January 23, 2018

Report to the National Society of Professional Surveyors from the Land Surveyors' Association of Washington.
Director James A. Coan Sr., PLS, CFedS

The LSAW's annual conference will be held March 7 – 10, 2018 at the Grand Davenport Hotel, Spokane Washington. During this time, we will have our change of command ceremony of the executive committee of the LSAW. Carla Merritt, PLS will be the outgoing president, and Weston Dorszynski, PLS will be the incoming president. Weston will be joining me in Washington DC for the day on the hill in April. He was also with me in Texas for our fall meeting.

In the state of Washington, we are having a difficult time finding qualified people. There is a larger workload than there are people. The colleges in the state of Washington are not supplying the profession with enough people to meet the demand. Because of this, we are exploring alternative ways to attract people, get them minimally qualified, and into the workforce. This is an ongoing discussion, and a topic we will be discussing at our March meeting. I will keep NSPS informed as things develop.

At our last Board of Trustees meeting I brought up the subject of NSPS dues increase. No decisions were made by the LSAW at that time and we will be discussing this again at the Board of Trustees meeting in March. I have the sense that the LSAW understands the need for the NSPS dues increase, but because the LSAW pays the NSPS dues for its members this may necessitate an LSAW dues increase. I will keep you informed as things develop.

The LSAW is still working on updating their bylaws. As I reported earlier, this is an ongoing process, and as you can imagine, this will take some time. We hope to have this finished this year.

The LSAW has developed an ad hoc committee to study, report on, and educate its members as to the upcoming 2022 datum. We are making good progress on this and hopefully we will be setting up classes to educate our membership around the state. We are still in the planning process, but hope to have our membership educated by the time the new datum goes into effect.

The state of Washington is developing a new State playing coordinate system. It will still be a Lambert conic projection with 2 zones covering 158 miles each. The origin of the 2 zones will remain in the same place they are now, as well as the standard parallels. However, new coordinate values will be given to the origin points of each zone.
There will also be a new statewide zone. This zone will also be a Lambert conic projection with standard parallels at 46° 07’ N, and 48° 25’ N. The origin of the state-wide zone will be at latitude 45° 15’ N, and longitude 120° 50’ W. the coordinate values of this new origin will be East 400,000 m and North 1,000,000 m.
The reason for the statewide zone is to help the GIS community with a more accurate system of plane coordinates than they are using now.
There has been quite a bit of discussion in some of the Western states as to the value of the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS), because NSPS has the Western Directors Council, and some people believe it is doing the same work as WFPS. The LSAW leadership would like NSPS to understand it supports the work of WFPS, and understands the value of the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors.

Respectfully submitted

Jim

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