific exam to be more flexible and in line with NCEES testing.

Eliminating a state specific exam may be appropriate where there are few topics left after filtering them as previously noted or for licensing in cases of comity. In cases of comity, if a surveyor has practiced in one state for a long period of time without fault or discipline, experience and logic suggest the surveyor will practice competently in another state when licensed.

Alternatives to testing for state specific knowledge would require surveyors watch a video explaining state specific law or be sent a fact sheet on state specific law a surveyor should be aware of. Another option is to require attendance at a seminar or viewing videos where speakers explain state specific law.

The final option is to modify the state specific testing procedure. Provide references for the test questions that an applicant can study and allow on-line testing at test centers that can be taken by applicants anywhere and during any reasonable day and time.

† Other books and articles by Knud can be found at <https://umaine.edu/svt/faculty/hermansen-articles/>

MAPS 2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

February 9 - 10, 2023, Vicksburg Convention Center, Vicksburg, MS

<p style="text-align: center;">MAPS Member Seminar Registration Fees:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px dashed black;">Member – Full Seminar Package* 15 PDH</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$350.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px dashed black;">Thursday only 8 PDH</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$200.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px dashed black;">Friday only 7 PDH</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$200.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px dashed black;">Spouse or Extra Lunch - Per day \$25.00 x _____</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> </table>	Member – Full Seminar Package* 15 PDH	\$350.00	\$ _____	Thursday only 8 PDH	\$200.00	\$ _____	Friday only 7 PDH	\$200.00	\$ _____	Spouse or Extra Lunch - Per day \$25.00 x _____		\$ _____	<p>* Full Package Includes:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Registration for Thursday and Friday Seminar</p> <hr/> <p>Lunch is Included with registration for Thursday and/or Friday</p>
Member – Full Seminar Package* 15 PDH	\$350.00	\$ _____											
Thursday only 8 PDH	\$200.00	\$ _____											
Friday only 7 PDH	\$200.00	\$ _____											
Spouse or Extra Lunch - Per day \$25.00 x _____		\$ _____											
<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Member Seminar Registration Fees:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px dashed black;">Non-Member -Full Seminar Package* 15 PDH</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$550.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px dashed black;">Thursday only 8 PDH</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$300.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px dashed black;">Friday only 7 PDH</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$300.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px dashed black;">Spouse or Extra Lunch - Per day \$25.00 x _____</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> </table>	Non-Member -Full Seminar Package* 15 PDH	\$550.00	\$ _____	Thursday only 8 PDH	\$300.00	\$ _____	Friday only 7 PDH	\$300.00	\$ _____	Spouse or Extra Lunch - Per day \$25.00 x _____		\$ _____	<p>You may pay for your spouse or other to eat lunch for Thursday and /or Friday</p>
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Thursday only 8 PDH	\$300.00	\$ _____											
Friday only 7 PDH	\$300.00	\$ _____											
Spouse or Extra Lunch - Per day \$25.00 x _____		\$ _____											
<p style="text-align: center;">All speakers' handouts will be Digital. No Handouts will be Printed. Handout if any will be emailed the week before convention.</p> <hr/> <p>Louisiana Standards of Practice Yes _____</p> <p>Must have 10 or more to have this class</p> <hr/> <p>Late Registration <u>after January 20, 2023</u> add \$50.00 \$ _____</p> <p>NO REFUNDS AFTER: January 15, 2023</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Please mail this form in with payment. Or Email Form & pay online. You will not be registered for the convention until payment has been received.</p>												
<p style="text-align: center;">Total Fees Paid: _____</p> <p>If paying online there is a Extra Fee: what they charge MAPS</p>													
<p><i>Seating is limited. Pre-Register early. Registration at the door will be based on space available.</i></p> <p>Name for Badge: _____</p> <p>Company Name for Badge: _____</p> <p>MS PLS #: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>													
<p><i>Please return this form along with your payment to:</i></p> <p>Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors</p> <p>P. O Box 3549, Brookhaven, MS 39603</p> <p>Phone: 601-757-7691</p> <p>Website: mississippisurveyor.com email: maps4debra@bellsouth.net</p>													

MAPS 2023 Annual Convention Agenda

Vicksburg Convention Center

Thursday, February 9, 2023

- 7:00 AM REGISTRATION
- 7:30 AM **50 Ways to Make Your Surveying Business Better**
Dick Elgin (PDH: 2.0)
- 9:30 AM Break/View Exhibits
- 10:00 AM **50 Ways to Make Your Surveying Business Better**
Dick Elgin (PDH: 2.0)
- 12:00 PM Lunch/View Exhibits-
Lunch Included with Registration
- 1:00 PM **811 Location**
Rodger Cox (PDH: 2.0)
- 3:00 PM Break/View Exhibits
- 3:30 PM **Surveyor Notes for Plats**
Dick Elgin (PDH: 2.0)
- 5:30 PM ADJOURN

Hotel Details

Please mention you are with: Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors or MAP for special group rate. You will need to make your reservation by January 20, 2023

Hampton Inn \$139.00
601- 636-6100
3330 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Friday, February 10, 2023

- 7:00 AM REGISTRATION
- 7:30 AM **Early American Surveying Equipment**
Dick Elgin (PDH: 2.0)
- 9:30 AM Break/View Exhibits
- 10:00 AM **Class**
(PDH: 2.0)
- 12:00 PM Lunch/View Exhibits-
Lunch Included with Registration
MAPS General Membership Meeting (PDH: 1.0)
- 1:30 PM **Ethics**
(PDH: 1.0)
- 2:45 PM Break/View Exhibits
- 3:00 PM **Standards of Practice**
(PDH: 1.0)
- 4:00 PM **LA Standards -**
Joe Byrd - (PDH: 1.0)
- 5:00 PM ADJOURN

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

These are the 2022 Business Members of MAPS. We would like to thank these businesses for their support of MAPS. If your Business is interested in becoming a Business member, please fill out a membership application and mail in with fee .



+ **Robert Martin, PS**
 + ARKANSAS, MISSISSIPPI & TENNESSEE
 + SURVEY SALES CONSULTANT
 + robert_martin@neigps.com
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 + **M:** 501.681.7779
 + **P:** 479.997.2730
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Here to meet your surveying needs with integrity and precision

Patrick Martino, Professional Land Surveyor
 13010 Kayleigh Cove
 Biloxi, MS 39532

Office: 228-396-2283
patrick@martinosurveying.com
 website: martinosurveying.com




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 Pearl, MS 39208

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 Operations Manager



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 Surveying & Mapping

Joe W. Byrd, PS
 President

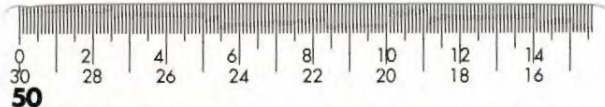
Lat N31°33'08.09424"
 Long W90°23'10.81100"

Ph 601-833-5564

joebyrd@bellsouth.net
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 Brookhaven, MS 39601

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 P. O. Box 3837
 Brookhaven, MS 39603-7837



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