Final Remarks as Editor

Depending on your age, you know the answer to where
were you and what were you doing … when Pearl Harbor was attacked … when John F. Kennedy was assassinated … when the planes hit the buildings on 9/11.

In the future, when someone asks where were you and what were you doing when the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020 hit, I’ll be able to say I was the Second Vice President of VAS and trying to keep things going in my land surveying practice.

As my tenure as Second Vice President and Editor of *The Old Dominion Surveyor* comes to an end, and I move up to First Vice President, and I reflect on the past year, the current health challenge is not the only thing that sticks out in my mind. VAS does great things for surveyors in Virginia virtually every day. As Editor of *The Old Dominion Surveyor*, it has been my honor to chronicle these many activities and accomplishments.

We’ve had spirited debates on programs and policies. Yet, I will always maintain my position that no matter the topic, members of the VAS Board, Committee Chairs and Executive staff are some of the most dedicated, hard working and selfless people I have had the privilege and honor to work beside.

I was grateful to be among those who met with Dr. Gladys West to bestow an Honorary Member for her contributions to the development of GPS. I attended the first Women Surveyors Summit in Austin, Texas, along with several other women surveyors from Virginia, where we had the largest delegation of any state except the host state of Texas. We’ve had several successful and enlightening education seminars and another enjoyable and learned convention. We added a lobbyist to represent the interests of surveyors in Richmond before the General Assembly and state agencies.

I’m grateful that we have an organization like VAS that stands up for surveyors, as we did when we were successful in convincing Governor Northam to include surveying as an essential service during the Coronavirus restrictions and am honored to be a member of such an esteemed group of professionals.

As I edit my last edition of *The Old Dominion Surveyor*, I want to congratulate VAS President Gary Faulhaber for leading us this past year. Thanks to Kevin Shreiner as Immediate Past President for his continued contributions as Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee. Will Nash deserves recognition for his work on revisions to the VAS bylaws. Chris Jensen has been a steady hand as Secretary-Treasurer, and First Vice President Kevin Wood deserves all our gratitude for all his hard work planning the Virginia Beach convention, only to have it postponed until October. I’m still confident it will be a great event.

I know by passing the torch to Chris Jensen your newsletter will be in good hands. If his work as Secretary-Treasurer is any indication, the VAS is in store for informative and enlightening things in the coming issues.

So many other VAS members have helped me; too numerous to mention. As my last word, let me say *The Old Dominion Surveyor* would not have come out every month were it not for Khea Adams of our staff. Thanks, Khea, for making me look good. Stay safe everyone and thank you for this privilege.
A Discussion of Best Practices in Surveying During the Coronavirus

This 1-hour webinar will provide guidance and key tips on practices that may be implemented in surveying firms, as well as applicable information for surveying divisions in government agencies, for operations during the Coronavirus pandemic. Instructors will include Justin Klein and Mark Amirault of The Klein Agency, brokers and advisers on risk and insurance for the design profession. Topics will include an insightful discussion of employee safety and CDC recommendations, cyber security issues, insurance and risk considerations, and business income loss. Additionally, the webinar will review the economic impact of the pandemic and government orders on surveying firms, an overview and discussion of first-hand experiences on applying for Small Business Administration (SBA) funds and loan; how to manage the work slowdown and prepare for the recovery; and efforts to keep surveying operations open and defined as essential services.

1 CEU/PDH will be awarded

This webinar will be held on Wednesday April 22, at 12:00 -1:00 PM. Registration is limited, so register by 12:00 PM on Tuesday April 21. Click here to register.

Meet Your Newly Elected 2020/2021 Board

The election for 2020-2021 VAS officers was held by electronic ballot through March 25. The elected officers are profiled below. Officers are traditionally installed at the annual convention. Due to the postponement of the 2020 convention from April to October, officers will be installed at a Board of Directors meeting to be held by a web conference on Wednesday, April 29 at 4:00 PM. Congratulations to these esteemed VAS members.

President
Kevin Wood (Tidewater Chapter)

In April 2019, Kevin celebrated 25 years at Pennoni Associates (formerly PHR+A). Those years and seven more were spent in Hampton Roads, Virginia prior to being in Richmond for six years. It all started in Mr. Jefferson’s home town of Charlottesville where Kevin still visits family as much as possible. He is currently the Survey Division Manager, but has held positions as a crew chief and field coordinator along the way. The early part of Kevin’s career started in commercial construction with McDevitt and Street, in Richmond, and utility surveys with So Deep Inc., in Tidewater. Each of these gave him a better understanding of what he now deals with on a day to day basis. Kevin’s educational background includes work in the school of Mass Communications at Virginia Commonwealth University, the Civil Engineering Technology program at J. Sargent Reynolds Community College, and the Survey program at Tidewater Community College. Kevin married his best friend, Joanie, in 1988 and has two daughters, Madeline and Rebecca. Kevin enjoys strong ties with his Virginia Beach church family. Golf and racquetball are recreational interests.

First Vice President
Alison W. Hanson (Central Chapter)
Alison has enjoyed her career of over 34 years in the profession of land surveying and is a proud graduate of Old Dominion University’s Civil Engineering Technology program. Ms. Hanson became registered as a Professional Land Surveyor and a member of the VAS in 2004. She co-founded H & B Surveying and Mapping, LLC in 2009 headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, and currently serves as its President. Her company expanded services in 2016 by opening a branch office in the New River Valley in Roanoke, Virginia and will celebrate 10 years in business this year. As an active member of the VAS she has served the association at the state and local levels. Since joining, she has served the Central Chapter Board, holding all officer positions. She also currently supports and serves the State Board as its Second Vice-President, Public Relations Committee Chairman, a member of the PAC Committee and especially enjoys her time as an Assistant to the Educational Committee Chairman working with the exam review classes and John Foster. She enjoys spending time with her fellow surveyors and the fellowship the VAS brings to the profession. She resides in her home town of Prince George County, VA where she and Freddie enjoy time with their very spoiled German Shepard “Princess Laya”, their family and friends and enjoy spending their spare time at the beach and traveling.

Second Vice President
Chris Jensen (Mount Vernon Chapter)

Chris Jensen is the Deputy County Surveyor for Fairfax County. After his honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, he moved to the Northern Virginia area where he has now been surveying over 30 years. He is a graduate of the Fairfax County Surveying Apprenticeship Program and became licensed in 2005. He is currently the Secretary-Treasurer of the VAS and has also served as Region I Director. He is a proud member of the Mt. Vernon Chapter and served in every office in the chapter all the way to Past President.

Chris and his wife Amy reside in Ashburn and enjoy many hobbies together including travelling, going to National and Capitals games, and getting together with friends. In his spare time he enjoys playing golf and softball.

Secretary/Treasurer
Rob Mann (Peninsula Chapter)

Mr. Mann has 34 years of progressive experience in Civil Engineering and Land Surveying. As Division Manager he oversees surveyors in nine offices. He has experience in boundary, topographic, and construction surveys, as well as commercial and residential land development.

Immediate Past President
Gary M. Faulhaber (Mount Vernon Chapter)
Gary is currently a Senior Surveyor with Wiles Mensch Corporation - DC with his duty station being in Reston, Virginia. Mr. Faulhaber graduated from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Alfred with an AAS degree in Surveying Technology. He has over 30 years of Land Surveying experience with a forte in managing surveying tasks for high-profile infrastructure projects. Gary has been licensed in Virginia and a member of VAS since 2000. Gary is also a voting member of the Virginia Surveyors Foundation and is honored to be a "debtor to his profession". In addition to his Virginia licensure, Gary has been licensed in the District of Columbia since 2002 and was the Founding Secretary (2001) and third President (2003) of the District of Columbia Association of Land Surveyors (DCALS). In addition to his DC licensure, Mr. Faulhaber is an elite Registered Surveyor for the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia, approving and permitting him to prepare and certify surveys to be recorded among their records. Gary enjoys spending quality time with his wife, Julie, and playing with their awesome ten-year-old son, Noah. The Faulhaber family resides in Dulles, Virginia.

**NSPS Director**

**W.E (Will) Nash (Southern Chapter)**

Engaged in surveying for 39 years, Will has worked in 9 states from Virginia to Nevada in a variety of positions for oil and gas industry exploration, private sector boundary and development work and public sector service. Licensed in June 1993 and a VAS member since January 1994, he currently works for the Town of Farmville and enjoys having an ongoing role within VAS. Living in Keysville, Virginia with his wife of 36 years, Deanna, life is pretty good. The Virginia Association of Surveyors has been a source of professional satisfaction and Will is looking forward to his new role as NSPS Director. Since being president of VAS in 2012 he has been involved in several committees and is very appreciative of the opportunity to return to the board of directors and will make every effort to represent VAS in the manor it has become accustomed.

**Region 2 Director**

**Stephen Letchford (Central Chapter)**

Stephen Letchford provides exceptional client service by leaning on extensive experience managing projects, both large and small in Central Virginia. He manages a team including field staff, office survey staff, and research professionals and provides a wide array of surveying services including ALTA surveys, boundary surveys, topographic surveys, builder packages, subdivision plats, easement plats, provided as-builts, and construction stakeout.

**Region 4 Director**

**Troy Williams (Southern Chapter)**

Troy has worked at Hurt & Proffitt for the past 30 years and is currently Senior Vice President and a member of the
Board of Directors. He began surveying at Hurt & Proffitt immediately out of high school as a rodman on a survey crew and worked his way up progressively to the position he now holds. Troy was instrumental in the initial use of GPS at Hurt and Proffitt and has maintained a keen interest in innovative technology and its potential uses within the surveying profession. He has been a member of VAS since 2004 and is a member of NSPS. In addition to Virginia, he is licensed in West Virginia and Guam.

Region 1 Director Yeoanny A. Venestsanos and Region 3 Director Judy Beale are in the middle of serving a 2 year term.

2020/2021 Chapter Presidents

Bull Run Chapter - Saundra O'Connell
Central Chapter - Dwayne Duvevant
Monticello Chapter - Kris Caister
Mount Vernon Chapter - Kerry Skinner
Peninsula Chapter - Stephen Romeo
Rappahanock Chapter - Stephen B. Newbill
Shenandoah Chapter - Benjamin Brashers
Southern Chapter - Troy Williams
Tidewater Chapter - Ben Stagg
Western Chapter - Christopher J. Pappas

A Letter from the New ODS Editor

Hello to my fellow surveyors!

It is with great pleasure I accept the passing of the baton as ODS editor from Alison Hanson! Alison and Khea Adams have done a magnificent job with the look, content and feel of the ODS over the past year, and I look forward to continuing to build on their great work.

In these trying and continually changing times, communication is more vital than ever, and I hope that the ODS can provide useful information as well as some entertainment. That being said, I believe the best articles and content come from our readers and fellow members of the surveying community. This isn’t a one or two-person effort, but rather a collaborative effort from all who are connected through this wonderful profession of surveying. Please
feel free to pass along any items of interest. Anything from a picture with a caption to a technical article is welcome. Also, please pass along what you like or don’t like about the ODS. One of my favorite articles has always been “Footsteps”. As a people person, I’m always fascinated by the different paths we as surveyors have taken to get to where we are now! The Safety Corner is another great segment I will continue. I’m sure we can all agree that this is an especially important item with today’s environment.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas, comments, or anything else on your mind.

Take care and be safe,

Christopher J. Jensen, L.S.
Second Vice President
Virginia Association of Surveyors

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**Scholarships**

Scholarships are still available to anyone who is in an education program in pursuit of a career in surveying. The deadline to submit your 2020 scholarship application is July 1. Click below for the application

[Visit our website](#)

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**VAS Legislative Report**

The regular session of the Virginia General Assembly adjourned on March 12 after taking action on thousands of bills.

While the General Assembly was in session, McGuire Woods Consulting (MWC), the new VAS lobbying firm, provided a weekly update on bills specifically and generally affecting surveyors and surveying firms. Each week, MWC provided VAS with an Excel of legislation of interest and held a conference call with VAS President Gary Faulhaber, First Vice President Kevin Wood, Legislative Committee Chair Bruce Frederick, and Executive Director John Palatiello to review the legislation and plan a course of action to assure that the voice of VAS was heard in the General Assembly.

A list of bills VAS tracked was regularly posted in the "Members Only" session of the VAS website and linked from Old Dominion Surveyor.

The deadline for Governor Northam to sign, veto, or propose amendments to bills was midnight on April 11. No bills were vetoed. Attached is an updated report showing the Governor’s action on all bills of interest to VAS. The General Assembly will reconvene in Richmond on April 22 for a one-day veto session when all Governor’s amendments will be approved or rejected.

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**VAS Convention Moves to October 21-24, 2020**
Due to the governmental orders limiting gatherings of people, the VAS Executive Board has moved the 72nd Annual VAS Convention and General Membership Meeting to October 21-24.

If possible, we will host the same program and schedule. We are working with all of our speakers/instructors on the rescheduling.

If you have already registered for the convention but now know that you cannot attend during the rescheduled dates of October 21-24, please contact the VAS office to arrange a refund. Otherwise, please be patient as we work through the logistics of rescheduling, confirming speakers and instructors, and making other administrative arrangements. VAS will be in contact with you shortly with more details on the program as well as any adjustments to your registration.

Please do not take any action regarding your convention registration, exhibit booth, sponsorship, or other convention plans until after additional details are announced. Your convention registration will automatically be transferred to the rescheduled convention dates unless you contact us to request the cancellation of your registration.

We understand that the rescheduled date may present an inconvenience for some. Our priority has always been your health and safety. The rapidly changing circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic has made the difficult decision to postpone the conference beyond the control of VAS. We appreciate your patience as we work through this unprecedented event. We hope to make the process of moving the convention to the new dates as seamless as possible for everyone involved.

If your license renewal date and continuing education credits are affected by this change, please know VAS worked with the APELSCIDLA Board on an extension period for your renewal until after the VAS convention. VAS is pleased to report that APELSCIDLA and DPOR have implemented an extension policy.

VAS staff will continue to keep you updated about the VAS Convention and all VAS events. Thank you for your patience as we all navigate the Coronavirus situation. Again, we regret any inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding in these unusual circumstances, and hope to make this transition as smooth as possible.

If you have any questions, please call the VAS office at 844-414-1466.

**Hotel Information**

If you had made a hotel reservation at the Wyndham for the April Convention it has been cancelled. The Wyndham has asked that you re-book your hotel room. To re-book your room or to make a reservation call 1-800-365-3032. Be sure to mention the group code
"Virginia Association of Surveyors" to receive the special convention rate of $124 per night. The cut-off to make your hotel reservation is September 21, 2020 (thirty days prior to arrival) to obtain this rate. If wish to extend your stay at the Wyndham, the VAS rate will be honored two days pre and post VAS convention dates, subject to availability. The hotel has a 72 hour cancellation policy.

Please call the VAS office at 844-414-1466 if you have any difficulty making a hotel reservation.

Plat Competition Deadline Extended- Submit by June 8

Since the Convention has moved to October, the plat competition has been extended to June 8. The new dates of the convention are October 21 - 24, 2020. The categories are the same as the 2018 NSPS Map Plat Design Competition: Subdivision Plats, Topographical Maps, ALTA/NSPS Survey Maps, Miscellaneous Maps, Boundary/Cadastral Maps.

New this year:

Entries will only be accepted electronically in PDF format. You will need to complete the form below for each plat you are submitting, along with uploading the plat. The entry fee of $40 (for one to six plats) and completed entry form(s) are due no later than June 8, 2020. You may mail the entry fee to Virginia Association of Surveyors, 10340 Democracy Lane, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030 or to pay by credit card by click here. Please make checks payable to Virginia Association of Surveyors and note in the memo section it is for the Plat Contest.

If you have any questions please contact Khea Adams (Khea@vasurveyors.org) or Chris Jensen (Chris.Jensen@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Become a Convention Sponsor Today

Why Should I Sponsor? Being a sponsor at the VAS convention not only demonstrates support for your state professional society, but it raises your firm's profile in the market, enhances your firm's reputation in the community to strengthen recruitment of new employees, builds your status as a valued partner and team member among other firms for prime and subcontractor relationships, and positions your firm as a valued entity for future growth through mergers and acquisitions. Click here to become a sponsor today.

Donate to the Silent Auction

This year we are changing how to submit silent auction items. For items you wish to donate please complete and submit a silent auction item form. This will help
provide all the information the VAS staff needs ahead of time to create the bid sheets. You can bring your auction item with you to the convention once you have submitted the form.

Please help support the future of your profession by donating an item for the auction. Tax deductible donations can be made by individuals, firms, chapters, organizations, and others.

Use your imagination, and please participate in the auction during the Convention. Thank you in advance for your support.

Below are some ideas for the silent auction.

- Travel Packages
- Signed memorabilia
- Gift baskets (picnic, spa, wine etc)
- Custom Artwork
- Survey items - New or Historical (must be in working order)
- Event Tickets (concerts, plays, sporting events)

What is the Significance of April 1?

According to the VAS bylaws, "A member shall be dropped from membership in the Association for nonpayment of dues on April 1st of the year in which they become due."

All 2019 VAS members have been invoiced for 2020 dues. A membership year in VAS is from January 1 through December 31. All 2019 VAS memberships expired on December 31.

The VAS Board of Directors approved the timing of invoicing for two reasons; (1) the dues year begins January 1, and (2) for tax purposes, it is advantageous for some members to pay their dues before December 31.

If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so promptly so you are a member in good standing throughout 2020.

Every Man a Debtor to His Profession

By John Palatiello

VAS Executive Director

Have you ever had a conversation with a fellow Virginia surveyor who said they did not find any value in being a VAS member?

What VAS does every day provides benefits to every licensed surveyor in Virginia, regardless of whether they are a member or not. Frankly, those land surveyors who are not members are getting a free ride, courtesy of those who are members.

What has been done during the Coronavirus crisis, (yes, it is a crisis) makes that even more evident.

Whether it is advocacy, lobbying, workforce development, continuing education, scholarships or the many other things VAS does every day is for the good of the profession, and the health, safety, and welfare of the public whom surveyors serve.
The ability of VAS to work with the Governor’s office to keep surveying open for business means tens of thousands of dollars in revenue for every surveyor in Virginia. Not every industry or profession has been as fortunate as surveying.

Additionally, VAS has worked with the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) and the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers, and Landscape Architects (APELSCIDLA) to provide a grace period for any professional whose license expires during the emergency declared by Governor Northam.

This is a good time to remind non-members of this fact and urge them to join VAS. I hope you have that as part of all your current and everyday conversations with other surveyors, and recruiting non-members.

For many years, VAS used the Francis Bacon quote “Every man a debtor to his profession”. The full quote is, “I hold every man a debtor to his profession; from the which as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor themselves, by way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereunto.”

Every Virginia surveyor is in debt to VAS for their livelihood, and income, over the past several weeks. Now is the time for those who are not members to make “amends” and use a small amount of their “countenance and profit” to support the organization that is supporting them.

If VAS didn't stand up for surveyors, who would?

**Coalition Letter to President Trump**

A coalition of trade and professional organizations representing tens of thousands of firms and individuals engaged in architecture, engineering, surveying and mapping, prime contracting, subcontracting, specialty trade contracting, supplying, construction and program management and surety bond production, including NSPS have asked President Trump to issue further guidance to clarify “essential Infrastructure” and “essential businesses and services.”

To read the entire letter click here.

**VAS Members ONLY - Webinar**

April 22, 2020

[Click here](#) to Register

**Summer Seminar and Board Meeting**
DPOR/APELSCIDLA License Renewal Extension

VAS has worked with the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) and the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers, and Landscape Architects (APELSCIDLA) to provide a grace period for any professional whose license expires during the emergency declared by Governor Northam due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This extension is due to many state government employees working from home and unable to remotely complete some processes, as well as the difficulty some practitioners may experience completing required continuing education, including the postponement of the VAS Convention from April to October.

License expirations in March, April, May, and June are extended until 30 days after the State of Emergency is lifted providing time to complete continuing education for renewal. The Governor's current order expires on June 10. For further information, click here.
Region II Director........Stephen Letchford
Region III Director...............Judy Beale
Region IV Director..............Troy Williams

Region II Director........Stephen Letchford
Region III Director...............Judy Beale
Region IV Director..............Troy Williams

Annual - $1,500
Quarter Page
(3.5" wide x 4.75" high)
One Issue - $150
Annual - $800
Business Card
(3.5" wide x 2.0" high)
One Issue - $75
Annual - $400
Banner Ad
(1000px wide x 320 high)
One month - $500
Subpage Ad
(75 px High)
One month - $200

- Submission Deadlines: First day of the month of the issue(s) selected
- Preferred Formats: Ads may be provided in black/white or color; please send layout-ready copy (compatible electronic files include .eps or .pdf files with all fonts and graphics embedded). All ads must be digital. Please send ads via email to Khea Adams at Khea@vasurveyors.org
- All advertisements are non-refundable
- If purchasing an Annual ad, you can change your ad monthly.

Click Here to Purchase Your Ad

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].

Did you know that when you [recruit a new member] to VAS you will receive a 25% discount on your 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.