



The

Pennsylvania Surveyor

Surveying Beyond Boundaries

2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE JANUARY 12-15, 2020, HERSHEY LODGE (more information inside)

2019 PA Surveyor of the Year

Donald R. Housley, PLS

The Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors is proud to announce that Donald R. Housley, PLS, has been recognized as the 2019 Surveyor of the Year!

The society's most prestigious award for a surveyor who has displayed exemplary service to the Society, the public, and the profession, will be presented at the 2020 Annual Conference in Hershey, PA., on January 13th at the Installation of Officers and Awards banquet.

Don started his career in 1968 as a surveyor working at various levels on field survey crews for his father's firm, Kurch Housely and Associates, Inc. He has owned his own business and is manager at his current firm. Don has been a long-standing member of PLS and the Southwest Chapter. He served as a State Director from 1992-1995 and again from 2009 to present. He is also active in his chapter's education program, serving as Chapter Chairperson of Education, and regularly presenting continuing education seminars and preparation for PA State Registration Exam. Also being a licensed Real Estate Salesperson, Don has been instrumental in educating realtors. Now Don is working closely with his three sons, DJ, David and Daniel all of whom are active in the land surveying profession and the local PLS chapter.



Inside this issue

President's Message.....	2
Officer Nominees.....	6-7
Thoughts on Standards	
And Manual of Practice .	8-11
50th Anniversary Events	12, and 14
Sustaining Members	15
<u>Conference Information</u>	
pages 18-24	
Award Winners.....	25
PLS Foundation.....	26
New Members.....	27

President's Pen.....

Thank you for a great year!

Brian T. Yorkiewicz, PLS, 2019 PSLs President

As my term as President comes to a close, I will begin my President's message with a heartfelt, "Thank you" to the officers, state directors, committee chairs, staff, and members who are part of this great Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors! Your dedicated service and time have made it a very rewarding year for me. I'm sure I can speak for all of the executive committee members by saying that we appreciate your energy and dedication in moving our society toward a more efficient, cost-conscious, protective, and proactive organization in supporting our profession.



We have tried to lead and support our committees in the important work that they do. They have risen to the tasks set before them and it is evident in their results. We have gained new members and have reached out to SITs and associate members and have striven to provide education and support to them and the important work that they do. Our webinars have had record attendance and we have received great feedback on the topics and presenters. Warner Associates has put processes into place to streamline and automate communication, event and meeting registration, and financial procedures and oversight. Our conference was profitable, and our records are accurate and accountable. Thank you to Richard Shewman, Treasurer, and Marcy Robey, PSLs Financial Coordinator, for their diligence and excellent work in getting our financial records in order and organized for the future. Our Geo-Spatial Committee coordinated the efforts to educate surveyors, township personnel, and others on the upcoming changes and compiled feedback to provide a statement on the specifics of a statewide data plan. Our Legislative committee has worked with Representative Emerick to co-sponsor a replacement bill, HB 2101, for HB 1106 from the last legislative session.

Our 2020 Surveyors' Conference is coming up January 12-15, 2020, in Hershey. Much appreciation goes to our sponsors and exhibitors who support the conference! Be sure to register! Come to elect and meet your new officers, honor the PA Surveyor of the Year and nominees, recognize those in our chapters who have earned a Distinguished Service Award, support and recognize our young students, earn PDHs, network with other surveyors and technicians, and visit our vendors to keep up with the latest technologies, and see the newest equipment!

As I look toward the future, I feel very confident in passing the gavel to our next president, knowing that the society is stable and moving forward. I feel fortunate to have gotten to know so many people in our society and work with such dedicated professionals throughout PSLs. I appreciate all your efforts and what PSLs has accomplished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "B. T. Yorkiewicz", written in a cursive style.

REMINDER!
PSLS
Memberships
Expire
December 31, 2019
Go to www.psls.org to renew

WELCOME
to our new members!

List on page 27.

Happy Holidays
From your 2019 Officers and Board of Directors



Back row: Michael Given, Amy Hopkins, Terry McMillen, Jr., Scott Reeser, Richard Shewman
Front row: Brian Yorkiewicz, President, Jonathan Tabas, President Elect

Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors



Officers:

Brian Yorkiewicz, PLS, President
Jonathan Tabas, PE, PLS, President-Elect
Amy Hopkins, PLS, Vice-President
Terry, McMillen, Jr., PLS, Secretary
Richard Shewman, PLS, Treasurer
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Southwest Chapter

Pete Brothers, PLS & Donald Housley, PLS

Susquehanna Chapter

Robert Weaver, PLS

PSLS Mission

The Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors, a statewide professional organization, exists for the purpose of supporting, improving and enhancing the profession, its members, and the practice of land surveying. To these ends, the critical work of the Society focuses on providing education legislative involvement, enhancing th public awareness, and the promulgation of the ethics of the profession.

2020 Board Meeting Dates

Giant Community Room
2300 Linglestown Road,
Harrisburg, PA
10:00 a.m.

March 13, 2020

May 29, 2020

July 10, 2020

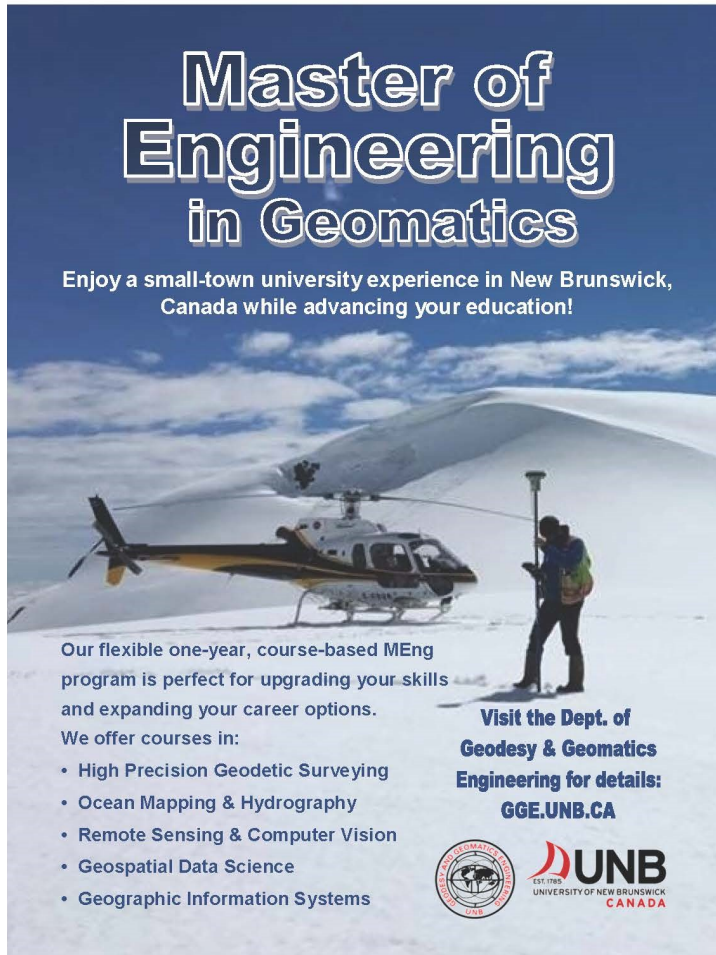
September 11, 2020

November 20, 2020

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(These will be forwarded to the appropriate person in 2020.)





2020 Slate of Officers

President: Jonathan Tabas, PE, PLS

NSPS Director: Michael Given, PLS

Immediate Past President:

Brian Yorkiewicz, PLS

**Elections for the Officers below will be after dinner
Monday, January 13 at the 2020 Conference:**

President Elect: Amy Hopkins, PLS

Vice President: Terry McMillen, Jr., PLS

Secretary: Robert Nargoski, PLS

Treasurer: Richard Shewman, PLS

(see bios in this issue)

**Nominations for anyone seeking these positions
can be made at the meeting.**

Biographies of PSLS Officer Nominees

President-Elect: Amy Hopkins, PLS

Amy Hopkins, PLS (PA, NY) is the owner of Urban Terrain LLC, a land surveying company located in Murrysville, PA. She has over 28 years of surveying experience. Her career began in the United States Marine Corps where she was trained as a Geodetic Surveyor, Terrain Analyst and Geographic Intelligence Specialist which translates to today's Geographic Information System (GIS). Her extensive technical education at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (formerly Defense Mapping Agency) paved the way for an exciting and diverse career.

Ms. Hopkins is a member of the Southwest chapter and held various billets over the years before moving up to the State level of leadership with PSLS. She was Secretary of PSLS in 2018 and currently serves as the PSLS Vice President as well as chairperson of the Public Relations Committee.

Vice-President: Terry E. McMillen, Jr., PLS

Terry has been a member of PSLS since 1992 as a Student member and later to a Member with the Laurel Highlands Chapter. Served as the Laurel Highlands Chapter President 2006 and 2007.

Terry began his career at McMillen Engineering in 1986 as a part-time surveyor and was promoted to Vice President of Surveys in January 2009. In this role, he maintained his duties as Chief of Surveys and was also responsible for ensuring the accurate and timely completion of all projects.

In January 2013, Terry was promoted to Vice President and currently serves a dual role as Vice President and Chief of Surveys. Terry is currently the Secretary of PSLS.

Secretary: Robert Nargoski, PLS

Robert Nargoski, PLS is a Veteran of the US Army and a Penn State Alumni with a Bachelor of Science in Surveying Engineering. He joined the PSLS in 2010. In 2016 he joined the Legislative Committee and has since volunteered to serve as its Chair. He also serves as the PSLS PAC Treasurer and is the author of the PAC Newsletter. Robert is currently a Senior Associate and the Department Manager of Survey and Mapping with Michael Baker International's Harrisburg Office.

Treasurer: Richard Shewman, PLS

Richard has been a member of PSLS since 1991. He began his surveying career in 1985 in western Pennsylvania. During his time with the Southwest Chapter, he served as a Chapter Director, By-Laws Chairman. He also represented the Southwest Chapter as a State Director after becoming licensed in 1995.

Richard transferred to the Delaware Valley Chapter and became a chapter board member, where he has served since. He has served the Chapter as Secretary, Vice-President and President. Most recently, Richard has served as PSLS Treasurer since 2018. Prior to becoming Treasurer, he was involved with multiple state committees, including Public Relations, Membership and By-Laws. He was part of the joint PSLS/ACEC Executive VP Search Committee in 2012.

Richard is currently the Chief of Surveys for PennDOT, District 6-0 in King of Prussia, Montgomery County. Also, he currently serves as the appointed liaison between PSLS and PennDOT acting to mediate an agreement for the proposed SPCS2022 geometric reference frame.



Thoughts on Standards and the Pennsylvania Manual of Practice

By Donald G. Groesser, PLS

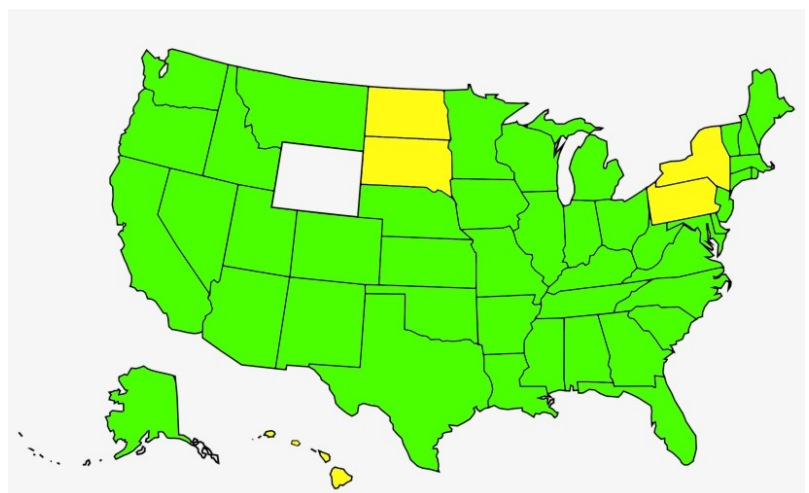


It's been about five years since I moved to Pennsylvania from Illinois, and I haven't regretted the move for a moment. However, one of the first things I needed to acclimate to was the absence of statewide statutory requirements, such as the Illinois Plat Act, the Illinois Land Survey Monument Act, and the Illinois Minimum Survey Standards. Although I have been licensed in Pennsylvania since 2001, I had not actually practiced survey in the Commonwealth until my move, and was quite surprised upon arriving in what can only be referred to as the "Wild, Wild East" of Pennsylvania surveying. I renewed my familiarity with our association's Manual of Practice. The Manual was enacted in 1998, and I understand we have begun some efforts to revise it.

While both standards and guidelines provide a useful reference for professionals to ascertain best practices, a guideline merely makes suggestions with no obligation. A standard can establish minimum practices to which all professionals are required to adhere. Simply put, standards have "teeth" and guidelines do not. Because our Manual lacks statutory obligations, surveyors aren't obligated to follow it, even though it is certainly a useful reference and rightfully considered a standard for professional practice in litigious cases.

Currently, only five states in the U.S. have "guidelines" in lieu of "standards:" Pennsylvania, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Hawaii. All other states except Wyoming have at least some level of statutory minimum survey standards.

I can appreciate the independence and libertarian nature of practicing our profession with the least amount of regulation. However, I propose to make a case for us to consider the benefit of creating and legislating minimum survey standards, not only for the benefit of the public, but also for the benefit of our profession and for the individual professional. (continued on page 7)



Standards Set Client Expectations

Without specific contractual language, many clients have an expectation that the surveyor's work is of the highest precision possible, practically perfect. However, with a reference to standards that could set appropriate precisions for various survey deliverables, the client is provided with an authoritative definition of exactly how "good" is considered "good enough" for the type of professional service they are requesting. Such a standard that includes definition of precisions and accuracies therefore reduces the risk of the professional surveyor by limiting what could otherwise be an unreasonable expectation by our clients.

Standards Help Our Profession Produce Consistent Results

Standards help professional surveyors produce a better-quality, more reliable, professional service. Not only are we individually required to produce quality professional services, but other surveyors are similarly required. Instead of forcing "good" surveyors to be at a competitive disadvantage when we bid projects based on providing high-quality professional services, all professional surveyors will be charged with maintaining the same standard. While there may be some who will still cut corners to underbid a project, at least there will be a definition of where the corner should be.

Proposed Standards to Consider

Since there are 44 states that have enacted minimum standards, there are plenty of examples we could draw from if we are willing to see the advantages and work together to develop standards for our Commonwealth. Below are some items to consider for proposed standards.

1. Tweak the language in our Manual of Practice from "should" to "shall" and from "may" to "must." Much of the rest of our Manual is appropriate. We would then incorporate our guidelines into "standards" legislation.

2. Specifically define the appropriate positional accuracy standards for various professional services. Horizontal accuracies for boundary surveys could define requirements for unadjusted closure errors, angular closure, GPS positional tolerances, location of improvements, etc. Vertical accuracies for topographic surveys could define requirements for differential level circuits, elevations of various surfaces, anticipated accuracy of various methods (e.g., conventional vs. aerial), etc.

3. Require monuments to be set at all corners where an existing monument is not found. There is no

greater service a professional surveyor offers for the public good than setting reliable property corners.



“Standards...” continued....

Unless we produce a plat that is recorded, property corners are the only evidence for those who follow after us that we surveyed a boundary. In states where setting corners is obligatory, professional surveyors produce more reliable and consistent results to their clients. Boundary disputes, which often embroil the surveyor, are reduced.

4. Require that legal descriptions must appropriately reference found monuments and adjoining properties, and must close geometrically to a defined accuracy.

5. Establish minimum standards for survey plans, including a requirement that if a new boundary is established as a result of the survey, then the plat must be recorded. The survey plan standards should include the required content, including the surveyed datum/bearing basis, description, survey report, and certification (similar as defined in the current Manual of Practice).

“Currently, only five states in the U.S. have “guidelines” in lieu of “standards:” Pennsylvania, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Hawaii. All other states except Wyoming have at least some level of statutory minimum survey standards.”



6. Revisit the licensing act to require that legal descriptions, topographic surveys, and establishing survey control be services that can only be performed by professional land surveyors. Currently, only boundary surveys fit this description.

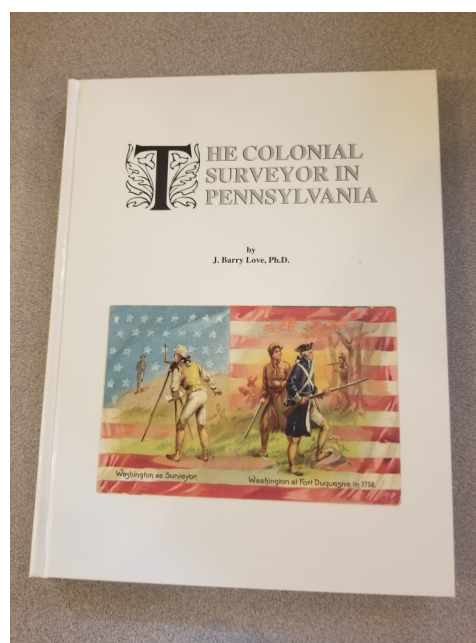
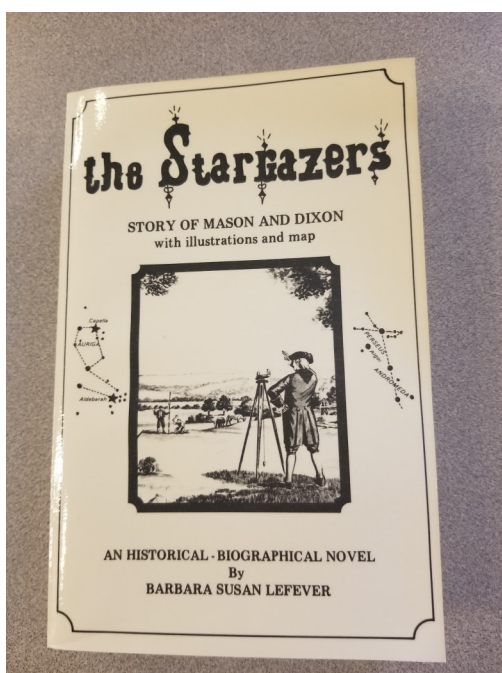
7. Propose legislation that provides land surveyors Right-of-Entry. This would allow surveyors to the benefit of the general public, to survey adjoining properties without being liable for trespass, to best determine and address potential gaps or overlaps with adjoining.

8. Propose legislation that would require a survey to be performed for any subdivision of property. This is a requirement for many counties and municipalities, but would be a benefit to the general public if enacted state-wide so that property divisions would be property surveyed and documented.

Consider how often we are “following in the footsteps” of previous surveyors whose walk was more of a stagger. Whether it is a legal description that doesn’t close, or monuments that weren’t set, or boundary discrepancies that were not addressed, we are all burdened with resolving ambiguous boundaries. If obligated to survey to minimum accuracies, write closing descriptions, and set property corners, we can be the ones who leave this profession stronger than it was when we entered it. All good people, especially surveyors, care about the legacy we leave behind. Let’s consider, discuss, and develop minimum standards to help leave a strong and vibrant legacy. I propose that the members of PSLS discuss this at the chapter level, and ask your representatives and the board to begin



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50th Anniversary Events

READING AREA CHAPTER OF PSLS KING GEORGE 28TH GOLF OUTING Chapel Hill Golf Course



The Reading Area Chapter of PSLS held its 2th Annual Golf Outing on Friday, September 13, 2019.

The 28th King George is in honor and memory of George Knehr PLS, a member of the Reading Area Chapter of PSLS. All proceeds went to the "George Knehr/Reading Area Chapter Scholarship Fund.





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50th Anniversary Event

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA Hosted by Delaware Valley Chapter of PSLS

The Delaware Valley Chapter of PSLS hosted a fun, murder mystery themed banquet in honor of the 50th anniversary of PSLS. The minutes of the first board meeting were on display, as well as many other fascinating documents from the early years. Bob Miller, NSPS Treasurer, presented a congratulatory plaque from NSPS to Brian Yorkiewicz, PSLS President.

Thank you to the many sponsors who hosted this event! A great time was had by all.



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New Law. New Rules.

What's new with PA Act 287, as amended?

The passage of PA Act 50 of 2017 brought four major enhancements to the Underground Utility Line Protection Law

Change in the Enforcement authority. Enforcement of the One Call Law moved from the Department of Labor and Industry to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC).

Obligations for responding. Facility owners must respond to all notifications through the One Call System by the response due date. There has been a change when a response is due on a renotify.

Obligations to map facilities. Every facility owner must participate in the One Call System's Member Mapping Solutions.

Obligations for reporting. All One Call stakeholders are obligated to report violations of PA Act 287, as amended. Timeframes are as follows:

Project Owners/Excavators

Not more than ten (10) business days

Facility Owners/Designers

Not more than thirty (30) business days

Complex Projects Update. Facility owners are required to attend and participate in complex project preconstruction meetings and work with excavators on a schedule to mark the underground lines reasonably in advance of the actual start of excavation or demolition work for each phase of the work.

Questions? You can find each of our liaisons and the region they cover on our website: www.paonecall.org/liaisons

PSLS - Laying the Groundwork for the Future



2020 Surveyors' Conference



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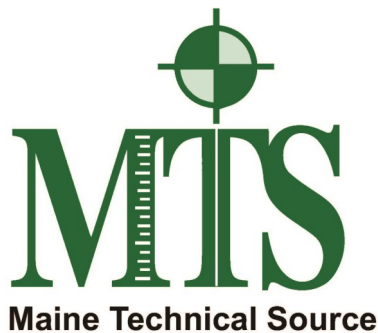


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The Underground Detective

THG Geophysics, Ltd.

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www.psls.org

2020 Surveyors' Conference Schedule

Refreshment Breaks:

Monday-Tuesday, 9:45-10:45 a.m. and 2:45-3:45 p.m.

Wednesday, 9:30-10:15 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.

Sunday, January 12

3 – 6 p.m.

4 – 6 p.m.

4:30 – 9 p.m.

EXHIBITOR SET-UP

REGISTRATION

SPECIAL “KICKOFF” WELCOME EVENT

Monday, January 13

7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

7 a.m.

9 a.m. – 6:15 p.m.

8:30 a.m. – Noon

Noon

1:30 – 5 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION

BREAKFAST

EXHIBITOR SET-UP

EXHIBITS OPEN

MONDAY AM SESSIONS - SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

(see *Workshop Descriptions* list for schedule)

LUNCH

MONDAY PM SESSIONS - SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

(see *Workshop Descriptions* list for schedule)

RECEPTION with CASH BAR and Networking with Exhibitors

DINNER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Avish Parashar, “Yes, and....”

PSLS INSTALLATION of OFFICERS AND AWARDS BANQUET

Introduction of guests and PSLs past presidents

PSLS installation of state officers and chapter officers

PSLS award presentations, including Surveyor of the Year

Tuesday, January 14

7 a.m.

8 a.m. – 6:15 p.m.

8:30 a.m. – Noon

Noon

1:30 – 5 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

BREAKFAST

EXHIBITS OPEN

Tear-down at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY AM SESSIONS - SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

(see *Workshop Descriptions* list for schedule)

LUNCH

TUESDAY PM SESSIONS - SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

(see *Workshop Descriptions* list for schedule)

RECEPTION with CASH BAR and Networking with Exhibitors

EXHIBITOR TEAR-DOWN

DINNER

Raffle & Auction benefit education and student attendance at conference

Wednesday, January 15

7 a.m.

8:15 – 11:45 a.m.

11:45 a.m.

12:45 – 4:15 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

BREAKFAST

WEDNESDAY AM SESSIONS - SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

(see *Workshop Descriptions* list for schedule)

LUNCH

WEDNESDAY PM SESSIONS SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

(see *Workshop Descriptions* list for schedule)

ADJOURNMENT

PSLS - Laying the Groundwork for the Future



2020 Surveyors' Conference

Conference Matrix

[View Conference Matrix](#)

Session Descriptions

[View session descriptions.](#)

Speaker Biographies

[View the speaker bios.](#)

Course Credits

[View course credits.](#)

Enter the PLAT Competition

DEADLINE DECEMBER 19

[Register your PLATS online.](#)

2020 PSLS Conference Spouse/Guest Program

**Note: Please register by December 20 for the activities. We must have a minimum of 10 registrations to avoid cancellation of activities.
No refunds will be made after December 20.**

**Conference registration is complimentary for all spouses/guests
but does not include meals or workshops.
You can purchase only the meals you choose.**

Sunday Jan 12, 2020

6:00 pm-10:00 pm - Welcome "Kickoff" Event/

Monday, Jan 13, 2020

8:30 am-9:30 am - Meet and Greet Breakfast in Tower Lounge

9:30 am-10:15 am - Chocolate Bingo*

10:45 am-11:35 am - Gentle Yoga*

12 noon - 1:15 pm - Conference Lunch

1:30 pm-3:30 pm - Origami/paper flowers*

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Conference Reception

7:30 pm - Conference Banquet
Keynote Speaker / Installation of Officers / Awards

Tuesday, Jan 14, 2020

8:00 am-9:00 am - Breakfast in Tower Lounge

9:00 am-10:30 am - Ceramic Class*

10:45 am-12:30 pm - Jewelry Making*

12:45-3:30 pm - Lunch/Afternoon on your own in downtown Hershey*
Includes hotel shuttle to and from downtown and free admission to the "Hershey Story Museum"

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm - Chat with John Fuehrer in Tower Lounge re: future spouse events

5:30 pm-6:30 pm - Conference Reception

7:30 pm - Conference Dinne
Raffle Drawings and Live Auction

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

7:00 am-8:00 am - Breakfast with Conference Attendees

8:00 am - 11:30 am - Free time on your own.

11:45 am-12:30 pm - Lunch with Conference Attendees

2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Awards will be presented at the Monday night banquet.

Distinguished Service Awards

Donald Rife, PLS

Bucks County Chapter

David Spellman, SIT

Bucks County Chapter

David Nowicki, PLS

Delaware Valley Chapter

Karl Kriegh, PLS

Delaware Valle Chapter

Jay Musselman, PLS

Lehigh Valley Chapter

Mary Butler

Pocono Chapter

Chapter of the Year Honorable Mention

Lehigh Valley Chapter

2019 Chapter of the Year

Delaware Valley Chapter

Surveyor of the Year Honorable Mention

Cynthia Skoriak, PLS

Surveyor of the Year Honorable Mention

Brian Zick, PLS

2019 Surveyor of the Year

Donald Housley, PLS



PLS Foundation

Awards will be presented at the Monday night banquet.

2019-20 Scholarship Recipients

Mathew Bogue

Jacob Hebel

Claudia Leu

Gerald Rusek

Brian Springer

Jacob Williams

Ayden Yoder

Special Appreciation to:

McMillen Engineering, Inc.

Foundation Corporate Sponsor

**JOIN US AND SUPPORT
THE PLS FOUNDATION'S
GOLF-PUTTING CONTEST FUNDRAISER**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13TH
5:30 DURING CONFERENCE RECEPTION**

NOT YET REGISTERED FOR OUR 2020 CONFERENCE?

Register by December 20th to receive the early bird discount
JOIN PSLS and receive the member discount to save even more.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jacob Krupa, Allegheny Heartlands
Michael Connor, Delaware Valley
Eric Cantrell, PLS, Member at Large
Ambrose Gmeiner, PLS, Member at Large
Joseph Phil, PLS, PP, Member at Large
Claudia Leu, Penn State Student
Bret Yetter, Penn College of Technology Student
Mathew Bogue, Penn State Student
Frederick Gabriel, PLS, Reading
Foret Jones, PLS, Southwest
Benjamin Cole, Penn College of Technology Student
Kyler Brown, Student
Zane Dutton, Student
Thomas Hewitt, EIT, SIT, Southwest



Antique instruments at 2019 PSLS Conference

**VISIT
THE
ANTIQUE
INSTRUMENTS
DISPLAY
ROOM**

Happy Holidays!

from the PSLS Staff Team



Lauren Ramsey, Lori Elliott, Marcy Robey, Kathy Clough, Jason Tobias, Shelly Dreese