

# Cleveland Surveying News

April 2008



## In This Issue:

- Technician Workshop  
Registration
- Did Dues Increase Vote Pass?



**Cleveland**  
Chapter of PLSO



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Editor & Photographer

Robert Hoy, P.S.

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Contact: Robert Hoy, [k666@cox.net](mailto:k666@cox.net)

On the cover: "Surveying in Bloom"  
Pictured: Don Himes, P.S.

Photo by Robert Hoy: April 22, 2008

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**Program Report**

Details are still being finalized for the fall Chapter CPD Seminar meetings.

The June 5th membership meeting will likely be held at the Beachcliff Tavern at 19245 Detroit Avenue in Cleveland.

The student who received the high score of Bob Papotto's TrigStar students will be invited and will be recognized at the meeting. We also plan to invite PLSO State President Paul Dinan to join us.



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The sun has finally come out, and things are looking up, so now what? There is strength in numbers – and very little strength in going it alone. We stand to gain influence over our circumstances if we act in concert. Why not come to our General Meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and talk to your colleagues over dinner.



Here are a few trends that might be worthy of discussion:

- The recent announcement that a large real estate company has entered the surveying business (Cleveland Plain Dealer April 2008)
- The construction industry's trend toward "automatic machine control" of earthmoving equipment. Here is a quote from a construction superintendent in the February 2008 issue of American Surveyor magazine, "We saved \$116,000 on layout costs with our new automatic machine control system!" Ouch.
- There are some early hints of a rebound in the new housing market. As it turns out, Cleveland did not overbuild as vigorously as other regions, so its inventory is lower in comparison. But when will demand recover?

In other local news: Local chapter PLSO dues will remain at \$20 per year (but State dues will increase soon). Also, there is great interest among the Board of Executive Directors to create scholarship cash awards for promising students – more details to come.

Peter D. Zwick, P.S., P.E.



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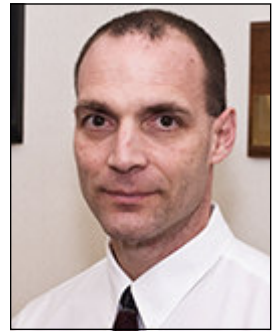
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The Trig-Star Test was administered last week to select Seniors at Trinity High School. The local winner is awarded a \$ 50.00 cash prize, and may also compete at higher levels for scholarships based on statewide scores. The test is administered in the Spring of each year, and if there are any additional schools that may be interested in competing, please let me know.

The **May 10th** Technician Workshop will offer the opportunity for Survey Technicians to more fully understand how contours are created both manually and digitally. Employers and Survey Managers are encouraged to allow their technicians to attend this hands-on workshop at the Cuyahoga County Engineer Training Facility. *Make sure to bring a pencil, calculator, scale, eraser and straight edge as we will be interpolating contours from a set of plotted spot elevations by hand.* We will also learn how to analyze electronically imported points and create breaklines and contours using commercial software. Hope to see you there!



**Robert A. Papotto**  
Education Trustee  
**Technician  
Workshop  
Instructor**

Note the workshop date has changed since the information was published in the March issue. Details also available on our website Survey School page: <http://www.plso.com/cst.html>

Robert Papotto

I stated In last month's issue that I would be including some of the things this Chapter has done over the past 35 years as found in newsletter archives donated by John Dailey. Here is my first inclusion and how it relates to his Technician Workshop because the more things change, the more they stay the same.

*From the September 1974 PLSO Cleveland Chapter newsletter:*

*Commencing Monday, September 30th, the Cleveland Chapter will offer a two-year survey education course at Cleveland Engineering Center, from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. It will consist of six ten-week quarters. 1st Quarter - Math review, Survey Measurements, Angular Measurements.*

The founders of this chapter felt it was important enough to spend 10 weeks that included 20 hours of classroom time covering just the basic three concepts listed for the 1st Quarter. I have noticed that many students that completed the two-year Survey School are now owners or managers of surveying companies. There is more behind the formation of the Survey School, and I will go into more details in a later issue.

We all have mapping products that cannot be issued on time. Is it due to unforeseen delays in the field? Or possibly errors during the Cad mapping process that needed to be corrected? Are your Cad mapping technicians educated in the Surveying fundamentals that will help them make fewer errors and may help you get maps out the door quicker which means money in your pocket sooner!

I encourage you to have your office *and* field technicians attend our Contouring Workshop. We'll have a good morning learning, discussing, and talking about just how important good methods are to making good contours.

Robert Hoy, **Technician Workshop Instructor**

# Understanding Contours for office and field technicians to create Better Basemaps

**Date:** Saturday May 10, 2008

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon (Pizza and soft drinks immediately following)

**Location:** Cuyahoga County Engineer's classroom facility, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

N.E. corner of W. 25<sup>th</sup> St. & Detroit Ave. accessible from Vermont Ave. in Cleveland

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=41.491988,-81.707103&spn=0.001394,0.002111&t=h&z=19>

**Cost:** \$30.00 **Registration Deadline:** May 6, 2008

**Instructors:** Robert A. Papotto, P.S., P.E. and Robert G. Hoy, P.S.

## Workshop Outline:

- Fundamentals and principles of contours
- Identify problem and incorrect contours
- CAD software functions for editing surface models
- Importance of breaklines and grade breaks
- Importance of accurate field points

Print this page, complete the form below, and mail with payment.

(Make checks payable to Cleveland Chapter of PLSO) **Mail To:** Robert Hoy, Communication Trustee  
5525 Sunset Lane  
Parma, OH 44134

**For further information** call Robert Papotto 440-801-1560 or Robert Hoy 216-389-7677

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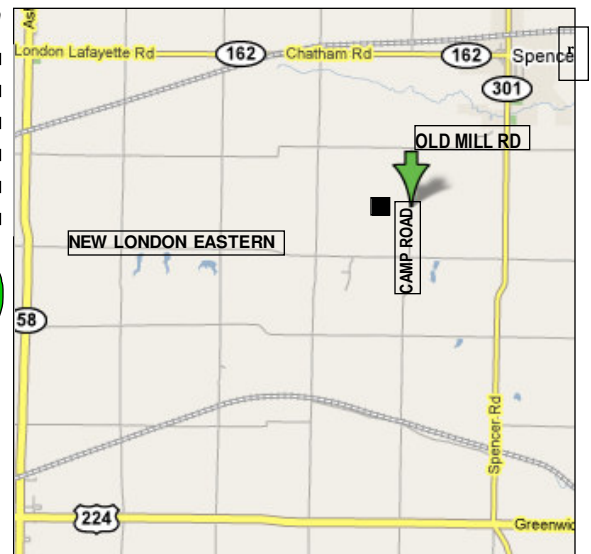
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### **Delegate's Report**

#### Executive Committee Meeting on Friday, April 11, 2008

Call to order: 6:03 P.M.

Upon completion of a roll call, determination of a quorum, acceptance of the January minutes and Treasurers report the meeting turned to unfinished business.

- Executive Director situation: After the interview of a few Past Presidents of PLSO we are waiting to hear back from the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.
- Metes & Bounds description Law Change (any such description must be by a surveyor): No further progress but a possible loophole exists concerning easement rights. For instance, the Geauga County prosecutor defines an easement as conveyance of rights.
- Ephraim Brown Land Office at Hale Farm: Fundraising seminar registration at about 50%.
- Proposed By-Law V change concerning annual dues: Roll Call vote taken on the proposed \$40.00 increase. Nineteen votes needed to pass. Both student chapters abstained, seven votes against and nineteen votes in favor. The increase passed.
- New members: One reinstatement, four student members and one change to retired status were all accepted. No changes to the Cleveland Chapter.
- Website proposal: President Paul Dinan presented a proposal for services from an outside vendor to update the state website to include a password protected "members only" area to access & update membership contact information, allow for secure download of files and online voting. Members will be able to search the entire membership data and create lists. Chapter Officers will be able to generate group emails to their members. Eventually this could be used for a PDF of the Ohio Surveying News. Cost for setup and short term support is \$1,100.00. The revised website up, debugged and operating in about three months. Motion carried to proceed.



**John G. Hoy**  
Delegate

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

- Renee & Steven Walton of Walton Education and Recreation made a presentation about their Summer Surveying and Engineering Camp in Logan, Ohio. They are requesting a letter of support and donations from PLSO and any donations from members. More information is available on their website: [www.travelamericausainc.com](http://www.travelamericausainc.com).
- ODOT: Jim Kenyon reported that ODOT is working on a statewide control database which will eventually be accessible on the internet. They are also updating their survey manual.
- State Board of Registration: Paul Dinan reported that there is no information about the registration audit procedures but hopes that the board will report audit results the same way the report other license issues.
- Political Action Committee: \$1,200.00 is in the PAC fund but three invitations were received for fundraising dinners. More funding is needed if we can make any headway on the legal description issue. Donation information is available on the state website.
- Newsletter Editor's report by Don Freimoth "The first issue of 2008 is in at the printer. The deadline for the second issue has been moved back to May 1<sup>st</sup>."
- TrigStar program: President Dinan is requesting test results for the top three winners (scores and test completion time) submitted by April 20, 2008. At least two perfect scores have been submitted to date.
- Program Committee: Statistics for the 2008 Annual Conference in Cleveland will be finished and distributed next month. The Tuscarawas Valley Chapter will host the 2011 Fall Seminar.
- Membership Committee: Bob Akins is planning brochures for new members and new delegates.
- Finance Committee had no report (Chair Bob Ernsberger was absent).
- Legislation: Rose Coors let us know that the Southwest Chapter is already working with an attorney drafting a bill establishing a Statute of Limitations.
- The Scholarship Fund Board will be meeting in July. Any chapter participating with scholarships is welcome to attend.
- Most Chapter Delegates submitted a written report. The University of Akron competition win was on the Greenville Treaty. They had to produce a paper, poster and field traverse using authentic instruments and chains. What won over the judges was the plat prepared in the field using a feather quill. (see Page 19)
- President –Elect Dean Frederick has been interviewing surveyors gaining information about where they are obtaining CPD's and construction companies about how they use/obtain/verify machine control files.
- The Assistant Executive Director, Barb Jones, mentioned that chapter events can be added to the state calendar with an active link to chapter web pages detailing the event.
- President Paul Dinan attended the certificate presentation ceremony. He is forming two special committees. The Executive Director search Committee (Frank Snyder the only member to volunteer to date) and the PLSO Vision Committee (Future Planning) consisting of Rusty Rosebeck, Rose Coors and Jack Hoy.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

*John G. Hoy, P.S.*

## Membership Report

We want to move fully into the Paperless Computer Era - 39% of the 145 members on my list do not have an e-mail address. Many of the e-mail providers are free - I just signed up to live.com. Please e-mail Bob Hoy at [k666@cox.net](mailto:k666@cox.net) or myself at [cfpeps@neo.rr.com](mailto:cfpeps@neo.rr.com) with your e-mail address. I will be calling you if you do not contact us first. This will enable the Cleveland PLSO Chapter to contact you for upcoming events. Thanks for your help.

Chuck Flanigan, P.S., P.E.



**Charles W. Flanigan**  
Membership Trustee



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### RANDOM LINES

After 13 long months, the PLSO Data Bank is finally ensconced in its new, and hopefully final, home. As said in the old boxing films, "It was a tough fight, Ma, but we made it."

The Chapter had made arrangements with the Cuyahoga County Archives to accept the Data Bank and to maintain. It was moved from Dick Garrett's office into the Archives building on Franklin Avenue.



We started at Garrett's by boxing all the recorded and un-recorded plats into about 100 transfer boxes. This was accomplished by Jack Hoy, Bud Craddock and myself. We finally got on the schedule for the County's moving crew to come by and pick up the filing cabinets, shelves and the transfer boxes and move them to the Archives. The filing cabinets were put in place first since their space was more readily available. The remainder of the Data Bank remained in the basement. There they sat while waiting for the space in the former darkroom to be repaired and painted. (The wheels of County government move very slowly.) The space was finally available and the final move from basement to second floor was completed.

The shelving was put in place and anchored as best we could. Now came the task of emptying the 100 or so transfer boxes and getting the plats back on the shelves. This took about five days, the last of which is the day that you will probably receive this newsletter.

*(Continued on Page 10)*

(Continued from Page 9)

My personal thanks go out to Jack, Bud, Bob Hoy for the work expended in this transfer. My special thanks go to my wife Shirley for the many hours of hard work she put in on this project.

The Cuyahoga County Archives are located at 2905 Franklin Avenue, Cleveland. Their hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. On Tuesdays the Archives are closed to the public. There is a parking lot immediately west of the building.

Upon entering the building, there is a guard and a sign in sheet that requires your name, company (if any) and whether you are a citizen. Under the column for purpose of visit, write in "Data Bank." Then go up the stairs to the second floor, turn left and go down the main hallway about 40 feet to a doorway on the left. Inside that room and against the right wall are the flat plat files.

Off to the right hand side is a smaller hallway. The first room on the left in that hall has all the recorded and non-recorded plats on shelves. The second room has most of the filing cabinets. Almost all of the survey files are in this room. On the right hand side of the hall in a small alcove are the filing cabinets containing the indexes and the large index book.



There are photocopy machines available for use on both the first and second floor of the Archives. A large book/plat copier is on the first floor. **NOTHING CAN BE REMOVED FROM THIS BUILDING WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CHIEF ARCHIVIST, DR. JUDITH CETINA.** These files are no longer under the control of PLSO. They are now County property. The unauthorized removal of documents of any kind from this building is a crime. Don't even think about it.

We are in the process of preparing a "cookbook" detailing the use of this Data Bank and it should be ready in the near future. Copies will be available from the Chapter and at the Archives. There will be more about this Data Bank in the future.

Let me shift gears for a moment. At the recent PLSO Annual Meeting in Cleveland, I gave a presentation mainly on Ohio History. I did vary from my original topic to give a short presentation on Survey Safety. This action on my part seemed to upset a few people. I think an explanation on my part is due.

I travel around quite a bit and I have seen some of the really dumb things surveyors and survey crew do. I have seen a surveyor working in noonday traffic near Parmatown Shopping Center jumping in and out of traffic while using a robotic station without even having a safety vest on. On April 4, a surveyor just outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee was killed by a moving train. He apparently either did not realize the train was moving or misjudged which track the train was on.

As I said, if I can save one person, it is worth it and I will gladly take the heat for changing my program. If you disagree with my reasoning, my phone is 440-888-1930 and my e-mail address is [jdailey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdailey@sbcglobal.net) I will accept all comments.

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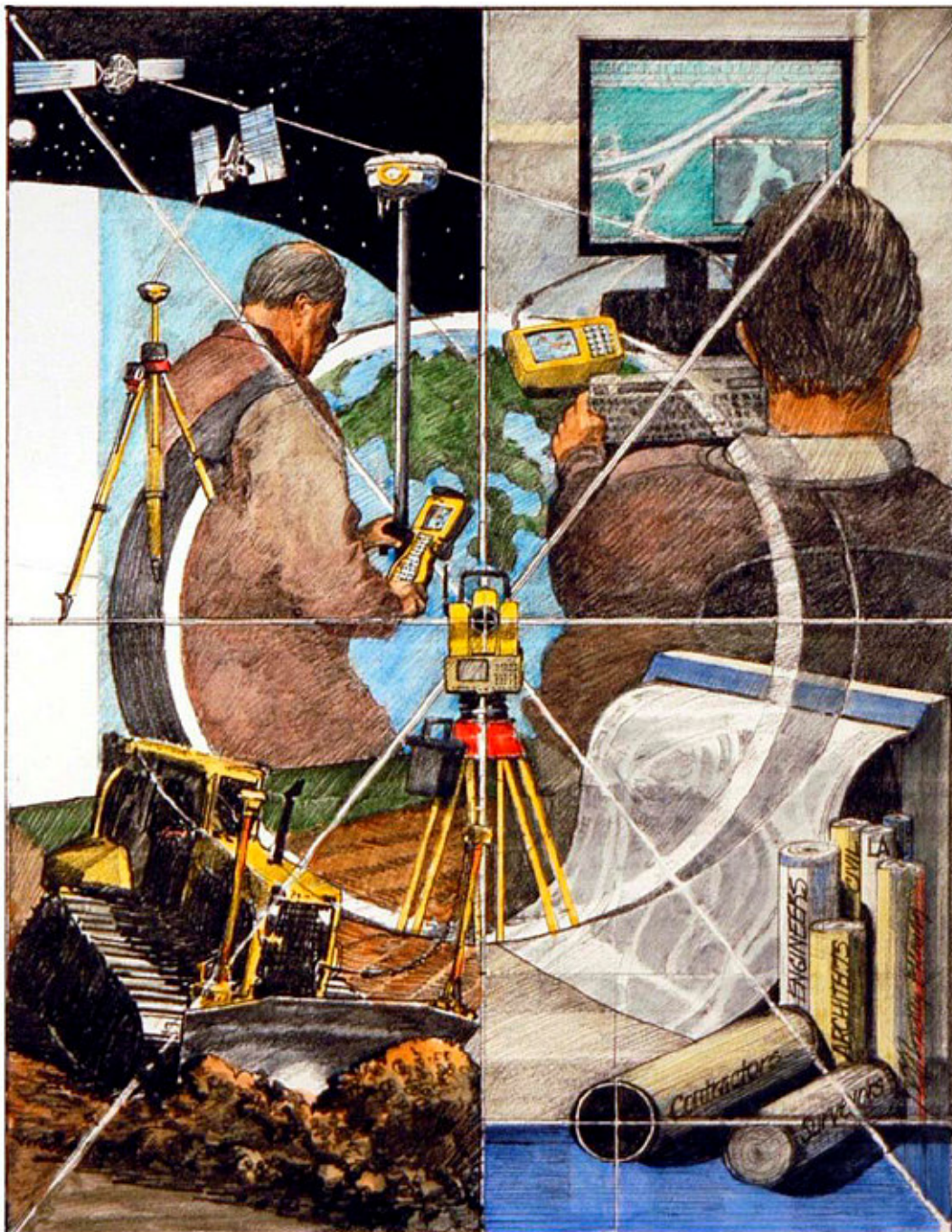
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### Executive Committee Meeting highlights from 04/14/08:

Officers absent: Louise Veverka and John Bischoff. Also present: Jack Hoy

Advantages and pitfalls of articles by/from our advertising supporters for the chapter newsletter were discussed.

Bob Hoy and Bob Papotto will be instructing the first Educational Workshop in May. Contouring, both hand-drafted and with software, will be the subject.

Chuck Flannigan is working to obtain the email addresses of those chapter members we do not have.

Bob Papotto was appointed Scholarship Committee Chairman and will begin assembling a committee to determine how the chapter should handle the matter. John G. Hoy volunteered to be on the committee.



**Michael A. Straub**  
Secretary



### Communication Report

I am settling in to putting together and arranging the Cleveland Surveying News. We have another company considering placing an advertisement with us.

Now for a different type of communication briefing. I'd like to go over some simple business communication etiquette. When you receive an email that does not necessitate a response to answer a question, more of an informational receipt, it is to your benefit to reply to the sender acknowledging the receipt and thanking the sender. This eliminates uncertainty if the recipient received the email and tells the sender when it was open and reviewed.

Emails asking questions or requesting information should be returned within one business day with at least a minimal statement of when the information or question might be sent or answered. This might avoid a follow-up phone call by the sender with the same inquiry at an inopportune time for you.

Voicemail is the least preferable way of communication because you have no copy of the message you left whereas paper letters and emails can be copied. I have a copy of a textbook example of the type of voicemail *never* to leave which contains vulgarities and unprofessional language left by a lawyer from Texas. Email me if you would like to receive it.

I decided to write this segment after sending emails containing comments and suggestions about the Annual Conference and PLSO to appropriate PLSO members, officers, and chairmen without any response or even acknowledgement of receipt.



**Robert Hoy**  
Communication  
Trustee  
CSN Editor

# 2008 Cleveland Chapter Calendar

April 11 State Executive Committee Meeting  
April 14 **Executive Committee Meeting**  
April 21 Cleveland Surveying News Deadline  
April 24 **General Membership Meeting**

May 9 State Executive Committee Meeting  
May 12 **Executive Committee Meeting**  
May 10 **Survey Technician Workshop**  
May 19 Cleveland Surveying News Deadline

June 5 **General Membership Meeting**  
June 27 **Annual William J. Haas Memorial Golf Tournament**

July 20 State Executive Committee Meeting

August **Summer Social Event**  
August 11 **Executive Committee Meeting**  
August 15 Cleveland Surveying News Deadline

September 4 **Seminar Meeting**  
September 12 State Executive Committee Meeting  
September 15 **Executive Committee Meeting**  
September 19 Cleveland Surveying News Deadline

October 2 **Seminar Meeting**  
October 9-10 **PLSO Fall Seminar, Kings Island**  
October 17 State Executive Committee Meeting  
October 20 **Executive Committee Meeting**  
October 24 Cleveland Surveying News Deadline

November 6 **Seminar Meeting**  
November 14 State Executive Committee Meeting  
November 17 **Executive Committee Meeting**

December 12 State Executive Committee Meeting (if needed)  
December 15 **Executive Committee Meeting** (if needed)

January 9, 2008 State Executive Committee Meeting  
January 12, 2008 **Executive Committee Meeting**  
January 13, 2008 Cleveland Surveying News Deadline  
January 22, 2008 **Annual Meeting**

## Executive Committee Meetings

are held at the office of :

John R. Hoy and Associates  
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at 6pm and are open to all members  
of the Chapter who want to attend.



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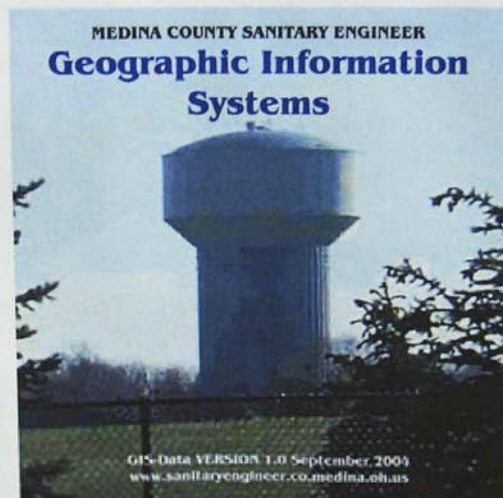
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March 11, 2008

## Helping Youth to Realize the Possibilities

Ms. Barb Jones, Assistant Director  
 Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio, Inc.  
 6465 Reflections Drive, Suite 100  
 Dublin, Ohio 43017-2353

Dear Ms. Jones:

I am writing this letter to respectfully request the support and participation of the PLSO, and to get on the agenda for April's meeting present our Summer Surveying & Engineering Camp for middle and high school students. Our desire is to seek the approval/support/Sponsorship from various chapters of the PLSO; particularly, the ability to reference/document this support to include "Junior Surveyor" recognition upon completion via certificates at the end of the 7-day program.

There are currently three levels of camp. We will only present level 1 during the summer of 2008. Camp will accommodate 32 students per session - middle school (grade 7-8), and high school.

All camp providers are licensed professional Surveyors and Engineers. Our Camp Director is Steven B. Walton, Licensed Surveyor. The Chief Instructor is Mr. George Seymour, Past PLSO President and former Forestry teacher at Hocking Tech. Mr. Kenton Cannon, Perry County Engineer will also present as well as Paul Sherrit and other licensed Surveyors. We are also currently attempting to coordinate with The Franklin County Engineer's Office, Hocking Tech and Ohio State University, College of Engineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering & Geodetic Science - Program - "Mapping & Land Information Science. I am hoping to enlist the participation of student volunteers, as well as arrange cooperation and participation, and introducing high school - Level 3 students to opportunities at OSU.

If approved, Mr. Steve Walton and George Seymour will formally present this participation opportunity at your meeting in April. The areas that we are currently seeking individual, business and community support are:

- PLSO Letter of support, and/or
- Sponsorship of individual or a group of students, and/or
- Purchase Donation of materials/supplies, and/or
- Purchase/Supply of 1 or meals, and/or
- Individuals interested in working with students during camp, and/or
- Licensed Surveys willing to participate in a short-term "Field Internship". (This activity does not take place until Level 3 which will not occur until 2009-2010)

I have attached a detailed description with goals and objectives for your review. Our desire is to have official recognition of the program and hopefully the involvement of a representative of the Ohio Chapter PLSO to participate in issuing the certificates upon completion of the program. Please note that the core curriculum and level of detail is still currently under review and is subject to change.

I would be more than happy to answer any questions and/or meet with you to further discuss this request.

Sincerely,  
  
 R. Rene Walton

cc: Steven B. Walton, Surveyor  
 George Seymour, Surveyor

RECEIVED  
 MAR 14 2008

BY:.....

Hi Barb  
 I thought you  
 should know that  
 I am George's  
 daughter-in-law.  
 ☺ Robin Reese





# Walton Education & Recreation, LLC

Travel America USA, Inc - 501 (c)(3)



Our mission is to promote understanding and tolerance of differences, close cultural, social and education gaps, by providing educational occupation, character-building & family strengthening opportunities while promoting a sense of leadership, academic excellence, and global & community awareness in students and families from rural, urban, isolated and disadvantaged backgrounds.

## Helping youth realize the possibilities!

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WALTON EDUCATION & RECREATION, LLC  
*Travel America USA, Inc*



## SURVEYING, MAPPING & ENGINEERING CAMP

The Surveying and Mapping Summer Camp is a program is funded through the efforts of Walton Education & Recreation LLC, and Travel America, USA.

100% of financial support for the program is based on WLLC's fundraising efforts to support Travel America USA, Inc, 501 (3) (c) (m) through private donations and grants.



### Surveying & Engineering

Did you know that George Washington, our nation's first President, was a military engineer and land surveyor?

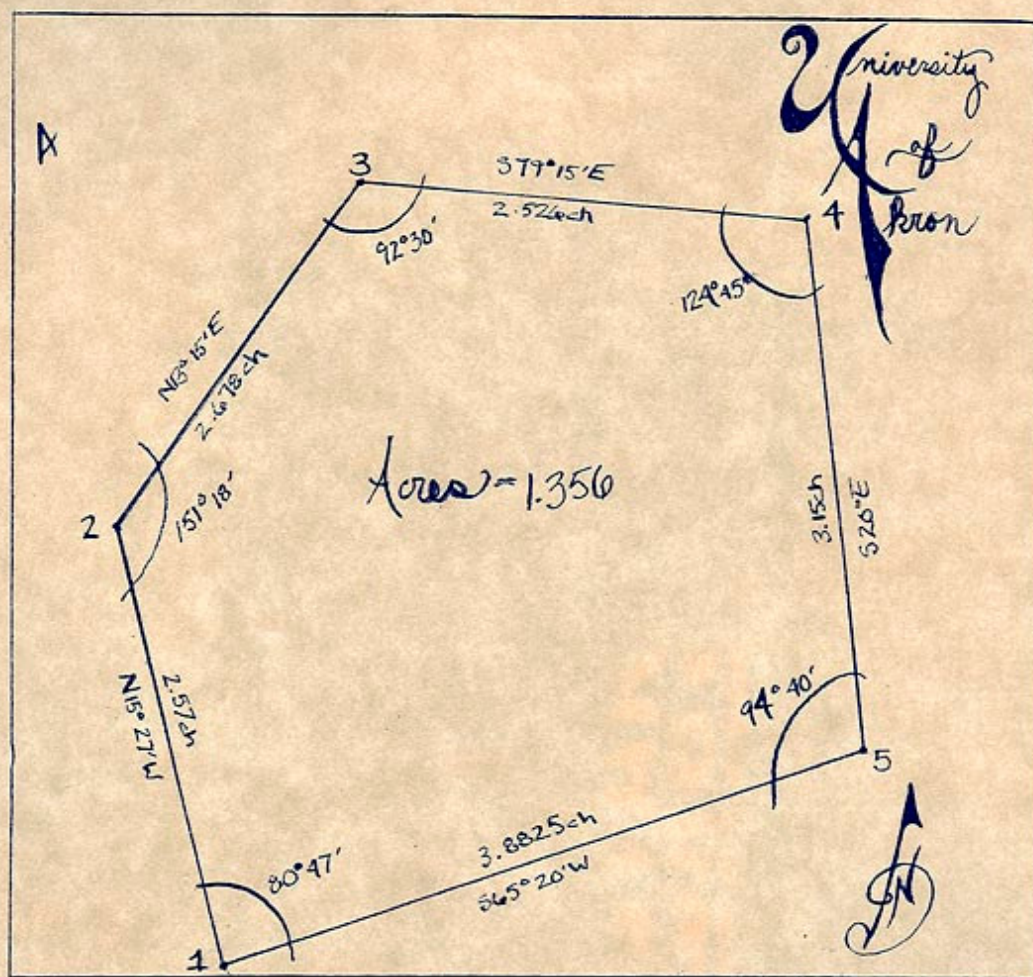
The program introduces middle and high school students to a range and mixture of degrees in knowledge and hands-on surveying, mapping & and engineering activities, skills, and career opportunities. The camp program introduces middle and high students to a potential career choice not readily discussed and increases interest and participation in the areas of earth sciences and engineering, particularly for girls. Students will have the opportunity to learn survey, map, and compass skills; excavation; that directly connects to math, science and history.

This is a great opportunity for kids with an interest in archaeology, history, science, and being outdoors. Students will hone their skills during an intensive residential summer camp. Amid the rugged woods and shrubbery, students will measure precise elevations, determine property boundaries, and create topographical maps. Girls and boys who attend the camp will use various items and activities to open their eyes to a possible career in surveying and engineering.

We especially need to attract girls to these fields at an early stage of their lives because nationally, fewer than 20 percent of engineering majors are female. Middle school girls need to see that engineering is doable. Camp teachers use a variety of methods to relate complex concepts in interesting, inspiring ways and show the students how engineering requires creativity, organization, problem-solving and people skills.

Want to see the other 7 pages of this information about the Surveying, Mapping, & Engineering Camp? Please email our Delegate, John G. Hoy [jhoy.7419@att.net](mailto:jhoy.7419@att.net)





A tract of land wholly within the city of Spokane, Washington. Pursuant to a warrant by the H.C.M.

Starting at point 5 heading S 65° 20' W 3.8825 chains to point 1. Thence N 15° 27' W 2.57 chains to point 2. Thence N 13° 15' E 2.678 chains to point 3. Thence S 79° 15' E 2.526 chains to point 4. Thence S 20° E 3.15 chains to point of beginning at 5.

Basis of Bearing set at East property line S 20° E.

This survey was completed by L.A. Survey on the sixth of March 2008.

Andrew Kigg - chief  
Samantha Brown  
Mike Quinto  
Earle Kuchenbecker  
Le. Indira Kaurbi - instrument

Scale 1" = 1 chain

Katharine  
Nock