

*American Association for Geodetic Surveying*

Board of Directors

Monthly Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, February 14, 2019**

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1. Open meeting, President

- A. The new President takes office with or without installation procedures, which are ceremonial. The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Tom Meyer at 16:04 hrs. EDT.
- B. Immediate Past President Ghilani called the roll:
  - i. Present: Thomas Meyer, President; Dan Gillins, President-Elect; Charles Ghilani, Immediate Past President; Herb Stoughton, Vice-President, Director (3<sup>rd</sup> year); John Bean, Director (2<sup>nd</sup> year); Tony Cavell, Director (1<sup>st</sup> year); Dan Roman, Secretary; Elisabeth Rollins, Acting Recorder; Dan Martin, Treasurer; Dave Zilkoski.
  - ii. Absent: Ronnie Taylor, Reporter (Association Editor); Steve Briggs, Parliamentarian; *vacant*, AAGS/NSPS Liaison, delegate to NSPS Foundation; Brian Riniker, invitee.
  - iii. At least two directors were present as well as a quorum; therefore, the meeting was authorized.

*Please note: Callers not using a speaker phone can be heard most clearly and easily.<sup>1</sup>*

2. Agenda

- A. Upon call for additions, Roman proposed addition of FIG, and Martin proposed addition of COFPAES. Meyer indicated that these would be discussed among Committees (see Section 8).
- B. AAGS Vice President Stoughton made a motion for acceptance of the amended AAGS BOD agenda, and President Meyer seconded the motion.
- C. Acceptance of the AAGS BOD agenda was approved without dissent.

3. Immediate Past President Ghilani announced installation of the new officers with congratulations:

- A. President Meyer
- B. President-elect Gillins
- C. Welcome to Director (1st year): Tony Cavell

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.conferencecallsunlimited.com/blog/10-ways-to-improve-audio-on-your-conference-call/>

4. Minutes

- A. Upon invitation by Meyer, Ghilani moved that both November Minutes and December Minutes be approved. This was seconded by Stoughton, without discussion or objection.
- B. There was no January meeting.
- C. Cavell noted that meeting minutes are acceptable unless someone has amendments to make. Otherwise, they are automatically made part of the record.<sup>2</sup>

5. Treasurer's Report (Martin)

- A. The Treasurer was on furlough, and did not receive relevant communications until they were sent to his personal email.
- B. Between Martin and Meyer, Martin believes that bill paying, etc., was handled. All approved expenditures are believed to be included in the latest report, from 12/18/2018 through 02/14/2019. There may have been one or two unrecovered.
- C. Martin was contacted by AAGS Accountant Bob Jupin regarding communication from the credit card processing agent regarding breach protection coverage.
  - i. They offer coverage costing \$25/month, to cover up to \$100,000 total or \$1000 per individual, in loss associated with customer credit card information security breach through the website.
  - ii. After discussion among Jupin, Martin, and Meyer, Martin approved the purchase.
- D. Martin included the Year End Profit and Loss Statement for the end of December, which reveals a 2018 bottom line in the red.
  - i. Some expense came on the AAGS operating side, but the majority of it was SaLIS.
  - ii. Ghilani remembered that AAGS had raised the rates for SaLIS, and Meyer confirmed that rates had been raised in practice.
  - iii. FIG dues are the AAGS portion owed under the last MOU signed with NSPS, and set at 5% of the FIG dues. See Section 8F.
- E. Martin included Profit and Loss information for the beginning of 2019. This information includes all approved expenditures through February 13.
  - i. At this point, AAGS is in the black with a net income.
  - ii. Membership dues to date compared with this time 2018, the amount is at 50%. Even Fellow Members are about half of what they should be.

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<sup>2</sup> "Corrections to minutes are noted in the minutes being corrected; they're not detailed in the minutes of the meeting at which the corrections were adopted." C. Alan Jennings, PRP

- iii. The Treasurer emphasized that AAGS needs to retain current members and cultivate new members.
  - Cavell suggested that the place to get growth in numbers would be with Associate Members, attracting new members “by curiosity rather than by intimidation.”
  - Martin pointed out that Associate Membership is for those who do not need full membership – who need a subscription to SaLIS, but do not need AAGS voting rights.
  - Ghilani noted that the renewal rate is currently 22/25 Fellow-, 34/41 Full-, 10/16 Associate-, and 8/11 Affiliate members. A couple of long-time members have not renewed yet, but are sure to do so.
  - 30 Students did not renew, but they might no longer be students. Is Associate membership automatically offered to graduating students?
  - Ghilani and Martin discussed current practice – that the Membership Committee sends a second email to not-yet-renewed members, in case the first notice has been discarded. Dues notices were originally sent in late Autumn, 2018.
  - Martin emphasized that AAGS should coordinate with Trish Milburn to have a formal second notice (paper copy) sent out specifically to delinquent members, in the first half of March. Meyer will contact Trish for this purpose. Martin indicated that a small email note from AAGS President Meyer, sent at the same time or within a short time, would not be inappropriate.
  - The charge for sending out renewal notices is negligible compared with the additional dues expected with a successful result.
  - Some members have had difficulty with the renewal interface on the web. Mail-in renewal is more straightforward, but members may be frustrated by the web. The site accommodates a choice for new member or existing member, but does not ask for a member ID number, to connect the renewal period to the existing membership. The site also offers renewal without requiring the user to log on first. Martin noted that web renewal should be as streamlined as possible, so that people can renew easily. Meyer will ask Eric Colburn to add a pathway to renewal where the user does not log in, and the interface asks for member ID number.

*Files that accompany the Board Meeting Agenda must be double-clicked to access.*

*See also <https://i.imgur.com/V6ORf0p.jpg>*

6. Communication with COGO (Meyer)
  - A. Phone conversation Meyer had with Shelby Johnson, current President of the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO), Jan 8th, 2019, regarding AAGS membership in COGO.

B. AAGS applied to join COGO 01/17/2017, which application dropped through the cracks. Shelby Johnson reached back out to AAGS to update the application. AAGS membership may be confirmed by the next COGO board meeting at the end of February.

C. COGO organization presidency rotates among organization members, so that as a member, AAGS should prepare to serve this office:

See [http://cogo.pro/uploads/Succession\\_Plan\\_revised070913.pdf](http://cogo.pro/uploads/Succession_Plan_revised070913.pdf)

D. For the AAGS budget, Martin inquired about COGO-related expenditures, such as travel to in-person meetings. Cavell suggested relaying this question to NSPS representative Curt Sumner. While online meetings have occurred more recently, Gillins stated that COGO has one face to face meeting per year with representatives from each organization, generally in the DC region. Remote participation may be allowed, or a line item may be included in the budget to cover AAGS-COGO liaison travel.

E. COGO influences the US government; therefore, for COGO to make a statement, all members must be in unanimous agreement.

See

[http://cogo.pro/uploads/COGO\\_Rules\\_of\\_Operation\\_and\\_Procedure\\_approved\\_09July\\_13.pdf](http://cogo.pro/uploads/COGO_Rules_of_Operation_and_Procedure_approved_09July_13.pdf)

F. The COGO Report Card describes the state of the national spatial infrastructure. AAGS members have contributed to this document in past years. The coalition has delivered this assessment released 2015 and 2018 “to help Congress, the Administration, Federal agency executives, and others understand the importance of geospatial data to the nation, as well as shortcomings of the NSDI. The member organizations want to engage Congress, Federal agencies, and the FGDC to discuss and identify common sense improvements that will lead to a more robust National Spatial Data Infrastructure.”

See [http://cogo.pro/Report\\_Card.html](http://cogo.pro/Report_Card.html)

See also

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs190/1103462940572/archive/1120058988264.html>

G. Meyer will phone Shelby Johnson again to assemble details regarding costs and participation.

H. Because of the import of content relevant to AAGS member interests, board members present at this meeting generally promoted AAGS participation in COGO.

## 7. President’s Comments

A. Thanks to outgoing officers, and particularly to Ghilani for an amazing job as SaLIS editor, as well as exemplary service as President throughout 2018.

B. Meyer requested board members to enumerate what are the pressing issues AAGS needs to address in 2019.

- i. Budget
- ii. Membership
- iii. Geodetic Certification
- iv. General Relevance

Meyer mentioned a communication from NSPS Curt Sumner, who was contacted by SCOPUS. SCOPUS is a service that abstracts articles. It used to cover SaLIS, but no longer, for lack of evident interest in AAGS published articles.

SaLIS was without an editor for several years, during which time, authors turned to other journals to publish articles. Other journals publishing articles of the kind AAGS would be glad to publish are the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Journal of Surveying Engineering (JSE) and the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE) Survey Review.

Is AAGS serving the right audience? How does AAGS motivate professionals to join and publish? Meyer encourages general discussion on these and related matters.

Cavell recommended an initial discussion by email, followed up by a refining discussion during the next AAGS meeting. Meyer indicated that this email discussion will be launched this week.

Zilkoski suggested using the newsletter released next month to ask every member what kind of article they wish to see in SaLIS – perhaps providing four or five sample types. Ghilani indicated that all papers that pass the peer review process are published, and there are simply not many of them.

Educator publication and related topics other than geodesy were discussed, and are represented in SaLIS. As Martin summarized, AAGS membership/subscriptions are sufficiently below those of journals mentioned above, that authors are attracted to those rather than to SaLIS.

Meyer has approached scientists at NGS to invite them to publish papers in SaLIS that are appearing in grey literature, but they have not found it worth their time.

*Looking up “Call for Papers” online yields results for the following organizations:*

*Asia Association for Global Studies (aags.org)*

*American Association of Geographers (aag.org)*

*American Graduate School in Paris (ags.edu)*

8. Committees

A. Open positions

- i. Elections (Ghilani, Bean)
- ii. SaLIS Executive Committee (Meyer, Ghilani, Briggs, Martin)

If anyone else is interested in joining the SaLIS Executive Committee, please let Meyer know.

- iii. Vacancy, AAGS/NSPS Liaison, delegate to NSPS Foundation

The chair of the Scholarship Committee has traditionally been the Liaison to the NSPS Foundation. In the December 2018 meeting, board members mentioned Jesse Kozlowski, Gary Thompson, and NGS Geodesist Jacob Heck as candidates. Doyle is impressed with Heck's participation in local meetings and involvement in NGS as a go-getter.

Bean is involved with the NSPS Foundation because GLIS established a scholarship. Bean volunteers to serve as delegate to the NSPS Foundation.

Roman volunteered to broach the subject with Jacob Heck, to ascertain his availability and willingness to serve as AAGS/NSPS Liaison, in coordination by email with Meyer.

B. Membership committee (Dave Z.)

- i. Membership numbers provided by Trish Milburn from most recent tally:

Fellows	25
Full	41
Associate	16
Affiliate	11
Student	79
Total	172

- ii. Corporate membership has been discussed, but it has never been launched. Due to the December-January furlough, Zilkoski did not make the progress he expected on multiple action items from the December meeting. He will relaunch these items with committee members.
  - Advertisements Approval Ad hoc Committee
  - Affiliation Agreement
  - Changes to the AAGS bylaws

- Fee structure to include small organizations with 2-3 employees.  
Small shops could remain priced as individual members, while shops with five or more employees could benefit from an appropriately priced corporate membership.  
Need to touch base with firms and find out where corporate membership would be beneficial.  
Vendors may also be interested in a corporate rate, as they like to show that they are supporting a related industry -- GPS, engineering, surveying, etc.
  - iii. Zilkoski indicated that non-government email addresses would be good to have available for members, so that they can be reached even in the event of a shut-down/furlough, etc. Martin suggested that the AAGS board email list include both a corporate and personal email address, to assure receipt. Other members agreed.
- C. Ad-hoc UESI (Martin)
- i. Martin will produce a final report at the next meeting, having quantified what NSPS does for AAGS, and the associated costs.
  - ii. As chairman of the Budget Committee, Gillins will meet with Martin, to compose a budget for 2019.
- D. Geodetic Certification Committee (Stoughton)
- i. Nothing to report at this time.
- E. UESI *Surveying and Geomatics 2020 Conference*
- i. Committee conference call 2/15/19, noon EST.
  - ii. Gillins is also on this conference call, as well as Michael Dennis and the President of AAGS. Meyer teaches a course until 12:30, but he will be represented in his absence by Gillins.
- F. FIG ([www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net)) – International Federation of Surveyors
- i. FIG provides an international forum for discussion and development aiming to promote professional practice and standards, pertaining to surveying, cadastre, valuation, mapping, geodesy, geospatial, and quantity surveyors.
  - ii. Because Roman has to leave the meeting prior to this point, discussion about FIG will be postponed until the next meeting.
  - iii. Cavell noted that AAGS, with some sixty members, paid 5% (== \$1456.28) of all the dues paid to FIG (== \$29K+), which is out of proportion to the amount NSPS pays and the number of members they have.  
NSPS and AAGS contribute delegates to the NSPS Delegation to FIG, including Dan Roman, John Hamilton, and John Hohol, but these do not necessarily represent AAGS per se. Who are each of these representing, currently? NOAA? NGS? If these organizations are no longer members, then there may be no reason why AAGS

members could not represent AAGS to FIG. Or are participants simply representing the United States or North America?

Is AAGS paying too much?

See <https://www.nspis.us.com/page/FIGForum>

AAGS could invite John Hohol to a board meeting to brief AAGS on FIG, before and after FIG events.

When Roman communicates with Meyer about Jacob Heck (see Section 8Aiii), Meyer will inquire of Roman what he recommends AAGS do about FIG, and Meyer will get back with the board about the results.

- G. COFPAES (cofpaes.org) – Council on Federal Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services
- i. COFPAES is a coalition of design community professional societies. Member organizations are comprised of architects, engineers, surveyors and mapping professionals from government service and private practice. “The big boys who do big surveys – the big corporations, usually,” per Cavell.
  - ii. COFPAES is definitely a lobbying organization, Cavell describes. Cavell recommends that the AAGS/NSPS Liaison make certain that AAGS concerns are being communicated. When Meyer questioned whether there are such concerns, Stoughton recalled that 25 years ago, AAGS membership was largely government employees, and that to avoid conflict of interest, they avoided paying much attention to COFPAES. This outlook has persisted. Cavell and Martin suggested that developments in policy, technology, and certification might be reason to participate. Cavell will talk with Curt Sumner, who can provide some background information to inform decisions made by AAGS.
  - iii. AAGS spends \$250 per year to support COFPAES. COFPAES may have very laudable goals, but AAGS does not participate actively in it, so Martin raised the question whether to continue association with it. The Budget Committee will look into it and bring a recommendation to the board.

9. Surveying and Land Information Science (Ghilani)

A. SaLIS Ex-Comm (Meyer)

- i. SCOPUS – see Section 7B.

B. SaLIS (Ghilani)

- i. The May issue has been sent to the publisher.

10. The next meeting of the AAGS BOD is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2018, @ 4:00 PM EDT.



*Suggested Future Board meetings for 2019 are shown below. If a sufficient number of Board members express conflict with a specific date, the meeting will be rescheduled.*

March 14 @ 4:00 PM Eastern Time
April 11 @ 4:00 PM Eastern Time
May 9 @ 4:00 PM Eastern Time
June 13 @ 4:00 PM Eastern Time
July 11 @ 4:00 PM Eastern Time
August 8 @ 4:00 PM Eastern Time
September 12 @ 4:00 PM Eastern Time
October 10 @ 4:00 PM Eastern Time
November 14 @ 4:00 PM Eastern Time
December 12 @ 4:00 PM Eastern Time

11. Upon invitation, Director Bean read: *“For the Good of the Order, the AAGS Board gives the President and Treasurer the authority to carry out the day to day activities of the AAGS until the next Board Meeting.”*
12. AAGS President Meyer adjourned the meeting at 17:22 hrs. EDT.

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Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Rollins

Acting Recorder

File: Documents\AAGS\AAGS Board Minutes February 14, 2019 final.docx

Date: March 1, 2019

Compiler: Elisabeth Rollins