



CLSA
CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS
ASSOCIATION

eNewsletter

APRIL 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Joseph Padilla, PLS
President, CLSA

Questions? Comments?
Concerns? Contact me:

JoePadilla@johnson-frank.com or (714)-777-8877

Dear Members,

March was a very busy month with CLSA. It started off with a trip up north to Sacramento for a Resolution acknowledging “National Land Surveyors Week” from Sunday, March 16th, through Saturday, March 22nd. I then went to the Orange County Board Supervisor Meeting on Tuesday, March 25th, for their presentation Resolution for “National Land Surveyors Week”. The Orange County Surveyor’s Office was largely responsible for this recognition. Deputy County Surveyor Lili Sandberg and her staff did all the heavy lifting to make this acknowledgement possible, however I found out the person who really got this effort started was CLSA Past President Jay Seymour (2015). Jay will be retiring soon from the Orange County Surveyor’s Office and will be moving with his wife Julieth to their new home in Columbia. We will miss Jay and wish him the best of luck on his retirement.

At the end of the month, we had our Joint Survey Conference with NALS at the Silver Legacy Resort Hotel & Casino in Reno, Nevada. I serve in two California entities – CLSA and CLSA Education Foundation – and I don’t think I have ever worked so hard at a conference before in my life. The amount raised from the Silent and Live Auctions was about \$33,000.00, which more than made up for it.

I spoke with every company that had a booth in the Exhibit Hall and was glad to hear that all were pleased

with the Conference, felt they all got their money's worth, and were happy with all the contacts they made. As always, the one thing most surveyors like to do is talk. I'm looking forward to next year's CLSA Conference in Las Vegas to celebrate our association's 60th Anniversary!

Lastly, on the topic of CLSA business, all chapters need to get your tax information and your Chapter's Quarterly Reports to Kimi Shigetani (kimi@camgmt.com) before our next Board Meeting.

Joseph Padilla, PLS

President CLSA 2025

WHERE IN CALIFORNIA IS THIS?



The March “Where in CA” photo of the Golden Gate bridge on the horizon was taken by Clark Stoner, PLS, PE, with his iPhone! Amazing quality! Determining the actual location of where the photo was taken was, in my mind, going to be extremely challenging, and involve some Google Earth/Google Maps detective work. Apparently, I am underestimating my colleagues! The following people correctly identified the location:

Dominic Sanfilippo, PLS (Danskin-Sanfilippo & Associates) answered “The three-way intersection of Pinehurst, Cutting & Spyglass at the entrance to the Berkeley Country Club, looking approximately 50 degrees Southwest. Once I figured out which islands I was looking at, in Google earth, I projected out, from The Bridge, until I found a golf course as I suspected that was what I was looking at. I couldn't get the "google car" to the spot of the photographer,

but... same stop sign, transformer and square cut-out for the sewer or storm drain access cover as well as the monument. See attached "street view". I'm sure I'm within twenty feet.”

Doug Sutherland, PLS (Butte County) said “That is the intersection of Cutting and Spyglass at the Berkely Country Club. Identified by extending a line drawn from the South Tower over the point of Angel Island and the peak of Brooks Island in Google Earth. I even saw the monument well lid of the occupied point.;)”

Jordan Kunde, PLS (Caltrans D-2) said “I enjoy this part of the newsletter each month, although usually I’m totally lost. This time I believe the Golden Gate Bridge gave it away. I used google earth and I’m pretty sure I found the spot using the bridge and islands in Google Earth. Have a great day,

37°55'58.93"N, 122°18'6.33"W”

Dave Murtha, PLS (Port of Oakland) said “I recognized the Golden Gate Bridge and oriented myself from Angel Island, found Brooks Island, then panned up to the hills looking for a golf course. Google Street View confirmed that the back of STOP sign in the image to the right of the tripod is the STOP sign on Cutting Blvd at Spyglass Ln and Pinehurst Ct.”

Try to identify the location from where this month’s beautiful photos were taken. Please tell me how you identified the location. Submit your answer and/or your photo of a special location for use in a future CLSA eNews to: [Rob McMillan](#)





SURVEYING IN THE NEWS

2025 CLSA MEMBERSHIP

It is that time of year! Remember to renew your CLSA membership! Now is the time to renew, join, or rejoin CLSA to support all the work CLSA does to enhance and advance the profession.

[RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)

THE CLSA/NALS REGIONAL SURVEY CONFERENCE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!



The 2025 CLSA/NALS Conference was a great success! It was wonderful, but also frustrating to once again be forced to choose between multiple excellent speakers at every session time slot. Opportunities to network with others before, between, and after sessions were excellent. Of course, a big “thank you” goes out to all those sponsors who contributed to the conference’s success through financial contributions and physical presence in the exhibit hall.

Here are a few of my thoughts for future conferences:

- Remember, you are not 30 years old any more...
- Chapters, let's start doing outreach to local colleges and universities to find students interested in helping at future conferences.
- While we are at it, Chapters, let's start contributing funds to sponsor these student volunteers working at the conference.
- Individuals can help sponsor also. I'll pledge \$100 right now to help CLSA sponsor a student to work at the 2026.

Speaking of sponsoring people, many firms (small, medium, and large) invested company funds to send several representatives to the conference. Kudos to all of you! Attendees should return to work and share what they learned with those who did not attend. I am reminded of the story of a contemporary of Henry Ford, shocked at how much Ford spent training employees, commented "Henry, you are spending a lot of money training your staff. What if they leave to work for someone else?" Ford replied, "What if I don't train them, and they stay?"

I heard from one young person that a licensed professional, not someone related to him by blood, marriage, or employment, sponsored his conference registration. The licensed professional was generously "paying forward" a generous act someone bestowed upon him years before. Thank you, good sir! How do we replicate this in the future?

Perhaps this is more than most are ready to contribute all at once. Discuss this at your Chapter. Perhaps each member submits the name of one candidate to be sponsored, and at each meeting, members contribute to the fund, and in December the name selected is drawn from a hat. Perhaps conference registrations can be raffled off by the Chapters?

Whatever it takes, I look forward to seeing more CLSA members at the 2026 Conference!

- Robert M. McMillan, PLS, EiT

AKRON ZIPS WIN NSPS NATIONAL SURVEYING COMPETITION AGAIN!



Congratulations to the University of Akron Surveying Team for winning the Baccalaureate Division of NSPS Student Competition for the second year in a row! Of special note, look who came in second place in the Associate's Division listed below.

The 2025 competition consisted of a staged monument (scavenger) hunt type event; Measurement exercises including route layout, chain and compass traverse; triangulation of an unknown position from 2 to 3

known positions with a theodolite; and boundary reconnaissance. 22 teams from all over the country which included 17 BS and 5 AS schools participated. The winners are:

BS

- 1st The University of Akron
- 2nd University of Florida
- 3rd University of Maine

AS

- 1st Clark College
- 2nd Klein Collins High School
- 3rd Alfred State

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZES NATIONAL SURVEYORS WEEK



Orange County Board of Supervisors presented OC Public Works – Survey with a resolution recognizing National Surveyors Week. It was an honor for our department to receive the resolution. Each of the Honorable Supervisors spoke of the importance of Land Surveyors

and their integral part of many industries such as engineering, construction, urban planning, environmental conservation, and disaster management. Special thanks to Joe Padilla – State President California Land Surveyors Assoc. and Connie Barrett – Orange County Chapter President California Land Surveyor’s Assoc. for attending and receiving the resolution with OCPW Survey.

CONGRATULATIONS ANALISA GONZALES FAA PART 107 REMOTE PILOT!

Analisa commented on LinkedIn:

“Guess who finally (key word FINALLY) sat for the FAA Part 107 exam and passed?! Happy that my amazing coworkers were so encouraging to go get it! Now I officially have a Remote Pilot Certification (RPC)!”

Well done Analisa!

CONGRATULATIONS JUAN RETA-ZUNIGA, PASSES NCEES FS EXAM



Juan shared on his LinkedIn page:

“Long overdue but got passed that first step!!” Next step is to apply for your Land Surveyor In Training certificate from the California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.”

Juan is a Surveying Technician I with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Juan was previously an Engineering Technician Supervisor and Engineering Technician with the City of Oxnard, a Senior Engineering Technician with the City of Simi Valley, and an Engineering/Survey Technician I with the City of Oxnard. He also holds an

Associate of Science degree in Land Surveying from College of the Canyons.
Congratulations Juan!

The Boundary Echo BY PATRICK CHAMPION, PLS, SEEN ON LINKEDIN



(with editing and format assistance from Grok, image by Gemini/Imagen 3)

I roam the day where sunlight pools, the land lies raw, a boundless sweep,
A sphere of light, my gentle guide, glows calm as dawn on grasses deep,
Its beam a thread through time's thin veil, it tracks the steps of those before,
And finds their marks in weathered earth, a faded line, a silent lore.

A sentinel stands on lonely plain, its gaze a star through morning's hush,
Like some old stone they left behind, it peers through years with steady rush,
Each step I take, a shadow's dance, through wilds where ancient boots once pressed,
The sun burns high, their echoes call, and bid me blend their past with rest.

O open wild, your stillness holds, the tread of souls who carved your frame,
With tools of now, I seek their trail, a quiet craft to bear their name,
A line reborn, both old and new, I guard your bounds as they once knew.

CALTRANS OFFICE OF LAND SURVEYORS SUBMITS 5 OPUS PROJECTS TO NGS



Kevin Maxwell with the Caltrans Office of Land Surveys has submitted 5 OPUS Projects to NGS which will provide updated static control in Southern California once NGS has completed the roll-out of the Modernized NSRS. Leveraging a lot of the GPSONBMs submissions for the Transformation Tool campaign, Kevin worked with several Counties and Caltrans Districts to get at least two GPS 2-4+ hour observations on 241 existing marks in the NGS database and 36 new marks. The intent was to have published NGS control on the current epoch to check project localizations and RTN broadcast coordinates.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



The California High-Speed Rail Authority is soliciting Statements of Qualifications from qualified firms for Right-of-Way Engineering and Survey Support Services. Download the Requests for Qualifications from the California State Contracts Register webpage at www.caleprocure.ca.gov.

Statements of Qualifications are due on the date and time and at the location described in each respective Request for Qualifications. Questions may be submitted to CapitalProcurement@hsr.ca.gov.

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SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the California Land Surveyors Association, Inc. as a Sustaining Member is open to any individual, company, or corporation who, by their interest in the land surveying profession, is desirous of supporting the purposes and objectives of this Association. For information regarding Sustaining Membership, contact:

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PUBLICATIONS

2025 publication pre-orders are being accepted now.

- [2025 CLSA Annual Publication pre-Orders](#)

**ARTICLE & PHOTO SUBMISSIONS
FOR CALIFORNIA SURVEYOR
MAGAZINE**

Do you have a photo from your field work that would make a great magazine cover? Do you have an idea for an article or have you written an article that you'd like us to consider including in the next issue? Please send your submissions and ideas to CLSA Headquarters,

clsa@californiasurveyors.org

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The Education Foundation was established in 1993 and is committed to supporting land surveying students and programs. Last year almost \$50,000 in scholarship aid was provided to land surveying students. Your monetary and surveying equipment donations are appreciated! [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the Education Foundation.



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