



Signing up

Signing your name on the dotted line has always been considered an extension of a persons support, character, and reputation. Here are a few ways to put your signature to use for the greater good.

When you are our first meeting of the year, you may find some of us missing. We will be helping start the first class of our LS Prep class. If you are interested in taking the class, check the website for information to

sign up.

The new year brings us the opportunity to support our chapter by adding your signature to our membership roles.

You can sign up for our chapter membership on line or by mailing the renewal by snail mail.

You can also renew your State dues on their website.

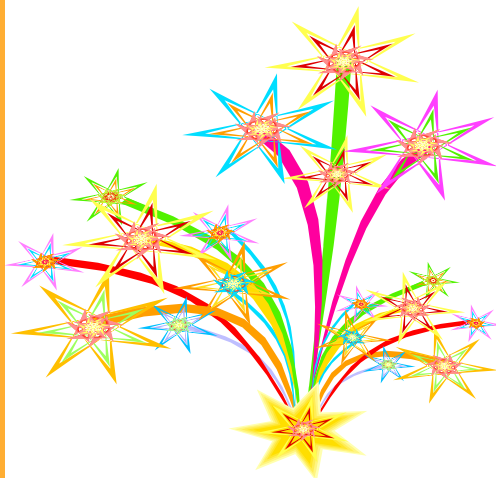
It is important to take care of this as soon as possible. The number of our chapter members that our State members gives our Chapter more board

representatives. In the past, our chapter has had 3 representatives, but our State membership has dropped off enough that we now have 2 representatives at the Board. Please consider State membership to give our Chapter the best representation possible.

We thank you for taking the opportunity to once again share your support by signing on the dotted line.

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Thursday, January 08

Speaker: Pat Tami

LSIT News

Roseville Cattlemens

2000 Taylor Road
Roseville, CA 95678

Drinks at 5:30 Dinner at 6:30

See details on the website!

Season's Greetings to all,

My name is Tony Cuomo. I am a Professional Land Surveyor in Southern California, and I am the oldest son of Paul Cuomo. I'm writing this message for two specific reasons.

Rich Lopez, our CLSA chapter newsletter editor has provided you with our flyer introducing the Paul Cuomo Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Cuomo Family greatly appreciates the efforts of the chapter in putting this idea together. We would especially like to thank Rich for working with us in getting the word out, and also the efforts of Chapter President Mike Simons for spearheading the idea and getting it off the drawing board and into reality.

As many of you are aware, my father's impact on the education of land surveyors has been tremendous over the last thirty years. As Mike said to me the other day, it's fair to say that my father's contributions have effected an entire generation of surveyors, not just here in California, but across the western United States. Thousands of men and woman have taken classes, seminars, and workshops taught directly by my father, either at a local Junior College course, at an event sponsored by a local C.L.S.A. Chapter, or at one run through Pacific Land Seminars.

I realize that hard times have hit our industry, and that money is tight. For this reason, we greatly appreciate your assistance in passing on the memorial scholarship fund information to your local organizations. The more people we reach with this information, the bigger the chance that we will achieve our goal in creating a lasting endowment that will insure scholarships in my father's name for decades to come.

Secondly, it was my father's express wish that upon his death we not grieve his passing but celebrate his life. My family as decided to do just that. Among the information you distribute to your members, please include that on Saturday, January 17th, we will be throwing a party of sorts, a memorial celebration held in honor of my father's many triumphs and achievements. It will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at "The Newport Dunes", in Newport Beach, CA. Please encourage your members to get all the details and to RSVP through our website, www.paulcuomo.com

My family and I sincerely thank you in advance for getting the word out about the scholarship fund and also about our memorial celebration. If any of you do get the opportunity to attend the celebration, please find the time to introduce yourself to me so I get the opportunity to thank you in person.

Best Wishes,

Tony Cuomo, PLS 6042 and the Cuomo Family



The Paul Cuomo Memorial Educational Fund

The Paul Cuomo Memorial Educational Fund is a depository of gifts and donations made in the name of Paul Cuomo. Only the interest earned will be used to fund educational programs and scholarships as determined by the Cuomo family or others as determined by the Cuomo family. The principal will remain in an interest earning account and will not be used. Anybody can contribute and any size gift is accepted. You can make other donations such as:



- **"In honor" donations to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, honor roll achievement or other accomplishments.**
- **Memorial donations to recognize individuals who have passed away.**
- **Gift donations**

All gifts and contributions to the Endowment Fund are 100% tax deductible. The Foundation is a non-profit pursuant to Section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code and was established in 1931.

Donations made through the next five years will be matched dollar for dollar.

Please make your check payable to:

**"California State University Fresno"
"Paul Cuomo Memorial Educational Fund"**

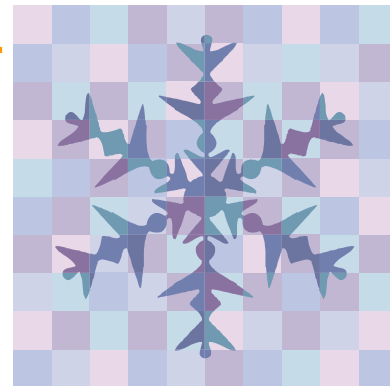
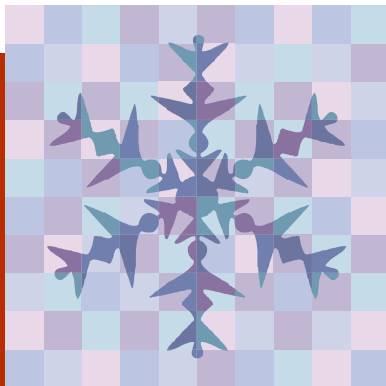
Please mail your checks to:

Tony Cuomo
2832 Tigertail Dr.
Rossmoor, CA 90720

If you have any questions, please email Michael Pallamary at mpallamary@pipeline.com Phone: 858-454-4094

Sacramento Chapter Schedule

Month	speaker	topic	location	date
Feb	Birk Ellis	Scanning	Rancho Cordova Cattlemens	Thursday, February 05
Mar	Otto Jarquin	Ethics	Old Spaghetti Factory - downtown	Thursday, March 05
April			Roseville Cattlemens	Thursday, April 02
May	Vendor Night		Steve's Pizza	Thursday, May 07
June			Old Spaghetti Factory - downtown	Thursday, June 04
July	Ball Game		Roseville Cattlemens	Thursday, July 02
Aug	BBQ		Rancho Cordova Cattlemens	Thursday, August 06
Sept			Old Spaghetti Factory - downtown	Thursday, September 03
Oct			Roseville Cattlemens	Thursday, October 01
Nov			Rancho Cordova Cattlemens	Thursday, November 05
Dec	Holiday Dinner		Old Spaghetti Factory - downtown	Thursday, December 03



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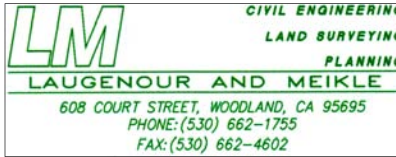
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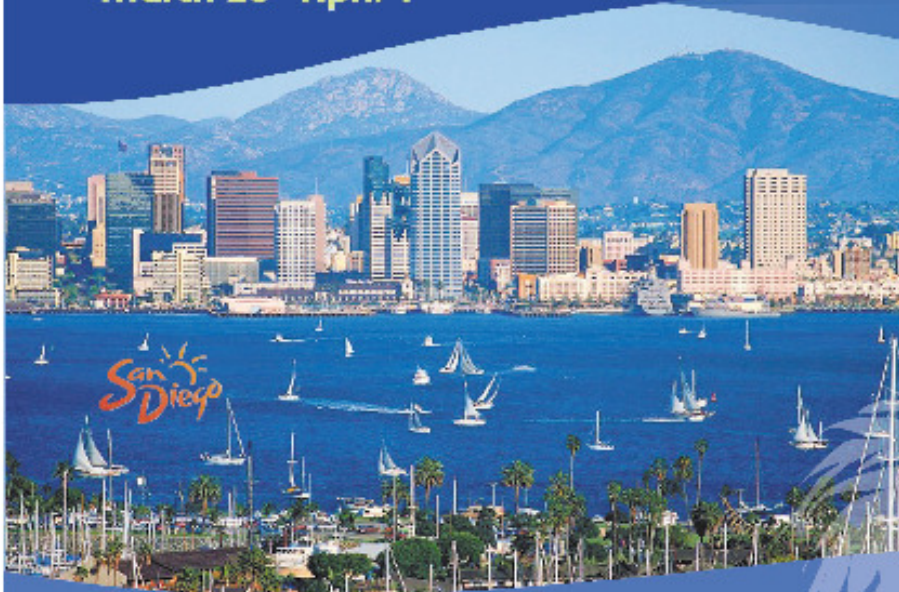


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Being a Corporate Sponsor is a reasonable and cost effective way to support the Sacramento Chapter of CLSA. This corporate support is vital to sustaining our chapter activities, monthly newsletter and scholarship fund. If your firm would like to become a Corporate Sponsor please contact the editor at: focalpointeditor@gmail.com or (209) 518-9962.

CLSA CONFERENCE 2009

March 28 - April 1



**Hilton San Diego Resort
(Mission Bay), San Diego, CA**



Hotel Information:
Hilton San Diego Resort
Reservations: (800) 445-8687
Cut-Off Date: February 25th
Room Rate: \$159
Group Code: CLSA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Featured Speakers Include:

- Mike Durkee, Esq.
- Gary Kent, PLS
- Dennis Moulard, PLS
- Steve Parrish, PLS
- "GIS Janet" & "Surveyor Randy"
from Professional Surveyor
Magazine (Janet Jackson, GISP
& Randy Rambeau, PLS)

Program to Include:

- Workshops
- Technical Sessions
- LSIT Review Course
- LS Review Course
- CST Exam
- Mock Trial



Registration Information Available in January
Please visit www.californiasurveyors.org for updated information

Survey Notes By William J. Wilson, PLS

Ambiguity the bane of the Surveying Profession II

I have heard repeatedly and from numerous different Surveyors, in one form or another, over the years, a little cliché that I am sure you have heard or said yourself, “If you have three surveyors in a room, then you have three different opinions.” Well, I think that could be true within most professions, but look at it from the other perspective; everyone seems to agree on that statement. Therefore, we do not always disagree with each other, but there are those times when we do disagree; but why do we disagree? Ambiguity: you can interpret something one-way, I will see it another, and that third surveyor in the room? Well, he may perceive it even different yet.

Disagreements can be as minor as a few hundredths’ of a foot, and as major as what portion of a deed holds over any other portion or an adjoining deed. I once, was faced with a difference of opinion. (Once! That is an understatement, so let me restate that for the purpose of this story.) During one noteworthy difference of opinion, I was discussing my view of a particular deed with a Deputy County Survey (names are intentionally left out; I respect the person and hold no ill will towards them). I stated, “The deed is ambiguous as to the location of the lines, so I have used extrinsic evidence to clarify

the differences.” The response still baffles me today: “The deed is not ambiguous; we just have two different views as to how to interpret it.” Well, I must say when I got back to my office the first thing I did was look up the word “Ambiguous”.

Webster’s online Dictionary defines “Ambiguous” as *“capable of being understood in two or more possible senses or ways* and “Bane” is defined as *“a source of harm or ruin: curse.* (Include for emphasis on the title)

I remember what was said because it struck me as funny that this Surveyor would say we had “two different views,” only to look up ambiguity and find that it was “understood in two or more possible ways”. Until we can each recognize and accept that oftentimes, there are two or more ways to interpret certain words, leaving us with ambiguity, we shall all, be cursed, and will forevermore face certain ruin, as a profession. Remember the next time you drive your pin in next to someone else’s (bending theirs over to get yours in) are you correcting ambiguity in the eyes of the public or are you: fostering and preserving, or even creating new, ambiguity? How we approach ambiguity is often more important than how well we can measure (and I for one, am someone

that is for performing accurate and repeatable measurements).

Therefore, I always follow the three “R’s” of Ambiguity: Recognize, Reconcile, and Rectify:

1. Learn to **Recognize** Ambiguity, do not just read a deed or map or any document for that matter, without taking into account any different meaning that could be derived by someone else: was it the Metzenbaum description or the Metes and Bounds description? Is the line between the found monuments or along the parent-parcel deed line?

2. **Reconcile** or Resolve the Ambiguity. Oftentimes, the key to clarifying the Ambiguity is within the whole of the document, although extrinsic evidence may be needed to get the final resolution. However, the extrinsic evidence Must work with the whole of the intent; anything less will only serve to perpetuate or compound the ambiguity. Should you not Reconcile the ambiguity, your survey could be worthless and subject to unfettered scrutiny, leaving you, the Surveyor, open to liability.

Rectify the problem: does that mean just make the correction and show the correct boundary on your map? **NO!** You must also take the time to explain the ambiguity that you found, how you Rectified the problem; why you determined it to be ambiguous, what extrinsic evidence you found. What you chose to use and what you chose not to use, and why, are equally

Survey Notes (Continued)

important, and need to be addressed as well. Put a Narrative on your maps; do not be afraid to share your findings and determinations with the world. You may find more people receptive of your work, and more willing to hold and accept your findings, now that they have an explanation and reason to which they can relate. There is an old out dated thought being passed along within our profession: *"If I show too much information on my map then that is less work for the next surveyor."* Perhaps, but remember should another surveyor use your map at face value without checking the validity of the information you have provided then that surveyor has assumed the liability of your work, as it

stands and is related to the work they are doing, as well as additional liability for altered conditions, that were not checked as well.

More importantly should I set a monument and perpetuate all the facts about the corner I am monumenting on a map and others surveyors accept my corner because I have given justification as to why I placed that monument where I did, it only serves to strengthen my position (both meanings inferred here: Location & Opinion). Be proud of the work you do hold it up for all to see, should you hide, but just a portion of what you have done it brings all your work into question. I for one always try to put a narrative on my maps (I

have worked at firms that did not want anything extra on their maps), explaining what I have done and why. Should a future surveyor find a problem with my resolution I would hope they contact me, and present their contrary evidence so we could come to a mutual resolution before litigation enters into the problem. We should all be working together to better our: work, our profession, and most importantly the public's opinion of Surveyors.

This course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of Photogrammetry, including image systems and quality, theory of stereo photography, and orientation and design of stereo models. The class will also address design and operating principles of stereo plotting, photogrammetric and orthophoto mapping. This course also focuses on considerations for flight and control planning, control identification techniques, advanced field completion surveys, and property line investigations. 2 field trips are required.

Schedule: Full Term, Jan 17-May 20

M 05:30PM-08:35PM LEC J.Adam

SCC MAIN TEC 200

PCC Charter

California Land Surveyors' Association Sacramento Chapter

Charter Statement

This Charter will define the purpose and the goals of the California Land Surveyors' Association Sacramento Chapters' **Professional Practice Committee** (hereafter referred to as the PPC).

General Overview

The Sacramento Chapter's PPC was reorganized in 2008. One of the main goals of this committee is to be comprised of a diverse membership of licensed surveyors from private practice and from the public sector.

The committee appreciates the desire of any Chapter member to participate, but recognizes the need to establish minimum qualifications for persons who will be reviewing and recommending action on confidential matters regarding professional practice. To that end, the Chairman and other members of the committee shall be licensed surveyors.

Purpose

The overall goal of the PPC is to assist in the education and welfare of both the public and practicing land surveyors. Thus, there are two primary functions of the committee: 1) to provide education and assist in understanding and interpreting existing laws at the State and local levels, and 2) to assist and facilitate parties in resolving disagreements arising over interpretations of law or acceptable local standards of practice.

The PPC will accept requests for assistance or interpretation from private surveyors, public agency employees, or clients of surveyors. To that end, the PPC will publicize its existence and promote awareness of the services it can provide. The PPC will accept referrals from the Sacramento Chapter area, which includes Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, and Yolo Counties. Areas covered by neighboring CLSA Chapters that do not have a Professional Practices Committee may be included on a case-by-case basis.

Conduct

The PPC will act when someone contacts the committee with a request for help or for an opinion. Typically, this will happen when a disagreement arises over the scope or quality of a particular survey, or the conduct of one engaged in the practice of land surveying. Confidentiality is of paramount importance. Due to

PCC (Continued)

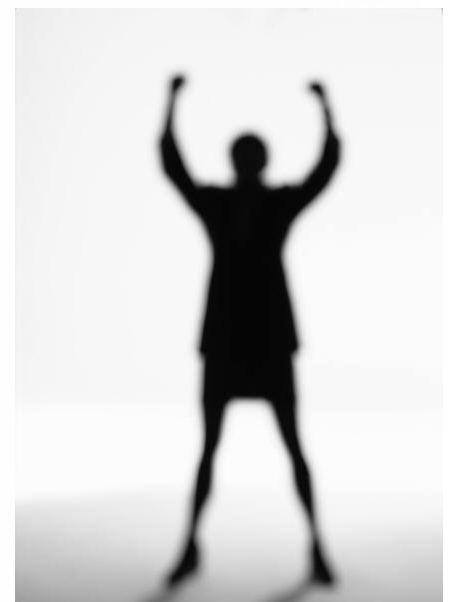
the nature of the business conducted by the PPC, all materials, meetings, communications, and documents will be held in strict confidence and cannot be made public or available to anyone without a committee commission.

Bearing in mind that the basic purpose of licensure is the protection of the public, the PPC will consider cases in light of current laws and standards of practice governing the practice of land surveying. It is the intent of the PPC to ensure that the public is properly served by the land surveying profession and that land surveyors are knowledgeable in the laws and practice to provide that service. If in the opinion of the PPC a land surveyor is determined to be out of compliance, the PPC will make every reasonable effort to assist the land surveyor in coming into compliance.

The PPC members will make every effort to be as unbiased, fair, and professional as possible in their attempts to evaluate and judge the issues brought to them.

November 14, 2008

Chairperson Richard A. Jones
Member Eugene J. Davis
Member D. Paul Wilson
Member _____



NGS

It is my great pleasure to announce that Juliana Blackwell has been selected as the new Director of NGS, effective January 4, 2009. As many of you know, Juliana has been Chief of the Observations and Analysis Division (OAD) since February 2006 and, in August 2008, was appointed as Deputy Director of NGS. Juliana has tremendous potential as a NOAA leader. She is smart, works hard, has excellent people skills, and is committed to collaborative partnering and the development of the future NGS workforce. In her previous role as NOAA's Height Modernization program manager from December 2002 to February 2006, Ms. Blackwell played a pivotal role in getting support for NGS programs, both for NGS and our state partners. She has demonstrated how leveraging non-NOAA resources has enabled NOAA to meet or exceed its goals. She been instrumental in providing scientific and technical leadership, and fostering partnerships and cooperation throughout NOS and NOAA. Working with NGS Division Chiefs, she has strengthened synergies and promoted interaction and team development. These efforts are instrumental in integrating NGS positioning activities in other NOAA programs and improving diversity in the field of geodesy and remote sensing. As we all know, these activities take teamwork. I know that all of you will provide Juliana the required support she'll need to keep moving NGS forward and she will provide you with the required support that you need to accomplish our mission.



* David B. Zilkoski

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The FOCAL POINT is a publication of the Sacramento Area Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association and is pleased to publish letters from land surveyors and other interested persons on subject matter relevant to the land surveying profession. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Views expressed are the opinions of the individual writers and are not necessarily those of CLSA, the Chapter, or the editor. FOCAL POINT accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information given. Letters may be edited and published in any format. All letters submitted become the property of the Focal Point. Due to space restrictions, FOCAL POINT reserves the right to hold letters for publication at a later date.

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