2018 Chapter Officers and Committee Members

Executive Committee
President: John Truong, RPLS
1st Vice President: Mike Arthur, RPLS
2nd Vice President: Tyler Carter, LSI
Secretary/Treasurer: Patrick Baldasaro, RPLS
Past President: Shaun Piepkorn, RPLS

Chapter 5 Directors
1st Year: Andy Shafer, RPLS
1st Year: Brad Sparr, RPLS
2nd Year: Paul Hubert, RPLS
1st Year: Jeremy Ruckman, RPLS

Chapter Representative: Christopher Freeman, RPLS

Chapter 5 Committees
Programs: John Truong, RPLS
Membership: Shaun Piepkorn, RPLS
Education: Paul Hubert, RPLS & Bill Swope, CP
Public Relations: Shaun Piepkorn, RPLS
SkillsUSA: Shaun Piepkorn, RPLS
Nominating: Shaun Piepkorn, RPLS
Texas Young Surveyors Chapter 5 Representative: Danielle Pirtle

Chapter 5 Facebook
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As the first quarter of 2018 has come to an end your Chapter 5 officers are as busy as bees in the springtime. The Executive Committee has not only been planning events and activities that we hope will benefit both our chapter members and the community, but also have been working on revising the current Survey Standards, helping to fund young surveyors education with our John Pierce Scholarship Fund, and trying to come up with new ways to drive Chapter 5 membership numbers.

Sometimes it’s easy to get stuck in a rut. We are all busy with work and our families and at times we get comfortable and find ourselves trying to just keep on keeping on. With respect to Chapter 5 we have our monthly meetings, the golf tournament, and our annual seminar. And while these events give us opportunities to earn CEUs and bond with our fellow surveyors, I wonder if there is more we can do to help keep our chapter healthy and strong. Personally, I know that I wouldn’t be where I am today as a professional without the support of the chapter and its members. It can be a challenge to be involved with the association, but overall I find the experience has been rewarding and has given me an opportunity to be a part of something that is vital to our industry and profession.

I’d like to learn more about what being a part of Chapter 5 means to you. Why did you join, and why do you continue to go to meetings and support the chapter? What do you want, or expect, from our chapter? How do we increase membership? And maybe most importantly of all, how can you contribute? Because when you think about it this is your chapter and you are ultimately responsible for its success, or its failure. Have you ever volunteered for a committee? Have you offered to help out at a meeting, or chapter event? Have you simply tried to bring a guest to a meeting who is not a member? In essence, what have you done as a Chapter 5 member to make the chapter better for everyone?

With that sort thinking in mind we have again revived the official Chapter 5 newsletter, the Bois d’Arc Post! Prepared by, and distributed to, Chapter 5 members on a quarterly basis the newsletter is intended to serve as a resource for members, and we encourage you all to submit survey related articles, opinions, ideas for stories, and photos that are related to the surveying profession and our chapter.

I look forward to hearing how we can better serve our members and community, and am looking forward to a great rest of the year.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAMS
The Programs Committee has several events upcoming this year for the Chapter, so please read more about them all in the Upcoming Events section of the newsletter. If you have an idea or suggestion for the committee just let us know. We have an open door policy and depend on chapter members to help make our programs better for everyone.

MEMBERSHIP
Chapter 5 currently has 194 members, and the TSPS has 1,532 statewide. Please remember that as chapter members it is our responsibility to be stewards for the association and be mindful to reach out to fellow surveyors who are not members. The future of Chapter 5 depends on it.

EDUCATION
2017 John Pierce Scholarship Recipients
Chapter 5 gave out financial awards in 2017 for two young surveyors attending North Lake College as part of the chapter’s John Pierce Scholarship Fund. Danielle Pirtle (Lina T. Ramey) and Craig Sisk (Sempco Surveying) each will receive a financial award for expenses related to their degree pursuits. Two times a year the Dallas Chapter 5 Executive Committee reviews applicants for the upcoming school term and selects the most highly qualified candidates. Awards may be made more than one time to any student, so remember to think about anyone who may qualify and encourage them to apply.

For more information contact Paul Hubert: phubert@txasc.com or 469-317-0250.
PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Public Relations Committee is working to find a variety of new and unique ways to promote Chapter 5, the TSPS, and surveying in general. Chapter members are encouraged to bring any ideas, suggestions, or comments to the Committee Chair for consideration. It’s your chapter, so don’t be afraid to speak up and be heard! Reach out to Shaun Piepkorn at shaun.piepkorn@1519llc.com or 214-484-8586.

SkillsUSA

Duncanville High School placed 1st in the recent SkillsUSA State Land Surveying Competition held April 6th – 8th in Corpus Christi. The winners were each awarded a Bebop 2 Drone for their efforts and were given the chance to impress the judges and their peers. Pictured from left to right are Oscar Soto, Alejandra Rivera, Jeremiah Lockhart and Chapter 5 SkillsUSA Committee Chair, Shaun Piepkorn. Nice job!

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA is a national organization serving teachers, high school, and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations and for further education. SkillsUSA was formerly known as the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA). The mission of SkillsUSA Texas is to provide opportunities for its members to become successful and productive citizens, employees and leaders, accomplished through a structured program of leadership training activities, communication and business partnerships.

NOMINATING

All Chapter 5 Officer and Director Positions are open for 2019 so don’t forget to send in your nominations ASAP. This year the nominating committee is comprised of Philip Adams, Jim Gillis, and Shaun Piepkorn, Committee Chair. Contact Shaun with any questions at: shaun.piepkorn@1519llc.com or 214-484-8586.
Guest Editorial

By James B. Gillis, RPLS, NSLS, CLS

There is an old saying that often comes to mind when I hear the familiar refrain about our aging profession and some of my peers complaining that we are running out of surveyors. It goes like this...

“Everyone complains about the weather, but no one does anything about it!”

There are a few of our members that devote a great deal of their time and energy to promoting a career in surveying to local students, but with a little more effort on the part of each one of us, we could quickly expose thousands of high school students to this ancient and honorable profession. By doing so, we could perhaps introduce significant numbers to a career in land surveying. There are approximately 2,500 RPLS’ in the state, and slightly fewer than 200 who are members of TSPS Chapter 5. If each member committed to spending at least a day a year at a high school career day or something similar, imagine what an impact that would make. If each surveyor helped convince just one student a year to become a surveyor that, by itself, would completely reverse the current trend of diminishing RPLS numbers.

We are all busy. I know that. But when we are busy it is even more important that we support the growth and development of our profession. When the slowdowns come, as we all know will happen, it may be too late to make an impact.

It was reported not too long ago that surveyors in Texas are amongst the best paid in the nation. We are probably not as well compensated as we should be, but that seems to be a universal complaint. When I hear that some of my peers do not feel it is worth paying $25 or $30 to attend a Chapter meeting, get fed, AND get one hour of CEU credits, it makes me wonder about priorities. Twenty-five dollars times eight meetings is only $200, and there are not many, if any, worthwhile 8 hour CEU seminars that one can attend for only $200. Sometimes we need to step back take a long look at our priorities.

We will only get out of our profession what we put into. Some may not think that participation in a professional society is worth the time or the effort. I do remind those people that if everyone leaves it to “someone else” to do the heavy lifting, that someone else may get tired of doing it all, and that will be the end of it. I have no hesitation in reminding every RPLS that it has only been 3 years since TSPS helped encourage the legislature to eliminate the “professional tax” added to the RPLS annual fee, and saved all of us $200 not just for one year but for every year. Over a 30-year career that one action will save each land surveyor approximately $6,000...not something easily put aside.
We all know that you usually get out of something in proportion to what you put into it. To say that another way, I would like to paraphrase a line from President John F. Kennedy’s inaugural speech, as it might relate to land surveying in the State of Texas.

“...ask not what your profession can do for you, ask what you can do for your profession.”

Jim Gillis is the Director of Survey for Criado & Associates and a member of Fort Worth Chapter 2 and Dallas Chapter 5 of the TSPS. A surveyor since 1973, Jim holds commissions as a Nova Scotian and Canadian Land Surveyor along with being a Registered Professional Surveyor in Texas. Jim has served on numerous TSPS committees and held several officer positions including being Past President and is the current Parliamentarian for the association.

Members in Action

Chapter 5 Hosts Texas Senate Candidate at February Meeting
(Reported on TSPS web-site)

Phillip Huffines (R) was the Dallas Chapter 5 guest on Tuesday Feb 13, 2018, and spoke to the chapter about running for the Texas Senate District 8. He is a land developer and his family owns car dealerships in the North Texas area; he has a thorough understanding of the challenges facing surveyors. He spoke on issues of transportation and infrastructure as well as border security (the wall) among other issues. There was a great crowd of surveyors and a few engineers in attendance.

Phillip Huffines addresses Chapter 5 members.
Chapter 5 Members Give Surveying Presentation to STEM Students
(Reported on TSPS web-site)
TSPS Dallas Chapter 5 members, Philip Adams (current Chapter 5 Representative) and John "JT" Truong (current Chapter 5 President) gave a presentation on "A Career in Surveying" to approximately 25-30 STEM students/teachers at Tarrant County College on Friday, March 2, 2018. “Our chapter, and in fact, all of our members need to do a better job of getting out the word about what surveyors do and why the surveying profession is important. So this was just one of the type of events we’d like to be a part of more often in order to do our part,” said Mr. Adams.

Philip Adams at Tarrant County College.
TSPS and the FCCLA

Chapter 5 members Jim Gillis and Jamie Gillis manned the booth for the TSPS when exhibiting at the recent Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference at the Sheraton in Dallas on April 5th and 6th. Jim and Jamie spoke to dozens of students, teachers, and counselors and had some genuine interest in Land Surveying as a career from many of the students.

The FCCLA is the only career and technical in-school student organization with the family as the central focus. Participation in state and national programs and chapter activities help members become strong leaders in family, careers and communities.
Items of Interest

Sunset Commission Meetings

All meetings of the Sunset Commission are open to the public.

The Commission generally considers each agency under review during two public meetings. About a month after release of a Sunset staff report, the Commission discusses the report’s recommendations and takes testimony from the public. Any person is welcome to attend the public hearing and provide feedback on the staff recommendations or other issues relating to the agency. Please note, however, testimony about individual cases or appeals is generally not allowed. The Sunset Commission cannot override an agency’s decisions.

At least a month after the public hearing, the Sunset Commission meets again to vote on its recommendations to the full Legislature about an agency. No additional public testimony is taken at this second meeting.

The tentative upcoming meeting date for the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying (TBPLS) is scheduled for December 12 and December 13. The TBPLS submitted a Self-Evaluation Report to the Commission in September 2017. The Commission Staff Report is expected later this year in November. In January 2019, the Commission is expected to hold public hearings where decisions on the TBPLS will be forthcoming.

The TSPS leadership has prioritized the Sunset Review. Our legal Counsel, Mark Hannah, is monitoring the Commission’s activities along with the Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Bill O'Hara. Reports from Mark and Bill are provided to the TSPS Board of Directors at the Quarterly Board Meetings (next meeting scheduled for April 28 in Round Rock). The link to the Sunset Commission Website.
Survey Standards Revision

The Standards Committee is not submitting the revised Manual of Practice for final adoption at the next board meeting. We are analyzing the poll we took in March and will be presenting the results at the April 2018 Board meeting. In addition, we will be holding a panel discussion CEU class with Philip Adams and David Rolbiecki at the convention in October. This should enable the committee to finish its work using the memberships input. Once we have that complete, we will then submit a revised final draft for the Boards consideration for adoption. We received 131 responses to the on-line poll.

Upcoming Events

State Level

The High Plains Experience Seminar #1097-001

- 4/19/2018 – 4/21/2018
- Brand NEW FORMAT and two full days of NEW classes at the historic 60,000 acre LIT Ranch (www.talonpoint.org) near Channing, Texas. Come see the "Twichell Mound" created by the Class of 2011. Enjoy BarBQ at the LIT Loft, prepared by Chef Dow Kelly. 16 CEUs (includes 3 hours ethics/rules). Seminar fee includes meals and lodging at Talon Point Retreat.
- Location:
  LIT Ranch
  5145 FM 722
  Channing Texas, 79018
- For more information: brendan@tsp.org or 512-327-7871
- High Plains Experience Seminar #1097-001 Information

2018 TxDOT Annual Surveyors Conference and Expo

- 4/24/2018 – 4/25/2018
- This annual event is sponsored by the Committee on Geomatics and Surveying (COGS). It provides a venue for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) surveying and geomatics community to meet, learn from experts, increase professional knowledge, stay current with changing technologies and continue to improve the quality of the surveyor and surveying at TxDOT.
- Location:
  Omni Southpark Hotel
  4140 Governor’s Row
  Austin, TX 78744
- 2018 TxDOT Annual Surveyors Conference and Expo Information
Second Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

- 4/28/2018
- The 2nd Quarterly Board Meeting will be held at the Austin Marriott North Hotel in Round Rock, TX. The room rate is $112/night. Committee meetings will be held Saturday morning.
- Location:
  Austin Marriott-North
  2600 La Frontera Boulevard
  Round Rock, TX 78681
- For more information contact DJ Kyle: djkyle@tsp.org or 512-327-7871
- Second Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting Information

Texas Young Surveyors Fort Worth Section Happy Hour

- 5/5/2018
- Location: TBD
- More information to come. Follow the Texas Young Surveyors: Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn

Strategic Planning & Board of Directors Meeting

- 8/3/2018 – 8/4/2018
- John Barnard, RPLS will host the 2018 Strategic Planning meeting in Georgetown with the Ray Wisdom Raffle, a fun, family event taking place Friday August 3rd.
- Location:
  Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel & Conference Center
  1101 Woodlawn Avenue
  Georgetown, TX 78628
- For more information contact DJ Kyle: djkyle@tsp.org or 512-327-7871
- Strategic Planning & Board Directors Meeting Information

Texas Young Surveyors Dallas Section Happy Hour

- 9/25/2018
- Location: TBD
- More information to come. Follow the Texas Young Surveyors: Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn
67th Annual TSPS Convention & Tech Expo

- 10/3/2018 – 10/6/2018
- Registration, educational classes and the exhibit hall will all be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center. Hotel rooms will be available at the Hilton Galveston Island Resort for $149/night and the San Luis Resort Spa & Conference Center for $164/night. All hotel reservations must be made no later than Monday, September 10, 2018. Schedule of events and more details coming soon!
- Location:
  Galveston Island Convention Center
  5222 Seawall Boulevard
  Galveston, TX 77551
  - For more information contact DJ Kyle: djkyle@tssp.org or 512-327-7871
  - 67th Annual TSPS Convention and Tech Expo Information

Exhibit Hall 2017 TSPS Convention
Chapter 5 Events

Chapter 5 Monthly Meetings*

TBPLS rules now allow attendees to earn 1 CEU for attending meetings, maximum 4 per year.

- May 8th – Joint Chapter 2 Meeting @ Wilhoites in Grapevine
- June 12th – Tony Estrada, TBPLS @ Maggiano’s North Park
- July 10th – Jim Gillis, Mt. Kilimanjaro @ Maggiano’s Willow Bend
- August 14th
- September 11th
- October (no meeting due to convention)
- November 13th
- December (not meeting)

*Note: Dates are tentative. Speakers are to be determined.

Chapter 5 April Meeting at Maggiano’s Little Italy. Great crowd, awesome menu, BIG cake!
19th Annual Tim Mireur Memorial Tournament

- 5/20/2018
- Benefiting the John Pierce Scholarship Fund, this is a 4 person Florida scramble
- 8 a.m. Shotgun Start (registration begins at 7 a.m.)
- Location:
  Indian Creek Golf Club
  1650 West Frankford Road
  Carrollton, TX 75007
- **REGISTRATION ENDS MAY 12TH SO SIGN UP TODAY AND SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER AND THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND! WE STILL NEED TEAMS, SIGN UP TODAY PLEASE!**
- For more information contact TC Crocker: tcrocker@txasc.com or 469-317-0253

2018 Chapter 5 Seminar

- 10/26 – 10/27/2018
- This year’s Chapter 5 Seminar will be given by Jeff Lucas, PLS, Esq., and includes three sessions: Engineer and Land Surveyor Liability, How to Make a Boundary Determination That Will Win in Court, and Ethics for Engineers and Land Surveyors.
- Registration Fees for licensed professionals, i.e., RPLS’s and PE’s
  - $350 for all sessions - [$350 pay link here](#)
  - $250 for both Friday sessions - [$250 pay link here](#)
  - $150 for Saturday only session - [$150 pay link here](#)
- Registrations Fees for non-licensed professionals
  - $225 for all sessions - [$225 pay link here](#)
  - $125 for both Friday sessions - [$125 pay link here](#)
  - $100 for Saturday only session - [$100 pay link here](#)
- Location:
  Collin College Conference Center – McKinney Campus
  2400 Community Avenue
  McKinney, TX 75071
- For more information or a registration form contact Brad Sparr: brad@sparrsurveys.com or 214-544-2297, or use the appropriate link above to prepay for the seminar.
Texas Young Surveyors  Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn

Anybody 35 years of age or younger in geospatial professions (Techs, Students, Rodmen, Instrument Men, GIS Pros, SIT’s, RPLS’s, etc.) are welcome to become a part of the Texas Young Surveyors (TYS) group. For information on the group and its activities you can contact DFW Coordinator Stuart Warnock at: stuart@pioneermapping.com, or Chapter 5 Representative Danielle Pirtle at dpirtle@ltraengineers.com.

NGS 380 in Texas and the Texas Young Surveyors

One initiative TYS is promoting is the 380 in Texas initiative: 380inTX put together by Anna Burroughs. In order to help the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) collect data on 380 priority points in Texas and improve the new Geoid 18 and 2022 datum, TYS members are encouraged to find an NGS benchmark nearby and run a four hour GPS session for upload to the Online Positioning User Service (OPUS). TYS group members will be compiling a list of monuments, and sharing photos. Activities are being planned for Earth Day later this month, and for Survey Earth in a Day on June 21st. To find a monument near you and help get 380 in Texas go to: NOAA Webmap or contact Anna Burroughs at: annaintx@hotmail.com.

Get in Print!

Send story ideas, photos, event details and anything else you think is worth letting our members and the community know about to Bill Swope at billswope@atmlv.com or call 469-416-6854.