

DEEP EAST TEXAS CHAPTER NO. 6 NEWS

January 9, 1998

Texas Society of Professional Surveyors

Vol. 3, Issue 1

President's Column:

As we begin another new year, I look back on the achievements of the past year. Our Chapter membership has experienced tremendous growth. We are seeing resurgence in the enthusiasm and participation of members in the Chapter's activities. We are accomplishing goals previously set and continuing to work toward others.

Looking forward to the new year, I see continued growth and prosperity for the Chapter and its members. The economy is doing well in the nation. Locally, we are seeing a surge in business with further declines in the interest rate driving new home building and purchases. Many industrial plants are expanding, creating a boom for the area economy not seen since the early 1990's.

However, I do see a shortage in the local workforce of good qualified surveyors and survey technicians that can handle all the work. I am hearing this same concern from other surveyors throughout the state as well. There are more jobs and less unemployment in the state and the nation, shrinking the field of prospective employees.

That is why I believe some of the biggest challenges ahead for us will be the recruitment and training of new personnel as well as the retention of existing personnel. In case you haven't heard, the buzzword around the state is "Education, Education, Education". TSPS is focusing a large portion of their efforts on examining the education process. Not just continuing education for registered surveyors, but paraprofessional education for survey technicians as well. The Chapter will be actively involved in this issue and will have a representative on the Education Committee.

Governmental Affairs will be another active committee to watch. Gilbert Johnston will be serving on the committee and representing local members. The committee will be working over the next several months to finalize the legislative issues TSPS will submit to the 76th Legislature convening in January 1999.

Minutes of Meeting:

The Chapter held its quarterly meeting November 10, 1997 at Tuffy's Restaurant in Mauriceville, Orange County, Texas. This meeting served as a Chapter Activities Workshop to plan, discuss and schedule the various projects and activities for the next year.

Meeting called to order by President Richard Worthey at 7:00 PM. Fourteen members and guest were present. President Worthey recapped the recent TSPS convention and activities that took place this past October.

Reports:

- Financial report was presented by Sec./Treas. Joe Breaux.
- NGS Calibrated Baseline project is still on hold awaiting word from NGS.
- A governmental affairs report given by Gilbert Johnston stated that all legislative bills TSPS had supported were passed.
- Discussion on an ethics committee was held and Steve Boucher, Joe Breaux and Gilbert Johnston were appointed to investigate the requirements of the committee and member responsibilities.
- Discussion on Chapter participation in trade shows resulted in Vice President Charles Lawley agreeing to look into the schedule of local shows and requirements of a display to use.
- Discussion was held on a new regional seminar the Chapter will sponsor next spring. The theme of the seminar will be "Heart of the Big Thicket" with course subject being "The Gradient Boundary" as presented by Darrell Shine. Ron Davis will be Project Leader.
- Discussion was held on the need and importance of a horizontal and vertical control network in Jefferson County. Steve Boucher will be Project Leader responsible

for coordinating with local surveyors and governmental entities.

- Discussion was held on Trig*Star competition and the School to Work program. Mitch Brackin will be Project Leader.
- Discussion was held on the Spindletop Centennial Celebration commemorative mapping and monumentation project. Joe Breaux will be Project Leader. In addition Joe will continue to be responsible for the Technicians Certification Exams to be held in the spring.
- Fund raising activities for next year were discussed, and the Second Annual Chapter Golf Tournament and Second Annual Skeet Shoot were approved by the membership. Randy Johnston will coordinate the golf tournament and Charles Lawley will coordinate the skeet shoot.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Websites of the Quarter:

Blue Marble Geographics (software)
<http://www.bluemarblegeo.com/>

Carlson Software (SurvCADD software)
<http://www.cadsonsw.com/>

Eagle Point (software)
<http://www.eaglepoint.com/>

ERSI ArcInfo (software)
<http://www.esri.com/>

You can access these pages directly from the Chapter website at:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/rworthy/>

1997 – 1998 Officers

President – Richard L. Worthey
Vice President – Charles Lawley
Secretary/Treasurer – Joe Breaux
Director-at-Large – Steve Boucher
Director-at-Large – Gilbert Johnston

Upcoming Events:

Mark your calendar as a reminder of the following events:

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| Jan.26 | Chapter Quarterly Meeting |
| Location: | Stinger's Family Restaurant
Silsbee, TX |
| Social Mixer: | 6:30 PM |
| Dinner: | 7:00 PM |
| Meeting: | 8:00 PM |
| Topic: | The Internet - will examine what it is, how to access it, and where to find valuable information that will benefit every surveyor. |
| Feb.1-6 | SURVEYING I
Basic Short Course
Texas A&M Corpus Christi |
| Feb.21 | TSPS Board Meeting
Omni Southpark
Austin, Texas |
| Apr.20 | Chapter Quarterly Meeting
Location To Be Announced |
| Sep.21 | Chapter Annual Meeting
Location To Be Announced |
| Oct.14-18 | TSPS Annual Convention
San Antonio, Texas |
| Nov.9 | Chapter Quarterly Meeting
Location To Be Announced |

Dates and times for upcoming events will be updated in all future.

