

MISSISSIPPI SURVEYOR

August 2023



Summer Seminar

July 2023

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS, INC

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Email Change?

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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

Presidents Message

“Why do you charge so much for a survey? Can’t you do it cheaper? I just need this for the bank so I can buy this property.”

I’m sure everyone hears this as much as I do. But what exactly is the service we provide worth to the client? This can be a loaded question since the value of the professional service we provide can be different for every survey. A survey of two acres in a rural area most likely is not as valuable to the client as a survey of two acres of commercial property in a highly developed area. I was reminded of this recently by a client that hired us to survey “approximately 160 acres” that he was purchasing at a cost of \$3500 per acre. This was going to be a cash sale, no loan involved, and the real estate agent and the seller did not want a survey but wanted to use the record description and the acreage that the property was currently being assessed as by the county Tax Assessor, but all parties agreed to a “per acre cost” so our client requested a survey and retained our firm. We have all seen the type of description that was on record: “*All of Section 14 lying North and West of the public road*”. When we had completed the survey, we determined the acreage was actually 151.85 acres, or 8.15 acres less than the calculated amount being used by the Tax Assessor, which saved our client \$28,525. The actual sale price of the property using the surveyed acreage was \$531,475. Now let’s look at the other professions involved in the sale. The real estate firm had a contract for 7% of the sale cost, and had the property listed for 42 days before a contract was signed by my client. Their fee was \$37,203.25 The title attorney and title company that handled the closing charged 3% of the sale cost and scheduled the closing 12 days after I delivered the Plat and description of the property. Their fee was \$15,944.25. We had 58 hours of field crew (2 or 3 man) time plus 18 hours of office (research, calculations and drafting). So what was our service worth to the client? We saved him \$28,525 by determining the acreage was less than advertised. I’ve heard surveyors say that “all we have to sell is time so we only charge by the hour”. What if the property was all pasture and we only had 12 hours of field time and 4 hours of office time? Everyone should know what your service is worth and be compensated for the value you provide. So, I’m sure everyone is asking what we charged our client. We got a \$10,000 retainer fee prior to starting the survey and billed the client an additional \$17,000 upon completion of the survey, for a total of \$27,000, or 5.08% of the sale cost. This is not a set fee that we have and if the acreage would have been more than expected, we probably would not have charged the client as much because the client would not have seen our service as being as valuable. Each job and each client is different. Determine what the service you provide is worth and do not give away your work.

Joe Byrd

Executive Director Message

Debra Byrd

The Summer seminar had a great turned out. We are looking into some changes to the seminar, one maybe adding hours to make 15 PDH, same as annual.

We have got Wendy Lathrop coming to the Annual 2024. We are working on the annual and next year seminar. If you know of any speakers you would like to hear please let me know. We are always looking for new speakers.

We will be having two Workshops this year, one on November 11 in Flowood, and one on December 2 in Oxford.

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

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Brookhaven, MS
39603

Phone Number

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Email:

maps4debra@bellouth.net

Website: www.mississippisurveyor.com

MAPS CALENDAR

Upcoming Seminars & Workshops

November 11, 2023: MAPS November Workshop
Hilton Garden Inn, Flowood, MS

December 2, 2023: MAPS December Workshop
Oxford Convention Center, Oxford, MS

February 8 & 9, 2024: MAPS 2024 Annual Convention
Vicksburg Convention Center, Vicksburg, MS

July 18 & 19, 2024: MAPS Summer Seminar
Golden Nugget, Biloxi, MS

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2023

Hilton Garden Inn
118 Laurel Park Cove
Flowood, Mississippi

1. Call to Order (9:00 AM) Actual: 9:00 AM

Attendance: Garret Dendy

2. Approve Minutes – November 5, 2022 Meeting: Motion: Patrick Martino Second: Larry Saucier Approved: Unanimous

3. Treasurer’s Report: Motion: Larry Saucier Second: Kevin Hines Approved: Unanimous

4. Review Membership Applications: 3 Presented - Motion: Paul Stenum 2nd: Jim Booth

5. Additions to Agenda: N/A

6. Old Business:

a. Legislation - None Reported

A. Workshops 2023

a. Flowood: November 11, 2023

a. Ethics – Paul Stenum

b. Standards of Practice -

b. Oxford: December 2, 2023

a. Ethics / Standards of Practice: TBD

b. Additional Sessions: TBD

B. Summer 2023 – July 20 & 21, 2023

a. Set-Up Online

b. Board of Directors Meeting July 19, 2023 1:30 P.M.

C. Annual 2024 – Vicksburg Convention Center (February 8 & 9)

a. Wendy Lathrop – Speaker

D. Capitol Day – January 23, 2024

a. 8:00 A.M.

b. No Food Distribution Allowed

E. 811 Update – Joe W. Byrd

a. New Legislation redefined Emergency Locate

b. Extended Marking Time from 48 hours to 72 hours

F. NSPS Update: Provided by Tim Brewer

- a. International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Working Week May 2023. NSPS - Sponsor
 - a. 2000 Expected Attendees
- b. Policy Sub-Committee Update
- c. Legado - Lightsquared Update
- d. Day-On-The-Hill: In-Person first time since Covid-19
 - a. 2023 Farm Bill Broadband Mapping Reforms Enhancing Infrastructure Development
 - b. FEMA, NFIP & Flood Mapping Reform
 - c. Surveying Licensure Protects Public Health, Safety, & Welfare
- e. Membership Committee Update
 - a. CST Membership
 - b. Technician Membership

G. Choctaw Initial Point Sign

- a. Discussion Held – No Action

H. 2023 Annual Convention

- a. Questionnaires - Reviewed by Board of Directors
- b. Profit & Loss Statement - Reviewed by Board of Directors

New Business:

- 1. Tri-State Convention
 - a. Discussion Held – No Action Taken
- 2. 2025 Annual Convention
 - a. Location – Vicksburg Convention Center
 - b. Speakers - TBD
- 3. Summer Seminar 2024
 - a. Sessions - 2 Full Days
 - b. Vendors - 2 Full Days

4. Credit Card Payments

- a. A motion was made by Patrick Martino and a 2nd by Jeff Black to replace the Pay-Pal account with Gateway service with a set-up fee of \$80.00 and a monthly fee of \$15.00. Motion Passed Unanimously

5. Note Pads

- a. A motion made by Kevin Hines and a 2nd by Patrick Martino to purchase 500 note pads at a price of \$344.19. Motion Passed Unanimously

6. 2024 Board of Directors

- a. Names for the ballot will be presented at the July 19, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

7. Next Meeting: July 19, 2023, Golden Nugget Convention Center, Biloxi, Mississippi

8. A motion to Adjourn was made by Paul Stenum with a 2nd by Jeff Black Motion Passed Unanimously

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Issue 33 July 2023

NSRS Modernization News

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

Introducing the NSRS Modernization Alpha Site

To provide early access to upcoming, yet incomplete, products of the modernized NSRS, NGS has created the [Alpha NSRS Modernization website](#). That site provides examples of the content, format, and structure of select data and products that NGS plans to release as a part of the Modernized NSRS. Products found on this page are for testing purposes only and do not contain any authoritative NGS data or tools. They are under active development and are subject to change without notice. But early access to alpha products should enable a smoother rollout of the Modernized NSRS. As products are released to this site, NGS will refer to them as being “released to Alpha.”

SPCS2022 Released to Alpha

An alpha version of the State Plane Coordinate System of 2022 (SPCS2022) and its implementation in the NGS Coordinate Conversion and Transformation Tool (NCAT) has been released to the Alpha site. This includes:

- [Alpha SPCS2022 website](#)
- [Alpha NCAT](#) with SPCS2022 conversions enabled
- [Online interactive maps](#) of SPCS2022 zones
- Tables of [zone definitions](#) and [example coordinates](#)
- [Maps](#) of linear distortion with performance statistics
- Updated SPCS2022 [Policy](#) and [Procedures](#)

Alpha SPCS2022 content will be updated and augmented as it evolves toward completion.

Progress in Ongoing Projects

There are currently **32 ongoing projects** related to NSRS modernization around NGS. Here are some highlights.

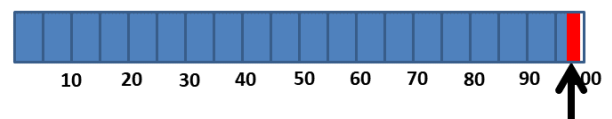
GRAV-D (Project Manager: Jeffery Johnson)

In June of 2023, NGS's Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D) project completed the airborne data collection effort in the American Samoan and Hawaiian regions. NGS teamed up with NASA Langley Research Center's Research Services Directorate to use their Gulfstream IV jet (Tail # N522NA) for this project. These remote Pacific islands were the largest hurdles for the GRAV-D project to finish before December 2023 so that the geoid team can have a complete airborne gravity data set as they build the North American-Pacific Geopotential Model of 2022 next year.

GRAV-D progress last quarter: **up 2.6% to 99.6%**

Ahead of Schedule!

Recently: American Samoa, Hawaii



Schedule: 97.5%

Thoughts on Professional Practice and Education

Article 10: Professional Partnering with Surveying Programs

by Knud E. Hermansen[†]

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

This is the tenth article I have prepared in the series offering thoughts on professional practice and education. In this article I advocate for a close partnership between professional members and the regional or state surveying programs.

In preparing this article, I draw on over thirty years of teaching in surveying studies. I have taught courses at Penn State University, University of Maine, Florida Atlantic University, and Florida State University. Each is different. All have strengths and weaknesses. With more than fifty years of practice, I have been a member of several state professional societies and national professional societies. I have maintained active professional consultation throughout my careers as an educator and military member.

I begin with the premise that I believe a surveying program should be a professional program. By professional program I mean a program that offers a focused education providing graduates with skills that are both practical and applicable - a program that pointedly leads to a career as a licensed professional. Examples of other professional programs at the bachelor of science degree level include nursing, accounting, and engineering.

I believe the focus of a survey program is to provide skilled graduates able and willing to enter the profession of surveying and take on typical surveying services soon after graduation. I strongly believe the graduate of a surveying program should be knowledgeable enough to begin practicing with competency in the profession of surveying upon graduation. The graduate should have the skill set to provide an employer with knowledge and efforts that will be profitable for the employer's business.

In previous articles, I have spoken about faculty qualifications so I will not speak in depth on that topic in this article. Suffice to say that knowledgeable, experienced, and qualified faculty are not always able to stay abreast of what an employer would prefer that a graduate should know and possess. Many faculty lack practical knowledge while often exceling in research knowledge. Yet, it is the practical knowledge that is much more important to the employer than cutting edge research knowledge. The reason for this disparity in faculty focus is not necessarily the faculty member's fault. University administrators are apt to focus their attention and efforts on increasing the money flowing into the university rather than upgrading the knowledge of graduates leaving the university. For state institutions, much emphasis is placed on obtaining research grants. Faculty promotion and tenure is often tied to research dollars. Hence, faculty focus their efforts on research rather than practice.

In order that students be taught practical and applicable knowledge, there should be a consistent and constant assessment of program courses, course

content, and suggested course requirements. This assessment should be done by knowledgeable practitioners of the surveying profession. For ABET accredited programs, this is often done by an advisory committee mandated by ABET continuous assessment requirements.

Participation in this advisory committee is usually done by invitation of the program faculty. I will suggest that faculty invitations are not always sent to practitioners best able to assess or improve the program content for practical, relevance, and current knowledge. Many are the committees I have seen that seem to be composed of mostly alumni and retired faculty from the program. This makeup of an advisory committee is like asking grandparents, cousins, nieces, and nephews to look for faults in the family tree that are to be made public.

In my experience an advisory committee composed of practical and knowledge members usually provides a great deal of good, practical advice with the added bonus the members can be strong outside advocates of the surveying program when the program seeks donations or is thwarting attempts by the university administration to eliminate or modify the program into something useful for the administration but not necessarily for the program, the profession, or the employer of the graduate from the program.

A second method of assuring relevant and practical education of the surveying student is to assess and improve the success rate of students and graduates that take the fundamentals of surveying exam. I believe NCEES does a credible job of keeping the contents of the exam consistent with current practice due in large part by relying on licensing board members and professional input. However, if a program does not require students take the fundamentals of survey exam or use the exam scores for program assessment, this valuable source of assessment is wasted.

A much less effective manner of assuring relevant and practical education of the surveying graduate is through ABET program accreditation. By not fully lauding and embracing this avenue, I do not wish to discourage a program from seeking and obtaining accreditation or disparage ABET accreditation. The program content guidance available under common disciplines listed within ABET looks at a macro view of the surveying studies rather than focus on a micro view of professional needs. As an aside, I am not going to argue or encourage ABET take on a micro view by discipline.

Rather, I wish to make a point that ABET accreditation does not assure the program contents of an ABET accredited program are necessarily offering a relevant and practical education sought by the typical employer within the profession. The criteria that ABET accredited programs undergo continuous improvement and periodic assessment, often with the aid of an advisory committee, can help considerably with relevant and current knowledge if the assessment is taken seriously and aid sought from the profession through

advisory committee members. I hope to write more about the benefits and limitations of ABET accreditation in another article.

Having given my opinion, I now offer advice by suggesting that yearly evaluation of program courses and course content be done by a committee composed of members of the profession. The committee should take on the role of friendly guidance – much like the bride’s mother for her daughter’s wedding. Then again, I may have used the wrong example given stories I have heard about the weddings of others where mothers went way beyond friendly guidance. I shall refine my parallel by adding so long as the bride’s mother is not allowed to take over the planning of the wedding itself.

Let me give some advice in detail. I think a committee is best composed of at least one active member of the state surveying profession that is supporting the program such as the immediate past president of the state society. If the surveying program is a regional program, a member from each state should be sought. Another member should be a current licensed member of the state surveyor licensing board.

All other members of the advisory committee should be employers or likely employers of the graduates from the program. Large multi-disciplinary firms and small firms should be well represented. Public and private sector employers should be represented as well. Donors or potential donors to the program should be welcomed as members. Someone that is willing to back their advice with donations are to be actively sought. For example, including a member that is an equipment supplier that generously donates up-to-date equipment to the program would be wise.

Some may fault the perception I have just ‘painted’ that membership on the committee can be bought. I would wink and nod while countering with a Jewish saying that: *“Life's not as good with money as it is bad without it.”* Let me state the intention of this Jewish saying in other terms, *“A program that brings money to the university is less likely to be eliminated than a program that costs the university money.”*

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

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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 \$ 170.00

NON- RESIDENT REGULAR MEMBER:

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

Annual Dues \$ 130.00

NON- RESIDENT REGULAR MEMBER (WITH NSPS MEMBERSHIP):

Annual Dues \$ 170.00

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 \$ 80.00

ASSOCIATE MEMBER (WITH NSPS):

Associate member that would like to be a NSPS member

Annual Dues \$ 120.00

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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Phone (601) 757-7691

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2024 BUSINESS DUES / MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION STATEMENT

Dues Period: January 1-December 31, 2024

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 \$ 180.00**

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 _____

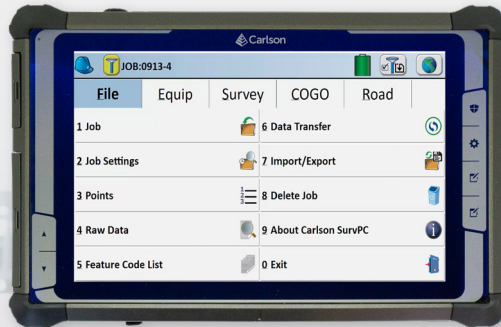
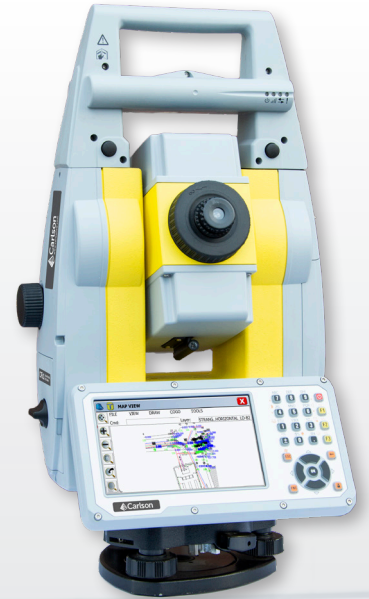
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Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors

2023 Ethics and Standard Workshop

November 11, 2023

Hilton Garden Inn

118 Laurel Park Cove, Flowood, MS 39232

Registration for Workshop	November 11, 2023	
Saturday, November 11	2 PDH	\$160
Workshop is from 9-11 am		
Total \$ _____		

Seating is limited. Pre-Register early. Registration at the door will be based on space available.

Name: _____

Address: _____

PLS/PE#: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form along with your payment to:

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Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors

2023 December Workshop

Saturday December 2, 2023

Oxford Convention Center

102 Ed Perry Blvd, Oxford, MS 39232

Registration for Workshop -	Saturday, December 2, 2023		
Full Workshop: 8am-6pm	8 PDH	\$210	<input type="checkbox"/>
With Lunch 12-2 on your own			
Morning Session Only: 8am- 12	4 PDH	\$ 160	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon Session Only: 2pm-6	4 PDH	\$ 160	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total \$ _____			

Seating is limited. Pre-Register early. Registration at the door will be based on space available.

Name: _____

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These are the 2023 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 .



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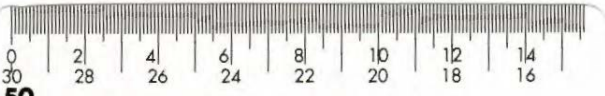


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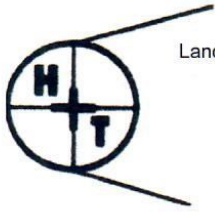
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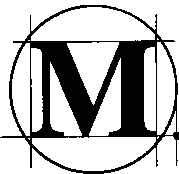
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