

THE FLORIDA – SURVEYOR

February 2021 /olume XXIX, Issue

IN THIS ISSUE: NSRS Modernization News Around the State: Manasota Clay Shoot Scam Alerts



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Why Join FSMS?

• Legislative Support - The Legislative Committee and our Lobbyist are committed to keeping the Public and the Surveying & Mapping Profession protected

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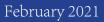
SURVEYORS IN GOVERNMENT



<image>

Cover Photo by: Timothy Meinberg





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Vice President Jim Sullivan (561) 687-2220 Jim.Sullivan@wginc.com

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PRESIDENT'S message

Welcome February!!

The year is going fast!!! COVID vaccines are slowly being distributed and spring is on it's way. We have a bright future!

FSMS had our first Board Meeting January 29, 2020, and it was un-eventful. We met via Zoom, and did what needed to be done. FSMS finished 2020 in good financial shape, and membership renewals are coming in. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do it now.

I have also participated in a few virtual Chapter meetings via Zoom, and am always encouraged by the camaraderie of the Chapter members. I encourage ALL of you to participate in your local chapter.

Our 66th Annual FSMS Conference is ON SCHEDULE, so please plan to attend July 28-31, and join your fellow professionals and technicians at the Marriott Resort Sawgrass, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. We are moving "full speed ahead" with conference planning, organizing activities, and scheduling classes.

The end of February is the last day of our Professional Surveyor & Mapper biennium, so be sure to renew your license before the end of the month. If you are short on Continuing Education hours, FSMS has many good classes available remotely – check out FSMS. org.

Through all the turmoil going on in the world, every Surveyor that I talk to is VERY BUSY, so keep up the good work, please support YOUR Profession, and Society!!



President Hal Peters (352) 304-9534 hpeters@gpinet.com



Congratulations to the winners of the Manasota Clay Shoot at their December Fundraiser:

> Brent Croll Kavin Wilmott Tim Najjar Don Bouchard on the ZNS Engineering team!



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Above: Bob Strayer and Bill Knight (not pictured) provided an awesome BBQ that everyone raved about!

Right: Lots of help serving food! L to R - Greg Rieth, Bob Strayer, Aaron Levine



SURVEYORS IN government

Photo by: Macu Ic

By: Richard Allen, PSM, CFM

Greetings and Salutations to my fellow government surveyors,

And to those who are not government surveyors, greetings to you as well. My article this month is going to focus on utility work and the damage prevention requirements of said work. Everyone is familiar with the Sunshine 811 Requirements and specifically Chapter 556 of the Florida Statutes. That is the Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act. This post discusses issues we are experiencing in our Region and that you may be experiencing in yours.

With the explosion of 5G utility work, we have seen more and more permits, but we have also seen more work without permits. We are finding that with permits or not and the amount of work taking place, there are untold amounts of utility damages and conflicts arising from that work. In our Region, with the coordination of the Florida Utility Coordination Group, utility partners, and other government agencies, we are trying to tackle the issue by creating a damage committee to approach these issues and come to a resolution.

My biggest concern in what I see and have experienced as it pertains to right-of-way permits is a lack of survey work, a lack of utility designation work and limited coordination with utility partners, and sufficient ticket entry with Sunshine 811. This, coupled with limited or no engineering design due to a lack of survey effort, has created an issue here where there is persistent utility damage. This includes directional bores hitting storm structures and pipes, sanitary sewer structures and pipes, and other utilities from fiber and gas to private irrigation systems on private property. We have seen numerous installations on private property from the 5G projects.

Photo by: David Beale

There used to be better coordination from what I had seen in the past with utility projects but the size and scale of the 5G projects has launched something unseen since the days of large scale fiber projects. The difference between the two is that fiber was over a more extended period. We are seeing hundreds, if not thousands, of right of way permits in a year encompassing entire swaths of our jurisdiction. I wonder if other municipalities are seeing the same scale or even worse.

The problem with the enforcement and capability of agencies to ensure proper utility planning and installation is that any additional requirements are seen as overburdensum because utilities pay franchise fees with government agencies to operate there. We routinely hear we pay these fees, so why do we have to pay for permits or permit inspections. I understand plan preparation can be costly, but having the whole picture is beneficial to ensure no other utility is impacted.

There needs to be better coordination by the utilities and their contractors, per Chapter 556.112 Design services, Sunshine requires updated contacts for design professionals to reach out to.

As you can see in (4) there are some exceptions to this section but within reason it is in the utilities best interest to work with you to prevent utility impacts.

We are repeatedly pressed for our inventory data because it is known that the City maintains both a stormwater and wastewater GIS inventory. The issue is they were established with different means and methods. The wastewater inventory is a collection of GIS collected data from as-built surveys and old linen maps. The accuracy is sporadic throughout the data set as this is the best available data (BAD). Our stormwater inventory is GIS level accuracy that was collected to be 0.20'+/-, the issue is you could be on both sides of the accuracy and lead to a deficiency of 0.40'+/- across the dataset. I make everyone aware of this issue because we periodically see references to this dataset, and it should not be submitted as design data. This data needs to be collected and verified, especially when there are changes to infrastructure. But we are in the age of how can I make the most money. With the changes to 5|-17 we can qualify the data as it is; as long as we disclaim and provide the stated accuracy, I am not liable, many think.

That will depend on what damage comes from that BAD data that is relied upon and how much it costs the contractor or the utilities that are impacted by professionals' effort. Until next month my friends!!

Sincerely, Richard Allen You can reach me at Richard.Allen@orlando.gov or 407.246.2788.

556.112 Design services.—

(1) Each member operator shall provide to the system annually, and shall thereafter keep current, the contact names and telephone numbers of individuals who may be contacted by design engineers, architects, surveyors, and planners for the purpose of responding to requests for design services.

(2) Each member operator shall provide to the system annually, and shall thereafter keep current, a list of fees applicable to each type of design service that each member operator chooses to offer to design engineers, architects, surveyors, and planners.

(3) Each member operator, within 20 business days after receipt of the fee provided for in subsection (2), shall either respond to a request for design services, if the member operator chooses to provide the services requested, or shall notify the party requesting services that the services will not be provided.

(4) This section shall not apply to any state agency, municipality, or county, or contractors, consultants, agents, or persons or firms acting under their authority, in the planning, preparing, or performance of work in their right-of-way. This section shall not limit or expand any existing law governing the process a state agency, municipality, or county uses to request design services from member operators or the responsibility for providing or paying for such services.

History.—s. 7, ch. 2002-234; s. 108, ch. 2005-2.

FSMS SHOUT

The morning of January 27th a Maser Consulting survey crew led by Jacob Henley, with Ricky Rubio and Mason Gross, were working on a boundary project south of Lake Wales. The crew pulled off the road and prepared to set a base station on a control point. Only when standing well off the road did Mason notice a car down the embankment. After wondering aloud how long it must have been there, (maybe an old wreck?), Mason went down the bank to recon the area and to check the wreck. When looking into the car he saw a hand move! A lady had flipped and rolled off the road at some point in the night and was hurt badly and trapped in the car!

I'm not one to preach religion, but where this happened the only way anyone was going to find this lady was a survey crew going to this specific control point. There are no crossroads near here, no homes, just old orange groves. By Grace our guys were there, found her, and immediately called 911. Now we hope and pray for her recovery!

I know anyone would have done the right thing being in this position, but it wasn't anyone; it was Mason Gross, and Ricky and Jacob. Great job guys!

**Update: Isela Flores remains in critical condition and a gofundme has been set up by her friends to help with medical expenses. Learn more about Isela here: <u>https://gofund.me/b6a3bdff</u>

Thank you to Brian Hefner for this submission.

PROPS TO **JACOB HENLEY RICKY RUBIO** and MASON GROSS FOR DOING THE **RIGHT** THING!



geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/TrackOurProgress.shtml

New Technical Paper Released

A new paper relating to the modernized NSRS was released recently. It is:

NOAA Technical Memorandum NOS NGS 86 (Quantifying Systematic Error When Using Axial Rotation Rates Rather Than Geographic Euler Pole Parameters When Describing Tectonic Plate Rotation)

Updates to Blueprint Documents

The release of updated versions of the three "Blueprint" documents was slightly delayed. All three are now expected to be released in the first quarter of calendar year 2021.

Retiring U.S. Survey Foot

On October 5, 2020, a Federal Register Notice announced the final decision to deprecate the U.S. survey foot on December 31, 2022. After that date, the U.S. survey foot will be superseded by the international foot definition (1 foot = 0.3048 meter exactly) in all applications. This action is coordinated with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and is independent of the NSRS modernization timeline.

Although the deprecation date is prior to rollout of the *modernized* NSRS, it will have no effect on users of the *existing* NSRS. NGS will continue to provide the U.S. survey foot in products and services where it is currently supported, such as the State Plane Coordinate System of 1983 and 1927, but it will not be available for any component of the modernized NSRS (including SPCS2022 and vertical coordinates). Retiring the U.S. survey foot before NSRS modernization ensures a timely and orderly transition to the international foot definition for NGS and the geospatial community.

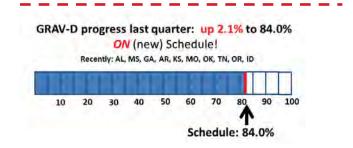
Progress in Ongoing Projects

There are currently **23 ongoing projects** directly related to NSRS modernization around NGS. Here are highlights from one:

GRAV-D airborne campaign (Project Manager: Jeffery Johnson)

GRAV-D completed data collection for three blocks in the fall of 2020. The blocks completed and queued for processing are: ES08 over Alabama, eastern Mississippi, and much of Georgia; CS11 over parts of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee; and PN04 over eastern Oregon and western Idaho. Flights to complete coverage of Hawaii are scheduled to begin on January 15.

Also, a new GRAV-D schedule was adopted, aligning with the delayed release of the modernized NSRS as announced in June 2020. The new 100% completion target for GRAV-D is June 30, 2024.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

 National Geodetic Survey

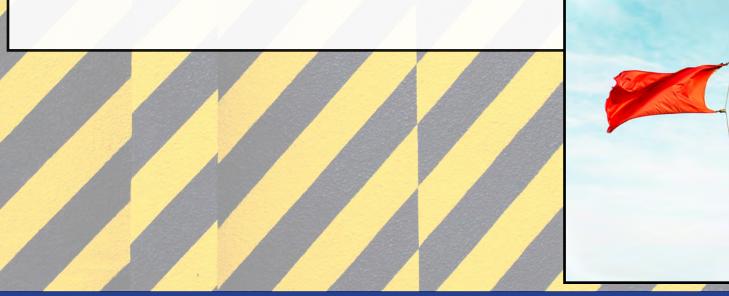
SAVÊ DATE! 66th Annual **FSMS Conference** • July 28th - 31st, 2021 More details coming soon! FLORIDA SURVEYING & MAPPING SOCIETY 1689 MAHAN CENTER BLVD., SUITE A TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308 WWW.FSMS.ORG 850.942.1900 OFFICE



Recently a member was asked for a favor from an email account pretending to be FSMS President, Hal Peters. The FSMS President and other Board Members will never contact members asking for monetary favors. Thank you Alex Parnes for alerting us to this scam!

Another member was asked for pricing on a survey. After the intial exchange, the stranger then asked for a big favor. If a stranger is asking for favors, especially regarding money, be very wary of doing business with them!

Thank you Jeff Wagner for alerting us to this scam!



hank you Doug Beach for sharing this awesome photo!

Now considering PSM / PLS candidates for job openings in two locations (Port Orange, FL & St. Johns/Duval County FL)



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- Elevation Certificates and the Community Rating System, #8257, 3 CEC *2020 UPDATED COURSE
- □ Introduction to Photogrammetry, #7887, 3 CEC
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control for the Design Professional and Technical Staff, #9293, 3 CEC
- Writing Boundary Descriptions, #8361, 3 CEC *2020 UPDATED COURSE

6 Hour Courses Available

- D Boundaries in Florida, #7667, 6 CEC
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- □ Ethics for the Design Professional, #8620, 6 CEC
- D Florida Laws, #6966, 6 CEC
- □ Florida Surveying Law and Rule Changes, #9574, 6 CEC
- □ Geographic Information Systems (GIS), #7107, 6 CEC
- □ History of Surveying, #7108, 6 CEC
- □ Identification of Native and Non-Native Trees in Florida, #7874, 6 CEC *2020 UPDATED COURSE
- □ Land Tenure and Cadastral Systems, #7829, 6 CEC
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- □ Public Land Survey System, #6979, 6 CEC
- □ Remote Sensing Applications to Surveying & Mapping, #6972, 6 CEC

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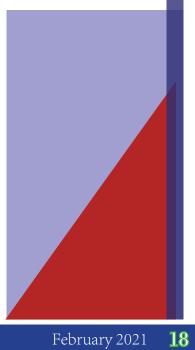
6 General CEC - \$99/course (members) \$120/course (non-members)

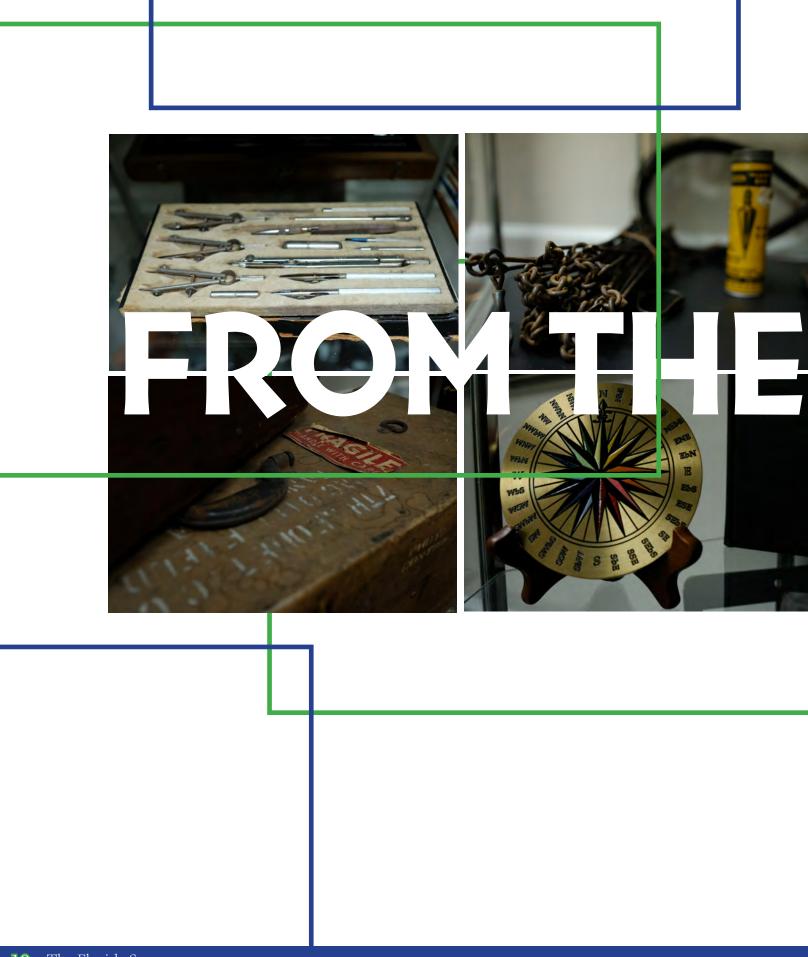
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- Georgia Technical Standards for Property Surveys-Course #8554
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- Land Tenure & Cadastral Systems Course # 8260
- Map Projections & Plane Coordinate Systems -Course #8261
- Mean High Water Observations & Computations -Course #8262
- Public Land Survey System Course #7147
- Remote Sensing Applications to Surveying & Mapping - Course #7148
- Practical Geometry for Surveyors Course #7141

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- Writing Boundary Descriptions Course #8362

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The Value of FSMS Our Past Presidents' Testimony

It is an interesting topic, the benefits of membership, when the profession is in great financial struggles. But do the benefits change if the economy comes back? I believe they are the same during the good times and during the bad.

The development profession is probably the worst hit in our economy with estimates including realtors, bankers, developers, engineers, architects, surveyors, etc, of an unemployment rate hovering around 25%. The ones who have or are surviving this deprecession (is that a word??? I think we are half way between a recession and a depression), are either the very large or the very small. The mid-size firms are now the small and the small went out of business. Many of the larger firms are surviving with a very scaled down staff and everyone is very slow to hire. No one in the development business is ready to jump into a major project because the money is not there so growth is virtually non-existent. Even those with money are afraid to pry it out of their hands and the banks are no longer willing to bankroll projects of any size.

So, with all this going on, what is in it for me or anyone else to be a member of a Society? I have heard virtually every discussion in the book. "The Society is only for the large firms. It is a big click and doesn't do anything for me." "I don't agree with the direction they are headed." "You guys just hand pick your leaders and it is really a closed organization." "I didn't agree with them pushing for a four-year degree." "They screwed the profession with the financial responsibility." "My company used to pay for our dues but now they don't so......" "You created MTS and it is the worst thing to happen to our profession so I am not supporting you." "I think Steve Vrabel is a jerk and I would not be part of anything he is involved in." "Why are we under the Board of Agriculture, what are we a bunch of farmers?" "I wanted to stay a PLS.....what is this PSM junk?" "Why should we allow photogrammetrists into our profession?" "They charge to much and don't do anything." "I get nothing out of it." "Who cares about GIS?" "I hate the Gators!....."

My days go back to the early 70's with the Society and I have been proud to be a part of such a wonderful organization. Over the years I have run across members and leaders who are some of the most honorable men and women on the planet and I am proud to call many of them my friend. And then there are a few, well let's just say those who are my irregular associates. I have had the privilege to serve the Society in various ways from Chapter President all the way to state President and on various committees and boards. This has taken me all around the state to meet with other professionals and listen to their needs, desires, problems and successes. I have been in business with several of the members of the state Society who I would have never gotten to know had I not been involved in the profession in this manner. I have had the honor to visit with and pray with a colleague of mine who later died after several years of health struggles. I was proud to call him my friend and cannot believe of a life without having known him and his wife. I have had other friends of mine in this profession pass away and I was honored to have known them and to have served with them. I went on road trips all over the state with other leaders as we fought for the profession in the best way we knew how. I spent many hours on the road bringing the message of the profession and the Society to any and all who would listen. I stood before our legislative body and fought on our behalf and spent many years battling encroachments into our profession and working to protect what is ours.

I say all of this to show that an association is not about what you get out of it, it is about what you put into it. I know dozens, if not hundreds of surveyors in this profession who have not put an ounce of effort into the Society. They are content to sit on the sidelines and let the rest of the team get the job done. By doing this it creates an emotion of entitlement......what does the Society owe me for my \$225? The Society does not owe a single thing to any individual that is not willing to put forth the effort to make this profession and the Society better.

I venture to say there are those who will always be around to put forth the effort to see that this profession is protected and our standing in the professional world maintained. It is a well known fact that 5% of the people do 95% of the work in any association. However, I believe the reverse is also somewhat true in that 95% of the people are satisfied with being in their professional organization and it is the 5% who complain and make life miserable for the rest.

Those who ask why they should be a member and what is in it for them probably have never really been part of a professional organization. There are so many obvious reasons such as CCNA battles, legislative representation, continuing education, etc. But I think the best reasons are a sense of satisfaction of being part of the most prestigious professional association for surveyors in the U.S., developing lifelong friendships, establishing contacts with some of the smartest professionals walking the earth and the satisfaction that maybe you helped make a difference.

I can guarantee one thing, if you do not put anything into the Society, or anything else in your life, then do not expect a whole lot out of it. You can just be a guy sitting on the outside looking in or you can be a player.

Is this worth a measly \$225 per year to make a difference? I think so.

Steve Vrabel, 1988-1989

ride off into the sunset to enjoy the Golden Years after fifty seven years in the surveying and mapping profession let me share this observation. A well known man once said THE POOR YOU WILL HAVE WITH YOU ALLWAYS. Now I am not a well known man such as that ONE is but I will say this. The "JACKLEGS and STOBSTICKERS" you will have with you always unless we can get them all to get interested in professionalism and the Society as well as those professionals who seem not to care about what the Society can do for them or what they can do for the Society.

Loren Mercer, 1993-1994

All the reasons put forth *are the reasons for membership*, *period*. People, both members and non-members, either get it or they don't. Our obligation as a Society is to protect the profession and inform our membership. I think we do a pretty good job of both. We have evolved and, as evidenced by you bringing this question, will continue to evolve as needed to accomplish our on-going mission.

There are exceptions to every rule, but I think the general demographic of our leadership is persons from medium to large firms that can afford the expense of sponsoring an active leader. The economy is of course going to affect that, but we should continue the course protecting, informing and representing the membership in a progressive manner.

In any Society, there will be various levels of input from membership. I put in my couple of years of leadership and left to pursue other things important to me, trusting that the Society has my best interests at heart. We are blessed as a Society to have members that have dedicated life times to the commitment, and conversely, will always have members that will complain without making a commitment to serve.

Fran and I have been blessed to survive (thus far) in this rotten economy. I know that the Society will survive as well. We are Surveyors, proud, strong and resilient and the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society is our flagship. Tom Conner, 1995-1996

The question asked of you is not new. We have all been asked that before and most of the time, I believe, we all give the obvious answers...the legal and legislative programs, continuing education, discounted insurance programs, etc. However, these are just a drop in the bucket. There are the GIS Users Group and the GPS Users Group, both of which are supported by and many times facilitated by FSMS. There is the FSMS Surveying and Mapping Council. All are comprised of representatives of various government and private sector professionals sharing information about new technologies, available information, updates to programs and yes, new business \$\$\$\$\$ opportunities. All available to anyone who wants to join in. There is also the Annual Conference with just about all the latest equipment, software and technology available for viewing or hands on demonstration, all in one place, not to mention the chance to see old friends and make new ones. There is also support available from fellow members should you need assistance or want the technical/professional opinion of another surveyor. We are also represented on the national level by our member of the NSPS Board of Governors and by our Executive Director on the NSPS Board of Directors. FSMS is the only *"not for profit"* organization in the State of Florida for surveyors and mappers but still, these are or should be the obvious benefits.

To really explain or describe to someone all the benefits of membership in the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society is impossible. To answer your question, I took time to think about the experiences of my 25+ years of association with the Society. I have had the honor of serving on the Chapter level as Vice President and President in two chapters, District Director for four years, President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President of the Society. I have had the honor of working with the Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers on rules by and under which we practice. I have had the honor of working with the FSMS legislative consultant and speaking before legislative committees to pass amendments to Chapter 177, Part 1 and Chapter 472, our very practice act. Most of all, I have been blessed to have met hundreds of surveyors and associated professionals from around the state as well as across the country and I have had the honor of serving and working with the best of the best in my profession. These are just a few of the benefits I have experienced because I chose to join FSMS and get involved in the organization that supports, protects and enhances my profession. There isn't enough paper to print everything.

I think there are countless doorways to success in this profession and FSMS is the focal point. The benefits are both professional and personal. But before one can reap any of the benefits, one has to choose to participate. To reap the benefits, join us and choose your doors.

I haven't yet read the responses from the others but I can't help but think theirs will be similar.

W. Lanier Mathews, II, 1998-1999

After reading Steve's reply, I thought everything had been said! The bottom line, the true benefit derives from participation, not some tangible item you get in exchange for your dues. The benefits are in the form of debates and exchanges amongst fellow professionals; continuous promotion and protection of the profession for the benefit of all; education, not just from FSMS seminars (which are tangible membership benefits), but from Chapter meetings and discussions of current issues with fellow members.

Short answer: As a professional, why wouldn't you want to be associated with a group that has only your interests as their primary concern?

John Clyatt, 2002-2003

I have enjoyed reading the responses that have come through. All have good points.

I guess I am not overly surprised because this economy can make people look at ways to cut their overall cost, but we are only talking about \$225.00 plus any chapter fee. This economy has affected me as much as anyone, but I realize that maintaining my membership in the Society that has been there and fought for our small group for 55 Well said Steve. Thank you. And thanks to all of the great professionals on this list of Past Presidents.

Simply stated, PROFESSIONALS are active in their **PROFESSION.** If PSM's want to be tradesmen, and not get involved with their Association, then they should've unionized and gone the blue-collar track.

Jack Breed, 1999-2000

Steve said what I feel in a far better way than I could. Thanks to all who have done so much for the Society and the profession.

Lamar Evers, 1989-1990

Once again Mr. Vrabel has waxed more eloquently than I ever will. He is correct; you get back what you put in! If those asking "what do I get for my \$225" need to ask that question, they simply are not involved.

Also, as Steve and Lamar have said, "THANK YOU" to all who have served, sacrificed and given so our profession can continue to be a leader in Florida and the nation. This position we have (like it or not, Gator or not, four (4) year degree or not) is the sum total of all who give, serve and work.

My answer is - Quit complaining and start doing something then you'll see what the \$225 does for you!

Art Mastronicola, 2000-2001

I agree that Stevie Vrabel said it very well...... you could put that out as is. The only thing I can add is for members to think about "what if we didn't have a Society"? Through the years, how much information wouldn't we have, how many decisions wouldn't have gone our way, and who would be your voice when you didn't agree with things that affect our profession?

Mike Whitling, 2006-2007

How about a little PRIDE in the profession! This is a great profession and any member of it should be proud to be a member of this Society.

P – Protection	FSMS provides protection of the pro- fession through watchdog efforts and our legal counsel
R – Representation	FSMS provides representation at the highest levels of State and Local Gov- ernment through our Lobbyist, PAC and other special committees
I – Integrity	FSMS upholds the highest level of integrity for the profession
D – Dedication	FSMS is dedicated to the health and well being of the profession
E – Education	FSMS provides the professional with current, relevant education opportuni- ties

Just my two cents! Keep up the good work. David Schryver, 2003-2004 I have heard from almost all the Past Presidents who have thought it necessary to respond. The only thing I have to say: OK, let someone else do it if you don't want to be a member of FSMS. Just who, pray tell, can do what we have done for the past 55 years we have been at it? Are we done? NO! John Gargis, 1982-1983

I read with interest the various e-mails regarding membership in FSMS. Yes, Steve did a good job. I do want to add my voice to the chorus though. I was in Siberia for a month while this was taking place. I come at this from a slightly different perspective.

I was able to talk to a number of surveyors across Siberia and also to a business group that had recently formed. They all asked about work in the United States and what our government did to help businesses. I had to inform them that government in the United States did not really help businesses. It is from that premise that I say that if there is nothing else that the Society does that has value, it is being that watchdog for the profession. I don't think that having a lobbyist is something that is esoteric, but is a tangible benefit for membership. We are going to see some greater changes to the way we do business and even though we think we can follow it all, we can't. That is the benefit that is most helpful to me. It is not to say that the Society can cure all ills, but the fact that we are given timely information about what is transpiring that can hurt our business is a tangible benefit. I hope that benefit continues and expands to small business problems. These days we are becoming even smaller businesses. The trouble is that with changes to laws we have even greater red tape to go through to stay in business.

Other benefits were detailed already, information is not intangible. Information and knowledge is a tool that can be used. Information that the Society supplies to its membership can be gotten in other places, if someone had the luxury of time to obtain it. That is why you pay for a service, so you won't have to spend that time.

Joe Boggs 1990-1991

What can I say? Steve, according to some, has responded eloquently to the situation as he usually does. Lamar would not handle it so diplomatically. Art and others would say get involved and you will understand why we need the Society and why we need you. Some others will no doubt say get involved with your local Chapter and you will see the need to be involved in your State Society. In my fifty years of membership in the Society I have heard it all. I would also say these other professionals on the list have also. Please keep in mind that each accomplishment Steve mentioned took us an average of five years to bring each one of them to fruition. What would our status as professionals now be had it not been for the hard work our leaders and members of our Society have put in along the way? We need those who disagree to make us look deeper into changes and new directions, but we need them to be with us together at the end. Yes we do need each and every aspiring professional Surveyor and Mapper to be a member of FSMS. Now as I years is important. Overall, we are a small group compared to others, i.e. attorneys, engineers, etc., that can easily be overlooked and attacked. Our practice act has been under attack numerous times! We need to maintain our cohesiveness as a profession. I can think of no better way to do this than maintaining the strength of our Society through membership and also by being proud to be a member of our Florida Surveying and Mapping Society.

Richard Powell, 2005-2006

I agree that Steve got the message out in a very good way. I feel it is unbelievable and it disheartens me that a member posed the question.

Bob Jackson, 2007-2008

Why should I be a member of this or any organization is a question each one of us has to decide. Many members never consider the questions when their dues are paid for them, year after year. Times like these cause us to reevaluate things that we had previously taken for granted. FSMS, as with any organization, is only as strong as the people who understand and value the mission. So, what is the mission of FSMS? In my opinion, it is to protect and build the foundation of the professional surveying and mapping industry. If you are not an active member, that is the benefit you are paying for. If you are an active member, attending chapter meetings, serving in an elected position, etc., you receive benefits far beyond what the dues cover. Steve mentioned some of these, including the lifelong friendships, business opportunities and building pride in your chosen profession. We need as many as possible to pay dues in order to continue the mission of FSMS. **But, you need to participate in order to enhance your personal professional mission. Either way membership is a value.**

Ray Niles, 1996-1997

Congratulations to the Survey Terms Crossword winner Cristina Albury!!

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Tom's Tip of the Month

The most essential factor is persistence-the determination never to allow your energy or enthusiasm to be dampened by discouragement.

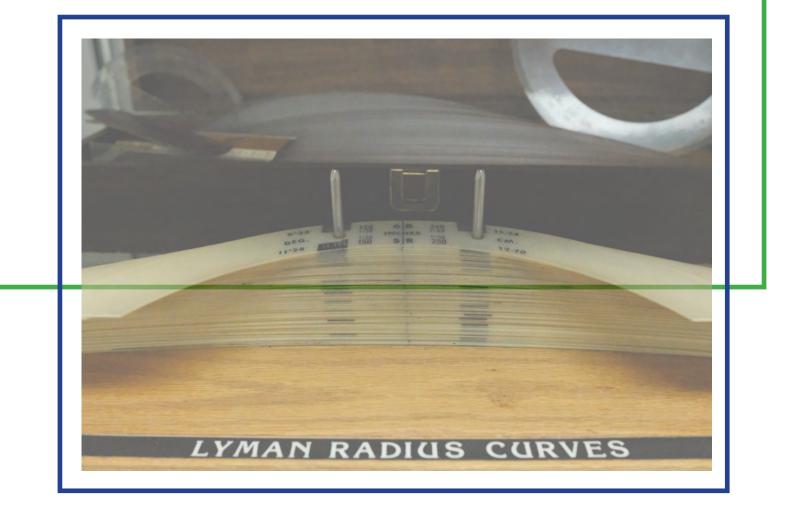
James Whitcomb Riley



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