

TEXAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

OFFICIAL REPORT FORMAT

CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER 13 REPORT

DIVISION: Society Affairs DIV #: 1 DIVISION OFFICER: Alan Mclain
COMMITTEE: Chapter Activities CHAIRMAN REPORTING: David A. McDow

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 7, 2009

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Committee Members appointed for 2008-2009:

Program Committee: John Barnard
Public Relations and Education: James Mason and Mike Ritter
Membership: Miguel Escobar
NSPS/CST Certification: James Redmon
Picnic: Tom & Sally Staudt
Newsletter: David A. McDow
Website: Greg Way
Audit: Bill O'Hara
Nominating: Greg Way, Dana Markus-Wolf and George Sanders

Regular Membership Meetings:

Chapter 13 has had three regular meetings during this quarter, held on the third Thursday of each month.

November 20, 2008 – TSPS Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, Patrick A. Smith, and TSPS Legal Counsel, Mark Hanna were November's speakers. Mr. Hanna introduced upcoming legislative agenda items that apply/affect TSPS and surveyors in Texas. Mr. Smith went into greater detail on the items presented by Mr. Hanna and explained the history of the efforts set forth by the Governmental Affairs Committee and the likelihood for passage in 2009. Mr. Smith then reviewed the significance of SURPAC and how important it is to fund certain politicians and our need to contribute to SURPAC. He listed the past recipients of SURPAC monies and which legislators realize surveyor's needs. There were many compelling questions asked with very frank answers given. The meeting was held at Artz Rib House with approximately 30 members attending. Mr. Hanna and Mr. Smith's presentation was well received and everyone enjoyed each portion of his compelling presentation.

December 18, 2008 – The December meeting is traditionally the Chapter's annual Christmas Party Meeting. In keeping with that institution Chapter 13 held its Christmas Meeting at Doña Amelias in Austin. The evening meeting was filled with fellowship, good food, and great friends. Anco Insurance, Capital Surveying Company, Inc., Carlson Desktop Solutions, Chaparral Professional Land Surveying, Inc., Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc, Delta Survey Group, Inc., Easy Drive, Inc., G4 Spatial Technologies, Loomis Austin, Inc., Martin Instruments, Inc., McGray and McGray Land Surveyors, Inc., and Western Data Systems sponsored door prizes. There was a drawing for the door prizes and as a result each and every attendee received a door prize. All in attendance enjoyed the evening and each was excited about the the upcoming holidays and new opportunities in 2009.

January 15, 2009 – TSPS representative to the Texas Geographic Information Council, Jack Avis, was January's speaker. Mr. Avis discussed the past relationship between surveyors and GIS professionals. He explained that past GIS "accuracy" was looser than it is now but now that surveyors are using GPS more and more, GIS has become tighter and an invaluable tool for the surveyor. He suggested that surveyors should take a renewed look at GIS and the ways it can benefit surveyors and their buisness. He gave examples of the ways surveyors can use GIS for more productivity by, for example, it helping estimate projects for proposals and preparing field packages for field crews. The meeting was held at Artz Rib House with approximately 43 people in attendance. Mr. Avis' presentation was well received and everyone enjoyed his talk.

Executive Committee Meetings

Chapter 13 has had Executive Committee (ExComm) meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

Old Business – We are still working out the logistics of providing books for Austin Community College students that are working toward an associate's degree in Land Surveying/Geomatics. We have contacted Joey Stanger with East Texas Chapter 4 for ideas similar to what their chapter is doing with Tyler Junior College. We have taken into consideration their strategy and will implement our design for the Summer of 2009. Because of logistical issues, the Executive Committee revised dedicating the Final Point monument to Jimmy Flowers and donated \$500 to TSFI in the name of all deceased Chapter 13-member surveyors over the past year. The donation was made in the names of are Jimmy Flowers, Roy Smith, Travis Horn, and Dennis Meenach.

November 5, 2008 – The Executive Committee meeting was held at Opal Divine's with nine (all) Executive Committee members present. We discussed a retention schedule for ballots from elections and whether they should be destroyed after the election has been finalized. We decided to ask Anne Glasgow how the state handles their ballots and once that was determined we would adopt that policy (they keep theirs for two years then discard them). Different venues for the TSPS Chapter 13 Christmas Party were discussed, and a list of donors/sponsors was compiled. We also discussed exploring the possibility of Joint meetings with other TSPS Chapters to encourage more attendance at Chapter functions.

December 4, 2008 – The Executive Committee meeting was held at Opal Divine's with nine (all) Executive Committee members present. There was a motion to spend \$500 on door prizes for Chapter 13 Christmas Party, which was passed by the Executive Board. The list of potential Christmas Party sponsors and the status of donations and door prizes was reported. Mark Allen and Dana Schaeffer agreed to purchase gift cards on behalf of the Chapter for the Party. There has been no contact from Bill Warren (our public relations contact with the Round Rock Independent School District) so this item was tabled until next year. The surveying display or presentation (another public relations activity) for Westbank Library was discussed and Jason Ward related his interaction and is in contact with the library. The progress as regards to booking speakers for 2009 Chapter Lunches was then discussed. The next item discussed was the convention committee and the need for volunteers. We also discussed ideas for the upcoming National Surveyors week in March.

January 5, 2009 – The Executive Committee meeting was held at Opal Divine's with eight Executive Committee members present. We made contact with Bill Warren (our public relations contact with Round Rock Independent School District (RRISD)) but he was not in a position to talk to us at that moment. Jim Boswell was appointed the task of keeping in contact with Mr. Warren. The intent is to create a display for elementary-aged students to be exhibited at the elementary schools in the RRISD. Jason Ward received information from Westbank Library reserving a date and a space in the summer (exact time and date to be determined) for a display or to present a short program that is survey-related. Jason Ward will see this to fruition. We discussed lining-out the rest of the speakers and the progress we had made on contacting potential candidates. We discussed the 2009 Convention and the Chapter's monetary commitment and ways we can fund our portion of the Convention. We discussed hosting a CST course and putting together a Tree Identification Seminar to raise extra funds for our contribution to the Convention. Because of our fiduciary duty to the Convention, the Executive Committee decided to devote all monies collected from the TSPS Chapter 13 Math seminars to our bank account and postpone devoting this money to SURPAC until a later date. We discussed the need for the Chapter to have an Ethics Committee because we do not have one appointed. There is confusion because Article X, Section 3, TSPS Constitution states "...each chapter shall have an Ethics Committee as hereinafter set forth..." where Article IV, Section 1 of the Chapter Bylaws states "There shall be five standing committees: Membership, Program, Public Relations and Education, Nominating and Audit".. We have asked Anne Glasgow for help on this and she will be getting back to us. We also discussed the request from Anne Glasgow and Bob Seipel for Chapter 13 to cook BBQ for the Ray Wisdom Auction this year. There were several question asked about the BBQ as regards to logistics that need clarification; the questions are being referred to Anne for that claification.

Respectfully Submitted,
David A. McDow