

# TEXAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

## OFFICIAL REPORT FORMAT

DIVISION: LIASON      DIV #: 3      DIVISION OFFICER: Alan McLain

COMMITTEE: Geographic Info. Systems 3.11 CHAIR REPORTING: Brianne Bernsen

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 9, 2007

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Jon Hodde	Gary Hudson
	Lynn Savory	Richard Worthey
	Coleen Johnson	Maxey Sheppard
	Paul Easley	Robert Young
	Joanne McRae	Jack Avis
	Patrick Marrin	

#### Committee Tasks:

- Work with Standards Committee to establish guidelines for use in GIS Projects. To include a checklist that could be used by Client & Provider to determine the scope of the work, deliverables, procedures and anticipated levels of accuracy.
- Continue development of GIS curriculum for use by Education Committee
- Continue to monitor the relationship between GIS and Surveying industries
- Work with TBPLS after legislative session to create and adopt Rules for inclusion and exclusions

This committee will work to accomplish the following specific objectives for 2007:

- 1) Work with Membership Committee to recruit GIS members and investigate possible GIS Membership Category.
- 2) Work with the Government Affairs committee to include GIS in the definition of surveying and draft legislation regarding a disclaimer on certain mapping products that appear to represent property boundaries (such as Appraisal Maps)
- 3) Create GIS II course for the 2008 Spring Symposium.

At the February Board Meeting, the GIS Committee finalized the wording of the motions for the proposed Geospatial Membership Category. It was resolved that a total of three motions would be presented to the Board. The first outlined the details of the new membership category, the second outlined the details of a new Geospatial Annual Award, and the third was to modify the current wording of the Associate Membership Category so that Associate Members would be able to hold the same state offices as the proposed Geospatial Members (this motion is to be submitted by the Membership Committee). The motions were sent to the Board Members on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for consideration at the upcoming Board Meeting, and have also been attached.

Also at the February meeting, Stacey Lyle reported that the Texas Geographic Information Council (TGIC) was considering a bill that would double the cost of filing deeds and plats with the county. The increased cost would be used for adding the information to a statewide cadastral database. He also stated that ESRI and TAMUCC will be working together to develop software for real time surveying and mapping applications. This software would differentiate between survey grade and GIS (mapping) grade data and would be used in a new ESRI Cadastral software product.

The GIS Committee conducted the first ever TSPS Salary Survey in March. There were 510 respondents to the on-line survey. The survey consisted of 6 questions and the results are attached. I was unable to complete a geographic analysis of the data due to the low number of responses per county. We had several emails from people praising the idea of the salary survey and the results will be published in the May issue of the *Texas Surveyor*. The committee will discuss ways to increase responses for next year.

Three members of the committee (Brienne Bernsen, Jack Avis and Patrick Marrin) attended the Course Development Retreat in Austin on April 20-21<sup>st</sup> to work on GIS II, which has been renamed to "Implementing GIS in a Surveying Environment." Also contributing to the course's development was Will Herrin from Corpus Christi. Much progress was made including revising the course's goals and objectives, developing lesson plans for each of the 5 established course objectives and creating several course activities. Individual chapters were assigned to each person to be completed by the end of June. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled with Shannan Carrozza on July 7<sup>th</sup> to review the course materials. Jack Avis and Patrick Marrin have volunteered to present the course at the Spring Symposium in San Antonio next February. Thanks to everyone for their hard work on this exciting new course.

The TGIC had its quarterly meeting on February 1, 2007. Discussions included updates and announcements from several agencies (USGS, TNRIS, etc.), the TNRIS Business Plan, the 50-States Initiative and votes on Web Accessibility Guidelines for GIS and the 2007 Base Map Plan. There were also presentations on GIS Technology Trends and NOAA Activities in Texas. The Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) held its Annual Conference in San Antonio March 4-7. There were 14 seminars presented along with 99 technical papers. Next year's conference will be held in Seattle. The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual ESRI International User Conference is scheduled for June 18-22 in San Diego, California along with the 2007 ESRI Survey & Engineering GIS Summit from June 16-19.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Brienne Bernsen, Chair



Texas Society of Professional Surveyors  
**Official Motion Form**



Motion Geospatial Membership Category Date: April 2, 2007

The GIS, Membership, and Constitution & Bylaws Committees would like to move to amend Article IV, Section 1 of the TSPS Constitution by adding the following membership class:

**Geospatial Member** – Any person who is actively engaged in a field of practice that acquires, manages, displays, analyzes, or otherwise uses data to support geospatial activities and who either: is a graduate of a school of higher education (college level) recognized by the Board with an Associates Degree or higher in a geospatial field; has completed at least 32 semester hours of geospatial related study at a school of higher education; holds a GIS Certification from an institute or organization recognized by the Board; or who has engaged in geospatial activities for a minimum of five years. Geospatial members shall be eligible to vote; to only hold the office of Director in the State Society; and may hold any office in a local chapter except President. Geospatial members shall be entitled to all publications received by registered members.

The GIS and Membership Committees would like to recommend that the Board set the price of dues for the Geospatial Membership class at \$150 (or a price that at minimum will cover the costs of providing the above stated benefits). The GIS, Membership, and Constitution & Bylaws Committees would like the Board to review the following list of benefits that will be a result of the creation of this membership class:

Benefits of the Geospatial Membership Category

***Benefits to TSPS and its Members:***

- Monetary increase
- Membership increase
- More GIS related educational opportunities for members if we affiliate ourselves with GITA conference or Texas GIS Forum
- More qualified GIS volunteers for things such as course developments
- More exposure for TSPS at GIS related conferences

***Benefits to potential GIS Members:***

- Possible annual award
- TSFI Scholarships
- Aid with legislative issues
- ±2100 TSPS Members means more resources to accomplish goals
- Group insurance rates
- More surveying related education opportunities
- Bi-monthly publications: *Metes & Bounds* and *Texas Surveyor*
- TSPS Membership Directory
- TSPS Manual of Practice
- Attend TSPS Conference and seminars at reduced rate
- Opportunity to vote on geospatial related issues, concerns or legislative topics
- Opportunity to hold a Chapter or State Society office

***Benefits to both groups:***

- Promote better understanding between professions
- Establish cooperative relationship with other geospatial organizations
- Work towards consistent standards of surveying/mapping/cadastral info
- Cross pollination of ideas
- Combined efforts to aggressively promote surveying & mapping education
- Promote uniformity and accountability for mapping products
- Social and networking opportunities
- Opportunities to market joint services
- Open communication between GIS and surveying professionals

Motion Maker: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

**Official Use Only:**

For: \_\_\_\_\_ Passed: \_\_\_\_\_

Against: \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: This form must be used for all motions other than division approval.



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Motion # Annual Geospatial Award Date: April 2, 2007

The GIS and Awards Committees would like to move to amend Article IV, Section 16 of the TSPS Bylaws to include the following award:

**Geospatial Professional of the Year**

It is not mandatory that this award be given each year.

Qualifications

1. Nominee shall be regularly engaged in a geospatial related field of practice.
2. Nominee must be a member in good standing of TSPS and a member of a TSPS Chapter.
3. Nominee shall have exhibited outstanding service to the Geospatial Profession within a period of two years prior to the upcoming Annual Convention.

Nomination Procedure

1. The Awards Committee shall correspond with the Chapter Presidents and TSPS Board of Directors during the month of the first quarterly TSPS Board of Directors meeting of the need to submit nominations.
2. Nominations must be received by the Awards Committee prior to the second quarterly TSPS Board of Directors meeting.
3. Nominations must be in writing, listing biographical data, work experience, specific merit as to why this nominee is worthy of the awards, contributions to the geospatial profession and civic contributions. These nominations may be made by a voting member of TSPS or by a local chapter.

Selection Procedure

1. The Awards Committee shall determine if the award should be given and if so, select a recipient from the nominees submitted.
2. This award, if given, shall be presented at the Annual Convention.

The GIS Committee feels like this award will not only be an incentive for members of the geospatial community to join TSPS, become active, and be recognized by their peers for accomplishments in their work, but will also recognize the current members of TSPS who are making great strides in implementing and developing geospatial technologies into their practices.

Motion Maker: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

**Official Use Only:**

For: \_\_\_\_\_ Passed: \_\_\_\_\_

Against: \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated: \_\_\_\_\_

Table 1

Survey Responders		Annual Income			Benefits Information (Expressed as a Percentage)									
Position	Total Respondents	Average	High	Low	Paid Overtime	Vehicle or Vehicle Allowance	Medical	Dental	Paid Vacation	Professional dues paid by Employer	Schooling/ Seminars paid by Employer	Profit Sharing	Retirement WITH Employer Contribution	Retirement WITHOUT Employer Contribution
<b>All RPLSs</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>\$84,396</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$23,561</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>75%</b>
RPLS Lic'd 5 Yrs or More	262	\$87,099	\$150,000	\$40,000	29%	56%	86%	57%	94%	89%	87%	48%	47%	74%
RPLS Lic'd 5 Yrs or Less	101	\$77,383	\$150,000	\$23,561	30%	48%	86%	53%	94%	90%	87%	37%	37%	78%
<b>Non RPLSs</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>\$44,489</b>	<b>\$68,000</b>	<b>\$22,880</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>73%</b>
SIT	36	\$50,089	\$68,000	\$33,000	69%	17%	83%	67%	97%	69%	75%	25%	22%	72%
Office Technician	50	\$43,629	\$65,000	\$22,880	70%	26%	88%	60%	96%	70%	80%	26%	24%	72%
Party Chief	18	\$40,417	\$60,000	\$25,000	89%	67%	94%	44%	94%	78%	72%	28%	22%	78%
Instrument Person	7	\$32,300	\$41,000	\$24,000	86%	14%	86%	57%	86%	86%	57%	14%	14%	71%

**Total Respondents:** 510 of which 10 surveys did not contain salary information.

For the RPLS dataset, there were 19 statistical outliers at the 95% confidence interval (standard deviation of \$36,800)

For the Non RPLS dataset, there were 7 statistical outliers at the 95% confidence interval (standard deviation of \$14,400)

Table 2

County	RPLS	NonRPLS
Bexar	\$91,813	\$40,457
Dallas	\$81,788	\$47,679
Harris	\$96,554	\$53,507
Tarrant	\$82,987	\$50,261
Travis	\$77,823	\$45,186