VAS President Gary Faulhaber on Friday, March 20, sent a letter to Governor Northam urging that surveying firms be permitted to remain open under any order affecting
business operations. In other states, Governors are implementing orders that certain businesses close, due to the Coronavirus. For example, Governor Wolf of Pennsylvania issued such an order, which is forcing firms in fields such as architecture, engineering, surveying, construction, and related fields to close. Mr. Faulhaber's letter explained why any such order in Virginia should exempt surveyors and why surveyors should be permitted to continue operations. The VAS officers believe surveyors would be severely harmed by such a shutdown, but should be exempt as we can operate safely and are critical to the economic well being of the state.

On Monday, March 23, Governor Northam announced an order that all nonessential businesses close their operations. Fortunately, surveying firms are not subject to that order, as requested by VAS. Click here for FAQs on the order.

Individual firms may make their own decisions about remaining open and implement their own policies regarding work from home and other safety and prevention strategies. All employers and employees are reminded to follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, including stay at home if you are sick, wash hands frequently, clean and disinfect equipment and surfaces, do not gather in groups of more than 10 persons, and maintain social spacing of 6 feet from other persons, both in the office and in the field.

Our lobbying firm, McGuire Woods Consulting, has compiled information from federal and state governments in response to Coronavirus as it pertains to employers and businesses across industry sectors.

John Palatiello
VAS Executive Director

VAS Awards Honorary Member to Dr. Gladys West,
Creator of the Math and Geodesy Behind GPS
by John M. Palatiello

On Saturday, February 22, (fittingly, on George Washington’s Birthday and the last day of National Engineers Week), a delegation from VAS presented a certificate of Honorary Member to Dr. Gladys West, a mathematician and native Virginian known for her contributions to the mathematical modeling of the shape of the Earth, and her work on the development of the satellite geodesy models that were eventually incorporated into the Global Positioning System (GPS). Representing VAS was President Gary Faulhaber,
Governor Northam Observes Surveyors Week

National Surveyors Week is observed the week in March beginning with the third Sunday. In 2020, it was March 15-21. Proclamations and statements were issued by President Trump, Governor Northam, and other officials. Click here to see the proclamations from across the Nation.

VAS Convention Moves to October 21-24

Due to governmental orders limiting gathers of persons, the VAS Executive Board has moved the 72nd Annual VAS Convention and General Membership Meeting to October 21-24.

Please call the Wyndham Hotel at 1-800-365-3032 and make a new reservation for October. Be sure to mention the group code "Virginia Association of Surveyors" to receive the special convention rate of $124 per night.

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.

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. 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.

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

**Hotel information**

VAS has negotiated an incredible hotel room rate of just $124 per night (single or double occupancy) at the Wyndham Hotel in Virginia Beach. To make a reservation, call 1-800-365-3032. Based on hotel availability, this rate will be honored on days preceding and following the convention, so make it a mini-vacation.

Reminder, the new dates for the VAS Convention are October 21 - October 24, 2020.

**Become a Convention Sponsor Today**

![Become A Sponsor!](image)

**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 members 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. Please submit your 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 expire on December 31.

The VAS Board of Directors has 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.

Don't delay and risk having your membership dropped for nonpayment. Please pay your dues promptly so you are a member in good standing throughout 2020.
A Note to GPS Network Users
by Michael Jiantonio

Due to the increase in internet traffic during the covid-19 mitigation some users are experiencing difficulty accessing and using GPS Networks.

Internet and Cellular providers are prioritizing traffic to maximize bandwidth and some are struggling at times to meet demand. Bandwidth management methods may include reducing speed, packet buffering and disconnecting continuous streaming. All of these methods create inconsistent and high latency and the result for GPS Network users is difficulty logging in and fixing a position.

Latency is a measure of time it takes to get correction data from the Reference Station to the Rover and is usually reported in "seconds" of time. Ideally latency is ZERO but that is not possible in the real world. In my experience most brands of receivers can work with latency as high as 3 seconds as long as it is consistent and not interrupted. Very few can handle latency over that value and none will perform as expected with high values.

If you are experiencing difficulty using your GPS due to Latency issues I strongly recommend following proper procedures including multiple occupations and longer occupation times.

For those using Carlson SurveCE/PC, I recommend that you pay particular attention to the Report capability in the Average function. The report will provide detailed information that you can use to qualify the data before accepting it. Pay attention to the Max/Min values and Deviations shown as they can alert you to potential problems.

When in doubt, throw it out! Re-occupy and verify before accepting results in ANY difficult environment. Users of Base/Rover RTK systems and those performing Static Surveys are not affected by internet/cellular issues.

Judge Rules Against Virginia County in Challenge to Pipeline Project

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (CN) — A federal judge has sided with a pipeline company in a
dispute over the permitting powers of local governments, a win for the beleaguered natural gas producer after several setbacks in court.

To read the full article click below

**VAS Officer, Director Elections**  
**Deadline to Vote is March 25**

It is my privilege to announce the 2020/2021 ballot of officers for VAS. As the Immediate Past President one of my responsibilities is to prepare this ballot and meet with as many Past Presidents as I can for discussion of the ballot. The following is the slate of Executive officers who will serve a one year term:

- **President**                               Kevin Wood
- **Vice President**                      Alison Hanson
- **Second Vice President**       Christopher Jensen
- **Secretary/Treasurer**            Rob Mann

The next is Regional Directors:

- **Region II Director**                Stephen Letchford (incumbent - Re-elect)
- **Region IV Director**                 Troy Williams

*(Region I and Region III Directors are up for election in 2021)*

It has been an honor to be involved in the selection of leaders that will take VAS into the coming year and beyond. The importance of this cannot be understated. I want to thank all the Past Presidents who responded to me via email, and a special thank you to Michael Starling, John Sehl, Will Nash, Gary Faulhaber and Steve Douty for meeting with me in person at the January quarterly meeting to discuss the ballot and several other topics of interest.

As I move off of the Board and Executive Committee this privilege and honor, along with many others, will never be forgotten. Serving this organization as a leader has been one the most gratifying experiences of my life.

Thank you to the membership for allowing me to be a part of this organization’s leadership!

*Kevin Shreiner*  
VAS Immediate Past President

*Editor's Note: Ballots have been emailed to all VAS members eligible to vote. Balloting ends tomorrow March 25.*
**Summer Seminar and Board Meeting**  
June 11-12, 2020  
Marriott Hotel - Short Pump  
Richmond, VA

**John Foster School**  
June 23-26, 2020  
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)  
Richmond, VA  
[Registration OPEN](#)  
[Scholarships Available - Apply TODAY](#)

**Fall Seminar and Board Meeting**  
September 18-19, 2020  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Roanoke, VA

**72nd Annual Convention & General Membership Meeting**  
October 22 - October 24, 2020  
Wyndham Oceanfront Hotel  
Virginia Beach, VA

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**Work-Zone Mapping Project Aims to Reduce Crashes Through Better Information**

To improve safety in work zones across Minnesota, University of Minnesota researchers are working on a tagging and mapping system that can efficiently gather information about the layout of work zones, perform remote inspections, and disseminate warnings to drivers. The goal of this Statewide Work Zone Information System (SWIS) is to serve as a real-time database of active work zones from the moment the first advanced warning sign is placed to the time crews pack up.

[Click here for more information](#)

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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 bill.
McGuire Woods Consulting (MWC), the new VAS lobbying firm, provides a weekly update on bills specifically and generally affecting surveyors and surveying firms. Each week, MWC provides 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 is heard in the General Assembly. Attached is a list of bills VAS tracked.

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The Old Dominion Surveyor

The Old Dominion Surveyor is the official publication of the Virginia Association of Surveyors. It is published monthly and sent to members. All material must be submitted by the deadline noted for each issue.

Editor
Alison Hanson, LS

Committee
Khea Adams - Virginia Association of Surveyors

VAS 2019 - 2020 Officers and Directors

President.......................Gary M. Faulhaber
First Vice President..................Kevin Wood
Second Vice President........ Alison Hanson
Secretary/Treasurer.............. Chris Jensen
Past President............... Kevin D. Shreiner
NSPS Director..................... Will Nash
Region I Director....... Yeoanny Venetsanos
Region II Director........ Stephen Letchford
Region III Director.............. Judy Beale
Region IV Director............... Jessica Nash

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More than 400 members of the surveying profession in Virginia read The Old Dominion Newsletter. Advertising in the magazine is a great way to reach that audience! Our online publication allows us to link from your ad to your website.

Advertising Rates

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Annual - $3,000

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- 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...
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.

Virginia Association of Surveyors | [www.vasurveyors.org](http://www.vasurveyors.org)