President’s Message

The most wonderful time of the year is upon us. Temperatures are cooling across the Commonwealth. Mosquitos, ticks and snakes are disappearing. Corn, soybeans and sorghum is being mowed, providing better sight lines for surveyors.

I am pleased to report that VAS’s Young Surveyors Network (YSN) is in motion. Josh Sehl recently attended the YSN meeting in Chandler, Arizona, held in conjunction with the NSPS fall meeting. I look forward to hearing about Josh’s experience and the goals of the YSN. We do need to populate our own VAS young surveyors group with fresh, young, enthusiastic minds. If you are interested in being a part of this new group, please contact Josh, myself or the VAS office and let us know.

Steve Douty has continued to push the Workforce Development initiative, including a recent appearance on Curt Sumner’s internet radio show. We’ve had some minor setbacks, but we are still moving forward.

The 69th annual VAS Convention is rapidly approaching. Make your plans now to attend as it promises to be one of our best conventions in recent years. Don’t wait until the last minute and miss out on getting a room at the conference hotel. The Convention is January 26-28 at the Hyatt Regency in Herndon, VA.

Elections are forthcoming for the officers of the Board of Directors for VAS and its local chapters. Please consider volunteering your time, if you are contacted by your local chapter. Serving on the board is a very rewarding experience that will benefit you in so many ways.

I saw on the news last night that there is a national election coming up. I think it might be for President of the United States or something. Whichever side of the fence you are on, I urge all of you to VOTE on Election Day. Vote your heart, your conscience and your values and pray that we, as a nation, get this right.
69th Annual VAS Convention – Session Sneak Peak

You’ve saved the dates of January 26-28, 2017 to attend the VAS General Membership Meeting & Convention, now here’s a sneak peek of your education sessions:

- Land Surveying in the District of Columbia from “A” to “Z” --- ‘A&T’ to Zoning (8 PDH/CEU)
- GIS and Surveyors Workshop (4 PDH/CEU)
- Modernization of the National Spatial Reference System: Keeping Pace with Changes in Positioning Technology and User Expectations in a Dynamic World (8 PDH/CEU)
- Re-Engineering Surveyors and Their Businesses & Continuous Quality Improvement in Surveying (8 PDH/CEU)

For complete session descriptions, [click here](http://www.vasurveyors.org). Registration is COMING SOON!!

VAS Board of Directors Election

The election for your next Board of Directors will be coming soon. You are asked, as members of the association, to participate in the process and make your voice heard. Election information and ballots will be sent to you via email. Now is a great time to login at [http://www.vasurveyors.org](http://www.vasurveyors.org) and update your profile. You login information was sent to you previously. If you need assistance, please contact the office at 844.414.1466.

VAS Workforce Development Committee

At its Annual meeting in 2016 the VAS Board of Directors passed a workforce development initiative. The Workforce Development Committee, chaired by Steve Douty, is currently seeking members. If you are interested in participating, please [click here for more information](http://www.vasurveyors.org).

Recently, Mr. Douty and his counterpart with the Maryland Society of Surveyors, TJ Frazier, were guests on the NSPS Radio Show for a discussion of their states' participation in a national effort to attract the next generation of surveyors. To listen, [click here](http://www.vasurveyors.org).

APELSCIDLA News

APELSCIDLA has established minimum requirements for the training of the Land Surveyor Apprentices. For additional information, [click here](http://www.vasurveyors.org).

APELSCIDLA has issued guidance to localities on Scope of Practice in Surveying. To read the memo, [click here](http://www.vasurveyors.org).

GPS Values Obtained for the Final Resting Place of Judy Hite

The VAS Board would like to thank Bill Ware for obtaining the GPS values (LAT/LONG) for the final resting place of Judy Hite. In addition, while the GPS ran its course, Bill honored Judy with his musical talents, playing TAPS on the tuba. For the detailed observation sheet, [click here](http://www.vasurveyors.org).
VAS Past President Educates Homeschoolers on the Surveying Profession

VAS Past President, Dave Gardy, shared the surveying profession with a group of young homeschoolers at the Hanover Friends School recently. "It was a lot of fun and the kids were so receptive," said Gardy. For the full news release, please click here.

DOL/SBA Advocacy Webinar on Overtime Final Rule-Recording Available

The Department of Labor Wage & Hour Division (DOL) in partnership with the Small Business Office of Advocacy recently presented a webinar entitled, “Preparing for the Overtime Final Rule.” DOL provided a briefing and a Questions & Answers session regarding the agency’s final rule that makes changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) overtime regulations. This Final Rule is effective on December 1, 2016.

- A recording of the webinar is now available here or on Youtube. DOL will post a transcript of the Questions & Answers portion of the webinar soon.
- DOL has created other resources to help small entities comply with this rule, such as a Small Business Compliance Guide, which can be found here.
- DOL also has a hotline for compliance questions at: 1-866-4-USWAGE (1-866-487-9243)

Wetland Professionals’ Scope of Practice

The Virginia Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists recently released a memo in response to inquiries about Wetland Professionals conducting boundary surveys. To read the memo, click here.

Interesting Reads

A Four Hour Cruise
By: Steve Douty
To the untrained eye, a surveyor’s world must seem an easy one. We, however, know differently. We know how much training is required, that every assignment is preceded by careful thought and exacting preparation, to include whether we have the training and expertise for the assignment in the first place . . . READ MORE

The Trials and Tribulations of Judy Hite
By: David Holland
*This article was originally published in The Old Dominion Surveyor in November, 2014.
Judy Hite - New Executive Secretary!! This was the headline in the The Old Dominion Surveyor in 1982. Now here it is 32 years later and Judy has become . . . READ MORE

How Virginia’s Unique Land Surveying Definitions Came About
By: Merlin F. McLaughlin, Licensed Land Surveyor #575 & #17
If the definition that existed in 1938 for “Land Surveying” still remained in full force and effect, by preventing the scope of the practice from maturing and advancing in coordination with advancing local regulatory requirements, today’s practice of land surveying in Virginia . . . READ MORE