

PLSO Executive Committee Report for September 9, 2011

Presented by Melinda Gilpin, Executive Director

Please note: This report is provided in an effort to deliver more timely information on PLSO activities to our members. It should not be considered minutes, and is intended to give the highlights of the meeting.

President Donald Pickenpaugh opened the meeting with devotions and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. A quorum was established with 19 voting members present.

John Greenhalge, Executive Director of the State Board of Registration, made a special presentation regarding the operation of tax map departments throughout Ohio, which vary widely. Mr. Greenhalge indicated that there are conflicting opinions regarding the responsibilities of county officials from different counties, and the board is especially concerned with the review of surveys by unlicensed individuals, and the supervision of those revisions. He indicated that the State Board, with CEAO and other parties, are planning to draft a position regarding the matter. They would like PLSO's input and support in this effort. He then hopes to lead a cooperative effort with the state auditors association, the county prosecutors association and other groups to provide education and try to develop state-wide consistency in this area. After discussion, this matter was referred to the PLSO Standards Committee as the appropriate conduit of communication. PLSO will solicit comments on the matter through the website and e-newsletter.

Minutes for the July meeting were approved, and the July and August treasurer's reports were accepted for financial review. All new member applications were approved.

President Pickenpaugh announced the formation of a new committee, the Communication Committee, which will be designated to be chaired by the PLSO President-Elect. Specific language will be drafted for the October meeting for approval by the EC, pending the approval of the PLSO Strategic Plan.

The renewal of the PLSO office lease was discussed and approved.

Committee reports submitted for the meeting can be found on the Members Section of the PLSO website. The Historic Review Committee Report included a presentation by T. Mike Besch regarding several upcoming matters. Plans are underway for an event at the Statehouse to mark "Surveying USA" on March 17, 2012. This will coincide with the spring certificate ceremony, and include a variety of activities. Anyone interested in participating should contact the PLSO office. A request for support of the National Museum of Surveying was tabled until after a Univ. of Akron student visit this fall. Mr. Besch also presented a travel kit for classroom presentations on surveying history, and discussed its ongoing development. He indicated he would follow up on this project and its potential uses as it is completed.

The next deadline for the Ohio Surveying News will be October 1. Director Gilpin reported that a new monthly e-newsletter will debut next week to members. It is meant to be a supplement to the OSN, and will provide timely information, as well as drive people to the member's section of the website. One sponsor opportunity will be available for each issue, and Lynn Smith, Communications Specialist, is finalizing the specifications now for distribution.

Robert Akins, NSPS governor, led a discussion of the NSPS absorption of the ACSM organization and some of the challenges the effort is facing. He also gave an update on the efforts to oppose the FCC's approval of the LightSquared terrestrial system, which will interfere with high-precision GPS usage. Mr. Akins re-affirmed the importance of contact with elected representatives in Washington to oppose this action – indicating that the communication to date has not been what organizers had hoped. The most current information can be found at the website of the Coalition to Save Our GPS, as www.SaveOurGPS.com (which is also linked through the PLSO website).

Mr. Akins also indicated one of the national efforts to preserve monumentation of railroad lines is still in need of examples. If you are aware of a situation when abandoned rail corridors without accurate data caused difficulty for property owners, you are encouraged to provide that information to the PLSO office for compilation.

Mr. Akins also reported on his trip to represent Ohio at the national meeting in San Diego in July. Budgeted travel expenses for Mr. Akins and ED Gilpin to attend the NSPS Fall Meeting in Gaithersburg MD were approved.

Updates were given on the upcoming conferences and seminars for PLSO. The Fall Seminar will be held at the McKinley Grand Hotel in Canton October 13-14. Registrations are coming in, and the deadline is September 29, 2011.

A motion was made for the executive committee to approve the request of the Miami Valley Chapter to host the 2016 Annual Conference in Dayton, which passed.

The Membership Committee report included a request to change the way PLSO member numbers are assigned, so that a member will always have a single, permanent membership number. A motion to make that change was made and approved.

The Finance Committee chair, Paul Dinan, reported that a financial review was conducted of last fiscal year and no errors were found. The committee is working on a budget for presentation in October.

The Draft Strategic Plan which was presented at the July meeting was discussed. A motion for approval of the plan was made and passed.

Chapter reports were presented by all delegates, and those submitted in writing can be found on the PLSO website.

President-Elect Dana Parsell delivered his report, and indicated he will be presenting a slate of officers at the next meeting for the upcoming elections. He is striving for a ballot that will provide options to our members, and encourages anyone with interest in seeking state office to contact him.

Director Gilpin presented her report of activities, and complimented the new PLSO staff for their efforts to date. Second notices for dues billing will be mailed on September 15.

President Pickenpaugh presented a report on his recent activities on behalf of PLSO, including his experiences at the NSPS National Conference in San Diego. He attended the State Executives meeting in Director Gilpin's place and found it valuable to hear about the operations

of other state societies. He echoed Mr. Akins' remarks that by comparison, PLSO is doing well in member retention and financial stability. Other states have had declines that have forced budget reductions of up to 40%. President Pickenpaugh reported on his impressions of the LightSquared issue as reported at the national meeting as well.

President Pickenpaugh submitted a synopsis of additional meetings he has attended during the period representing PLSO, and announced he and Director Gilpin will be presenting at the upcoming Ohio GIS conference. He also indicated his plans to attend the Joint Societies' meeting to be held later this fall and hosted by OSPE. This annual meeting brings a number of related state associations together to discuss common issues and cooperative opportunities. President Pickenpaugh and Director Gilpin will attend on behalf of PLSO, and the date is still pending.

Director Gilpin was excused, and the meeting concluded with the report of the Management Review Committee.