

Cleveland Surveying News

January 2008



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Newsletter of the Cleveland Chapter of the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio

Cleveland Surveying News

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John G. Hoy, P.S. Editor
Robert G. Hoy, P.S. Photographer

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ON THE COVER

The 2008 Conference is in Cleveland!

Plan to attend.

2008 Executive Committee

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This is my last issue as Editor of the Cleveland Surveying News. I am shifting my responsibility to the position of Chapter Delegate. I have an update to the PLSO information I relayed in the last newsletter that concerns the proposed budget increase on page 16.



But first, let me share a story. While working a survey on East 30th Street just north of Euclid Avenue I bumped into Vaughn Smith (see left) and David Bruckner surveying the Euclid Corridor. I thought this odd since it's brand new. My questions revealed unusual information. Apparently, the consultant researched the centerline, surveyed the centerline, and submitted drawings which were then reviewed and approved by the city.



John G. Hoy
Communication Trustee
CSN Editor

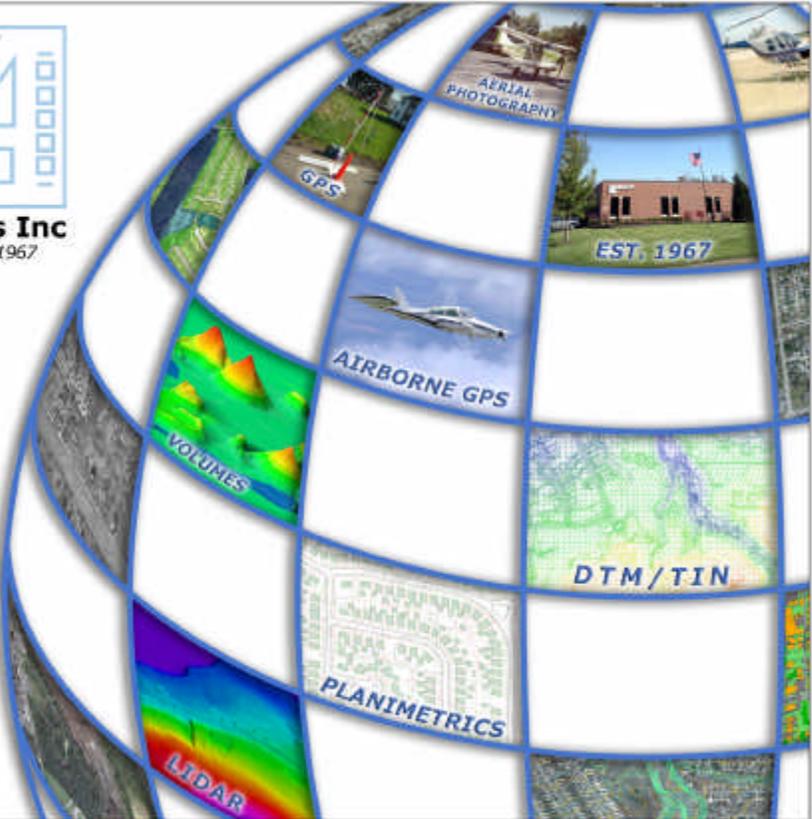
The survey missed an angle point at East 30th Street. New monumentation between East 22nd Street and East 55th Street is incorrect. In fact, the new center/center monument at East 30th Street is off more than a foot and a half. They were in the process of documenting the error but did not know how the documentation would be published. I suggested filing a plat in county records showing actual locations but that may be too involved. Hey, maybe we should all call Mayor Frank and see what he wants to do about it.



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**The Cleveland Chapter Annual Meeting
will be held Thursday, January 24 at
Karl's Inn at the Barristers**

1264 West 3rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio

To place a reservation contact:

Louise Veverka at (216) 251-6972



Louise Veverka
Program Trustee

5:30 social hour

6:30 dinner

Dinner menu:

Buffet including
chicken marsala,
italian sausage and
rigatoni,
mix vegetable,
rolls, salad and
a dessert.

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Annual
Committee Reports.

Installation of 2008
Executive Committee



Cindy Dunn wrapped up her set of AutoCAD seminars at the November Seminar meeting with *"Every Good Design begins with a Solid Foundation"*.

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30" x 1 5/8" x 1/2"	\$.25 ea		
24" x 1 5/8" x 1/2"	\$.20 ea	HUB MARKERS	<i>Bundles of 25</i>
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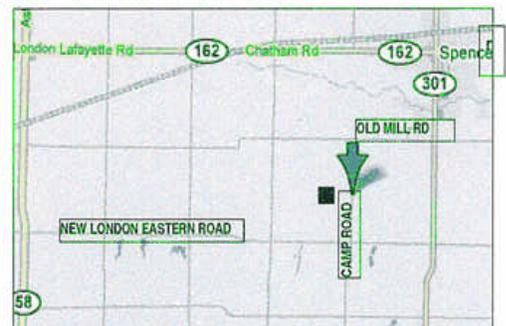
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Dear Fellow Members:



My year as president is rapidly coming to an end. As I reflect back on the issues and activities that the Board was involved in, it has become evident that my term was successful only because of the assistance I received from my fellow board members and several former board officers.

The year began with the installation of officers and the awarding of the 2007 Surveyor of the year to Neil Juhnke at the Annual Meeting, which was held at Sterle's Country House Restaurant.

The Board had to address the future of the Data Bank records due to the sale of Garrett and Associates. Although the C.W. Courtney Company graciously offered to continue storing the records at their office, the Board desired to find a permanent location. John Dailey and Jack Hoy were appointed to research all options and returned to the Board with a commitment from the Cuyahoga County Archives Division to accept, move and store these records. These Survey records are now available to all at 2905 Franklin Avenue.

All members of the Executive Committee have been heavily involved in the planning of the 2008 PLSO Conference which our chapter is hosting at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Cleveland. Mark Yeager has been overseeing all aspects of this as Conference Chairman. We will need your support to make this a successful Conference. Please consider signing up to obtain 12 PDH's for next years license renewal.

Robert Pappotto volunteered to coordinate the involvement of the Cleveland Chapter in the NSPS Trig Star Program for the first time with the award being presented to Colleen Maher of Trinity High School at the June membership meeting that was held at Dimitri's Restaurant in Parma. The State PLSO President, Brad Kramer also attended this meeting and spoke on the issues involving the State office.

Tom Snezek, the Trustee for Education, was requested by the Board to investigate the future of the Survey School. After Tom circulated a questionnaire, it was determined that we host two half-day seminars for field technicians. The first session was held on November 3, at the Cuyahoga County Engineer Test Lab training facilities. A Spring 2008 session is anticipated. I believe that the "School" will continue to evolve to address the current needs of our members. As President, I appreciate the ability to use the County Facilities so a big thank-you to Cuyahoga County Engineer Robert Klaiber for this and his support of the PLSO and our chapter in particular.

John Hoy, our Communication Trustee was successful in converting the Chapter Newsletter to our website for Internet downloading. Not only did this reduce our mailing costs but also expanded our website info with the assistance of the website sponsor, Frank B. Krause and Associates.

This year the Chapter instituted six CPD seminars that were held at the Airport Marriott Hotel. In November, the Board instructed Louise Veverka, the Program Trustee, to evaluate the success of these programs. Louise generated a questionnaire that was mailed to the entire membership along with the 2008 election ballots. The board will review the results in 2008.

One of the main goals for the Board this year was to make the Membership Trustee position more active in aggressively contacting potential members.

Tim Feller the Membership Trustee generated a welcome package and contacted new Licensees, students and reinstated PLSO members to inform them of our Chapter functions and activities.

The 34th Annual PLSO William J. Haas Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Pleasant Hills Golf Course in June. The efforts of co -Committee Chairs Rick Ziegman and Tom Snezek resulted in an enjoyable

Continued on next page...

outing for our members. Although the event had a small loss, which the Board attributes to the current economy, the belief is that the 2008 outing will be successful.

The August Old Timers Picnic was cancelled this year, due to a lack of interest by the membership. The 2008 Board will be exploring the possibility of changing the outing to a different type of venue.

I would like to thank Board members, Pete Zwick, Dave Bruckner, Tim Feller, Louise Veverka, Robert Hoy and John Hoy. I look forward to serving with you on the 2008 Board.

Also thank you to Sean Boland, Tom Snezek and Joe O'Donnell, Jr. for all their help this year. Although they are taking some well deserved time off from serving on the Board, I am sure they will still be active at all our functions.

Finally, I need to thank those members that serve our chapter by volunteering to serve on a committee. John Dailey, Jack Hoy, Mark Yeager, Robert Krause, Robert Papotto and Rick Ziegman have greatly helped our chapter in one way or another during the past year.

My final comments to you, the membership, consider getting involved. Run for an office at the local or State level. You will be surprised at what you will get out of it. To quote Tom Brokaw "You are educated. Your license is in your profession. Some may look at it as a ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change".

Respectfully,
John J. Bischof, P.S.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Summary for 2007

Since the last meeting two members were reinstated.

For 2007 we gained three new members of which one was a student member. We also had reinstated three former members. Our Chapter membership is at 143. This will be my last report as membership trustee as I will move on to the President-Elect position. Chuck Flannigan will be taking over the membership trustee position. Carry on Chuck!



Tim Feller
Membership
Trustee

Respectfully submitted by,

Tim Feller

Membership Trustee



ANNUAL MEETING, STATE:

In just a few weeks, the State PLSO Annual Meeting will be coming to Cleveland. Here is the perfect opportunity to take care of several things at one time. (I think they call that "multitasking.")

If you do not have a plan yet for your annual CPD. requirements for re-registration with the State Board of Registration, this would be an ideal time to pick up a large bunch of them. The program is set for February 7 and 8 at the Renaissance Hotel on Public Square. *Good location.*

These programs are usually top notch and well worth the time and effort. One of the nice things about this is that you only miss two days work and there are no hotel expenses involved. *Good quality and good price.*

The local committee, headed by Mark Yeager, has been working hard to make this program a success. Everything is there and waiting for you. The deadline for a discounted registration fee is Friday, January 18th, so you had better get your registration in quickly.

ANNUAL MEETING, CHAPTER:

On another note, the Chapter's Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24th. There is a notice of this meeting and a registration form elsewhere in this newsletter.

This is a time for the actions of the Chapter Executive Committee to be approved, accept the final reports and to say thank you to the elected officers who have served you for the last year.

Anyone who serves on the Executive Committee or as a chair of a committee deserves all the thanks they can get. The jobs are not hard, but they do require dedication and a solid commitment.

Come out and say thank you. They deserve it.

TAKE CARE IN TAKING NEW WORK:

A ringing telephone can be music to an surveyor's ears right now. It may mean that potential clients have heard about your services and are eager to learn more. A caller might have an assignment just right for your business.

During this business turndown, there is a strong temptation to say "yes" to anything that comes your way. After all, new projects do more than simply help your cash flow. They create opportunities for more work by providing solid experience and references for other customers.

Before you plan the celebration for this big job, take a moment to lay down some business "ground rules" for accepting new projects.

Can I do this job? During slow times, you may be tempted to take on projects that are outside your primary scope. Never agree to do a project unless you are absolutely certain you have the time, expertise and resources to do a satisfactory job. Also, make sure you want to continue doing this type of work in the future. You might be receiving calls for similar assignments, instead of the type of work you intended to do.

Scheduling: Consider whether the project interferes with other assignments under way or those on the horizon. The project might also necessitate additional help or resources. If so, be sure you have a ready source of qualified people, equipment and supplies.

Terms: You and the client should agree on a price before you begin work. This includes hourly rates, retainers, expenses and payment schedules. You should avoid underselling your services for the sake of having something to do. Otherwise, you penalize your business and yourself. And your clients might expect to pay the same for future projects, resisting any price increases.

Other projects: One new project might signal a big upturn in other job prospects. Remember that you are committed to doing the initial job, even if something more interesting and lucrative comes along.

This was excerpted from a business article in the Akron Beacon Journal by Gary Sutherland.

John E. Dailey, Past

DATA BANK SURVEYS

The **Second Scan** of surveys from the Data Bank are still available only to Members of PLSO. The scan contains about 2,700 survey drawings and comes with an index sorted both numerically by survey number and cross referenced by township / section / lot.

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2008 Surveyor of the Year

Sean A. Boland, P.S. started his surveying career back in 1978 with his first job as a Draftsman/Rodman for the City of North Olmsted. He then worked for the City of Lakewood as a Draftsman/Instrumentman until 1987. On May 26th, 1987 he was hired by the Cuyahoga County Engineers office as a Right Of Way Draftsman; in 1988 he was promoted to Instrumentman; in 1989 he was promoted to Party Chief and in 2002 was promoted to Survey Field Supervisor, the position that he currently holds today. Sean has many duties and responsibilities associated with his current position. He supervises multiple field crews, hands out work assignments and takes care of personnel issues. He's in charge of the protection and maintenance of the Cleveland Regional Geodetic Survey system (C.R.G.S.) and was instrumental in the creation of the Storm Water Management program. Sean has worked on numerous projects for the County Engineers office including the Crocker Road extension project, many bridge and culvert projects, the tow path trail project and numerous roadway widening and rehabilitation projects. His survey team maintains all of the Cuyahoga County right of way monuments which includes setting referencing points and resetting of the monuments at the conclusion of the County roadway construction projects.

Sean was born in Dayton, Ohio and raised in Lakewood. Like many of us he loves to work outdoors. Sean became registered in Ohio as a professional Surveyor in 1995. He became active in PLSO in the late 1980's and has held numerous officer positions including Treasurer, President, Alternate Chapter Delegate and Chapter Delegate. He has volunteered on several committees including the Annual William J. Haas Memorial Golf Tournament and the PLSO Family and Old Timers Picnic. Sean is currently serving on the 2008 PLSO State Conference Committee.

Sean and his wife Angela have two children: Megan (16) and Johnny (9). Sean spends a good portion of his spare time attending school and sporting events for his children. He enjoys watching sports and is active in coaching. He is a dedicated Cleveland Browns football fan and has been a season ticket holder for many years. Sean is active in the community and a member of the West Side Irish American Club.

You can congratulate Sean at the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2008.

Calendar

January 24	Annual Meeting
February 7&8	Annual Conference - Cleveland, Ohio
February 7	PLSO Annual Meeting
March 4-9	ACSM-IPLSA-MSPS Annual Conference, Spokane, WA www.acsm.net/conference.html
March 14	State Executive Committee Meeting
March 24	Executive Committee Meeting
March 25	Cleveland Surveying News Deadline

Executive Committee Meetings

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Chapter who want to attend.

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[Executive Committee Meeting highlights from 11/19/07](#)

Officers absent: Sean Boland. Also present: Jack Hoy, John Dailey & Char Snezek.

PLSO is going to consider raising dues in order to balance the 2008 budget.

The Chapter tentatively agreed to host the 2011 Conference provided that it is still necessary to hold it at large cities.

There were 12 registrants for the Technician Seminar.

The Chapter Handbook will be updated early next year.



Robert Hoy
Secretary
Staff Photographer

[Executive Committee Meeting highlights from 01/14/08](#)

Officers absent: none. Also present: Jack Hoy, Mark Yeager, Mike Straub, Chuck Flanigan, Char Snezek.

Our 2008 budget was approved.

Pete Zwick announced the results of the election and passed out a brief overview of the questionnaire results that was on the reverse of the ballot.

There was lively discussion about a proposed increase in P.L.S.O. membership dues. General consensus was that expenses should be cut before any increase in dues.

Discussion arose about the Chapter giving a scholarship for a local area student. This will be looked into later this year.

John Bischof received a thank you note from St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital for the Chapter's donation on behalf of Dick Mackay.

A replacement index for the 1st Scan CD of the Data Bank was sent by request to Reitz Engineering & Surveying.





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REPORT FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(January 16, 2008)



Tom Snezek
Education Trustee

The Education program has changed considerably over the two years of my term. When I started we were anticipating the CST classes to continue. When registration fell below the required 10 students, we conducted a survey to determine which direction we should go with the program. The survey indicated that interest in the classes had dropped so low that we cancelled them and decided to try a bi-annual, 3 hours, Saturday morning technician training program. Our first effort this past November, proved to be very successful. With interesting and vital topics being offered, it certain that we can continue to enjoy that level of success.

On the professional level, it was thought that the mandatory CPD requirements would result in an increased demand for professional educational seminars. We developed an excellent local, low-cost program that provides a resource for registered professionals to acquire 6 hours of CPD credit per year. This year we have reduced them to three instead of six since the Conference is in Cleveland and 12 CPD hours are available there. A variety of interesting and poignant topics will ensure sufficient attendance to continue this successful program. The 2007 year end budget report indicated that these two programs have met our goal from a financial perspective. We broke even.

In the past nine years I have enjoyed serving in many different capacities with the Cleveland Chapter and I would like to thank my fellow officers and members who have supported the efforts we have put together to maintain a comprehensive education program.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Snezek, P.S.

Education Committee Chairman

2008 Conference Committee

By now you should have received a pamphlet and registration form containing information on the 2008 Annual Conference to be held here in Cleveland February 7th and 8th. If you have not seen the form you can access it via internet at www.ohiosurveyor.org. Take note that registration forms postmarked after January 18th require a 15% surcharge. Also, there are a block of hotel rooms established at a special rate for conference attendees. The hotel contact information can also be found on the registration form or on the website. So if you are planning to attend the conference and want to save some money you'll need to sign up very soon.



At this point everything has gone well setting up the conference and we expect it to be a successful one. There are just a few final details to work out. Hopefully, you will find the speakers and topics of interest as there is a nice blend of respected national speakers and local talents. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity here in "your backyard".

See you at the conference!

Mark A. Yeager, P.S.
Conference Chair

Executive Committee meeting on Friday, November 9, 2007. In Columbus Ohio at 6 p.m.

Unfinished Business

Executive Director – Brad Kramer informed us that the issue is still at the mediation stage. They are looking for some dates to get together, and A.J. Myers as chair of the committee is looking into the possibility of outsourcing some of the office services. He is on a fact finding mission at present.

2008 Budget -I have included a copy of the proposed budget for 2008 as prepared by the budget committee. The total income is projected to be \$360,350.00 with the expenses to be \$416,810.00. This will create a negative budget -\$56,460. Brad Kramer has suggested a raise in the yearly dues to offset this budget deficit. He asked that we discuss this idea with our Chapter. He also explained that there are many items in the budget that are as of now still unknown. The executive director salary and the possible outsourcing of some of the office duties pertaining to the conference are still being discussed.

A discussion began about the cost of the seminars that lost money, along with the projected income from the conference. Bob Akins saw a problem with the individual chapters holding CPD seminars and thought that this was a reason why PLSO seminars were poorly attended. Also, the “freebies” given out at the annual conference are unnecessary in some delegates opinion and this would generate a few more bucks into the budget.

I spoke up for the Cleveland Chapter in all of these matters. I believe raising the dues would be a hard sell in the chapter, because of the many cut backs including the fewer newsletters being provided along with the debates created by the fall and summer seminars. I also told them that the budget set forward for the conferences were unrealistic, and that the way they go about setting a budget is wrong. The way we are doing it now, sets us up for very little profit. Also, I explained that we have approximately 140 members in the Cleveland Chapter and 20 to 40 people attend the CPD's class we offer. The remaining members are getting their hours somewhere else. I did not see our monthly meetings as a reason the recent seminars failed and the conference is poorly attended.

Machine Control Position – nothing really new with this. But the companies like “Property Corner Finders” have been issued warnings to stop their current practices. The website has been closed.

Changing Law on Metes and Bounds – this is a change the law and require P.S.'s to right ALL metes and bounds descriptions, including easements. PLSO will need to notify the attorney general about this matter.

New Business

State Board of Reg. – John from the state board has indicated that some number or percentage of registrations **WILL BE** audited for their PDH's. He did not give any number, but will audit as many persons as possible with money and resources available.

Committee Reports

PAC – Bob Akins reported very little change in the PAC fund. He sees a few issues coming up that we would want some representation on. Including the Metes and Bounds Law. Bob is asking for more donations to the PAC. A possible “Auction” at the conference was discussed as a way to generate some income. I will bring this up at the conference committee meeting.

Program - Bud just read the list of locations for the next three events. He did, however, ask if I would report back to the chapter with a request that we host the 2011 Annual Conference.

This was about the extent of the meeting before I had to leave. It took three hours to get to this point and I left at the 7.42 point of the evening.

Respectfully submitted.

Louise A. Veverka

State Executive Meeting

January 11,2008



Sean Boland

Chapter Delegate

4.2 24 Quarter Hour Requirements – Dean Ringle submitted an updated worksheet for applicants with a degree in Civil Engineering to be eligible for eventual registration as a professional surveyor.

4.5 Machine Control Statement – President Kramer submitted a letter from PLSO that voiced general support of the machine control position statement issued by Council of Professional Surveyors (COPS) in 2007.

5.1 New Members – three professionals, one associate, two students, and six reinstatement members were approved. Mark Jones requested and was approved for life membership status. Total of 1365 members.

5.2 2008 PLSO Officers – Paul Dinan (President); Dean Fredrick (President Elect); Jim Keyon (Secretary); Rion Meyers (Treasurer) and Brad Kramer (Immediate Past President).

5.3 Member of the Year – Mike and Ann Besch from the University of Akron were approved as co-member of the year.

7.46 Finance Committee – a proposed budget for 2008 was passed in November. Unless PLSO finds a way to increase income or reduce operational costs, PLSO will have a budget deficit for 2008.

This is my final report as Chapter Delegate. It has been an interesting year with some very important issues facing PLSO. Some of which are: 1) the need for PLSO to find an economical way to provide its members with CPD opportunities; 2) what we are going to do about the Executive Director's position and 3) a way to maintain a balanced budget.

Respectively Submitted,

Sean A.Boland
Chapter Delegate

The State of PLSO, an editorial viewpoint by John G. Hoy, P.S.

Questions from some of our Chapter Members for more details on the situation at the state level of PLSO have prompted me to write this article. Many were surprised to learn that PLSO adopted a negative budget for 2008. I am only relaying information, in this editorial, that I have learned about this situation because of my negotiations concerning the Newsletter Editor position.

It is no secret that although the 2006 Conference in Toledo was very well attended (they turned people away at the door) subsequent events have not been successful. The business seminars in Columbus in 2006 and 2007 both failed to break even. The Summer Seminar also falls in that failure category. The accounting of the Fall Seminar reports a \$1,000.00 profit that PLSO split with the Central Chapter. What are the reasons for this situation? Bad programs? Bad advertising? No. The problem can be traced to poor facility selection and even poorer contract negotiations with the facility. For example, the Fall Seminar had to pay over \$13,000 for rooms it guaranteed the resort but did not use. These were all decisions made by the Executive Director. The Executive Director also pushed for the hiring of a third employee at an earlier than planned date.

The President and the Executive Committee decided to terminate the Executive Director, an at will employee, before Labor Day. The termination is being challenged and may not be resolved for months. In the meantime, PLSO cannot remove the Executive Director's salary from the budget since the possibility exists that the termination could be reversed. However, several other changes were made to the 2008 schedule. The business seminar and summer seminar were removed from the budget. Although this eliminated venues that were losing money, it also eliminates venues that could have possibly made a profit. So the PLSO schedule now looks like it did in 2005. Two events, the Annual Conference and Fall Seminar. Yet we have three employees on the payroll when we used to handle two events with only one person. Why?

At the January PLSO Executive Committee meeting our finance committee recommended that we have to fix the budget deficit and have only two options: cut expenses or raise dues. The discussion went only toward raising dues and the primary reason is that surveyor organizations in other states have higher dues. Are they run more efficiently? Do they provide better service? The Ohio Surveying newsletter is the primary line of communication to our members. PLSO has struggled to get the Newsletter delivered in a timely manner. We cut the number of issues from six to four and could only publish three in 2006. It was announced that 2007 would have five to make up for the missing issue. That didn't happen. It could be because even though the Newsletter Editor is a paid staff member position, the grunt work is being done by the PLSO office. There are other similar examples. A committee is looking into improving efficiency but are not near any recommendations.

The budget increase recommendation being proposed is to raise dues \$25.00 per year for the next three years. We have 1365 members but some of them are student, life or retired and pay reduced, if any, dues. If 1100 are paying members the increase will be \$27,500 in 2008, \$55,000 in 2009 and \$82,500 in 2010. Has anyone seriously considered cutting expenses before throwing more money on a struggling operation? What's your opinion? Our Cleveland Chapter Annual Meeting is a good opportunity to discuss the situation. Let us know your thoughts.

You can also contact any of the following PLSO officers directly with your comments:

President Bradley J. Kramer: 937-667-4874 bradkramer@woh.rr.com, **President-Elect** Paul T. Dinan 614-837-7538 paul_dinan@yahoo.com, **Past President** Robert L. Akins 330-738-6631 akinssurveying@yahoo.com, **Treasurer** Albert O. Meyers, III 614-791-9899 aomiii@myerssurveying.com, **Finance Chair** Robert B. Ernsberger 419-878-3776 bobernsberger@embarqmail.com.

Or plan on seeing them at the Conference in February.