



MSPS President's News and Views

Lowell J. Schellack — Jan. 2010



Your MSPS Board of Directors met on January 7, 2010, at the Ewald Conference Center in St. Paul, MN. You would not want to have me pick your dates for winter meetings in this great State of Minnesota. The first meeting date I picked in April 2009 was during a major snowstorm all across the state. The most recent and concluding meeting date I picked was again during a major

snowstorm across the southern half of Minnesota. Much of the traffic in the Metro area was at a standstill on the morning of the meeting. The meeting was supposed to start at 9:00 a.m. and, because of the storm, we did not convene a quorum until 9:43 a.m. To the credit of our board members, all did arrive at the meeting, except one who had a prior commitment. We always encourage guests to attend meetings, but we didn't have any at this one — I'm sure because of the weather.

After several years of rewriting, studying, meetings, email exchanges, dialogue, and editing, the Plat Manual was approved at our January meeting. After the summer joint meeting between MACS and MSPS in Winona, it was thought that the Plat Manual could be finished and approved in time for the MSPS September Fall Planning Meeting. But the Plat Manual Committee felt they needed more time to properly complete the review process. They did an excellent job of preparing a top quality manual that will be a valuable tool for years to come. The manual is published on the MSPS website for your use. Bill Brown and Mike Welling will conduct a session on Friday morning of the 58th Annual Conference about the Plat Manual. You are encouraged

to download a copy of the Plat Manual and bring it along with you if you are planning to attend that session. There will be limited or no handouts available at the session. Our thanks go out to all those who were involved in this huge project. There were many volunteers who contributed uncounted hours to this effort, and without those volunteers, this essential document could not have been produced.

This is the time of the year to start thinking about promoting TrigStar in your chapter. A good way to get started is to contact the principal and math teacher at your local high school and explain the competition to them. Cash awards are typically made to the top TrigStar student or students in each school. Matching funds are available to each chapter up to the amount of \$500. In addition, MSPS awards \$1000 to the top student in the state. It's a good way to get your foot in the door and promote land surveying to math students. There are guidelines on how to conduct a TrigStar competition available from the State TrigStar coordinator. Not all chapters approach the competition in the same manner. You are allowed a great deal of flexibility.

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By now, you should have received the proposed revision of the MSPS Bylaws. The Board of Directors approved the Bylaws revision at the January meeting. The Bylaws revision will be presented to the membership for a vote at the Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. Any revision to the bylaws must be approved by the general membership. The driving force behind the Bylaws revision was the proposal to consolidate committees, as it is felt that we have too many committees. As the Bylaws read now, the Board of Directors does not have the ability to consolidate committees as the various committees are described in the current Bylaws. The revised Bylaws will give the Board of Directors the latitude to consolidate committees. Only five committees will now be retained in the revised Bylaws: The Executive Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Budget/Finance Committee, the Bylaws Committee, and the Membership Committee. All other committees will be appointed by the Board of Directors and their makeup and function will be included in the Operation and Policy Manual. MSPS will have much more flexibility in creating and disbanding committees as needed.

The MSPS Historical Committee has been busy exploring the possibility of installing a monument and sign at the

location of the Initial Point of the 5th Principal Meridian along the Minnesota-Iowa border near New Albin, Iowa. The committee is in the process of preparing plans to develop the area, which would include a turnout and parking area to accommodate several cars. Several persons have offered to provide materials for the site but expenses will be involved. The committee will prepare a cost estimate for the project and submit a request to MSPS to be included in the 2011 budget. I encourage you to support this effort as it will be a great Public Relations project and will be an opportunity for surveyors to come together for a fun event. Captain Andrew Talcott will give a presentation on the History of the Iowa-Minnesota Border Survey at the 58th Annual Conference. You will enjoy Captain Talcott's session, as it is informative and entertaining.

The 58th Annual Conference Committee has put together an outstanding agenda for you. As always, it is a great way to obtain your Continuing Education Units and network with fellow surveyors. I am confident that the weather will be good for travel — as I did not pick the dates for the conference. I hope to see you there.



We look forward to seeing you in Saint Cloud at the Annual Meeting! Don't miss the continuing education and the fun!



From the MSPS Offices...

Eric Ewald, CAE, Executive Director

See you in Saint Cloud!

We look forward to seeing everyone soon at the MSPS Annual Meeting in Saint Cloud! If you haven't already registered, it is not too late. You can register online with our secure payment system at www.mnsurveyor.com — hurry, you don't want to miss the opportunity to get your credits for licensure!

Welcome, New Members! (Approved at the January Board of Directors Meeting)

Training Member:

Jordan Kurth

Associate Members:

William Haddick

Scott Spayer

Student Member:

Cornelius Ani

Licensed Members:

Terry Betley

Steven Rames

Robert Sikich

Firm Member:

Stonebrooke Engineering Inc.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 27 through Friday, January 29: MSPS Annual Meeting – Saint Cloud, MN.

Friday, April 9: MSPS Spring Seminar - DoubleTree Park Place, St. Louis Park, MN.

Thursday, July 29 through Friday, July 30: MSPS Summer Meeting – Treasure Island Casino, Welch, MN.

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