President’s Message

The opportunity to serve as President of the Virginia Association of Surveyors for 2017 is truly an honor. I’m quickly realizing that balancing my own surveying practice with the responsibilities of being VAS President is a challenge. My respect for my predecessors has already grown immeasurably in just these first several weeks. The good news is that we all are very busy and I hope this presents opportunities to everyone in the ways of business development and implementation of new technologies. To start my office as your President I would like to extend my thanks to the VAS Board and Members of this Association for the great job you are doing representing Surveyors in the Commonwealth. I am looking forward to another great year serving the VAS and to the promotion of the profession for future Surveyors.

We had a very successful convention January 26-27 at the Hyatt Regency Dulles in Herndon, VA, with outstanding education seminars, a silent auction to benefit scholarships, an informative exhibit hall, a productive annual membership meeting, and an enjoyable banquet featuring our keynote speaker, State Senator Bill Stanley.

Senator Stanley was the sponsor of SB 1572, along with Delegate LeMunyon, who offered HB 2145, to close the current law loophole regarding the licensed practice in surveying-photogrammetry. Although there was much misunderstanding about the intent and implications of this bill, and it was ultimately not enacted by the General Assembly, it did pass the House of Delegates by an overwhelming margin and we learned a lot in the process. I want to particularly thank Bruce Frederick and Dave McKay for their work on this bill. The VAS Board will be reviewing this matter and determining our future course of action.

VAS has been active in Richmond on other fronts as well. John “JB” Byrd of the VAS staff was successful in securing a “Surveyors Week” proclamation from Governor McAuliffe for March 19-25 and several members conducted GPS on Benchmarks during that observance. As a result of a motion adopted at our annual membership meeting, the APELSCIDLA Board has been asked to review the education requirements for becoming a licensed surveyor in Virginia, something that has not changed in 25 years.

As members of VAS, we are also members of the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS). Our national organization held its conference in Silver Spring, MD in mid-March, during which more than 100 surveyors and geospatial professional members of NSPS and MAPPS went to Congress to discuss three important issues: the role of surveying and mapping in the $1 trillion infrastructure bill the Trump Administration will propose, improvements to the FEMA flood mapping program, and greater utilization of the private section by government agencies in surveying and
It is gratifying to know our national organization is standing up and speaking out for surveyors across the nation. VAS and a number of chapters are engaged in workforce development activities. Steve Douty is doing a great job leading that effort. There is a role for every individual VAS member in attracting and recruiting the next generation of surveyors. There are a number of programs in Virginia to provide career and technical education opportunities to young people, including ways to introduce them to surveying. Please become part of that effort.

Looking forward, please consider attending the Spring Seminar on Friday, April 21, 2017 at the Marriott City Center in Newport News. Learn from nationally recognized instructor Gary Kent, LS, in a two-part seminar focused on *Easements and Rights of Way* and *Avoiding Boundary Problems-Understanding Survey Reports*. The VAS Board will meet the following day. Additionally, I hope to begin visiting chapter meetings and hope to see you at one of these events. As you can see, there is a lot happening in VAS. Please become an active member. Together, we can build an even better profession.

- Ed Dodd, VAS President

**Annual VAS Convention Recap**

The 69th Annual Convention and General Membership Meeting, held at the end of January, in Herndon, VA proved to be a stellar success! The education sessions were filled to capacity, the exhibit hall boasted the latest and greatest in surveying technology and the events proved to be fun and engaging for all involved. We are excited to announce that we had over 300 attendees this year! Nearly $3,000 was raised from the silent auction to benefit the VAS Education Trust and we’d like to thank the donors and fundraisers for making that possible. Click [here](#) for photos of this year’s convention.

Mark your calendar now to join us for the 2018 Annual Convention, January 17-20, 2018 at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel & Conference Center in Staunton, VA.

**Plat Competition**

Congratulations to this year’s Plat Competition winners. First place finishers have been entered into the NSPS national plat competition.

**Boundary/Cadastral Maps**

1st- Richard B. Armstrong, Jr., Armstrong and Associates  
2nd- Michael C. Taylor, Rice Associates

**Subdivision Plats**

1st- M. Taze Crowder, Actual Surveyors, PLLC  
2nd- Ralph O. Clements, Gay and Neel, Inc.

**Miscellaneous Maps**

1st- Ralph O. Clements, Gay and Neel, Inc.  
2nd- Vickie McEntire Anglin, Fairfax County DPWES- Land Survey Branch

**ALTA Survey Maps**

1st- Stephen C. Letchford, AES Consulting Engineers  
2nd- Stephen C. Letchford, AES Consulting Engineers

**Topographic Maps**

1st- Richard B. Armstrong, Jr., Armstrong and Associates  
2nd- Christopher J. Jensen, Fairfax County DPWES - Land Survey Branch

**VAS Welcomes New Directors and Officers**

Please welcome your 2017 Board of Directors:
Gov. McAuliffe Recognizes National Surveyors Week
VAS is pleased to announce that Governor Terry McAuliffe issued a proclamation for Surveyors Week in Virginia. To view the proclamation, [click here](#).

Workforce Development Committee Meets
The VAS Workforce Development Committee met last week to create strategies to attract and recruit the next generation of surveyors. TJ Frazier of the Maryland Society of Surveyors attended the meeting to share Maryland’s experience and activities.

Upcoming Events
Be sure to keep up to date with upcoming VAS and VAS Chapter events by visiting the [calendar](#) on the website.

April 20-21, 2017: VAS 2017 Spring Seminar & Board Meeting, Newport News, VA
This mini-conference will include a VAS Board meeting, networking and seminars. Seminars being offered include: Easements and Rights of Way and Avoiding Boundary Problems – Understanding Surveyor Reports.

June 23-24, 2017: Western Chapter Seminar
“The Complete Professional;” Instructor: Dianne Garcia

July 25-28, 2017: John Foster School, Richmond, VA
More information and registration coming soon.

September 15-16, 2017: Mount Vernon Chapter Seminar, Woodbridge, VA
Morning Session: Surveys in Tidal Areas; Instructor: Ben Stagg
Afternoon Session: Surveying & GIS; Instructors: Howard S. Hodder, Jr. & Matthew D. Warner

Tidewater Community College Land Surveying Program
Starting in August 2017, all the courses required for the Land Surveying Certificate will be offered in an online format. This will allow individuals across the state that are interested in Land Surveying to enroll in our certificate program. To accomplish this, students enrolling in our lab course that cannot attend a face to face lab will have to work with a mentor to meet class requirements. The mentor will have to be a Licensed Land Surveyor in the United States. For information on the Land Surveying Certificate program, [click here](#). If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact Chris Cartwright, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering Technology, Tidewater Community College.
**VAS Educational Trust**

The VAS Educational Trust, created on January 1, 1990, consists of two portions: a) “Scholarship” account and the b) “Other” account. The purpose of the Trust is to support the Virginia Association of Surveyor’s by conducting its scholarship program in order to provide scholarships and grants for deserving students who are pursuing a career as a registered professional surveyor in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The “Other” account was established to promote study, research and continuing education of surveyors. It can also be used to support other purposes in support of surveying education at duly accredited schools, colleges and universities.

The Trust, both the “Scholarship and Other “accounts, are to receive gifts, and bequests, grants, etc. and are responsible for managing and investing them in support of its purpose.

Donations, bequests or grants can be made to the VAS Education Trust online or by contacting the VAS office.

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**Recruit a Member**

Did you know that when you recruit a member to VAS, you will receive a 25% discount on your membership dues? Spread the word about the great work VAS is doing for the surveying profession and be sure to tell the new member to include your name on the recommended by portion of their application.

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**VAS Apparel**

VAS is pleased to work with Land’s End to provide you an opportunity to purchase quality clothing with the VAS logo embroidered on it. Go on, showcase your membership in VAS. To start shopping and place your order, click here.

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**VAS Career Center**

VAS now offers you a way to connect you to the right employee or employer!

**POST A JOB** - Looking to fill a position at your firm/company? Post a job on the VAS Career Center and let qualified applicants apply. Job postings are $25 per ad.

**FIND A JOB** - Looking for a new job in the surveying profession? Peruse job listings from VAS firms and apply for your new opportunity. Job searches are free to VAS members.