

# Cleveland Surveying News

October 2008

## **Fall Technician Workshop**

Monday November 10th, 2008

Topic: Ohio Utilities Protection  
Service (OUPS)

See Page 6 for details and registration form.

### **In This Issue:**

- Fall Technician Workshop Registration!
- Proposed 2009 State PLSO Budget
- Chapter History



**Cleveland**  
Chapter of PLSO

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

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

## Contents

### Features

<a href="#">Fall Technician Workshop</a>	6
------------------------------------------	---

### Articles

<a href="#">John Dailey - Random Lines</a>	9
--------------------------------------------	---

### Reports

<a href="#">Communication</a>	3
<a href="#">President's Message</a>	7
<a href="#">Elections</a>	12
<a href="#">Delegate</a>	13
<a href="#">2009 State PLSO Prop. Budget</a>	18

### Miscellaneous

<a href="#">Calendar</a>	3
<a href="#">Survey Discs</a>	12
<a href="#">Chapter History</a>	16
<a href="#">State Board's Website</a>	16

### Meetings

<a href="#">October 2nd Meeting Review</a>	11
<a href="#">Executive Committee Review</a>	14

### Editor's Message

The next and final issue of the year will come out in the middle of December. I will be taking this extra time to prepare the "G.I.S. Issue".

In the December issue I will detail, illustrate, and compare the G.I.S. systems of Cuyahoga County and the counties that surrounds it. It should give you some good reading while you are on vacation or if business is slow over the holidays.

We are a third of the way through the fourth quarter of the year, and there has only been two issues of the *Ohio Surveying News*. Issues over these past three years have been held up due to lacking content and waiting for conference and seminar information. In the past I've received an OSN then a week later a special thick conference brochure in the mail. Something needs to change. One option is to accept less advertising for 2009 to be able to publish smaller newsletters if content is such a problem; however, the Vision Committee's report, [See CSN Sept. 2008 P.21](#), offers good suggestions to fill the OSN with information about what PLSO has been doing. And the [2009 PLSO State Budget](#) suggests OSN advertising rates will increase when there hasn't been 4 issues published in a single year in recent memory.

Robert Hoy  
CSN Editor

#### ADVERTISER INDEX

4	<a href="#">Leica Geosystems</a>
7	<a href="#">Imaginit Technologies</a>
8	<a href="#">Roberts Surveying Supplies</a>
10	<a href="#">City Blueprint of Toledo</a>
12	<a href="#">Jake's Stakes</a>
13	<a href="#">Aerocon Photogrammetry</a>
15	<a href="#">Avatech Solutions</a>

#### 2008 Executive Committee

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**Robert Hoy**

Communication Trustee  
CSN Editor

I'm going to hit on a few items, so stay with me.

Election time. Ohio has been bombarded with "last hour" presidential election television ads for the last month because there has been early voting and absentee ballots for anyone wishing to vote that way. Last Hour ads are generally more negative with a more horrific tone that normally air only the week before the election. Thank goodness our Chapter and State PLSO elections are of a much lighter tone. You will be receiving ballots for both elections soon and you will notice I'm on the ballot for State Secretary this year.

John Bischof, our Past President, has reviewed our last CPD Seminar dinner later in this issue, but I'll add my observations. Our speaker is regularly sent to an area where there is unrest after an incident, and with good reason. He could make Frankenstein smile. He sat at my table during dinner, though he didn't eat, and was "on" the entire time. I should have received an extra hour of CPD credit because of it! Our speaker was great, but people that need to hear him speak are your field crews. If you want him to come speak to your field personnel, please contact Chapter President Peter Zwick.

I've recently received payment from all our newsletter advertisers for this year. Around 12 members who usually received the postcard newsletter notification were switched over to working email addresses I found in the **Members Only** section of [www.ohiosurveyor.org](http://www.ohiosurveyor.org). Please keep your contact information with the State PLSO current. If you change email addresses, update it and send me an email from your new address.

## 2008 Cleveland Chapter Calendar

November 6	<b>Seminar Meeting</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Fall Technician Workshop</b>
November 14	State Executive Committee Meeting
November 17	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>
December 4	Cleveland Surveying News Deadline
December 12	State Executive Committee Meeting (if needed)
December 15	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b> (if needed)
January 9, 2008	State Executive Committee Meeting
January 12, 2008	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>
January 13, 2008	Cleveland Surveying News Deadline
January 22, 2008	<b>Annual Meeting</b>

### Executive Committee Meetings


are held at the office of :





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

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**Thursday November 6, 2008****Speakers**

**Carl Gedeon** and **Grace Ann Kramer** of:  
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also affiliated with the U.S. Small Business Administration) and  
**Bob Fenn** from P.T.A.C. (U.S. Procurement Technical Assistance  
Center at Lake Erie College)



**Timothy Feller**  
President-Elect

**Topic**

"Enhancing Business Skills" 1.5 CPD Hours

- General business advice in a tough economy
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- Negotiation and marketing techniques
- Working with the government
- Improving our self image as a profession

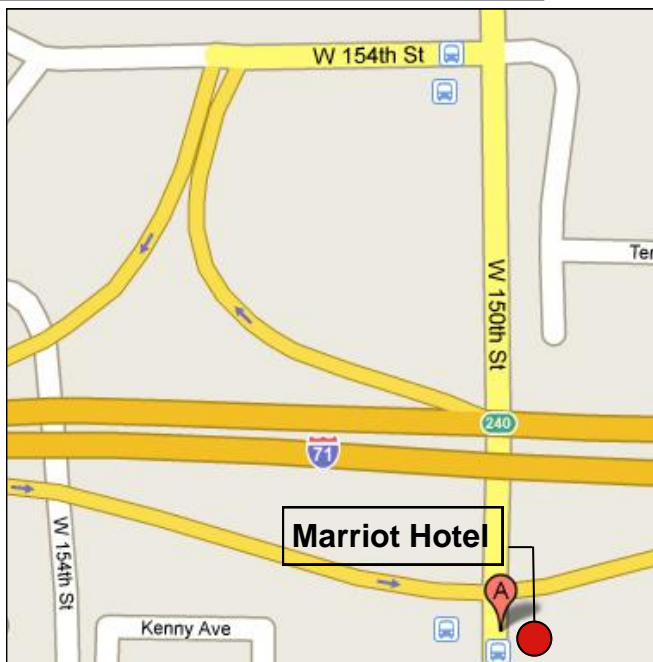
**Price**

Members	\$35.00
Non-Members	\$60.00

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5:30 - 6:00: Social/Registration

6:00-6:30: Dinner

6:30-8:00: Speakers

**Menu**

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House Salad, rolls & butter  
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**Reservations**

Contact Tim Feller by

Tuesday November 4th:

[timf@mcsteen.com](mailto:timf@mcsteen.com) or 440-585-9800

[Click Here](#) for a full Google Map page for the hotel.



**Topic:** Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS)  
**When:** Monday November 10, 2008  
**Time:** 5:45 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Cuyahoga County Engineer's classroom facility

What are the benefits of attending this workshop? As survey techs are usually involved in preparing base maps showing existing utility information, this workshop will be an excellent opportunity for them to improve the quality and accuracy of their utility base maps.



**Robert A. Papotto**  
Education Trustee

**Date:** Monday November 10, 2008  
**Time:** 5:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with Pizza and soft drinks at 5:45  
**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  
[Click Here](#) for a Google Map page of the workshop location.  
**Cost:** \$30.00  
**Registration Deadline:** Thursday November 6, 2008

### Workshop Overview:

Speaker Alice Miller from OUPS will be discussing OUPS Pre-Planning Ticket Procedures.

Topics will include:

- What information is needed by OUPS operators for accurate locations
- Tips from OUPS Operators-common questions
- How to use the new On-Line OUPS system for Pre-Planning information
- Questions

Also a presentation on how to interpret and translate the information provided from an OUPS Pre-Planning request and how to plot the information as accurately as possible.

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

(Make checks payable to Cleveland Chapter of PLSO) **Mail To:** Bramhall Engineering & Surveying  
Attn: Bob Papotto - PLSO  
801 Moore Road  
Avon, Ohio 44011

**For further information** call Robert Papotto 440-934-7878

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Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Recently, Cleveland PLSO has been contacting local Building Departments and City Engineers to educate City officials about property lines. Especially in regard to permits for the construction of fences, the letters stressed the need for registered surveyors to determine property lines. Of course, we recommended that surveyors be engaged to stake any new construction. This campaign was initiated by the Executive Committee to address reports that some building departments were advising residents to submit permit applications based upon Mortgage Location Surveys, "plot plans" and even G.I.S. mapping. Obviously, only performing a proper boundary survey will adequately protect the public (and likely save them money in the long run). *If you are aware of any municipalities within Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties that should be contacted*, then please notify me as soon as possible, and I will send them a letter. So far, most of the City officials have been grateful for the advice. A copy of the letter appears below for your reference. ([see next page](#))



**Peter Zwick**  
Chapter  
President

Why not attend an upcoming Chapter meeting and let your officers know how you feel about this or other concerns? We all know that surveyors are opinionated, so let's hear what you have to say. Call Tim Feller ASAP to attend the November 6<sup>th</sup> CPD dinner meeting (1 ½ PDH), or call George Hoffman to make a reservation for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting.

Please join me in congratulating next year's slate of candidates for office; and in thanking all those who are currently serving the Chapter. There is always the need for volunteers to help with various assignments -- please contact any Trustee to learn what you can do to help out. Don't forget that active committee members can earn 2 PDH's each year.

[\(Continued on Page 8\)](#)



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(Continued from Page 7)

City Building Department  
Re: **Fence Permits**

Gentlemen:

Cleveland Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio is writing to Building Departments in the area to offer the following helpful information regarding new fence construction.

Permit requirements vary from one community to the next, but there is only one way to locate a property line in the state of Ohio—that is for a registered surveyor to survey it in compliance with the State Code. Therefore, Building Departments should recommend that homeowners engage a registered land surveyor to stake the property lines for new fences. This should also avoid liability on your part, and help to avoid disputes between neighbors. Hopefully, you are already doing this !

Reliance upon anything else, such as mortgage location surveys (not “real” surveys), construction records or G.I.S. websites, is risky and does a great disservice to the public. The trouble and expense to move a new fence that encroaches is significantly more costly to all parties. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the need for “real” surveys, and to encourage Building Departments to notify the public of the facts.

On behalf of PLSO, I would be happy to further discuss this matter, or to answer any other surveying questions that you may have—please telephone me or contact any one of the officers listed at the left.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peter D. Zwick, P.S., P.E.  
**PLSO President**  
Cc: City Engineer

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Last month, I talked about the bad and worsening economy. I also said that this downturn (recession?) would not last forever. Right now we're going through a time of just trying to continue our business (definition: SURVIVE). It is during this slow time that you should be preparing for the future upsurge. Don't laugh, it will come and usually when you least expect it.

Back in the early 1970's there was a severe downturn. I had my crews out on the very last paying jobs we had and I had nothing on the table. Our office was already painted, the equipment cleaned and all the other "make work" jobs were done. Things looked pretty bleak. I went out to lunch. When I came back, my secretary said I had a call waiting. I took it and there was another call coming in. The dam had burst. By the time I left the office that night, I had 18 months work lined up. It happens quickly.

Since you may have lost some of your employees, it may be time to reassess your hiring practices. First, take the time to determine what positions have to be filled. What responsibilities will they have, what skills will they be required to have? What do you expect from them? This study will help you prepare a job description. Write out what the job entails and what your expectations are.

Write a help wanted ad playing up the opportunities your company can offer. Make use of the Cleveland Surveying News and the Ohio Surveying News when looking for people with specialized skills. Pay attention to the students coming out of the survey schools. Look for someone with an NSPS Survey Technician Certification. You may just find a gem.

Do not set up interviews less than an hour apart. Any candidate deserves the courtesy of a relaxed interview. Prepare your questions in advance and ask every candidate the same questions. That way you can compare answers. Be wary of the person who has jumped around a lot. This may not be the loyal employee you are looking for.

Immediately after the interview, write down your thoughts and impressions and attach them to the job application for future reference. If you have several applicants, you may forget who said what.

When you narrow the field of applicants, do not be

afraid to do a background check. This does not mean only the references given you. There are several firms that provide background checks for a fee. You are running a firm that has a lot of contact with the public, so you should be sure that the person you are hiring is one that you really want representing you. If you are working around schools, you do not want a sexual predator on your staff. You have company vehicles. Do you want a drug addict driving for you?

When you choose someone, whether for a contract employee or an at-will employee, put your offer into letter form detailing working hours, wages, benefits and expectations. That way everyone is on the same page and there should be no misunderstandings.

You are in a buyers market. You have the right (and duty) to be choosy.

On a different subject, **How to Use A Telephone:** "A telephone call to be successful requires that both parties give their individual and undivided attention to the conversation. Keep the lips close to the mouthpiece and speak slowly and distinctly.

To avoid misunderstandings in answering telephone calls use the firm's name, your name, the name of the department or the telephone number as best fits the condition. It is particularly advisable to instruct employees as to the proper way to answer the telephone.

Pleasant tones and courteous language over the telephone are the reflection of an agreeable personality. They prevent the friction that is sometimes experienced by the telephone user who unconsciously uses an abrupt and harsh tone of voice."

This was an ad placed in the Cleveland Plain Dealer in May, 1916 by the Cleveland Telephone Company. Many of the points they make are as true today as they were 92 years ago.

John E. Dailey, Past  
e-mail: [jdailey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdailey@sbcglobal.net)



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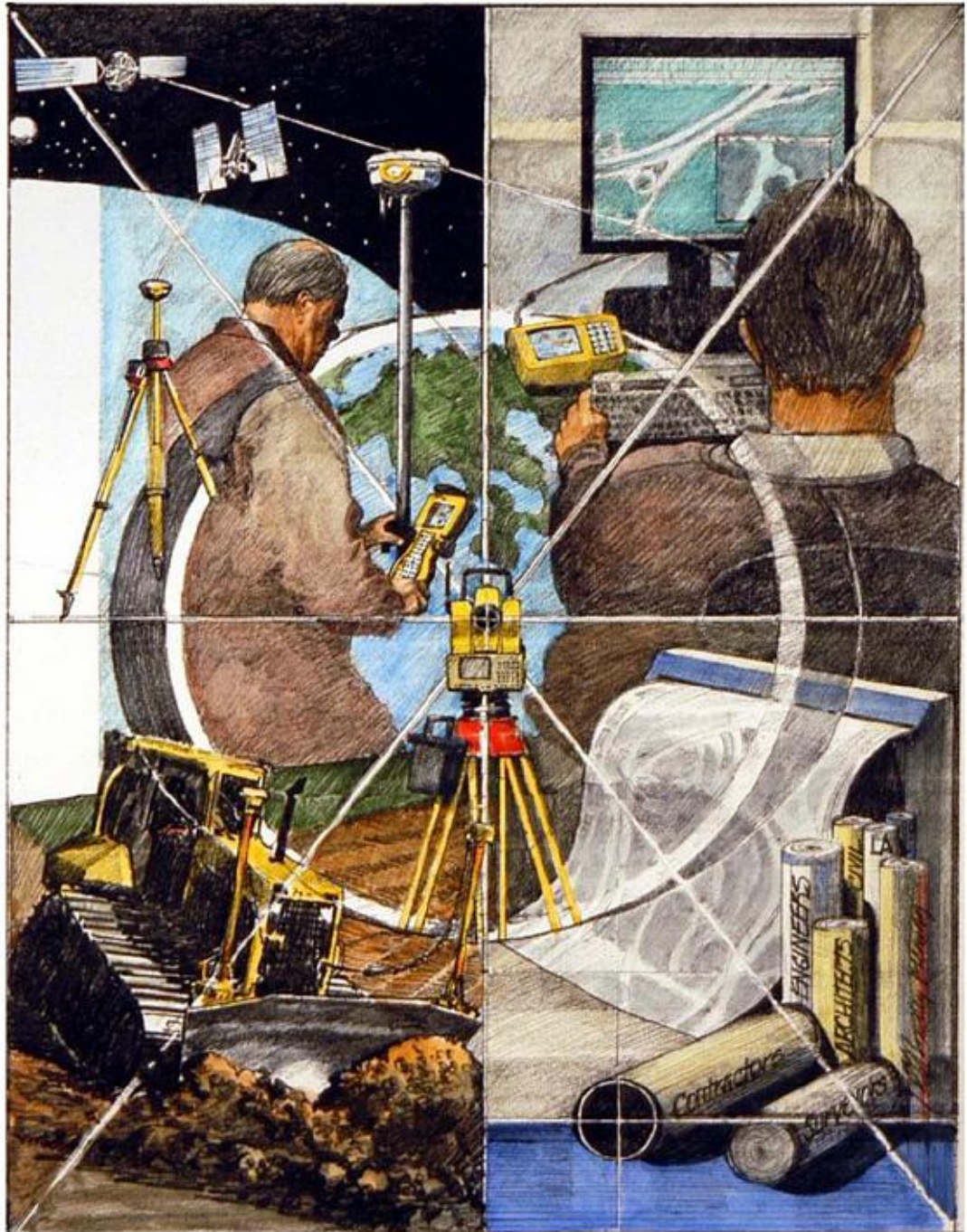
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Our second seminar for continuing education in 2008 was held on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Marriott Hotel in Cleveland. The topic was "Surveying Precautions in Urban Areas" as presented by Sergeant Jeff Stanscyk of the Cleveland Police Department.

Sergeant Stanscyk spoke of conditions that we should be aware of when preparing to do a survey in Cleveland. Several facts he stated were the current existence of about 100 neighborhood gangs and the more than 50 calls for assistance per hour, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week that the Police department is averaging. The bottom line is that the department is extremely busy and aid may not come as quickly as needed when a call is made.

The overriding message of the night was to know the area you are working. When arriving on the site, look around. Who may be watching you? Is there any gang type graffiti on the buildings marking territory? Where is the nearest police or fire station? Where can our Survey Crew go if there is a possible problem? The answer to these questions should be known before leaving the vehicle.

We often become complacent in our work and need a reminder from time to time to remember that our crews are vulnerable when they go in the field. Also, don't think that the inner city is the only place that trouble can happen. Officer Stanscyk quoted some crime statistics for some of our more prominent suburbs. Let's all stop and think before we begin the survey.

A "potential victim" demonstration was performed to see what we should be looking for when a stranger approaches someone in the field. Body movements and verbal conversation can reveal the intentions of the stranger. Thanks go to Jim Wendorf for volunteering to be the surveyor victim.

A bonus to the evening was the attendance of State President Paul Dinan and President-Elect Dean Frederick. Paul spoke of the current efforts to hire a new Executive Director and the applications that have been received to date.

Paul also reminded us about the next Annual Conference that will be held in Columbus on February 12 to 14 in 2009. Members will be pleased to learn that the State is returning this to a three day format that will offer 15 PDH's. The opportunity to earn your required yearly total hours was a major complaint with last year's format.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our last CPD Seminar for 2008 to be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>.



**John Bischof**  
Past President



**Paul  
Dinan**

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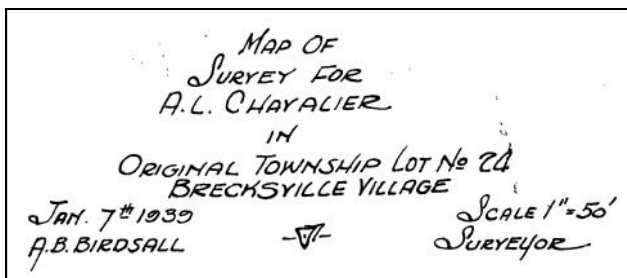
All proceeds of these donations will go towards the scholarship endeavors the Chapter has recently embarked upon.

**Note:** These items can be purchased only by PLSO members, must be picked up at Chapter meetings only, and have to be ordered in advance.

3 members have already received theirs, so request yours today!

For information and ordering contact:

Robert Hoy at 216-389-7677 or [k666@cox.net](mailto:k666@cox.net)

**Elections**

It's that time of year, once again, to elect the most capable candidate(s) to lead us into the future.

In a democratic society voting is the most important act one can do, even at the lowest level of government. Your Chapter is a government and requires the same voting involvement. Please take the time to complete and return the ballot that you will soon be receiving in the mail as soon as possible.



**Timothy Feller**  
President-Elect

Your participation will ensure that each elected official will go forward in the coming year with the confidence that he or she has the support of all Chapter Members.

The candidates for our 2009 Executive Committee offices are as follows:

President-Elect-----Michael Straub  
Chapter Delegate-----John G. Hoy & George Hoffman  
Treasurer -----John Bischof  
Secretary-----Michael Ackerman  
Trustee-----Eric Short and Chuck Flannigan

Thank you!

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Executive Committee Meeting on Friday, October 17, 2008

Call to order: 6:15 p.m.

Minutes for the September meeting were not available. The ACSM Governor (Mike Besch), 2<sup>nd</sup> Past President (Bob Akins) and the following Chapter Delegates were absent: Central Ohio, Muskingum Valley, Scioto Valley, Thomas Hutchins, Treaty Lands, Western Reserve and all three Student Chapters. Upon completion of a roll call, determination of a quorum (15), the minimum required and review of the Treasurers report the meeting turned to **Unfinished Business**.



**John G. Hoy**  
Delegate

4.5 Website Upgrade: No additional information was available about proposed features or costs.

4.6 President-Elect Dean Frederick submitted the Nominating Committee's 2009 candidates for office: President Elect Rion Myers, Secretary run off between Jim Kenyon and Robert Hoy, Treasurer run off between Dana Parsell and Brett Tieben, ACSM Governor Mike Besch.

### **New Business**

5.1 One new member, one affiliate, two students and a retired member were accepted. None were from the Cleveland Chapter.

Review of the proposed 2009 Budget. The proposed budget (see enclosure) does not balance by almost \$20,000. When questioned, the explanation of how the budget was determined is this – the anticipated dues for 2009 were based on the number of 2008 renewals received at this time. The reason for this calculation was that we increased the dues this year. Although dues notices were mailed timely this year, about 20% have not been paid. You're not being counted for the budget unless you are

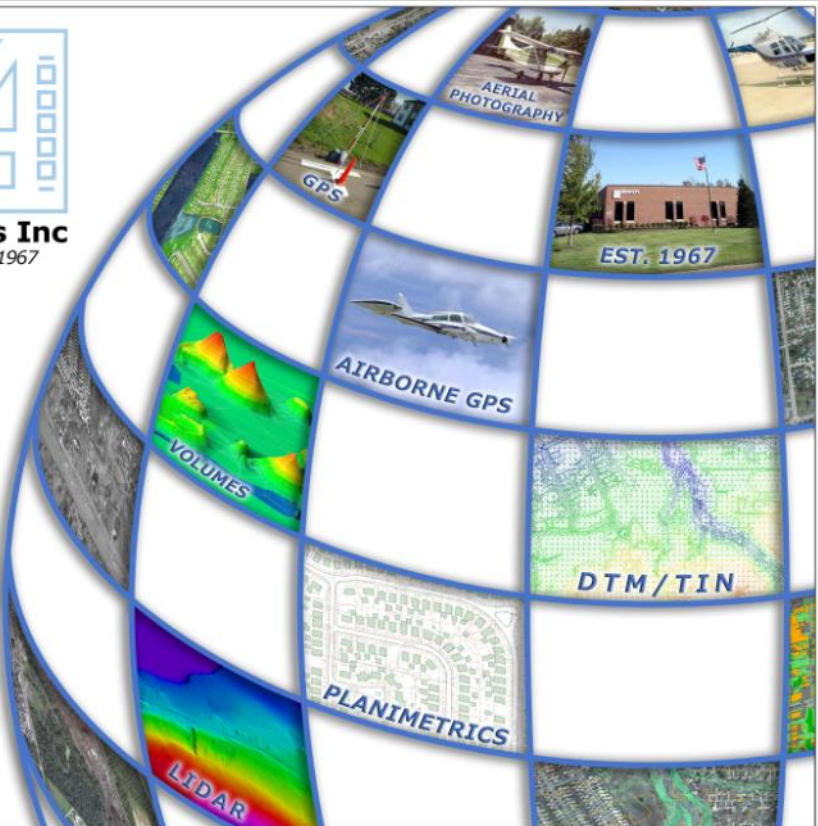
*(Continued on Page 14)*



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*(Continued from Page 13)*

current with your dues. The numbers will be reviewed at the November meeting when the budget will be approved. If you haven't done so already, pay your dues.

### **Committee Reports**

Executive Director Search Committee: Frank Snyder reported that the advertisement ran in the Columbus Dispatch and was listed on Monster.com. To date there are 85 applicants.

Newsletter Editor: No change of status since the last meeting. Issue 3 is being assembled. Deadline for Issue 4 is November 1, 2008.

7.3 Mike Besch reported that next week is the NSPS "Lobbying Week" in Washington. He will be unable to attend and is looking for someone to attend in his place.

Chapter contributions for the 2009 Trig-Star program are asked to be paid after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

7.4 The 2008 Fall Seminar had 188 full registrants with additional; one day registrants to bring the two day total to 257. For the first time tickets were used to gain entry to CPD sessions. This eliminated problems with attendees switching rooms.

7.50 Review of the office staff was performed earlier today by the Management Review Committee.

### **Chapter Delegate Reports**

Many chapters have started their own CPD seminar meetings of varying credit and topics. These events are listed on the PLSO website. Visit it often to keep updated.

Motion to adjourn: 8.15 p.m.

### **Executive Meeting Highlights**

Meeting highlights from 10/20/08, office of John R. Hoy & Associates:

All officers were present for the 6:00 PM meeting at the office of John R. Hoy & Associates except Bob Papotto and Chuck Flanigan. Jack Hoy also attended.

John G. Hoy gave an oral report on the State Meeting noting that there was barely a quorum.

Bob Hoy, CSN editor has been collecting advertising dollars. Bob is also readying the special December issue of CSN.

President-elect Tim Feller is working on the Spring CPD Seminars, set for March thru May of 2009.

Bob Papotto reported via email to President Zwick and John Hoy on the proposed Cleveland Chapter Scholarship Program, noting Purpose, Eligibility, Applications and Committee formation, among other things.

It was noted that Bob Hoy is running for State Secretary. If elected, Bob will also continue to be CSN Editor.

Tim Feller submitted the 2009 slate of candidates for Cleveland Chapter Office. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM



**Michael A. Straub**  
Secretary



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**Highlights from Historical Cleveland Chapter Newsletters**

- The 1979 Christmas Dance was attended by 188 with 18 companies (surveying and non-surveying) and individuals donating door prizes.
- Spring of 1980 the Chapter sent a letter of objects to the mayor of Cleveland regarding the Cleveland Water Pollution Control's new policy to withhold sewer records from consultants. The policy was reviewed and changed to the previous "easy access" policy.
- April 1980, PLSO is waiting to hear from their attorney if surveyors have a right to trespass while performing boundary surveys. Once we are told "We don't", we're going to try and enact legislation to get this right, much the same as the Michigan surveyors have. Michigan recently passed a "Trespass Law" which allows Michigan surveyors to go on private property in the course of their duties. *(Getting a law passed similar to Michigan's law has been talked about for this long.)*
- 90 people attended the Cleveland Chapter picnic in 1980.
- March 1981, The Cleveland Chapter congratulates new Bishop Anthony Pilla who worked for the State of Ohio as a rodman on a Survey Crew during the construction of the Lakeland Freeway in the mid 1950s with Pete Knezevic as his Crew Chief. Bishop Pilla was attending seminary school at the time and during summer vacation he helped on the construction of the freeway.
- August 1981, The Cleveland Chapter sponsors a "Drafting Room Workshop" for 82 attendees and the attendance was lower than had been anticipated. Chairman of the effort was John Dailey.
- 84 people attended the Cleveland Chapter family picnic in 1981.
- October 1981, PLSO helps to raise the necessary \$12,000 to restore the Ephraim Brown Land Office at Hale Farm and Village through raffling off a Wild T-1 Theodolite at the Annual Conference. *(Note: this building recently had to be restored again with the help of PLSO.)*
- December 1981, at the Cleveland Chapter's October meeting, Greg Scarnecchia of the Ohio Rail Authority gave a presentation regarding a system of 185 m.p.h. bullet trains proposed for Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, linking cities such as Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, Akron, and Canton. Anticipated charges are projected to be about half that of air travel. A film of existing system in Britain, France, West Germany, and Japan was shown.

**State Board's Website**

The website address for the State of Ohio Board of Registration for Surveyors and Engineers as changed from [www.ohiopeps.org](http://www.ohiopeps.org) to [www.peps.ohio.gov](http://www.peps.ohio.gov) It has also been redesigned and easier to navigate.

They also list qualifying and non-qualifying types of continuing education activities here:  
<http://www.peps.test.ohio.gov/ContinuingEducation.aspx>



**PROPOSED 2009 PLSO BUDGET***(To be voted on 11/14/08)***RECEIPTS**

1. Dues	\$	135,000
2. O.S.N. Advertising		8,000
3. Refresher Course		4,000
4. Book Sales		5,000
5. Educational, P.R.		100
6. TrigStar		500
7. Miscellaneous Sales (e.g. lapel pins, etc.)		100
8. Other Income (e.g. chapter donations, refunds, etc.)		400
9. Annual Conference		175,000
10. Summer Seminar		0
11. Fall Seminar		50,000
12. PLSO Business Seminar		0
13. Checking Interest		250
14. Savings Interest		2,500
<b>RECEIPTS TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 380,850</b>

**EXPENSES****A. Professional**

1. Executive Director Payroll (incl. Insurance + Payroll Taxes)	\$	75,000
2. Executive Director Expenses		2,000
3. Certificates and Plaques		1,500
4. Inter-Association Support		4,000
5. Legal Consulting		3,000
6. Printing and Mailing		3,000
7. Annual Meeting Courtesy Fees		2,500
8. Officer Travel Expenses		7,000
9. Legislative Services		3,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 101,000</b>

**B. Administration**

11. Assistant Executive Director Payroll (incl. Payroll Taxes)	\$	55,400
12. Assistant Executive Director Expenses		2,000
13. Admin. Assistant Payroll (incl. Payroll Taxes)		15,000
14. Administrative Assistant Expenses		500
15. Rent (including utilities)		16,260
16. Telephone		2,000
17. Web Site		1,000
18. Copies (Outsourced)		100
19. Postage		3,000
20. Office Supplies & Maintenance		3,000
21. Office Furniture & Equipment		1,500
22. Bank and Credit Card Charges		5,000
23. Accounting Consultant Fees		2,000
24. Purchase of Resale Items		1,000
25. Insurance		3,600
26. Miscellaneous (e.g. moving expense, filing fees, etc.)		1,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 112,360</b>

**C. Education**

31. OSN Printing & Mailing	\$	22,000
32. OSN Editor Payroll (incl. Payroll Taxes)		3,750
33. Refresher Course		2,000
34. Book Purchase		2,500
35. Educational, P.R.		1,000
36. TrigStar		1,000
37. Annual Conference		125,000
38. Summer Seminar		0
39. Fall Seminar		30,000
40. PLSO Business Seminar		0
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 187,250</b>

<b>EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>400,610</b>
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