

# ***American Association for Geodetic Surveying***

*Annual General Membership Meeting Notes  
Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 5:00-6:00 pm (Eastern)*

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## I. Open meeting, President

A. The General Membership Meeting was called to order by AAGS President Dave Zilkoski at 17:04 Eastern.

B. In place of AAGS Secretary Dan Roman, President Zilkoski called the roll.

### 1. Present:

President: Dave Zilkoski, Past Director, NGS

President-Elect: Tony Cavell, Center for Geoinformatics, LSU

Immediate Past President: Dan Gillins, Geodesist, NGS

Director (2nd year): Bob Burtch, Professor Emeritus, FSU

Secretary: Dan Roman, Chief Geodesist, NGS

Treasurer: Dan Martin, Northeast Regional Geodetic Advisor, NGS

Reporter (Association editor): Ronnie Taylor, Past Deputy Director, NOAA

Parliamentarian: Steve Briggs, Geodetic & GNSS Consulting

Communications and Geodetic Certification: Thomas Meyer, Professor, UConn

AAGS/NSPS Liaison: Jacob Heck, Great Lakes Regional Geodetic Advisor, NGS

Michael Dennis, Geodesist, NGS

Ahmed Abdalla, Center for Geoinformatics, LSU

Benjamin Fernandez, Civil/Geotechnical Engineer, LSU

Earl Burkholder, Associate Professor, NMSU, retired

Larry Hothem, Senior Physical Scientist at USGS

Pat Kalen, Kalen & Associates, Fairbanks, AK

Cliff Mugnier, Civil & Environmental Engineering, LSU

### 2. Absent:

Vice-President (Director 3rd year): John Hamilton, Terrasurv, PA

Director (1st year): Eugene Levin, Associate Professor, MTU

SaLIS Editor: Ahmed Elaksher, Professor, NMSU

3. Four elected Board members and at least ten association members were present, so the annual membership meeting was authorized.

### 4. Opening remarks (Zilkoski)

\* The meeting is recorded, so with no objections, comments may be transcribed in the notes.

\* As the meeting proceeds, questions and comments are welcome from all participants.

\* The meeting will include a report from each committee, after which two fifteen-minute presentations will be offered, with some time for Q&A, to conclude at 7:00pm Eastern.

## II. Agenda

A. Upon a call for additions, the Agenda was accepted as distributed August 18.

## III. Committee Reports

A. Budget and Finance Committee (Martin)

1. Two appendices were attached to the agenda, providing up-to-date financial information through the end of July.
2. The majority of AAGS income comes from membership dues and SaLIS. SaLIS has been financially successful, including providing for additional expenses, such as scholarship funding, member benefits and outreach.
3. Recently AAGS moved some reserve funds from low-yield CDs that did not keep up with inflation, to a managed fund that accrues interest beyond inflation, more on the order of stocks and bonds.
4. Upon inquiry by Briggs, Martin indicated that this year's scholarships were paid half from the operating fund and half from the scholarship foundation. The foundation has done well during the past year, but this gives the foundation a bit more time to grow.
5. Zilkoski remarked that a guiding principle is to build strength into the AAGS budget so that AAGS can provide more membership development and benefits, including conferences and other activity.

#### B. Fellows/Dracup Award Committee (Briggs)

1. In 2010 the AAGS Fellows Committee proposed that an award be created to recognize those AAGS Fellows that had made large contributions to the membership and the profession. The Dracup Lifetime Achievement Award is named for Joseph F. Dracup (1920-2000), who was one of the earliest members of AAGS, and a mentor to many in the Control Surveys Division and in AAGS. <<https://aagsmo.org/joe-dracup/>>
2. AAGS is very proud this year to award the 2021 Dracup Lifetime Achievement Award to Steven M. Frank (1950-2021), Professor, NMSU, for all the work he did for both AAGS and the surveying profession.
  - \* He worked with Briggs to write the current AAGS bylaws.
  - \* He served as President of AAGS, and also represented AAGS in FIG for many years.
  - \* He was the original and longtime AAGS representative to the NSPS Foundation.
3. Upon inquiry by Martin, Briggs indicated that a token of the award had not yet been delivered.
  - \* In absence of direct heirs, Briggs recommended that Steve Frank's award be delivered to the Survey program at NMSU.
  - \* Burkholder gladly volunteered to assist with placement.
  - \* Martin will assist in finding an appropriate family connection as well.
4. Martin pointed out that in addition to the accomplishments already mentioned, that were key for AAGS and the Surveying community at large, Steve Frank was also remarkable for his participation in FIG and ABET.
  - <[https://www.fig.net/news/news\\_2021/01\\_steven-frank.asp](https://www.fig.net/news/news_2021/01_steven-frank.asp)>
  - <<https://www.abet.org/remembering-steve-frank/>>

#### C. AAGS Scholarships Awards Committee (Heck)

1. The 2021 AAGS Graduate Fellowship (\$2000) was awarded to Yu Zhang, of the Ohio State University
2. The 2021 AAGS Joseph F. Dracup Scholarship (\$2000) was awarded to Jedidiah Lewis, of Ferris State University
3. Special thanks to Steve Briggs and Bob Burtch for reviewing all applications for the 2021 selection!

4. This year 21 applications were submitted by students from a wide variety of universities.  
Applications are available in the fall, due in January. Winners are selected in the early spring.
5. Academic professionals are particularly urged to encourage qualified students from their universities to apply.  
<[https://www.petersons.com/scholarship/american-association-for-geodetic-surveying-joseph-f-dra-cup-scholarship-award-111\\_157488.aspx](https://www.petersons.com/scholarship/american-association-for-geodetic-surveying-joseph-f-dra-cup-scholarship-award-111_157488.aspx)>
  - \* Martin will craft an email to undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as student chapters, to encourage applicants by providing access to details about these scholarships.
  - \* Heck will begin compiling an address list, to be developed for distributing the email.

D. Membership Committee (Zilkoski)

1. This committee meets online the fourth Wednesday of each month to discuss ways to increase membership, and improve member benefits and services for members and other professionals. AAGS members are welcome and encouraged to participate.
2. The committee is brainstorming topics, issues, and themes for webinars and seminars that AAGS could produce, that other organizations may not produce.
3. AAGS used to get together with ACSM and NSPS for joint meetings with great discussions. Zilkoski remarked that such meetings, including with UESI, should be revived.
4. Zilkoski will compile a summary of the Membership committee's discussions, to make it available for members to see what the committee is trying to do.
  - \* A members-only page behind the website's login page would be a place for this.
  - \* Meyer will ask the AAGS web maintainer what it would take to put up a members-only page.

E. SaLIS ExCom (Meyer)

1. Following Ghilani, who rescued SaLIS from folding some years back, Elaksher is very active and interested in promoting SaLIS. He brings many good ideas and initiatives. The new editorial board includes Meyer, Cavell, and Levin.

In addition to the journal, the bulletin was a very popular publication that may be revived digitally, given the volunteer energy needed.

2. Individual and Organization SaLIS subscriptions can be obtained from:

SaLIS Subscriber Services  
PO Box 465  
Hanover, PA 17331-0465  
USA  
Tel: 717-632-3535 (request Subscriber Services)  
Fax: 717-633-8920  
Email: [pubsvc.tsp@sheridan.com](mailto:pubsvc.tsp@sheridan.com)

F. SaLIS Editorial Committee ((Elaksher)

1. New articles are coming in for publication in SaLIS, and they're being reviewed—more articles and reviewers are welcome.

AAGS is looking for more partners to contribute, to serve the needs of surveying, so anyone who has an interesting project or something technical, is encouraged to submit to SaLIS for publication.

G. Government Programs Committee (Taylor)

1. Taylor discussed program/product testing with the Director of NGS about upcoming production—programs under development and beta testing.
2. External beta testing is much more effective in finding and eliminating issues than internal beta testing, and this presents an opportunity for AAGS to serve. Examples:

NGS

FEMA - flood plain mapping, changes

NSRS - vertical control

Opus - new manuals and procedures

USGS - water level gauges

RTCM

URISA

3. This is an area of opportunity where AAGS could involve representative liaisons to give presentations at AAGS meetings, and show them how AAGS can help them.
4. Wednesday meetings are not working for Taylor, so he will email Meyer and a couple of other Board members to discuss ways to re-activate the Government Programs Committee.

H. Administrative Committee (Briggs)

1. No change has been made to the bylaws.
2. A couple of volunteers are sought to look through the bylaws to see if anything needs to be adjusted or updated. If you are interested, please contact Briggs.

Zilkoski will take a look at the bylaws, and attach this point as an agenda item for the next Board meeting.

I. Geodetic Education and Certification Committee (Meyer)

1. In the spring of 2021, a fully fledged curriculum for a core of geometric geodesy was presented to the Board.

The Geodetic Certification program is at the cusp of being realized. The curriculum has been designed for deployment through the continuing education program at the University of Connecticut.

This vehicle takes the learner all the way through the entire core of Geometric Geodesy—to calculate State Plane coordinates from GNSS, from total stations, or directly through map projections, With all of these modules, the learner comes to a thorough understanding all of the coordinate systems and all of the reference frames.

The Board voted on this curriculum and accepted it earlier this year.

2. While the entire curriculum is complete, Meyer deliberately left openings for other experts to plug in additional modules, so that it can include additional or revised content, or be tailored to the requirements of different groups.

AAGS is always interested in collaborators and collaboration. UESI has put together a Manual of Practice. Given the amount of overlap, collaboration is worth discussing prior to further initiative.

The UESI Surveying and Geomatics Conference will present opportunities to discuss further Geodetic Certification curriculum development.

J. Communications Committee (Meyer)

1. The ASCE/UESI UESI Surveying & Geomatics Conference will be held April 3-5, 2022, in collaboration with Cincinnati State Technical and Community College.

Doubletree Hilton & The Lawrenceburg Event Center, 51 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

2. Submissions are due by November 19, 2021—the more the merrier!

Call for Submissions: <https://www.surveyingconference.org/program/call-submissions>

Registration: <https://www.surveyingconference.org/registration>

IV. Meeting Adjourned

- A. AAGS President Zilkoski introduced the first presentation at 18:18 Eastern.

V. Presentations

A. New Types of Coordinates in the Modernized NSRS

1. Speaker: Jacob Heck, National Geodetic Survey Regional Geodetic Advisor for the Great Lakes

B. Measuring Gravity in Louisiana

1. Speaker: Tony Cavell, Surveyor at the LSU Center for Geoinformatics & Louisiana Spatial Reference Center

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Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Rollins

Acting Recorder

File: *Documents\AAGS\AAGS General Membership Meeting Notes August 18, 2021*

Date: August 30, 2021

Compiler: Elisabeth Rollins