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 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.

- April 23-24 Host: Southern Chapter
- June 25-26 Host: Shenandoah Chapter
- September 14-18 Williamsburg (Convention)

The April and June events will feature a seminar or webinar on Friday. The Board of Directors will meet virtually on the preceding Thursday (April 22 and June 24) or in-person on Saturday.

**VAS 2021/2022 Slate of Officers**

It is my privilege to announce the 2021/2022 slate of officers for VAS. As the Chair of the Council of Past Presidents, I recently held a virtual meeting with our Past Presidents in which I presented my recommendations which were accepted and approved by the majority. The slate was subsequently presented to the VAS Board of Directors at our Winter Board Meeting on January 21st and approved unanimously.

The following is the slate of Executive Officers who will serve a one-year term:

- **Past President**  
  Kevin B. Wood
- **President**  
  Alison W. Hanson
- **Vice President**  
  Christopher J. Jensen
- **Second Vice President**  
  Robert D. Mann
- **Secretary/Treasurer**  
  Stephen C. Letchford

**The next is Regional Directors:**

**Region I Director:** Lisa M. Goodwin
Region II Director: M. Benjamin Brashears (serving the second year of Stephen Letchford’s term)
Region III Director: Judy G. Beale (re-election to second term)
(Region II and Region IV Directors are up for election in 2022)

I want to thank all the Past Presidents who responded to me and assisted in the development of this slate.

Notice is hereby provided that pursuant to the VAS Bylaws, additional nominations may be made by petition of ten (10) regular members in good standing no later than 30 days after this notification. Each such nomination petition shall certify the nominee’s willingness to serve in the event he should be elected. Such petition should be filed with me by March 10, 2021. Ballots will be provided to all Regular and Retired Members in good standing soon after March 10.

Gary M. Faulhaber, LS, RLS
VAS Immediate Past President

From the President
by Kevin Wood, LS

I recently met with the Western Chapter during a virtual general membership meeting. It was great to sit in on a meeting and hear the news of the Chapter. I also provided some updates on where we were on issues at the State level. I was informed that certain members had an issue with the VAS executive board not providing minutes to the membership. It is unfortunate that I had to sit in on a meeting to hear this as I hope someone would just call. I promised to resolve that situation with proper minutes in future meetings. To that end, our recent executive board meeting was spent reviewing the agenda to facilitate a smoother January Board meeting. The VAS board met on January 21 via a virtual format. The minutes will be uploaded to the website for further review. It was a busy meeting and quite a lot was completed.

- The VAS, board through discussion with the VAS Education committee, voted to approve a motion presented by the Western Chapter. The VAS will donate $25,000 to the Virginia Survey Foundation for use in purchasing books for survey students.
- The regional directors brought a nomination for a new member to the Education Trust. Derrick Barnhill was voted onto the Education Trust. He will serve a five-year term with an option to serve a second term.
- The Education Committee presented a written plan for use in seminar planning. This plan provides guidance for the recordings of the seminars as well.
- Ben Brashears, the Membership Committee chairperson, reported on the current membership numbers. Please complete your VAS membership renewal. The invoices still report an April deadline, but it should have been January 1st.
- The VAS Board also voted in several new members. Please look them up and welcome them to the membership.
A motion was raised to move the 2021 Convention to September. The thought is there will be a better chance to meet in-person at that point in the year.

The slate of officers for the 2021-2022 VAS board was presented and approved. The General Membership has thirty days to provide additional names to the ballot. The chapters need to submit local election results sixty days prior to the April Board meeting.

These are some of the highlights of the January board meeting. It is important that the general membership understands that this board and the executive board is working to develop a better future for the Surveyor. Nothing is meant to be done in secrecy. Please contact me or your chapter representatives, if you have any questions about what you read in the board minutes.

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

Editor's Column
by Chris Jensen, LS

A fellow surveyor recently sent me a photo of her working on an airport runway in response to the request for pictures of diversity in surveying (see the announcement in this month’s Old Dominion Surveyor for details). She commented that the picture was taken “back when I was not shuffling papers all day”. Her comment made me think of the office and field team dynamic of surveying. I am sure almost everyone who works in the office now started out working in the field. It is where we learned the basics of surveying and if we were lucky enough to have a good party chief and mentor, we learned even more than that. Every survey shop I have worked in has always had a little bit of the “office vs. field” mentality, but I believe at the end of the day we are all one team with a common goal of producing the best surveying product we can. I think we can all appreciate the individual strengths each person brings to the table whether they work inside or outside. When you are in the 70-degree office and it’s 25 outside with 20 miles per hour winds out of the northwest, I’m sure we appreciate the field crews bundling up and going out to take on the day’s tasks. When you come in from the field at the end of the day and hand off the day’s work, I am sure we also appreciate that the office person’s day just got longer, and they will be working well into the night meeting a deadline using that day’s field data. Please take a minute to remember we are all one team working together and appreciate each other.

Thank you to Khea Adams of the VAS staff for the hard work on this month’s edition of ODS, and I hope you find it informative and entertaining.

Take care and be safe,
Chris

Chris Jensen, LS, is VAS Second Vice President and Editor of ODS

VAS Impacts Legislation in General Assembly
The VAS Legislative Committee, chaired by Bruce Frederick, LS, is actively representing the interests of the surveying profession in the current session of the Virginia General Assembly.

The committee, which also includes VAS President Kevin Wood, LS, Immediate Past President Gary Faulhaber, LS, RLS, and NSPS Director and past VAS President Will Nash, LS, as well as Executive Director John Palatiello, have a weekly “Zoom” meeting with Preston Bryant of McGuire Woods Consulting, the VAS lobbyist. At these meetings, the status of legislation impacting surveying and pending before the state House and Senate are discussed and strategy and tactics are developed.

Formal letters have been filed on several bills, Mr. Bryant has discussed VAS positions with legislators, and formal testimony has been presented.

SB 1419 will be carried over, in part as a result of VAS expressing concern for the legislation’s unprecedented application of labor union “Project Labor Agreements” to design services (which could include surveying) on certain Virginia projects.

HB 2259, a bill that would permit the Governor to override decisions to deny an occupational license by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), including the APELSCIDLA Board, was defeated in Subcommittee by an 8-0 vote after VAS filed a letter and Mr. Bryant testified before the Subcommittee.

VAS is opposing HB 1741, which requires any contract awarded by a state agency or local government to require the contractor to include in each of its subcontracts a provision requiring the subcontractor to report to the contractor on a monthly basis certain subcontractor payroll records, subcontractor payment records to other independent contractors, and the number of individuals working on a jobsite. This imposes an undue burden, particularly on small business surveying firms, with little discernable benefit. No action has been taken on this bill.

VAS supports SB 1143, which extends certain wetlands permits through 2021. This bill is needed due to many delays caused by COVID-19. This bill passed the Senate 39-0 and is pending before a House committee.

SB 1405 and HB 2204 are bills to enact the Governor's proposed Virginia Community College System (VCCS) “Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back” (G3) program. This program
would emphasize education programs and financial assistance in “high demand” fields. VAS supports these bills and is working to include technician and professional positions in surveying as being in high demand.

To view the VAS letters to legislators, [click here](#).

## Virginia State Government Capital Projects Create Demand for Surveying Services

Each year, agencies of the Virginia state government spends hundreds of millions of dollars on capital improvement projects. These construction activities create a demand for various surveying services.

To assist VAS members with tracking upcoming opportunities, our lobbying firm, McGuire Woods Consulting, has provided information to identify projects at the early stage.

### State CIP

At this [link](#), is the Governor’s proposed budget, including the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). On the bottom right is a box titled “Proposed Capital Budget for the 2020-2022 Biennium.” At the bottom of that box, please note “See All Capital Budget Details.” Click on the “Details” item.

Clicking on the “Details” item will lead to a list of the Governor’s proposed projects in his budget amendments.

These are projects the Governor has proposed for the current General Assembly session. There is approximately $5.6 million for the current fiscal year and another $224 million in the next year. This $224 million in projects is on top of previously approved projects that may be in various stages of design or construction.

**SB 1155** is the General Assembly’s CIP update. These are projects that have been previously approved for planning. Being approved for planning does not mean they have been ultimately approved for funding and execution. However, as a practical matter, when projects are approved for planning, that’s usually a pretty good sign that they will ultimately be approved for execution.

### VDOT Capital Projects

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has its own [construction program](#). Click on each VDOT District to view see District-specific projects in those areas of your interest. Additionally, VDOT maintains a Smart Scale list of [projects](#). Smart Scale was introduced a few years ago to prioritize projects for funding and execution based on objective scoring criteria. It was theoretically to take the politics out of transportation project approval. Since the Smart Scale process has been implemented, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and VDOT have followed its criteria and outcomes.
VAS Becomes NSPS Sustaining Member

VAS has become one of the first state societies to enroll in a new program for Sustaining Membership for state associations or chapters in the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS).

You will see the VAS logo in the weekly NSPS e-newsletter, News and Views and other publicity for the organization.

All VAS regular members are concurrently members of NSPS as well. NSPS represents professional surveyors at the national and international levels. This includes an active and effective government affairs program before Congress and Federal agencies and membership in FIG, the International Federation of Surveyors, UN-recognized global organization for the profession of surveying and related disciplines. NSPS also has formal liaison relationships with other organizations, such as the American Land Title Association (ALTA), with which NSPS promulgates the Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys.

NSPS Diversity Committee

The NSPS Diversity Committee is working with a nationally recognized artist to create a poster that illustrates the full range of diversity and inclusion in surveying and the geospatial community. To that end, it is looking for images that can be used as models (not copied) and thoughts that demonstrate the full range of existing and desired diversity and inclusion in our profession. The hope is to represent diversity and inclusion in the variety of jobs we do, the many types of settings we work in, our history, our future, gender and ethnicity. If you have ideas or images, please send them to Khea Adams, VAS staff, at khea@vasurveyors.org.

Need Continuing Education Credits? Check Out the VAS Convention Webinar Archive

In 2020, in the midst of the COVID pandemic, the Virginia Association of Surveyors (VAS) replaced in-person continuing education seminars with virtual webinars. The Annual Convention was converted from on-site events to remote, distance learning.

This has enabled VAS to create an archive of continuing education classes. This archive consists of recordings of webinars originally presented live. For those who were unable to attend the original, live presentation of any class, the archive of sessions is available for purchase.

These archived webinars meet the requirements for continuing education credit established by the APELSCIDLA licensing board.

Please avail yourself of these continuing education opportunities. Select and purchase the sessions that are of interest to you and meet your professional and business requirements. You will be provided a link to the purchased webinar, as well as "quiz questions" that the licensing board requires for archived continuing education.

Safety Minute - Winter Driving Tips
Prepare Your Car for Winter

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze

Remember to keep your car’s emergency preparedness kit fully stocked, too.

Before You Start Out

- Clean your car’s external camera lenses and side view mirrors so you’ll be able to see what’s around you
- Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features like automatic emergency braking to work
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive it
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up
- If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm if possible; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

How to Avoid a Crash

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don’t have to overcorrect to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don’t stop when going uphill

If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can not see yours on the shoulder.

Celebrate Terminus on February 23, 2021
Submitted by Steve Douty
In Roman religion, Terminus was the god who protected boundary markers; his name was the Latin word for such a marker. Sacrifices were performed to sanctify each boundary stone and landowners celebrated a festival called the "Terminalia" in Terminus' honor each year on February 23. The Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus on the Capitoline Hill was thought to have been built over a shrine to Terminus and he was occasionally identified as an aspect of Jupiter under the name "Jupiter Terminalis".

**Simple Tips for Happier, More Productive Meetings**

Lauren Reed, Content Marketer, has published a blog giving tips for a more successful meeting.

**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 audience! Our online publication allows us to link your ad to your website.

### Advertising Rate for ODS

**Full Page**

(7.5" wide x 10" high)

- One Issue - $400
- Annual - $3,000

**Half Page**

(7.5" wide x 4.74" high)

- One Issue - $250
- Annual - $1,500

**Half Page**

(3.5" wide x 10" high)

- One Issue - $250
- 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
Advertising Rates for VAS Website

**Banner Ad**
(1000px wide x 320 high)
One month - $500

**Subpage Ad**
(75 px High)
One month - $200

- 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 Meeting
- April 23, 2021 - Seminar Hosted by the Southern Chapter
- June 25-26, 2021 - Seminar Hosted by the Shenandoah and Board of Directors Meeting
- September 14-18, 2021 - 73rd Annual Convention & General Membership Meeting, 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.

Follow VAS On Social Media

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