The Old Dominion Surveyor

Editor: Alison Hanson

71st Annual VAS Convention & General Membership Meeting

Recap - 71st Annual Convention & General Membership Meeting

Meet Your New Officers
New VAS officers were installed at the 2019 convention held April 24-27 in Herndon. Incoming President Gary Faulhaber stated that "I am extremely fortunate to be surrounded by such a talented and vibrant Board of Directors. It is one of the best groups of leaders in recent VAS history. VAS is prepared to take on the current challenges of our progressive profession, while holding true to our rich history and ethical reputation."

**Pictured from (L-R):** Past President - Kevin Shreiner, Second Vice President - Alison Hanson, First Vice President - Kevin Wood, President - Gary M. Faulhaber, Secretary/Treasurer - Chris Jensen, Region III Director - Judy Beale, Region IV Director - Jessica Nash, Region II Director - Stephen Letchford. Not pictured is NSPS Director - Will Nash and Region I Director - Yeoanny Venetsanos

To view the new officers [Click Here](#)

### 2019 Plat Winners

The plat contest was held at the 2019 VAS convention with entries submitted in the following categories: Subdivision, ALTA/NSPS, Boundary/Cadastral, Topographic and Miscellaneous. Many comments were heard about the quality of the submissions, and the judging was extremely close.

[Click Here](#) to view the winners

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**Thank you to our 2019 Convention Diamond Sponsor**
Thank you to our 2019 Convention Platinum Sponsors

Official VAS Convention Photos

All photos were taken by Marvin Adams. Thank you to Pennoni for being our Photography Sponsor.

To view convention photos, click the button below. If you would like a copy of any of the photos you see, please contact Khea at Khea@vasurveyors.org

Editor’s View

Hello everyone:

I hope you are enjoying the end of spring and looking forward to a great summer.

I certainly enjoyed seeing many of you at our recent convention in April, and I just wanted to take a minute to say thank you to the many people who attended, as well as our sponsors, affiliates, speakers and, of course a huge THANK YOU to those that helped in the planning to make it such a great success. Having the convention in April was certainly a great move.

I would be remiss if I did not say thank you to the members for entrusting me with this office, its truly my pleasure to serve as your 2nd Vice President.

I wanted to share with you my goals for the coming year:

My priority will be to provide you with the best Old Dominion Surveyor possible. As your new editor, I hope to fill the rather large footprints of those before me and especially my predecessor, Kevin Wood. I look forward to maintaining the integrity of the Old Dominion Surveyor and working with the membership to ensure that everyone is represented equally and professionally. I look forward to adding some new sections to the newsletter as well as resurrecting some older ones this year. I hope you find them useful, informative, and relative to our day to day work in our profession.

My other areas of focus this year as your 2nd Vice President will be to work with my fellow board members and JMP&A staff to continue our work in the area of
workforce development, planning the 2021 convention, and promoting membership in the VAS.

With that being said, I am appealing to you, the members of VAS, Chapter Officers, and fellow readers for articles, events, and news. Your contributions to this publication are greatly encouraged and appreciated. I look forward to serving you and working with you.

Respectfully yours,
Alison W. Hanson, L.S.
2nd Vice President
Virginia Association of Surveyors

GIS Certificate Now Available at William & Mary

William & Mary has recently developed a new Post-Baccalaureate GIS Certificate Program. Professor Shannon White is the GIS Certificate Coordinator for the Center for Geospatial Analysis. She loves maps and believes that they can be integrated into almost any classroom.

More information can be found by clicking the links below:

- Overview
- eLearning Initiatives

A Message from the Executive Director

John Palatiello, VAS Executive Director

Coming off VAS elections and a successful 2019 convention, there is considerable discussion among leaders of the association of the need for an improved presence before the General Assembly.

Our experience with the enactment of HB1649, the county GIS boundary bill, has been a wake-up call for the need for VAS to be represented by a lobbyist. VAS had long had such representation, but financial pressures brought on by the economic downturn in 2008 forced the Board of Directors to make the difficult decision to cut the fee for our lobbyist at that time. With a stronger economy, the VAS membership picture being brighter, and revenue from the convention and seminars being improved, the VAS Long Range Planning Committee and Board of Directors are evaluating a number of programs and internal operational policies with an eye on ways to afford a lobbyist.

HB 1649 is not the only reason VAS needs representation before our state legislature. All across the nation there are threats to surveyors in the state capitals. Virginia is not the only state where the ubiquity of GIS is resulting in misunderstanding of the continued need for land surveys. In several states there has been recent legislation that would obviate land surveys in favor of simply pulling data out of a GIS. The difference between
a professional land survey conducted by a licensed and qualified surveyor and general data from a GIS must be explained to elected legislators. There have been dozens of bills in state legislature across the United States seeking to protect individual citizen privacy that restrict the collection, storage, and use of "precise geolocation data" that could affect the ability of surveyors to carry out their practice. And, there is a national campaign against occupational licensing that has resulted in legislation in many states to terminate or alter licensing systems without regard for a distinction between those that are seemingly unnecessary from the start, such as hair braiding or flower arranging, and those that unequivocally affect public health, safety, and welfare, such as surveying.

All of these affect the public in general and the livelihood of surveyors in particular. It is imperative that VAS have a stronger voice and presence in our General Assembly, not only to defend against such threats, but to advance any legislative proposals VAS may wish to initiate.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" is often attributed to Thomas Jefferson. More directly, it was Plato who said, "The punishment which the wise suffer who refuse to take part in the government, is to live under the government of worse men".

A more contemporary version I heard from Alan Simpson, who was a U.S. Senator from Wyoming from 1979 to 1997 is "take part, or get taken apart".

I look forward to working with the leadership of VAS, and indeed the entire membership, to assure that the voice of the surveyor is heard and the important role of the surveyor in everyday life is recognized in the General Assembly.

Harnessing Drones the Photogrammetric Way by Dr. Qassim Abdullah

*This article was previously published in the May 2019 edition of Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing (PE&RS) Journal, the official journal of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS).

"The geospatial community is witnessing a golden era when it comes to sensor technologies, data processing power, and modeling algorithms. In this era of innovation, we are taking advantage of a revolution in electronics and integrated circuitry, data processing techniques and algorithms..." click here to read more

Note: Dr. Abdullah will be an instructor on "Geospatial Data Quality and Accuracy: The State-of-Practice" at the VAS Summer Seminar on June 21 in Staunton, VA. For information and to register, click here.

Scholarships Available - Apply Today!

Are you planning to attend the John Foster School in July? Or just need some assistance in your current surveying courses. Apply today for the many different scholarship opportunities we have available............

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Advertise in Old Dominion Surveyor
Does your company want to get the word out about a new service or product? Click below to see our new advertising rates and options.

Lifetime Achievement Award
In this edition of ODS, I wanted to take the opportunity to honor one of our long standing members, David Holland. He has been a dear friend of mine for 18+ years, long before I was licensed or became a VAS Board member. At the 2019 Convention, Dave was officially recognized at the Board meeting and given a "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his service to VAS.

Click Here to read more

Recruit a Member
Did you know that when you recruit a new member to VAS you will receive a 25% discount on your own 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.

Read More

Membership
The 2019 VAS membership year is well underway. If you have not renewed for 2019, please do so as soon as possible to continue your membership benefits. Please make sure your profile information on the VAS website is up to date, as that is the main communication tool we use to contact you. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the VAS office at 844-414-1466.

In Memoriam
Woodrow Wesley Perkins
Our condolences to the family of Woodrow "Wes" Wesley Perkins who passed away on May 18, 2019. Wes was a member of VAS and the Western Chapter. He will be missed by his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to "Meals on Wheels" - Valley Program for Aging Services, 2137 Magnolia Ave., Buena Vista, VA
Do you know a fellow VAS surveyor who has passed away? Would you like to recognize them in the monthly newsletter? Please email Khea Adams the information at Khea@vasurveyors.org.

Order Your VAS Apparel
VAS is pleased to work with Land's End to provide 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

Calendar of Events

2019 Summer Seminar and Board of Directors Meeting - REGISTER TODAY
June 21-22, 2019
Stonewall Jackson Hotel, Staunton, VA

Mount Vernon Chapter Summer Seminar and Dinner - REGISTER TODAY
June 26, 2019
Fairfax, VA

2019 John Foster School - REGISTER TODAY
July 23-26, 2019
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

2019 Fall Seminar and Board of Directors Meeting
September 20-21, 2019
Manassas, VA

New Job Announcements
Would you like to post a job on the VAS career board? Members can advertise job openings. Job posting cost is $25 per ad, posted for 30 days.

Click Here to View Job Openings!