



CLSA
CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS
ASSOCIATION

eNewsletter

January 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Kevin Nehring, PLS
President, CLSA

Questions? Comments?
Concerns? Contact me:
Ca.PLS8200@gmail.com or
559-451-7112.

The word “unprecedented” has been getting a lot of use in recent years, and rightly so. The natural disasters we’ve been experiencing within our State have been happening with an increasing ferocity and frequency. Each one is unprecedented... until the next one, which is seemingly more unprecedented.

The earthquakes, floods, and wildfires are becoming so common and widespread that most Californians know someone personally affected by them, if not themselves. As this Association is statewide, we can all point to someone we know through this Association who has felt the effects firsthand; some in the moment, some in the immediate aftermath, some in the cleanup.

In a letter dated 02 December 1985 from the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BORPELS) to all County Surveyors and City Engineers:

“Land is one of California’s most precious assets, the ownership of land, and consequently the ability to define boundaries is dependent on monuments and their perpetuation.”

Natural disasters have the potential to destroy every improvement on a property, however, property monumentation has the potential to survive many natural disasters. The danger for the monumentation lies in the cleanup phase.

While I was serving as the Monument Preservation Committee Chairman, one member of our Association, Mr. Mike Quarteroli put together a Pre & Post Disaster Survey Monument Preservation Guide specifically for Wildfire Events. He studied a number of fires, particularly the cleanup after effects and realized the danger to monument preservation. He reported his findings and laid out a plan of action for monument protection and preservation in that Guide. He prepared an outstanding piece of work.

In 2020, copies were sent to each of the County Surveyors. The intent of the Guide was not to admonish the County Surveyors and their respective Counties into submission, but rather an outstretched hand of help in a time of need. How can CLSA help your County prepare for the inevitable, and how can we help afterwards.

The Introduction of that 2020 Guide reads, in part:

“The loss of life, homes, personal property, and basic infrastructure in California as a result of wildfires is overwhelming. However, due to the resilience of Californians, the cleanup and rebuilding process often begins immediately after a catastrophic event. A major part of the success of this process relies on the preservation of the survey monuments marking the location of property, utilities, roadways, and additional infrastructure.”

“The California Land Surveyors Association (CLSA) is reaching out to each County Surveyor in an effort to assist them in their Emergency Operations. We offer our assistance particularly as you address the needs of Monument Preservation as defined in Section 8771 of the Professional Land Surveyors Act during your rebuilding and restoration efforts. As County Surveyors, you are at the forefront of this effort.”

Also on that forefront is you. As a Professional Land Surveyor, you are the expert. Reach out to your local City and County officials. Offer to share CLSA’s Monument Preservation presentation with their organization and train them. Offer to share the Pre & Post Disaster Survey Monument Preservation Guide. If you would like copies of said Presentation (as an

editable Powerpoint file) or the Guide, contact Mikey Mueller, the Association Monument preservation Committee Chair.

Even if you're unable to share them with your local officials, I'd like to encourage each of you to obtain a copy of each for yourselves.

As I close my last President's Letter, I'd like to revisit a topic which I wrote about in my first eNews message in February of 2024: Chapter Mentorship.

While I toured the State visiting with the Chapters, one of the topics that garnered much discussion and easily the most positive response was that of Chapter Mentorship by the Executive Committee. As I shared my experience with the struggles I had as a Chapter President and as a new Director, I found that nearly all other Officers in every Chapter had (or has) the same struggles. Those common struggles include membership outreach and retention, Chapter reports, Chapter meetings and speakers, Director's duties, and an often misunderstood relationship between the Chapters and the Board. Daunting tasks for many of us, and incredibly difficult to figure out on your own.

It shouldn't be that way.

None of us obtained licensure on our own. We became the Surveyors we are with the help of the mentors we had, whether they were employers, other crew members or co-workers, or any of the other multitude of professional relationships we may have. As I have progressed through the Executive Committee Chairs, I have received and welcomed great counsel and mentorship from many past Ex. Com. members, past and present Committee Chairs, and Kim at the Central Office. ALL of Past Presidents who have reached out to me want the Executive Committee to be the best it can be. They don't want it for me; they want it for the Association. I want to pass that forward. That's where Chapter Mentorship by the Executive Committee comes in.

In 2021, when I was first installed on the Executive Committee as the Treasurer, I brought up the idea of the Ex. Com. members working with the individual Chapters. (In the interest of full disclosure, this idea was floated to the Association by Past President Jay Seymour around 2015.) 2021 President Rob McMillan divided up the Chapters into five groups and assigned an Ex. Com. member. Those groups remain virtually unchanged; the only significant change being that of the Ex. Com. mentor. By design, the Ex. Com. members will mentor the same four Chapters throughout their tenure on the Executive Committee. When the Past President is retired, the newly installed Treasurer will take on the duties as mentor for those Chapters.

The Executive Committee Members work at the behest of the Board, and ultimately, the Association membership. The Executive Committee is there for you. Do not hesitate to reach out to them.

As you're planning your 2025, be sure to add the following to your calendars:

- **23 & 24 January 2025:** California State University Fresno, 64th Annual Geomatics Engineering Conference
- **01 February 2025:** CLSA Board Meeting (New location in Sacramento)
- **29 March - 01 April 2025:** CLSA / NALS Conference at the Silver Legacy in Reno, Nevada.

If you, as a Chapter Officer, Director, or member, have questions about anything related to the Association, please contact the Executive Committee.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Contact me:
Ca.PLS8200@gmail.com or 559-451-7112.

Lastly, I want to say thank you for allowing me to wear the CLSA President mantle for this past year.

This has been an absolute privilege.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Contact me:
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Kevin Nehring, PLS

President, CLSA

WHERE IN CALIFORNIA IS THIS?

Where IN CA is This?



The December Where IN CA? was provided by Dave Moritz, PLS, as he traveled to the famous – OK, slightly famous – Pioneer Town. The photo was taken looking up the steep grade on eastbound Highway 62 approaching Yucca Valley, CA, late in the afternoon of December 14th, 2024. For those who know, SBD 062 PM 7.00.

The one person who correctly identified the location was Andrew [LaBine](#), PLS, President of Praxis Land Surveying of Fresno. Andrew recognized the location as, “looking east on CA 62 at the Yucca Park Rd intersection. Lat: 34° 6'11.49"N, [Long](#): 116°29'35.76"W. My grandparents live in Yucca Valley, so I have made that drive many, many times, so the picture looked really familiar. I knew it was at an intersection due to the highway signs, so I looked on Google Street View at the first intersection west of the summit right before you (crest the grade and) drop into Yucca Valley, and the road signs matched. I then went up the road a ways in Google and the Joshua trees and powerlines on the north side of the road also match.” As I have said before – Surveyors are amazing!

Here is another photo from a guest photographer. Try to identify the location of this month's photo. Please tell me how you identified the location. Submit your answer and/or submit your photo of a special location for use in a future CLSA eNews to: [Rob McMillan](#)



ARTICLE:

SURVEY MONUMENT PRESERVATION PRIOR TO WILDFIRE PREVENTION & RESTORATION PROJECTS

*Enjoy this timely article by CLSA's own Mike Quartaroli, LS,
originally written in September 2024.*

One aspect of wildfire prevention and restoration projects is that they consistently overlook the preservation of survey monuments. While the fires themselves may contribute somewhat to the destruction of survey monuments, it is typically the uncontrolled cleanup and restoration efforts that destroy survey monuments. Wildfires introduce many categories of prevention and restoration projects as seen below:

- Roadway Wildfire Debris Removal
- Roadway Utilities Restoration
- Roadway Utility Undergrounding
- Roadway Fuel Reduction
- Roadway Hazard Tree Removal
- Private Lands Fuel Reduction
- Private Lands Fuel Break
- Private Lands Hazard Tree Removal
- Private Lands Debris Removal
- Public Lands Fuel Reduction
- Public Lands Fuel Break
- Public Lands Hazard Tree Removal
- Public Lands Debris Removal
- Rangeland Fence Restoration
- Fire Salvage Timber Logging

All of these categories put survey monuments in jeopardy of being disturbed or destroyed.

More and more, County Resource Districts from wildfire vulnerable communities are forming partnerships with other County, State, and Federal agencies to propose and execute wildfire prevention and restoration projects. The size of these prevention and restoration projects may overshadow all other capital improvement projects these communities may have. There are currently no standardized guidelines in forming these partnerships and who to include in the partnership and who to notify of the proposed projects. The scale and popularity of these projects is a new phenomenon and project sponsors are slowly learning that these projects are affecting many unforeseen County departments. Two significant and important unforeseen County departments not

typically included in the partnerships or notified by the partnerships, are County Surveyors and County Engineers. County Surveyors and County Engineers must remain alert for announcements of these projects. Consequently, County Surveyors and County Engineers must assert their needed involvement, as advisors, if not previously included or notified by the partnerships. Eventually, partnership standards and protocols must be developed and adopted that would automatically include County Surveyors and County Engineers....

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

2025 CLSA MEMBERSHIP

CLSA membership renewals were due in December! If you haven't already, please remember to pay your CLSA membership dues as soon as possible. Now is the time to renew, join, or rejoin CLSA to support all the work CLSA does to enhance and advance the profession. Log in to your CLSA Member Account and click "My Profile" to view your membership balance due and renew today!

[RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)

DONATE TO CLSA EDUCATION FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT LAND SURVEYOR EDUCATION



As we enter the new calendar year and budget for 2025, please consider budgeting contributions to the California Land Surveyors Association Education Foundation (CLSA EF). The CLSA EF provides scholarships to land surveying students each year.

[CLSA EDUCATION FOUNDATION](#)

THE FRESNO STATE 64TH ANNUAL GEOMATICS CONFERENCE IS DAYS AWAY

The CSU Fresno Geomatics Conference will be held January 23 & 24, 2025. Book your tickets NOW! Looking forward to seeing you at the Lynda and Resnick Student Union, 5244 N Jackson Ave, Fresno, CA

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

THE CLSA/NALS REGIONAL SURVEY CONFERENCE IS JUST A COUPLE OF MONTHS AWAY!



The CLSA/NALS Regional Survey Conference will be held March 29 – April 1, 2025. Visit <http://plseducation.org> for more information.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

IUOE LOCAL 12 OPENS UP APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO NEW UNION SURVEYORS!

Southern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee (SCSJAC) is opening their apprenticeship up again for testing. Website has all of the information on the college

accredited courses that they provide, pay and benefit summary, study guide, and list of signatory employers under IUOE Local 12.

CONGRATULATIONS JEREMY EVANS & PETER FITZPATRICK – RETIRING!



Psomas honored two icons in the Survey Industry in January with a Retirement Party for Jeremy Evans, PLS 5282 and Peter Fitzpatrick, PLS 6777. They both combined worked at Psomas for over 70yrs and have over 85yrs of Professional Land Surveyor experience. Psomas has been their home and family for so many years that it is a testament to the culture and leadership we have at Psomas that they made Psomas their Employer of Choice. If you guys worry about getting bored, see the next story!

FRESNO STATE CREATES NEW FULL-TIME LECTURER POSITION

Scott Peterson announced CSU Fresno has a new full-time lecturer position open for the Geomatics Engineering Program. “We are growing in numbers and we want more students to prepare for such an exciting industry. We recently completed our ABET accreditation. The Fresno State GME Program has no deficiencies. Thank you to all who help to enrich the program to make this possible. One concern was shared: the GME Program needs another faculty to support the growth of the program.”

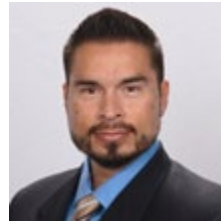
[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POSITION](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN DOYEL, PE, PLS, QSD PROMOTED AT QK



QK is excited to celebrate the promotion of John Doyel, PE, PLS, QSD to Director of Engineering! John will be leading QK's entire engineering division which has extensive expertise in municipal, water, land development, construction management, utility coordination and education markets. Since joining QK, John's leadership, technical expertise, and passion for problem-solving have made a lasting impact. His journey to earning dual licensure as a Professional Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor and certifications as a Qualified SWPPP Developer and Practitioner is a testament to his dedication and drive. John's leadership philosophy is rooted in service. "You cannot be a leader unless you learn to serve your team," he says. "Be willing to get in the trenches with them and walk with them through the challenges." As Director of Engineering, John looks forward to helping his team grow their skills and advance their careers while continuing to provide exceptional outcomes for QK's clients.

CONGRATULATIONS ADAM FOSTER & WILLIAM ESTEPA NEW ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS!



Psomas announced their new Associate Principals included Adam Foster, PLS, Project Manager II – Survey in Northern California, and William Estepa, PLS, Sr. Project Manager – Survey in Southern California. Foster is a graduate of CSU Fresno, and Estepa is a Cal Poly Pomona graduate.

CONGRATULATIONS JON SHATTUCK PROMOTED AT BKF



I'm happy to share that I'm starting a new position as Vice President | Business Sector Leader, Land Surveying at BKF Engineers! I am excited to work along side our team, serve our clients, grow BKF, and conquer more market share in the Western United States!

CONGRATULATIONS JASON SIMMONS, PLS, PROMOTED AT BKF



Jason's announcement via LinkedIn said: "I am grateful for the opportunity to continue providing surveying services as an Associate Principal / Regional Lead at BKF! I'm fortunate to work with an incredible team and deeply appreciate the mentorship and support that have guided me throughout my career."

CONGRATULATIONS PANTALION SANCHEZ, PLS, PROMOTED AT BKF



Pantalion's shortened post from LinkedIn reads "I'm honored to announce my promotion to Senior Project Surveyor at BKF! I wouldn't have reached this point without the invaluable guidance and support of my mentors: Steve Marello, Brandon Bowen, Jaimie Griffin, and Jonathan Shattuck. Your leadership and insights have played a pivotal role in shaping my growth and success. Thank you to my colleagues, clients, and everyone who has supported

me on this journey. Here's to a future filled with growth, innovation, and continued success for all!"

CONGRATULATIONS JEREMY SCHIFF, LSIT, SUAS, PROJECT SURVEYOR AT CL



Although he doesn't look happy in the photo, Jeremy's LinkedIn post says, "I'm happy to share that I'm starting a new position as Project Surveyor at CL Surveying and Mapping!" The photo must have been taken before the news of his new position with CL Surveying and Mapping,

THANK YOU KYLE BROOK FOR THE DAILY SURVEYING QUESTIONS!

If you are preparing for an exam, or just wanting to stay sharp, hopefully you have found the Confluence Land Surveying website and the daily questions. If not, Kyle has published the 2025 Version of his Principles and Practice of Surveying Practice Exam (PPSPE2025) is here! Kyle says,

"This version has not only the most realistic test I could put together but also has a test with randomized questions from my question bank so each attempt should be different and have at least some different questions (and more as I continue to add them in). Right now, it is \$70 for all of this."

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

DUSTIN GARDNER, RLS, PHASE MANAGER FOR SAM PUBLISHES BOOK



Many of us attended Dustin's talk at the 2024 CLSA Conference related to the myths, legends, and folklore of surveyors. His now a published author, with *Creatures of the Compass: A Surveyor's Guide to Surviving the Supernatural* is available now at Amazon. Proceeds from the sale are used to fund charitable efforts supporting kids in foster care.

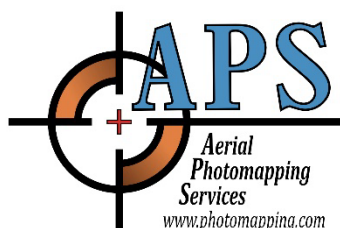
Dustin's LinkedIn post says "I just wanted to thank everyone of you who has bought a copy of my book. You've helped us buy high demand items so that we can help reunify children with their families! WE CANNOT DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT YOU!! You've help purchase: 4 play yards, two mobile cribs, a portable breast pump, a side by side two seat stroller (absolute nightmare to find one of these in good condition), a baby carrier, and a bottle sanitizer."

BPELSG ON-LINE RENEWAL KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2025

For those of you who will renew licenses with BPELSG after 2024, you will have an online education, training and evaluation session as a part of the process. I had the opportunity to Beta-test the system early this month, and found it to be informative, well-constructed, and generally OK.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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Looq AI



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That CAD Girl



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SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

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

ARTICLE & PHOTO SUBMISSIONS
FOR CALIFORNIA SURVEYOR
MAGAZINE

2025 publication pre-orders are being accepted now.

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

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

NSPS - STOLEN EQUIPMENT REGISTRY

Reminder - NSPS provides a registry of stolen equipment.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN
MORE](#)

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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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