2021 VAS Election Results, Leadership Installation
Voting for 2021-2022 VAS Executive Officers closed April 10 and each candidate was overwhelmingly approved by the membership, with rates from 97.6% to 100%.

Congratulations to:

Secretary/Treasurer Stephen C. Letchford
Region 1 Director Lisa Goodwin
Region 2 Director M. Benjamin Brashears
Region 3 Director Judy Beale
Immediate Past President Kevin Wood
President Alison W. Hanson
First Vice President Christopher J. Jensen
Second Vice President Robert D. Mann

VAS Officers, Chapter Presidents, and Committee Chairs make up the VAS Board of Directors. These individuals will be installed at a virtual VAS Board meeting on Thursday, April 22. VAS member and NSPS Executive Director Curtis W. Sumner will administer an oath of office to these leaders of VAS at that meeting.

2021 Plat Contest Opens - Deadline to Submit is June 1

In order to meet the NSPS Map Plat Design Competition deadline of June 30, 2021, VAS is pleased to announce that this year’s VAS Plat Contest is open. The categories are the same as the 2020 NSPS Map Plat Design Competition: Subdivision Plats, Topographical Maps, ALTA/NSPS Survey Maps, Miscellaneous Maps, Boundary/Cadastral Maps.

REMINDER:

Entries will only be accepted electronically in a PDF format. Contest rules and entry forms can be found [here](#). The entry fee of $40 (for one to six plats) and completed entry form(s) are due **no later than June 1, 2021**. 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, [click here](#). Please make checks payable to Virginia Association of Surveyors and note in the memo section it is for the Plat Contest.

The winners will be announced at the 73rd Annual Convention in Williamsburg in September.

If you have any questions, please contact Khea Adams ([Khea@vasurveyors.org](mailto:Khea@vasurveyors.org)) or Chris Jensen ([Christopher.Jensen@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Christopher.Jensen@fairfaxcounty.gov)).

VAS Spring Virtual Seminar

Due to ongoing COVID restrictions the 2021 VAS Spring Seminar will be held virtually on Friday, April 23 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Thanks to the Southern Chapter and Education Chair, Chip Richardson, an outstanding program will be presented. The morning session will be presented by Gary Kent on the NEW 2021 ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey Standards and the afternoon session will be presented by Joe Priestner and Grant Sticker of Duncan-Parnell on Monitoring and Scanning Workflow. A total of total of 8 CEU/PDH credits will be awarded.

Register today!!
VAS Convention Moves to September

With COVID restrictions still in place and the vaccine program struggling to reach significant numbers of Virginians, the VAS Board of Directors voted at its January meeting to move the annual convention from April to September 14-18. It is the view of the Board that deferring the convention to September greatly increases the chance that a safe, in-person convention can be held.

“Our strong preference is to host an in-person convention,” said Alison Hanson, LS, VAS First Vice President and Chair of the 2021 convention. “The experience of meeting with colleagues, networking, visiting exhibitors, and gaining continuing education firsthand is of great value to the membership and we are hopeful that the environment and regulations will permit such an event by September.”

The convention will also return to a previous VAS tradition of several years ago by including the John Foster School to prepare candidates for licensure as a land surveyor in Virginia in the examination preparation class. The John Foster School will be held from Tuesday, September 14 through Friday, September 17.

The 2021 VAS Annual Convention will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Williamsburg, VA.

As a result of this change, the Board approved a revision to the 2021 schedule of VAS education seminars and Board meetings.

- Thursday, April 22 VAS Board of Directors Virtual Meeting
- Friday, April 23 VAS Spring Webinar
- June 25-26 VAS Summer Seminar & Board Meeting (Host: Shenandoah Chapter)

A decision on hosting these events virtually or in-person will be made by May 1
- September 14-18 73rd Annual Convention & General Membership Meeting in Williamsburg

The June events will feature a seminar or webinar on Friday. The Board of Directors will meet virtually on the preceding Thursday (June 24) or in-person on Saturday (June 26).

From the President
by Kevin Wood, LS

Spring is starting to happen and a new VAS year is about to begin. The April 22 VAS Board meeting represents the end of the year. New officers will be installed at this meeting and Alison Hanson will begin her term as the next VAS President. The Board also invites the incoming chapter presidents to attend the April meeting for the official installation ceremony. All will be encouraged to attend the banquet at the 2021 VAS Convention as we wish to introduce the officers at an in-person event.

The Executive Board met recently and discussed mentoring officers. Gary Faulhaber has set a great example as President of mentoring the person that follows in his footsteps.
We will have meetings to discuss the positions that we are entering and leaving. The discussion will include responsibilities and issues in the positions. This is something that should be done at the chapter level as well. Make sure the small things are discussed and each person feels comfortable in the position. The VAS board meetings have a lot of moving parts and the chapters benefit when everyone is prepared.

With the hope of everything heading back to live events, it is a great time to rebuild and refresh the life of each chapter. Use this time of new enthusiasm for new ways of doing things. Bring in new members and invite more people to participate. Each member probably works with someone that has never attended a VAS event. Bring that person(s) with you to a chapter event. The Tidewater Chapter is planning a small picnic. The Mt. Vernon Chapter is planning a graduation event for the apprenticeship school. Each of these events is a perfect opportunity to invite someone from the office to meet other surveyors and see something about what is happening in the association. If your chapter has not held a membership meeting, then it needs to plan it soon and use this time as a catalyst for a great new year in your chapter.

The April Board meeting includes a seminar on April 23. This will include a four-hour session on the 2021 ALTA standards, two hours on procedures and equipment for “monitoring” project and a two-hour session on scanning workflow. This webinar is hosted by the Southern Chapter. I think you will agree that this is an excellent setup for current and new members to the VAS. I hope you will take the opportunity to invite one of the technicians in your company to attend. The more they know the more your company benefits. Thank the presenters as well; Gary Kent, as well as Joe Priestner and Grant Strickler of Duncan-Parnell.

Kevin Wood, VAS President (72nd), 2020-2021

Editor's Column
by Chris Jensen, LS

Where does a year go? As my term of Second Vice-President draws to a close, so does my time as editor of The Old Dominion Surveyor. Even in these stranger-than-normal times, it seems like the year has flown by! It’s been a very rewarding experience for me, and I hope you have enjoyed the issues as well. I would like to personally thank all of you who have contributed and encourage you to contribute if you haven’t. I would also like to thank those of you that have provided feedback; it’s appreciated. As we always say- this is your publication, and it works best with contributions from VAS members and friends in the surveying profession. I look forward to passing the torch as editor to Rob Mann and know he will continue the great tradition of the ODS.

I also look forward to catching up live and in person with my all my VAS friends in the upcoming year. It’s been far too long since we have been in each other’s company live and I am ready to see all your smiling faces again!

One last big "thank you" to Khea Adams for the hard work on this month’s (and every month’s) edition of ODS. She keeps us on track and looking good!

Take care and be safe,
Chris Jensen, LS, is VAS Second Vice President and Editor of ODS

There is always an unannounced medevac helicopter in your flight path. Always.

This may seem hyperbolic, but the truth is that anytime you put a UAS in the sky there will be unforeseen issues and troubleshooting on the fly. There are good surveyors and good pilots, but to find someone who is good at both is a growing necessity in the AEC industry. The responsibilities of the pilot are extensive and so are those of the surveyor. Too often I read articles that expound the merits and strengths of a UAS program and the importance to the construction industry. Yet, emphasis on liabilities, poor practices, and the benefits of a pilot who understands the complexity and use of survey data should be explored.

Before increasing efficiency, collecting real-time data, avoiding unnecessary hazardous areas or just being competitive in the market, it’s important to note that starting a UAS program solely to check off a box on services offered, will fail. Relying on a trusted professional, free from other projects, should have flexibility and time to develop a program which is safe and meets accuracy requirements.

As it was told to me, “It’s not a question of if but when”. In the field, always have a plan “B” because circumstances change abruptly. Problems arise even in the most ideal conditions where even small distractions could possibly ground an entire program. Additionally, we know liabilities can be distinctly severe if there is any lack of compliance with FAA regulations and manufacturer’s guidelines. Some of these issues emerge in the form of:

- **Batteries** - One of the most common failures are lithium batteries which are
infamously unstable. Carelessness with batteries (i.e. lack of monitoring battery performance and looking for key indicators and warnings leaving them in the truck overnight, leaving them on charge for a month, using damaged batteries, lack of replacements, etc.) could have devastating consequences. In a hypothetical situation, you may be flying over an active landfill and battery failure could produce a blue intensity flame to fall from the sky causing a catastrophic event too egregious for any insurance policy.

- **Impact risks** - A DJI Phantom 4 Pro falling from 400’ AGL has 1,225 foot/pounds of kinetic energy at impact. There are numerous published studies on live flight and falling impact tests which detail ranges of injury risk to humans. Safety standards exist to regulate the potential for catastrophic injury and death.
  - Inflight collisions.
  - The UAS being targeted by illicit action.
  - Connectivity loss.
  - Evaluation payload capabilities.
  - Flying near high voltage equipment, etc.

*It is the hope that good pilots* are acutely aware of the capabilities of the equipment being used and what is being asked of them. Field work may involve mental fatigue, exposure to the elements (which will affect the equipment), scheduling, and tasks. Complex missions may necessitate an abundance of equipment and technicians. In that situation, there is a greater probability of forgetting simple items like a GPS antenna, or battery charger, which can add return trips to a site. Beyond altitude limitations, airspace complexity, and safety concerns, are there visible areas for target placement and appropriate visual-line-of-sight? Maybe the planned UAS operation is not suited to very large sites or with complex terrain that manned aircraft would be better for.

Licensed surveyors have a background solving technical issues and dealing with challenges pertaining to checking data from the field. Post-processing is complex and so is interpreting data. Especially with thermal, multispectral, hyperspectral data, etc. Knowing what parameters to adjust in equipment and software, and how to replicate results is an important area of interest. Why Smoothed Best Estimate of Trajectory (SBET), LiDAR return data, and attributes relating to sensor data, is beneficial to know to avoid ambiguity and errors which cause a divergence of position. Problems often arise due to the perception that relative placement is correct placement.

The responsibility of the surveyor includes educating the end-user and to mitigate expectations:

- What are the limitations?
- What features can be adequately defined?
- What methods are chosen to help to create a deliverable which is aesthetically pleasing and accurate?
- How much data is necessary?
- Should you use LiDAR, photogrammetry, or conventional and why?
- Contours out of the box versus a de-densified and spatially sampled grid surface look and act differently. Making the right choice will save time and increase client satisfaction.
- Education to the public due to public opinion/distrust - potential privacy invasions, etc.

Other expectations:
· Knowing FAA Policy, proposed rules, familiarization with lobbying efforts
· Understanding how and when to request FAA airspace authorizations and waivers, coordination with DoD, FAA, DHS, NCRCC, access to airspace in complex portions of the National Airspace System (NAS), and when to include safety cases for mitigating all hazards and risk for the proposed operation.
· Software license purchase orders and renewals.
· Production workflows, maintaining checklists, flight logs and QC of photogrammetric and LiDAR based data.
· Tracking industry development.
· Define aircraft and associated components maintenance policies and procedures in accordance with manufacturer and FAA guidance, letters of coverage, etc.

Surveyors are not an incidental part of collecting data which will be used throughout the project life cycle. Experience working in the civil environment will help to avoid or alleviate risks associated with UAS usage, processing, expectations, and when to say that using UAS isn’t the right tool for the job. Surveyors want initiatives that drive innovation, but also responsibly, because an unannounced medevac helicopter will always appear from seemingly nowhere and we need to be adept enough to make the right decisions.

**Time to Bug You Again...**

**MC BUGG-Z SAYS:**
**DON’T GET SICK FROM THE BITE OF A TICK!**

Tips for preventing tick bites and the diseases they carry, identifying ticks and choosing insect repellent.

- **Fight tick bites**
- **Learn about Lyme and other diseases spread by ticks**
- **Get your ticks identified by the Health Department**

**Tick Warning**

Field work in the Spring means it is once again "Tick Season". Remember these tips in the safety procedures of your firm, agency, or organization. Ticks can cause Lyme Disease and other ailments. An indicator of a tick bite can be observed. Be on the lookout for the telltale "Bullseye Rash" shown below, which could be a precursor to an infection and should be evaluated by a medical professional. A tick bite can be found burrowed into the skin and must be detached from the body.
Here are some helpful links:


* Aim for Prevention - [https://dwr.virginia.gov/blog/protect-yourself-against-ticks-this-time-of-year/](https://dwr.virginia.gov/blog/protect-yourself-against-ticks-this-time-of-year/)

* Fairfax County Health Department - [https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/fightthebite](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/fightthebite)

Thanks to Vickie McEntire Anglin, L.S., Fairfax County Surveyor and APELSCIDLA Board Member

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**April 13, 2021 - National Thomas Jefferson Day**

![Thomas Jefferson Birthplace](image)

**Obituary - Former VAS President Melvin Lee Corso**

Melvin Lee Corso, born March 24, 1938, passed away Sunday March 21, 2021. He leaves his four children with his memory, Lena Herr, Logan Dabbs (Derek Dabbs), Lee Corso, Kara Patterson (Jamie Patterson), and five grandchildren (Colton Herr, Hayden Dabbs, Tate Dabbs, Guy Patterson, and Loch Patterson), plus a host of other family and friends. He spent his career as a land surveyor in the Richmond area and was active in the Virginia Association of Surveyors serving as president in 1981 as well as the local magic club. He loved archery and enjoyed teaching others. A bronze plaque in memorial will be located at Signal Hill Memorial Park: 12360
Hanover Courthouse Rd, Hanover, VA. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the American Heart Association.
Newest Member of the VAS Team

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of the VAS staff team, Natalie Butler.

Natalie is an associate with Miller Wenhold Capitol Strategies, the association management firm that provides professional administrative support to VAS. She brings...
policy experience working at both the state and federal
levels. She began her career in politics with the
Associated Students of the University of Missouri
(ASUM), a student-led advocacy group that lobbies on
behalf of the students in the University of Missouri
System. For four years, she worked closely with state
lawmakers, university administrators, and students to
push student priorities in the Missouri state Capitol.
During her time as a Miller Wenhold policy intern in 2019,
Natalie attended Congressional hearings, composed
memorandums for distribution to clients, assisted with
advocacy activities, and conducted research on various
policy issues. Her time in state and federal politics provided her invaluable experience in
political strategies, technical legislative processes, and effective advocacy techniques.

In addition to her policy work, Natalie has several years of experience with event
coordination, program development, operational planning, and strategic management.
She will utilize both her professional experience and educational background to help
streamline processes, increase productivity, and ensure organizations advance their
mission.

Natalie was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She attended the University of
Missouri-Columbia where she received her bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Political
Science and master’s degree in Public Affairs.

Among her accomplishments, Natalie successfully lobbied for two bills that were passed
into Missouri law in 2018.

Advertise in ODS or the VAS Website

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
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**Banner Ad**
(1000px wide x 320 high)
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- Submission Deadlines: The first day of the month of the issue(s) selected
- Preferred Formats: Ads may be provided in black/white or color; please send a 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.

### Upcoming Events

- April 22, 2021 - Board of Directors Virtual Meeting
- April 23, 2021 - VAS Spring Seminar
- June 25-26, 2021 - Seminar Hosted by the Shenandoah and Board of Directors Meeting
- September 14-18, 2021 - 73rd Annual Convention & General Membership Meeting, DoubleTree Hotel, Williamsburg, VA

### 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**
Chris Jensen

**Publisher**
Khea Adams - Virginia Association of Surveyors

**VAS 2020 - 2021 Officers and Directors**
President..............................Kevin Wood
First Vice President..........Alison Hanson
Second Vice President.......Chris Jensen
Secretary/Treasurer.............Rob Mann
Past President...............Gary M. Faulhaber
NSPS Director..................Will Nash
Region I Director........Yeoanny Venetsanos
Region II Director.........Stephen Letchford
Region III Director..........Judy Beale
Region IV Director..........Troy Williams

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.

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