Contract with Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio

Surveyors Historical Society (SHS) contracts with Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio (PLSO) for administrative services. Melinda Gilpin has been employed by PLSO as their Executive Director and, as a result of our contract with PLSO, Ms. Gilpin has also been the SHS Executive Director since 2015.

On Saturday, January 18, 2020 Bill Weikel (SHS Financial Officer) and I received phone calls from Terry Wright, President-elect of PLSO, informing us that PLSO had discovered irregularities in their financial accounts which suggested Ms. Gilpin had been allegedly misappropriating funds from PLSO. Initial indicators suggested that SHS funds were not affected. Ms. Gilpin is no longer employed by PLSO and is therefore no longer the SHS Executive Director.

PLSO has since employed a new Executive Director, Paula Hammer. However, the fact that there was no transition period between the arrival of Ms. Hammer and the departure of Ms. Gilpin has left both SHS and PLSO with a number of issues regarding the administration of their respective organizations.

On March 11, 2020 SHS Board of Directors members Ann Besch, Bill Weikel and I visited the PLSO office. We spent three days sorting through paper and computer files in an attempt to ascertain what steps need to be taken to recover from this situation. We also met with Ms. Hammer and PLSO President Terry Wright and discussed future expectations. On Friday, March 13, 2020 we participated in a PLSO Board of Directors meeting. PLSO has indicated that they want to continue the relationship with SHS. When the current contract between PLSO and SHS expires at the end of this year we hope to negotiate a new contract for the 2021-2022 biennium.

In the meantime, SHS members have agreed to take on some of the tasks formerly handled by PLSO staff in order to lighten the load for Ms. Hammer until she has a chance to acclimate to her new position.

Please refer to the Spring 2020 Ohio Director’s Report to NSPS for additional details.

Rendezvous 2020

It is unclear at this time how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the 2020 Rendezvous but, as of now, preparations are still underway. Rendezvous 2020 is scheduled to be held September 16-19 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Perrysburg, Ohio. The event will feature a number of sessions including presentations on the Twelve Mile-Square Reserve, the Michigan Meridian and the Toledo War. There will be a field trip to Fort Meigs and an optional Lake Erie Island Adventure. Watch the Surveyors Historical Society website for program and registration details and further updates.

www.surveyorshistoricalsociety.com

Richard Leu
Chairman – Surveyors Historical Society