



Cleveland Surveying News

May 2012

- **May 3rd Seminar Details**
- **Golf Outing Registration & Hole Sponsor forms**



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Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio

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Cleveland Surveying News

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Golf Outing Specials!

See Page 13 for more info.



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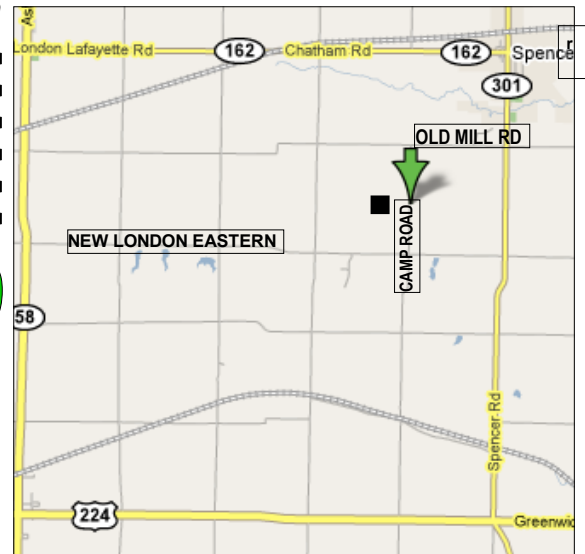
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President's Message

Office of President-Elect

Membership and active participation has been discussed at length at our executive committee meetings over the past 18 months. This comes to a head as we are nearly three months into the new PLSO year without a President-Elect. We had this same issue on our Fall 2010 chapter officer ballots as I ran for President-Elect when there was still a year left on my term as Trustee. As a result, last year I wore both the President-Elect and Trustee (Communication) hat.

We publish our Executive Committee meeting highlights, and then the full approved minutes the following month. This provides a taste of what we discuss at these meetings, but you really have to experience the meeting to get a full understanding of the value of being involved in the business of our chapter. The flavor of these meetings changes with those involved and **you** can help steer our direction.

I have been a PLSO member for twenty years now, for more than half my life (and I'm not yet 40). When I attended The Ohio State University, I was an officer with their PLSO chapter. For the Cleveland Chapter I was Secretary 1997, 1998, 2007, Delegate 2005, Trustee 2003-2004, and 2008-2011. The longer I've been active as an officer, the more I've enjoyed and the "deeper" I've gotten into PLSO and all it entails. We need officers with experience that know and understand our chapter and PLSO, yet we also need new officers to bring fresh perspectives and ideas. As with anything, the more you put into something the more you get out of it too.

For our chapter the office of President-Elect is a three year term being followed serving as President and Past-President. We have a list of our Past Presidents on our website, cleveland.plso.com. Speak with anyone of them and I bet you won't find one that regrets having gone through the presidential years for us.

Chapter Membership

Membership in the Cleveland Chapter is down about 25 members over the past four years. The Cleveland area was hard hit for job losses with the hard collapsing recession. Understandably some members who had their PLSO membership employer-paid may have chosen to drop membership in PLSO to save money. In the end is that the best choice for future employment?

Membership in PLSO, attending chapter meetings and seminars, is an *excellent* opportunity to network with other surveyors. All of the jobs that I have had in land surveying were directly related to knowing other surveyors within PLSO. Employers receive many resumes for a posted employment opportunity. How best to make yours stand out than to actually know surveyors from that office through PLSO? It's one thing to know of a surveyor, but it's very different to have talked "shop" with one at a PLSO meeting. Essentially a social opportunity to let possible employers know of your survey mentality outside of an interview setting. There's a saying "In business it's *who* you know, more than *what* you know" at times. I have been out of work during this recession, yet I kept my membership in PLSO active utilizing the installment payment plan.

Robert Hoy, P.S.
robert.hoy@cox.net
 216-389-7677



Robert Hoy
President

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June 7 "Education Appreciation" Dinner

Our Trig*Star school's high scorer and his teacher will be invited to be recognized. This is our first Trig*Star school in four years.

Chapter Life Members are also being specially invited to be recognized for their commitment to PLSO.

If we have a scholarship recipient by this meeting, the recipient will be invited to be recognized as well.

Note: A State PLSO representative plans to attend.

Location: Mahle's Restaurant
24945 Detroit Road - Rt. 254
1/4 mile east of Columbia Road - Rt. 252
I-90 Exit 159, Westlake

Dinner: Choice of one:

- A. Chicken Marsala
- B. Prime Rib of Beef (10 oz.)
- C. Grilled Salmon

Includes:

Side Salad (Choice of dressing)
Baked Potato and vegetable of the day
Rolls and Butter
Beverages (Non-alcoholic)
Ice Cream Dessert (Choice of Flavor)

Cost: \$26.00 per person

Reservations Required By Monday June 4th

Contact Michael Ackerman:
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Additional Donation = _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED = _____

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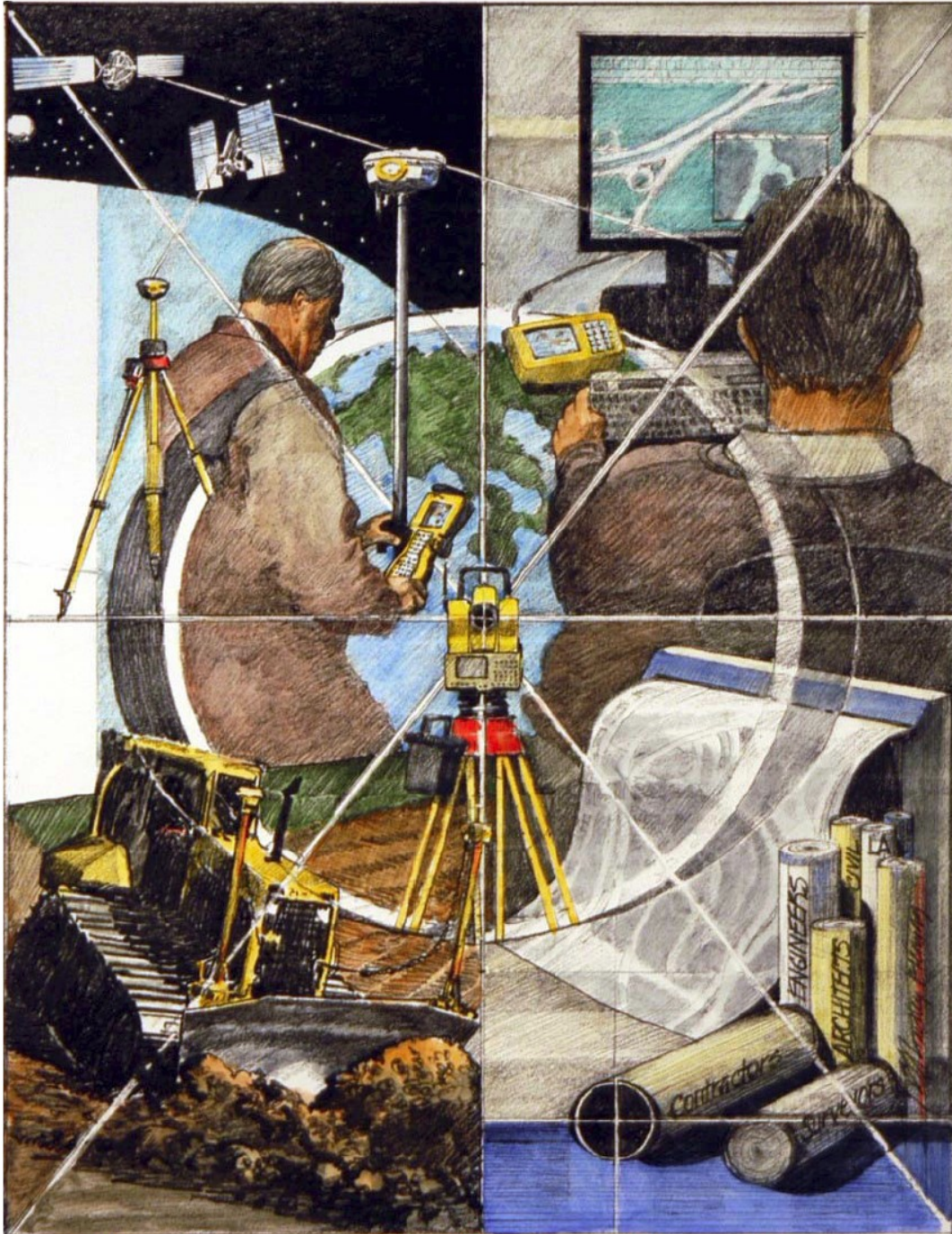
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Cleveland Chapter's Delegate Report

Presented by Thomas M. Snezek, Chapter Delegate

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

Call to order at 6:09 PM, Friday April 13, 2012, Columbus State University in, Columbus Ohio.

- Devotions and Pledge of Allegiance
- A Quorum was established.
- Two new agenda items added.
- Minutes of March 9th meeting reviewed and motion passed to accept.
- Treasurer's Report accepted subject to audit.
- State of Rhode Island's "Society of Professional Land Surveyors" submitted letter to our association to petition support for a change of the Model Law to remove "Engineering Surveys" from the NCEES Chapter 110.20 definitions. Each chapter is being asked to review and comment for the April meeting. It will be available for review on the Member's Section of the State Web-site. Motion passed to have Director Gilpin draft letter to the State Board reflecting our stand.
- After discussion of the new member's registration benefits plan, a motion was passed to accept as amended. The issue deals with payment in full of annual dues or at least two payments into the approved payment plan before a registrant can receive the "Member Rate" on the Fall Seminars or any other P.L.S.O. sponsored CPD event.
- Director Gilpin discussed the P.L.S.O. General and Managerial corporate liability insurance coverage. After discussion, a motion was passed to have Director Gilpin conduct a review and present any revisions to the executive board. She anticipates that the premiums will go down.
- Director Gilpin introduced the concept of having various documents useful to the member surveyor on the "Members Only" section of the web-page. Examples such as; Contract documents, disclaimers, certification language, etc. After discussion it was determined to not provide this service. It was thought that there may be some liability on the P.L.S.O. and that each Surveyor or Survey Firm should and will determine their needs on their own.
- The White paper from the State Board regarding Tax Map operations is nearly complete and we look forward to a draft for review at the next meeting.
- Taking a paper test for the S.I. or P.S. exam will end with the October 2013 test date. After that all test will be taken digitally.
- P.A.C. balance stands at \$3,193.85 as of April 1st, 2012.
- The Standards committee is requesting examples of easement language. They're looking for bad ones you may have encountered and good ones that you would recommend. Please email them to Brad Kramer. The committee is hoping to draft standards to address the ever growing problems caused by bad easement language and poor agency policies across the state.
- The sad demise of the A.C.S.M. is nearing its end. The N.S.P.S. has absorbed the \$200,000± debt that came with the remains of A.C.S.M. The good news is that the other two agencies that had an interest in this have declined to join N.S.P.S. and they have agreed to give up any interest they may have had in A.C.S.M.
- Status reports were given on the up-coming Fall Seminars and Annual Conferences over the next few years and all are moving along well. Go to the State website for more details.
- John Dailey is working on the "History of the P.L.S.O." and would appreciate any old documentation, histories or stories that you may have. He intends to develop (Cont'd on [Page 11](#))



Thomas Snezek
Delegate

Delegate Report (from Page 10)

a series of articles on our history in coming O.S.N. issues.

– Director Gilpin asked for permission to buy “Adobe Software” that would allow them to edit PDF’s and to buy a digital camera for P.L.S.O. event use. Permission was granted.

– President’s Report – No report.

Adjourned 8:59 PM

Respectfully submitted by;
Thomas M. Snezek, P.S.

Trig*Star

On April 2nd, seven math students from St. Edward High School took the Trig*Star competition test. High scorer Mathew Smith finished the test in 40 of the 60 allotted minutes. Mathew and his parents, and his teacher and guest will be invited to be recognized at our June 7th “Education Appreciation” dinner meeting.

Trig*Star chair Peter D. Zwick administered the test as well as providing a review session a week ahead of time providing a marketing pitch about land surveying. This is our first Trig*Star school in four years.

Easement Examples

The PLSO Standards committee has requested good *and* bad examples you’ve come across of legal descriptions for easements. This committee is considering getting minimum standards for easement descriptions into state law. Send examples to [Tom Snezek](#) or [Brad Kramer](#).

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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2012



Michael Ackerman
Secretary

Panera Bread, 5090 Tiedeman Road, Brooklyn, OH

Meeting called to order at 6:09 pm.

In attendance: Robert Hoy, Michael Ackerman, Tim Feller, George Hofmann, Tom Snezek, and Jack Hoy.

Secretary's minutes: Executive Committee meeting minutes from January 16, 2012 accepted as submitted.

Treasury:

- Tim Feller submitted the January and February budget.
- Acceptance of budget is subject to review.
- Tim stated he is working with the bank to allow online banking so as to eliminate a \$5 monthly fee. The reason the bank has delayed the change is because of turnover in our chapter officers.

President Hoy gave Tim an extra post office box key.

Chapter Delegate:

- Tom Snezek read the report from the March 19, 2012 meeting.
- The State of Rhode Island's "Society of Professional Land Surveyor's" asked our association to support a change of the Model Law to remove "Engineering Surveys" from the NCEES Chapter 110.20 definitions.
- Trig-Star deadline has been extended to May 1, 2012.
- H.B. 32 has passed the Senate.

Standing Committees

Membership: We are currently looking for a new committee chair.

Communication:

Newsletter:

- Robert Hoy announced the newsletter deadline will be Friday March 23, 2012.
- All but 1 advertiser from last year renewed for 2012.

Website:

- The new logo/ banner was discussed. Changes will be emailed to officers for review.
- Dino Lustri sent comments via email. He recommended we get Kevin Grigsby on an hourly rate for performing website updates when we are unable to.

Program:

Program Selection - Seminar Committee:

- We are currently looking for a new Program Selection - Seminar committee chair.
- The May seminar date is open for topics.

Program Selection - Social Committee: Jack Hoy will chair the Social Committee. The April meeting will cost \$25 for ½ hour PDH and dinner.

Golf Outing Committee: We are reviewing new locations for next year's golf outing.

Education:

Trig*Star Committee: 1 school has shown interest in giving the test

Scholarship Committee: We have extended our deadline to April 27, 2012.

Finance: Inactive

Old Business:

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

April Dinner Review

April 5, 2012

Awareness of Land Surveying through volunteering and current park projects

presented by Lisa Petit, PhD. Chief, Resource Management Division Cuyahoga Valley National Park

One of the primary goals of the PLSO is the promotion of the Land Surveying Profession. Ms. Petit informed us of Cuyahoga Valley National Park's interest in our organization and its members to volunteer Land Surveying services. Millions of park goers visit our national park every year and the Park Service is good to publicize efforts of those that volunteer time and services to their parks. This is an excellent opportunity for PLSO members to get Land Surveying before the general public.

Share your ideas on how our Chapter can volunteer to help promote our profession. Email our secretary Mike Ackerman mackerman@dqbassoc.com. Lisa Petit can be contacted at Lisa_Petit@nps.gov.

Executive Minutes (from [Page 12](#))

- Dino suggested going public with the new website and the online survey database.
- An email was received from E-Blueprint about scanning new files.

New Business:

- **MOTION PASSED: For profit speakers will be offered 1 free ¼ page add in 1 newsletter in lieu of honorarium.**
- A minutes motion archive with the format of "month/day/year/number: motion" will be created.
- Non-member end of year seminar suggested.
- AIA conference in fall is looking for a surveyor to speak about relevant topics.

MOTION PASSED: To donate \$50 to the charity of choice of the Craddock family in memory of Carl Craddock.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Ackerman

Golf Outing Specials!

For what may be the first time ever, the William J. Haas memorial golf tournament will have specials!

These specials may be around PLSO membership and foresomes. Look for final details on these Specials in next month's June newsletter.

Cover Photo Story

New street. New monument box. Hub and tack. What the crap? Re-Subdivision plat by the original engineering firm which split one of the sublots, called out their own iron pin found. Yes, they set pins on the new property line.

- Cover Photographer

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Cleveland Chapter of PLSO 2012 Calendar

Apr 27 Scholarship Submission Deadline

May 3 Seminar Meeting
May 11 PLSO Executive Meeting
May 14 Chapter Executive Meeting
May 23 Cleveland Surveying News deadline

Jun 7 Education Appreciation dinner
Jun 22 William J. Haas Memorial Golf

Jul 13 PLSO Executive Meeting

Aug 13 Chapter Executive Meeting
Aug 17 Cleveland Surveying News deadline

Sep 6 Seminar Meeting

Sep 14 PLSO Executive Meeting
Sep 17 Chapter Executive Meeting
Sep 21 Cleveland Surveying News deadline

Oct 4 Social Dinner Meeting
Oct 11 PLSO Executive Meeting
Oct 15 Chapter Executive Meeting
Oct 19 Cleveland Surveying News deadline

Nov 1 Seminar Meeting
Nov 9 PLSO Executive Meeting
Nov 12 Chapter Executive Meeting

Dec 14 PLSO Executive Meeting (if needed)
Dec 17 Chapter Executive Meeting (if needed)
Dec 19 Cleveland Surveying News deadline

Chapter Executive Meetings are 6 p.m. at Cuyahoga County Engineer's Test lab Facilities, 2433 Superior Viaduct, Cleveland and are open to all Chapter members who want to attend.

Random Lines

by John Dailey, P.S.

1862: An Interesting Year

We are commemorating the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War from 2011 to 2015. Most of this remembrance will concentrate of the war itself, a bloody conflict that killed about 620,000 Americans. To put that number in perspective, that would be the entire population of Cleveland, Parma, Lakewood, Euclid and Cleveland Heights **combined**.

In early 1862, the Confederacy had raised the sunken Union ship, the "Merrimac", re-christened her the "Virginia" and set about refitting her with an iron clad upper works. At the same time, the Union Navy set about looking for an iron clad warship. A Swedish inventor named Ericsson designed and built a very unorthodox looking iron clad called the "Monitor" in only 100 days. It was referred to as "a tin can on a shingle." On March 8, the "Virginia", still called the "Merrimac" wreaked havoc on the Union ships "Cumberland" and "Congress." During the nighttime hours, the Union ship "Monitor" arrived on the scene and the table was set for the very first battle of the iron clads. The shores were lined with the curious as they watched the fight. The ships battled ineffectually for a couple of hours until the battle ended as a draw. But what the crowd witnessed had changed the world. The day

of the wooden warship had ended.

During May 1862 the Civil War saw activity on many fronts. The Union Army had just taken the city of New Orleans. After the battle of Shiloh the Union Army advanced very slowly but finally reached Corinth, Mississippi, which was abandoned by the Confederate forces. In Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, Confederate General Stonewall Jackson won several victories.

Several of May of 1862's events had long lasting effects on the United States that had nothing to do with the war. On May 15, the Department of Agriculture was authorized by Congress. On May 20th, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Homestead Act. This act made land available directly from the Federal government for very little cost to persons over 21 years of age "who had never borne arms against the United States Government or given aid or comfort to its enemies" 160 acre plots of federal land in the west for settlement. By the end of the Civil War 15,000 land claims had been made.

There were problems to be worked out, such as how to get the land surveyed and sold in a reasonable



John Dailey, P.S.

(Cont'd on [Page 16](#))



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Random Lines (from [Page 15](#))

amount of time. Under the existing method, it could take over a year for the paper work to be handled, a survey contracted for, the work to be done, the survey to be filed and the fees to be paid. (See, the Federal Government has not changed that much.)

Another act, The Morrill Act, was first proposed in 1857 and was passed in 1859 but was vetoed by President James Buchanan. It was passed again 1861 (aided by the secession of the Southern states that did not support it) to establish "Land Grant Colleges." President Lincoln signed the bill on July 2, 1861. The purpose of the land-grant colleges was: "without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactic, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life."

In Ohio, there was fierce competition between Ohio University, the first school of higher learning West of the Appalachian Mountains and Miami University in

Oxford to receive this distinction and the funding that went with it. The State Legislature, in all its wisdom, chose a piece of farmland just north of Columbus to establish the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College. This, of course, morphed into The Ohio State University. The story of OSU and its growth is for another column, but it is fascinating.

The war ground on for another three years across many blood soaked fields, but 1862 helped to open the American West. No longer was the Federal Government selling huge plots of land to speculators, they were now dealing directly with the individual people. Now there was a chance for students to receive an education without traveling to the East coast. Now there were going to be colleges in their home states. Now there was a department to aid and assist the farmers, the largest demographic in the nation.

Sometime in the future we will talk about Ohio State University and its funding and about the transcontinental railroads and how the carried out the dream of America's "Manifest Destiny."

John Dailey, P.S., Past
jdailey@sbcglobal.net

Cleveland Chapter
Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio

**39th Annual
William J. Haas
Memorial Golf
Tournament**

**PLEASANT HILL GOLF COURSE
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Official transfer of the rifle will be handled by a licensed firearms dealer and winner will
be subject to background checks as required by law.

Drawing will be held during the Friday lunch at the 2012 PLSO Fall Seminar on
October 12, 2012 in Toledo. Winner need not be present.

ONLY 500 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

April 16, 2012



Michael Ackerman
Secretary

The Snezek Residence (Thanks Tom)

In attendance: Robert Hoy, Michael Ackerman, Tim Feller, George Hofmann, Tom Snezek, and Jack Hoy.

Chapter Delegate:

- Membership dues must be paid in full to be eligible for the discounted conference rate.
- Easement standards were discussed.

Standing Committees

- **Membership:** We are currently looking for a new committee chair.

- **Communication:**

Newsletter Committee:

- Sending emails reminding members of upcoming seminars was suggested as a way to increase attendance.
- Golf outing information will be included in the newsletter.

Website Committee: MOTIONS PASSED: To accept the submitted website updates and for Kevin Grigsby to update the website.

- **Program:** We are currently looking for a new Program Selection: Seminar committee chair. **MOTION PASSED:** To purchase a cooler for seminars.

- **Education:**

- **Trig*Star Committee:** St. Edwards participated in the Trig Star test.
- **Scholarship Committee:** There have been no applications submitted for the scholarship at this time.

Special Committees: Dino has requested a meeting to help get input on running the PLSO conference.

Old Business:

- Format and topics of a non-member seminar at the end of the year were discussed.
- Kevin Grigsby is finishing the website. Dino suggested the remaining fee be paid.
- A \$50 donation was made to Bennetts Corner Church in memory of Carl Craddock's mother.

New Business: None at the time

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.