

Cleveland Surveying News

March 2015

- **Social Dinner - March 5**
- **Cuyahoga County GIS**
- **Help Wanted!**
- **Annual Meeting Photos**

Cleveland Chapter

Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio

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(vacant)

PRESIDENT-ELECT
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(vacant)

Cleveland Surveying News

Volume 14, Issue 1
Distribution: 410

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Publisher: [Robert Hoy](#)

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Cleveland Chapter of PLSO
P. O. Box 81713
Cleveland, OH 44181-0713

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Social Dinner Meeting Thursday March 5

Location: Winking Lizard
14018 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood
216-226-6693

Cost: Order off the menu, pay your own bill.

Time: 6:00 PM

Get out and meet up with us! Come talk about your Annual Conference experience, this enduring cold winter, your latest projects, the new Golf Outing, equipment, things you've seen... everything!



Reservations:

Contact Mike Kral:
secretaryclevelandplso@gmail.com
440-465-4394

Chapter Executive Committee Meeting

Our next executive meeting will be:

When: March 16
Time: 6:00 PM
Where: Neff & Associates 6405 York Road
Parma Heights



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Look for more details coming next month.

Help Wanted!

Polaris Engineering and Surveying in Willoughby Hills, Ohio is currently seeking a Survey CAD Technician. Candidate will be responsible for the preparation of topographic/utility mapping, ALTA surveys, residential site plans and survey plats through the use of AutoCAD software. The position includes technical support and data preparation for survey crews.

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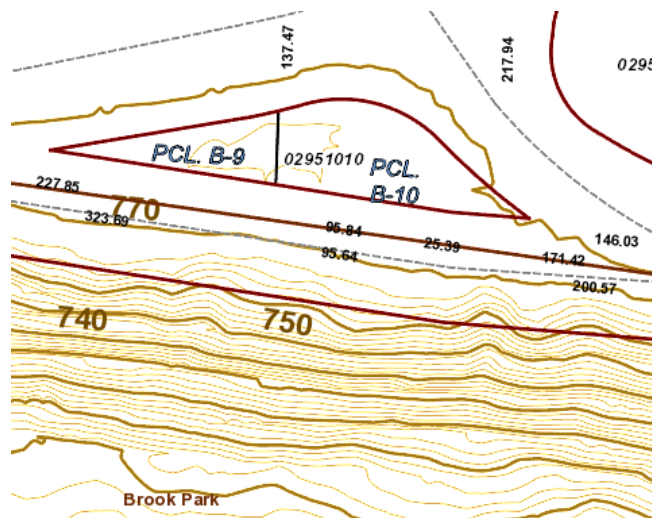
New Cuyahoga County GIS

Cuyahoga County has a new GIS.
myplace.cuyahogacounty.us

Highlights:

- Mapping zooms in and out with mouse scroll wheel
- *Greatly* increased site speed
- New *and* old aerial imagery

This update was sorely needed. The original county GIS was cumbersome and rather slow. Look for a detailed overview in the April CSN.



Litchfield, Ohio

This is the type of sign that would feel more at home in the oil & gas region that is southeast Ohio instead of in Litchfield. Litchfield is 12 miles west of the city of Medina.



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Cleveland Chapter's Delegate Report

The report included herein is offered only as informational to the members of the Cleveland Chapter. The reader is deferred to the approved minutes of the P.L.S.O. for any clarifications

Friday January 9, 2015 Call to Order 6:04 PM

- It was determined that a quorum was not present. Melinda will send out an E-mail vote to be taken on all motions early next week
- Secretary's minutes for the Nov. 2014 meeting was tabled till the March 2015 meeting
- Treasurers report was accepted for financial review.
- New Members : 7 Professional, 1 Associate, 3 Student, and 1 Sustaining
- Member of the year nominations were accepted. Steven Cahill was nominated by the Cincinnati Chapter, and Mark Cameron by the Central Chapter.
- Political Action had no contributions . Balance \$2,790.35 as of Dec. 31, 2014
- Newsletter: Winter edition has been sent, next deadline March 1, 2015.
- Trig Star: Chapters are asked to start contacting schools for 2015 testing .
- Updates for upcoming conferences were discussed.
- Legislation: OUPS will have a session at the 2015 conference to give update. Enforcement of newly passed OUPS laws to be enforced beginning in 2016.
- Chapter Delegates reports - reported briefly on there Chapters past events and upcoming events..
- Melinda Gilpin gave brief summary of her activities
- President Bingham gave a brief summary of his past months duties as president.



George Hofmann
Delegate

Meeting adjourned around 7:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, George A. Hofmann

An invaluable tool for Cleveland Chapter members is exclusive access to the Survey Bank containing thousands of surveys in our area. Painstakingly catalogued by member volunteers, this is a searchable database covering Cuyahoga County with overlap into adjoining counties.

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Dino Lustri
dino@dles.co



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Surveyor Spotlight - Ryan Snezek – PS

by Steven Metcalf, PS

What year did you become a surveyor?

Univ. of Akron Grad., Licensed OH Prof. Surveyor 2010

What company do you work for, how long?

Stephen Hovancsek & Assoc. for 7 1/2 years and have recently become partner. We are 10 employees, 1 full time survey crew, & are looking to hire a swing player or a Co-op for office/ field use with a busy year projected ahead of us. We are City Engineers for multiple cities within the area & development in Northeast Ohio has kept us really busy.



What lead you into the surveying profession? Why?

My Father Tom Snezek, P.S. brought me into the profession at an early age. Myself, Sean my brother, and my sister Britney all helped Dad with his field work. We were cheap labor, but really this survey work kept us all fed and paid for our Catholic Education. It taught us the strong Snezek work ethic, which is ..Why sit on the couch & loaf, I could work, earn, and save for the needs and fun later.

Where you ever an intern or where did you start?

My list is long and all brought me great experience: I started very young with my Dad, later I worked for L.V. surveying - Louise Veverka, Reitz Engineering, McSteen & Assoc., K.S. & Associates after graduation and then the economic turndown happened. And finally I landed at Stephen Hovancsek.

Who were your mentors?

My Father Tom Snezek, Louise Veverka (L.V.), Mark Yeager (KS), Rick Castello, and unlicensed crew chief who taught me the world in the field, and definitely Bob Smoltz at Hovancsek.

Have you always surveyed in Ohio? Other states? Or Parts of Ohio?

Ohio only – but have everywhere north of Columbus, as far as Zanesville to Findlay & in between.

Do you prefer the field or the office better? Why?

When I was younger I loved the field work, the outdoors, & new territory. Now that I'm in my 30's, I enjoy the office portion, working with clients. I get to wear both White & Blue Collars.

What surveying instrument & vehicles do you use? Did you have a favorite over the years?

We use the Focus 10 Robot and the Spectra Epics 35 GPS with a Silverado Pickup or Ford Ranger. My favorite instrument so far has been the Trimble S6 Robot because the Auto-lock feature is the best.

Is there a type of surveying you are interested in but you're not currently doing?

Laser Scanning surveying would be interesting.

What item/ classes/ topic would you like added to the Annual PLSO conference classes?

I would like more information and the actual math breakdown examples behind the Ohio State Plane Grid to Ground conversions. Gary Schuller Cleveland PLSO seminar in October was a great overview, maybe he can be added for the next one with math examples. Civil 3D tips are also always helpful.

Do you have a good funny surveying war story?

Starting with my father at a young age, my father would calculate the boundaries for about an hour. That gave Sean & I time to break out the range pole/ tack ball baseball games, loved those. I received some underage early driving lessons on the 2 lane chip & seal back (Cont'd on Page 10)

Annual Meeting Photos by Robert Hoy



2015 Surveyor of the Year
Award recipient George
Hofmann and his wife Margie.

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Annual Meeting Photos (from [Page 10](#))



President-Elect Steve Metcalf addresses the crowd after being sworn in.

(Cont'd on [Page 10](#))



PLSO Past President Jack Hoy swears in new officers: George Hofmann, Steve Metcalf, Tim Feller, Mike Kral

Surveyor Spotlight, Ryan Snezek, PS (from [Page 8](#))

roads to go pick up the backsight. I felt so cool, minus the "Crankshaft" mailbox job I did once backing out, not so cool. I had to pay for that one myself. The best or worse story was about my father's over built elaborate wood field box. We were in the field, and I needed to move Dad's 1997 F150 truck which was mud covered due to where we parked. I decided to punch the gas to blow off all the mud from the truck, problem was I left the tail gate open and smashed my father prized tool box to pieces. Haven't lived that on down.

What was the coldest/ hottest place or time your surveyed?

In college, working for KS & Associates, it was a winter survey off of I-77 in which, on a property where illegal fill and dumping was happening. An interceptor sewer was being crushed, and I was on top of the hill next to the monopole. The wind chill was -20 that day & I'm standing next to the instrument not moving and freezing while Rick Castello was down in the valley moving and warm. Rough Day. Hottest day so far was at St. Bridget's church in Parma on a staking project. Bob Smotlz and I started on the extremely hot blacktop and then transferred to the even hotter metal roof. What a day to not have the prismless instrument!

General Questions:

If you weren't a surveyor what would you be?

I would love to be a teacher like my brother Sean.

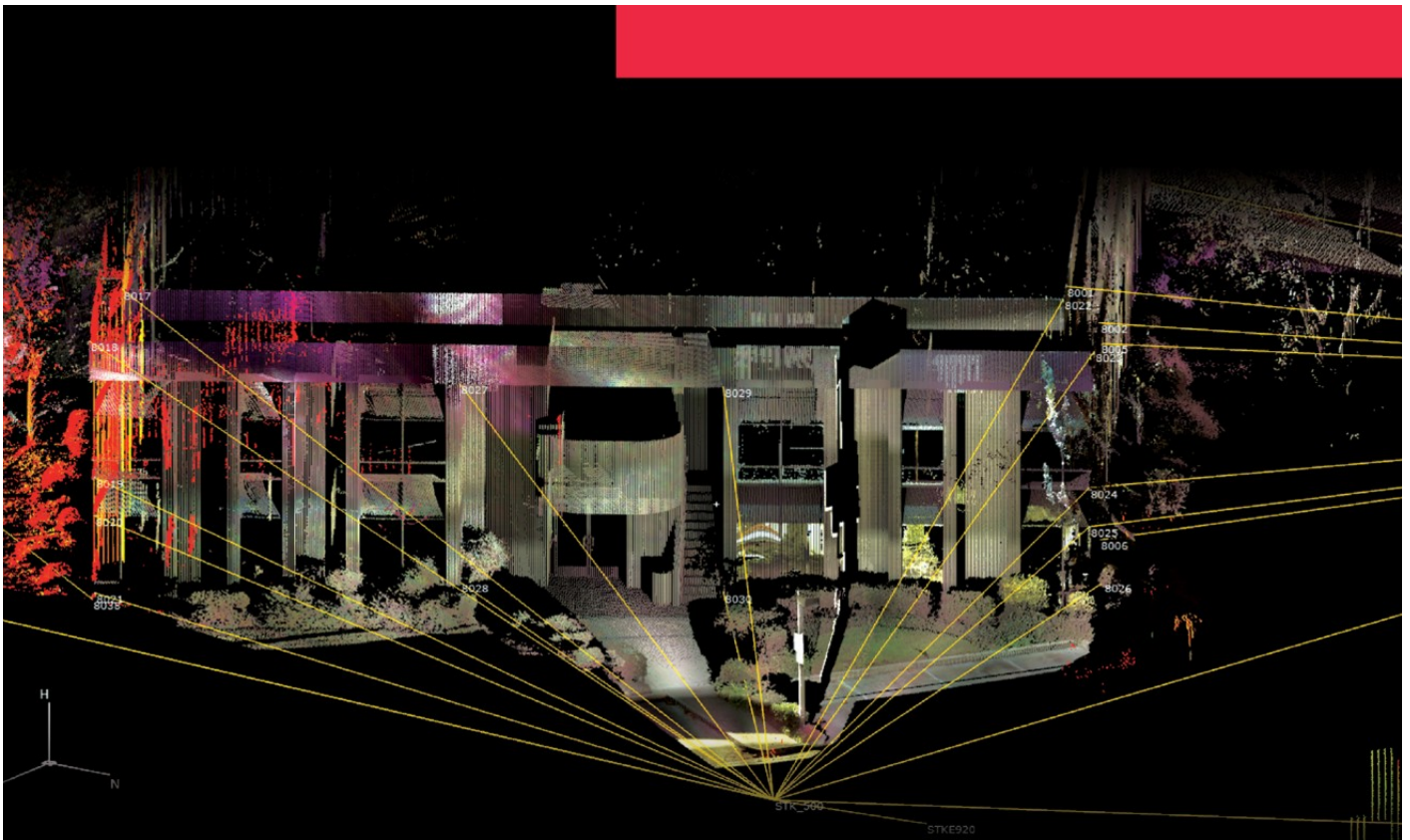
What is your best trait that helps you in your profession?

I enjoy communicating with clients and the other employees.

What is your surveying motto or approach?

Efficiency and Accuracy is the goal!

(Cont'd on [Page 13](#))



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Random Lines

by John Dailey, PS

CLIENT RELATIONS

On January 15, the Cleveland Chapter lost one of its founding members. A. Thomas Powers, Past President, Surveyor of the Year and all around nice guy died. Tom was an early supported of the Chapter and gave willingly of himself to the betterment of his profession and the surveying industry as a whole. Tom's records were open to anyone who asked. He followed in the footsteps of his mentor and good friend, Sol Bauer.



John Dailey, P.S.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the Powers family. Tom will be missed by all that worked with him and knew him as a good husband, good surveyor, and good friend.

I went to an automobile agency today for some service work. I was happily surprised at the quick, friendly and knowledgeable attention I received. The auto dealers learned some time ago that their service department was usually the main point of contact with prospective return customers. They have gone to great lengths to make the customer feel both appreciated and wanted. This feeling will carry over into the sales room.

We surveyors should follow the same path. The managers and the office staff work hard to make sure a client is well taken care of. Phone courtesy is a must. The client should be greeted warmly on the telephone and made to feel that their call is important. They should not be left on "hold" for too long. If the person they want to talk to is busy on another call, say so and give them the option of holding, getting a return call or calling back later.

The person that the client is contacting should be aware that, in the client's eye, their call is the most important. Respect the client enough to treat it that way. Give the client your undivided attention and then follow through on what you have promised them. How you, the manager handle the rest of the staff is completely up to you.

Your field crews are usually the only living being the client actually sees. What visual impression do they make? Is the vehicle neat and in good repair? Is it properly and obviously marked? Is your company name clearly visible? How does your crew look? Are they neat and presentable? Do they look like someone you would allow on your property or someone that would cause you to run and lock the door?

Technical and legal talent and ability is very important in our profession, but customer relations builds reputation and brings clients (and their acquaintances) back to your doorstep. Don't play it down, build it up.

Look, think and act the PROFESSIONAL.

John Daily, Past
idaileye@sbcglobal.net

Surveyor Spotlight, Ryan Snezek, PS (from Page 10)

What is your greatest extravagance?

Playing Golf, golf Trips, and just vacations in general. The single guy life is fun!

What talent would you like to have?

I love music, but want to be able to play a musical instrument. I gave up on guitar after a few lessons.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

A half marathon on 2011, I am a non-athletic person so this was good.

Making Partner at Stephen Hovancsek & Assoc. at 30 is an honor and a great accomplishment.

Where would you like to live?

I love OHIO, nowhere else!! Or at Dad's house the free food is great.

Family, (kids), wife, etc.

My parents: Tom & Charmaine, my great brother Todd, my other brother Sean (Teacher/ Surveyor/tack ball pitcher), and my awesome sister Brittany. Love them!

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Fax: (513) 539-0033

Akron Office

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Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

Neff & Associates: 6405 York Road, Parma Heights January 12, 2015

In attendance: Robert Hoy, Tim Feller, George Hofmann, Tom Snezek, Ken Hedjuk, Mike Kral (via phone), and Steve Metcalf.

Chapter Delegate:

Dean Ringle spoke about the Ohio/Michigan State Line found monument.

Dayton Chapter working on Annual conference location; local Marriott used in the past is under new management and they are working thru contract items and issues.



Mike Kral
Secretary

Committees:

- **Seminars** The May seminar was decided for the ideal joint meeting date with the Askega Chapter, Steve & Mike to follow up with William Loetz and Nick Marino to work out the details.
- **Golf Outing** Tom hopes for about 60 players this year under the new format & location.
- **Education/ Scholarship Committee** Trig*Star committee position is vacant. Hopes that possibly John Bischof will take over the program. Pete Zwick offered to help with the transition.

New Business

Steve Metcalf presented the idea of inquiring with each county in the Chapter district about Plat requirements, process, required legal descriptions, scanning of recorded plans – bad quality, and use/non-use of “Pre-Review” prior to Mylar submissions. Recent changes to procedures in some counties prompted the inquiry for the members’ knowledge.

Meeting called to close at 8:02 p.m. – Go Buckeyes for the National Championship!

PLSO: Who Are We?

The P.L.S.O. is a group of licensed Land Surveyors – Professional Surveyors. We are licensed by the State of Ohio to serve the public (much like doctors, lawyers, architects and professional engineers are licensed). The Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio is a statewide organization that serves the public and the profession. The Cleveland P.L.S.O. is one of its local chapters.

We encourage you to contact any of our local members when you or your constituents have questions. Professional Surveyors can be particularly helpful for: determining setbacks, splitting property, resolving conflicting deeds, locating structures, identifying encroachments, writing easement or submerged land lease descriptions, and staking improvements such as fences and buildings.

Cleveland Chapter of PLSO 2015 Calendar

Chapter Executive Meetings are held 6 p.m. at the office of: Neff & Associates at 6405 York Road, Parma Heights and are open to all PLSO members who want to attend.

Mar 5 Social Dinner
Mar 13 PLSO Executive Meeting
Mar 16 Chapter Executive Meeting
Mar 20 Cleveland Surveying News deadline

Apr 10 PLSO Executive Meeting
Apr 13 Chapter Executive Meeting
Apr 24 Cleveland Surveying News deadline

May 8 PLSO Executive Meeting
May 15 Chapter Executive Meeting
May 16 Cleveland Surveying News deadline
May -- Cleveland & Askega Seminar TBA

Jun 4 Education Recognition Dinner
Jun 19 Golf Outing

Jul 10 PLSO Executive Meeting

Aug 17 Chapter Executive Meeting
Aug 21 Cleveland Surveying News deadline

Sep 3 Meeting TBA
Sep 11 PLSO Executive Meeting
Sep 14 Chapter Executive Meeting
Sep 18 Cleveland Surveying News deadline

Oct 1 Meeting TBA
Oct 8 PLSO Executive Meeting at Fall Seminar
Oct 12 Chapter Executive Meeting
Oct 23 Cleveland Surveying News deadline

Nov 5 Meeting TBA
Nov 13 PLSO Executive Meeting
Nov 17 Chapter Executive Meeting

Dec 14 Chapter Executive Meeting (if needed)

2016

Jan 8 PLSO Executive Meeting
Jan 11 Chapter Executive Meeting
Jan 13 Cleveland Surveying News deadline
Jan 28 Annual Meeting

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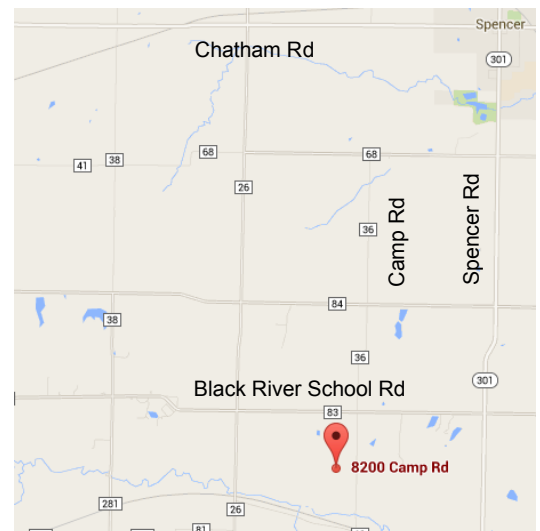
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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2014

Neff & Associates: 6405 York Road, Parma Heights, OH 44130

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

In attendance: Robert Hoy, Tim Feller, Mike Kral, George Hofmann, Tom Snezek, and Steve Metcalf.



Mike Kral
Secretary

Secretary's Minutes

Executive Committee meeting minutes from September 2014 conditionally accepted with revisions as submitted by Steve Metcalf.

Treasury

Tim Feller submitted both September & October treasury reports, report was subject to review.

Chapter Delegate

- George Hofmann & Tom Snezek both presented information and updates from the State meeting...
- The Ceremony for new S.I., P.S., E.I., & P.E. held at the Statehouse in Columbus is seeing lower turnout numbers. This decrease is due to licenses being distributed via U.S. mail & the new online testing. It was discussed that the new licensees would be invited to the Annual Conference or Fall Luncheon with reduced rates.
- Melinda Gilpin has a booth at OTEC the transportation conference and it was a great success. Valerie is creating a questionnaire to the members who did not renew in hopes of gaining insight as to reasons why each member did not renew.
- George Hofmann worked the Conference in Aurora for donations to the PAC Fund and a total of \$700.00 was raised.
- PLSO is going to bestow an honor of Legislator of the Year for now retiring, Senator Seitz for his commitment as a "Survey Champion" to the needs and betterment of surveying community in Ohio.
- Annual Conference will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Columbus,
- Raffle baskets for this conference were discussed to help raise funding for the student Scholarship program at the State level. A "Cleveland" themed basket with local items was discussed. Use of the Orange Field shirts obtained prior to be incorporated.
- Tom and his wife Charlotte Snezek would compile the items for the basket. Her talents with prior baskets were always well received & respected.

MOTION PASSED to allocate the amount of \$200.00 for (1) or (2) gift baskets for use in the Scholarship raffle at the annual conference.

Committees

- **Membership Committee** Life membership was requested for Peter C. Zwick, Sr. A mention that a few local S.I.'s sat for the P.S. testing in October, which might lead to the possibility of new members.
- **Newsletter Committee** Robert Hoy announced the deadline for submission would be Deadline of December 17th. Steve Metcalf is to create a "Surveyor Spotlight – year in review" for the newsletter. A reminder is to be emailed for (1) missing advertiser payment for 2015.
- **Website Committee** Robert Hoy and Dino Lustri received a general pricing quote for the update on the Chapter website from Kevin Grigsby. Due the databased driven nature of the website, a more defined scope of services and better definition of time frames, with tighten up the quote for the cost.
- **Program Committee** Mike Kral, Social Chair, will be investigating new locations for the Cleveland Chapter Annual meeting to be held on January 22nd. Discussion on the past locations, requirements of the room for noise level/ privacy, and general acceptable (Cont'd on Page 18)

Executive Committee Minutes (from Page 17)

pricing windows were had.

- **Seminars** Robert Hoy Program Chair: will develop a March and May seminar with possible CPD credits. He hopes to utilize the successful format changes from the September 2014 seminar. These changes being; free or low cost option, open discussion format, non-classroom setting, social aspect, and heavy interest topics, bring survey crew personnel (non-member).
- **Surveyor of the Year** Presentation is at the Annual Chapter conference – January 22nd. Committee Chair Dave Bruckner will be contacting past surveyors of the year for balloting. Dave requested the current roster of members for aid in mailings and contact information.
- **Golf Outing** Tom Snezek will deliver and confirm with Springvale County Club for the new Golf Outing. Tom will create teaser prep. notice/ announcement for January newsletter to create early buzz for the new format and location.
- **Education/ Scholarship Committee** Steve Metcalf to Speak to University of Akron students about the Scholarship again this year after the December holiday school break. Robert Hoy presented revisions, clarifications for the Scholarship application due to application complications with last year's applicants. A clear checklist of submission items were added at the end for use of the applicant. Main revisions were made to the "Student Application" paragraph, thus allow State level scholarship applicants that did not receive the State scholarship, may be considered for the Cleveland Chapter scholarship without further application. **MOTION PASSED** for revisions to the Cleveland Chapter Scholarship application and rules.
- **Elections** Still looking for officers to fill vacant positions. Nomination Ballots will distributed at the Annual conference to the attendee for open positions and chair committees.

New Business

- **Surveyor Toys** Robert Hoy discussed the nuances of the PlayMobil online ordering process.
- In which he obtained (48) PlayMobil Surveyors Toys. As discussed prior, Robert will donating the Toys during "Toys for Tots" to help the community. Robert will promote and post the the Chapter's donation utilizing the website "Yammer" to send the word out via social media.
- **Dual Chapter Seminar / meeting** William Loetz and Nick Marino, Askega Chapter, approached the Cleveland Chapter about a dual chapter meeting and seminar to intermingle / cross promotes both chapters. The March meeting was determined to be the best fit, with an East Side meeting place to be determined. Mike Kral & Steve Metcalf, program chair, to follow up after the Holidays with William Loetz. Mike Kral, Social Chair, to locate a suitable location for the meeting.
- **New Newsletter topics** Steve Metcalf presented the idea of inquiring with each county in the Chapter district about Plat requirements, process, required legal descriptions, scanning of recorded plans – bad quality, and use/ non-use of "Pre-Review" prior to Mylar submissions. Recent changes to procedures in some counties prompted the inquiry for the members' knowledge.

Meeting called to close at 7:55 p.m.