I. Open meeting, President

A. The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by AAGS President Kevin Ahlgren at 16:12 Eastern.

B. The roll was called by President Ahlgren:

1. Present:

President: Kevin Ahlgren

President-Elect: Dave Zilkoski

Immediate Past President: Scott Martin

Vice-President (Director 3rd year): Karen Meckel

Director (2nd year): Müge Albayrak

Treasurer: Dan Martin

AAGS/NSPS Liaison: Jacob Heck

Communications and Geodetic Certification: Thomas Meyer

AAGS Members: Bob Burtch, Andrew Byron

2. Absent:

Director (1st year): Rachel Alexander

Secretary: Vacant (acknowledged by President Ahlgren during roll call)

SaLIS Editor: Ahmed Elaksher

Reporter (Association editor): Ronnie Taylor

Parliamentarian: Steve Briggs

At least two directors were present as well as a quorum; therefore, the meeting was authorized.

II. Agenda

1. Upon a call for additions, the AAGS BOD agenda was accepted as distributed March 10.

III. Minutes

1. No prior minutes available to be approved. Scott Martin has offered to serve as temporary, interim Secretary to prepare minutes from the recording.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

IV. President’s Report

A. Helping Jacob Heck with scholarships.

B. Quarterly meeting with NGS, NSPS, and AAGS postponed to April 11, 2025.

C. NSPS meeting next week.

V. Secretary’s Report (vacant)

1. No report

VI. Treasurer’s Report (Dan Martin)

A. Julie at NSPS is on medical leave so Tim Burch is providing AAGS financial support in the interim. Dan needs to check with NSPS to make sure that the AAGS taxes were filed.

B. Still needs to work with Tom Meyer to determine what the year-end report appears to show SaLIS as losing money in 2024..

VII. Reporter’s Report (Tom Meyer)

1. No report.

VIII. President Elect’s Report (Dave Zilkoski)

1. Wanted it noted in the minutes that the AAGS members are concerned about what NGS is facing under the new administration.

IX. Immediate Past President’s Report (Scott Martin)

A Gave a presentation on the AAGS Geodetic Surveying certification examination development to a local professional group in his home county of El Dorado, California. It was well received by attendees, most of which are not surveyors. He shared a few example questions (without answers) to give a flavor of the knowledge level being tested for, which stimulated questions about study materials to help prepare for the examination. Dan Martin mentioned that in the past it had been discussed that AAGS would put on workshops to help examinees prepare for the test. Tom Meyer pointed out that Muge would be talking about creating AAGS YouTube videos later in the agenda so this could possibly be part of that discussion.

X. Vice President’s Report (Karen Meckel)

A. No report.

REPORTS OF COMMITEES AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

XI. Administration (Dan Martin)

1. No report.

XII. Bylaws and Council of Fellows (Briggs)

1. No report

XIII. Communications and Publications Committee (Meyer)

A. Will update AAGS website to reflect current officers. Scott offered to send Tom the biography and photos used for Muge and Rachel on the last ballot.

B. SaLIS ticking along. Drop in revenue could be the result of colleges and universities moving away from buying publications in bundles. Dan Martin asked how potentially interested parties might know of SaLIS if they weren’t aware of AAGS? Tom explained how notifications were distributed to raise awareness and interest. He also shared some history regarding a period when SaLIS almost disappeared, which damaged its reputation and it has never fully recovered. Dave Z. posed the question “what is the practicality of SaLIS to surveyors?” Suggested asking NSPS what their members would be interested in to target more relevant materials.

XIV. Conference Planning (Various)

1. UESI Surveying and Geomatics conference, June 2024 has generated a small return for being a sponsor. Dan Martin asked how much AAGS originally contributed to UESI relative to the return, but no one in attendance has that information readily available. (Ahlgren).
2. Jacon Heck asked if AAGS had a presence at Geoweek 2025? Kevin was unable to attend.
3. Dave Zilkoski suggested that AAGS could host conferences where the content is focused on preparing for the Geodetic Surveying Certification exam material.
4. FIG Working Week in Australia coming up. Kevin will contact John Hamilton to see if he is going and could serve as the AAGS voting delegate? Dave Zilkoski also mentioned Larry Hotham (?) as a possibility. (Ahlgren)
5. SAGES conference coming up (Bob Burth via chat)

XV. Education (Tom Meyer)

1. No report.

XVI. Membership Committee Report (Zilkoski)

A. Geodetic Surveying Certification

1. All the questions to date have been entered into a spreadsheet and downloaded to the NSPS Share drive.

2. Now need to look closely at all the questions to check for wording, answers, ambiguities, and duplications. He will contact Trish Milburn at NSPS on next steps.

3. It was suggested that the review might be more effective if done by small groups rather than an individual. Perhaps group the question by subject matter area and solicit participants to join groups according to their interest and expertise. Dave Z. offered to take a first crack at determining the correct category or categories for each question.

4. Tom Meyer suggested establishing an organized vetting process for the over 300 questions. Tom emphasized the importance of ensuring that there are no incorrect or poorly worded questions because the reputation of AAGS is at stake.

XV. COGO (Doody)

1. No report

XVI. NSPS (Heck)

1. AAGS graduate and undergraduate scholarship applications are being evaluated and scored. Awardee recommendations based on scoring will be passed on to the NSPS Foundation.
2. NSPS activities for National Surveyors week next week. The various activities, by day, were shared. In addition to Jacob, Dave Doyle will also be attending functions representing AAGS.

XVII. External Affairs (Liaisons and Delegates)

1. ASPRS (Burtch) – No report
2. UESI (Meyer) – No report.

XVIII. OLD UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. AAGS website (Meyer) – No report

XIX. NEW BUSINESS

1. YouTube Video Series (Albayrak, all)
2. Muge will create an AAGS YouTube channel and has an idea for the first video. She shared ideas on format, length, etc.
3. Many possible topics are available based on the Geodetic Surveying Certification alone.
4. Various logistics were discussed, such as paying to have these done, should AAGS charge to watch them or should they be for member access only? Is the purpose training or informational?
5. President Ahlgren suggested placing this in the Communication committee to develop more form and make suggestions to the Board.
6. Dave Zilkoski suggested that the Directors, Karen, Muge, and Rachel, take this on initially to formulate suggestion to present to the Board of Directors.
7. Muge asked for volunteers to serve as moderators and Scott Martin agreed to participate. Dave Zilkoski also volunteered to participate.

Action Item: Communication Committee to take this on to develop in more depth and return to Board in a month to provide and update.

XX. For the Good of the Order

A. Upon invitation, AAGS Immediate Past President Scott Martin 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.”

XXI. Announcements

1. None

XXII. Meeting Adjourned

1. AAGS President Ahlgren adjourned the meeting at 17:22 Eastern.

Compiled by Scott Martin on April 7, 2025.