

MSLS 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2025

Officers Present:	President	Cassandra Quintal
	Vice President	Levi Ladd
	Secretary	Kevin Farrar
	Treasurer	Jimmy Courbron

Also in attendance were some chapter directors, committee chairs and MSLS members. Total attendance is about 30 people.

Meeting was called to order at 1:04 by President Quintal. She recognized Past Presidents and Life Members in attendance.

Secretary's Report (Kevin Farrar) – The minutes from the 2024 MSLS Fall Business Meeting, held on October 25th at the UMaine Alumni Center in Orono are on pages 7-8 in the meeting book. It was moved by Wayne Wood to accept the Secretary's Report as printed, seconded by Matt Ek and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Jimmy Courbron) – As of January 29th there is \$90,363.05 in the Checking Account (soon to be \$40,000 due to Conference expenses). There is \$2,654.94 in the Benevolence & Betterment Fund Savings Account, and \$249,150.41 in the Vanguard Scholarship Fund Account (soon to be about \$241,500 after scholarship award distributions). The Vanguard Account had a rate of return of 14.8% over the last twelve months (about \$37,000).

It was moved to accept the report by Wayne Wood, seconded by Spencer Caron and passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report (Bruce Bourgoine) – Bruce mentioned the new MSLS website and its use for registration for this meeting. He asked for comments on the meeting site (The Regency) and questions on the new MSLS website.

STANDING COMMITTEE & LIASON REPORTS

Nominating & Membership Committee (Donald Dostie) – Don said that ballots have been counted and the tellers committee will report the results at the banquet.

Education Committee (Deborah Briggs) – No report.

Scholarship Committee (John Lloyd & Steve Gould) – At January's ExCom meeting the committee reported that they had only 4 applicants. They recommended to ExCom that MSLS make awards of \$1250, \$1750, \$1750 and \$2750, at total of \$7500 for the 4 applicants. That recommendation was approved by ExCom and those awards will be granted at tonight's banquet.

Benevolent & Betterment Fund Committee (Matt Ek) – The auction tonight will be funding the B&B fund. President Quintal added that the scholarship fund is self-sustaining at this point and we are working to build our betterment fund. Shep Sheppard asked about the amount being given (\$7500) to 4 students this year and thought we

should be awarding more money. One member mentioned that he felt a 4% withdrawal each year would keep the scholarship fund self-sustaining. President Quintal, Jimmy Courbron and Mat Ek talked about the constraints of the scholarship fund (students from Maine / full time students), the quality and quantity of the applicants being a consideration and how the current rules for this fund don't allow us to use it to help non-traditional students. Rich Vannozzi said that he didn't feel that the annual amount being given by MSLS was out of line, adding that most if not all of his students are receiving other scholarships.

A member mentioned that one use of our B&B fund could be used to pay for things to help the non-traditional students (individual class tuition, CST exam fees, etc.).

Historical Committee (Tom Blake) – No report

Program Committee (Steve Gould & John Lloyd) – Steve asked for future meeting speaker suggestions. Cassandra said that she discovered at the New York society meeting that NSPS is putting together a speaker list for affiliates to use for speakers/topics.

Board of Licensure – As previously reported in FieldNotes, the last meeting was held on December 17th. There were 4 complaint presentations on the agenda. Two were dismissed with letters of guidance. One was dismissed due to lack of evidence of a violation. The last one was tabled due to a lack of a quorum when one board member recused themselves. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25th.

NSPS (Matt Ek) – Tim Burch of NSPS is here and will speak tomorrow. Matt will be going to DC for the Spring business meeting and hopes to meet with Maine's 4 congressional reps. Matt also mentioned an effort by NSPS to get people retiring from the military into surveying.

MDOT – none

GIS – Greg Copeland – The Maine Geolibrary board has three openings. One rep has to come from the Utility sector, two have to come from the municipality sector. Greg will be transitioning from the municipality sector to the development sector. They are moving to a different method of scheduling flights for images. Greg submitted a report prior to the meeting that didn't make it into the meeting book. That report will be printed in FieldNotes.

SVT at UMaine (Rich Vannozzi) – Rich said that the university got approval for a new faculty member. They are advertising now.

Student Chapter – No report.

CMCC (Cassandra Quintal) – The fall class had about 40 students in the building technology program. The workforce development program will start up in April. Cass is also running a CST exam prep program through the school that will start in April.

FEMA (Marc Carpenter) – Sue's Baker letter is on page 11. That letter announced the Governor's appointment of Samantha Horn to lead the Maine Office of Community Affairs. That is a new "stand alone" office will "provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance and financial support to towns, cities, tribal

governments and regional entities, which will help them better plan for common challenges, pursue solutions and create stronger, more resilient communities”.

TrigStar (John Schwanda) – John Chagnon of Haley Ward (Portsmouth NH) has offered to take John’s place as Trig-Star Coordinator. John Schwanda has written a guide (meeting book pages 12-13) on how to run a Trig-Star program at your local high school. John has a trig Star teacher in Wells who would like to continue the program

CHAPTER REPORTS

Androscoggin Chapter (Keith Morse) – Kieth mentioned that topics of meetings over the last year. The next meeting will be in March. Robert Rogers with come speak on abandonment of railroads.

Crown of Maine (Spencer Caron) – Spencer reports that there will be an ice carousel on the international boundary with New Brunswick on March 14-17. You can search “Northern Maine Ice Busters” to get to a website with more information. Cass mentioned that Mike Cyr’s son just got licensed in New Brunswick.

Hancock/Penobscot – The next meeting is set for Feb 13th at 6pm at the SeaDog in Bangor

MidCoast Chapter (Karl Olson) – Currently meeting monthly on Fridays for breakfast at Moody’s

Narragansett Chapter (Wayne Wood) – This report, on page 14 of the program book outlines the 4 meetings that the chapter held. The officers for 2025 are President – Richard Eaton; Vice President – Matthew Ek; Treasurer – Camille Alden; Secretary – Mark Carpenter; ExCom Director – Wayne Wood. The next meeting date, place and topic has yet to be determined.

Somerset Chapter (Steve Gould) – No meeting, no report.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business –

- 1) 2024 MSLS Budget – The proposed 2025 budget is on page 9 of the meeting book. Jimmy said that we have a net zero budget. He said he noticed a couple of line items that were obscured when the meeting book was produced. Moved to accept by Wayne Wood, seconded and passed with none opposed.

The business meeting was recessed until tonight’s banquet.

At the banquet President Quintal presented the “President’s Award” to Tara Mullen. Tara has worked to advance the profession of surveying, published a Maine Specific PLS exam study guide and teaching at CMCC and MSLS seminars.

Pres. Quintal then made introductions and gave some “outgoing President” remarks.

Secretary Farrar announced the winners of the MSLS plan contest:

Topographic – “Cherry Lane Portland Water District Property” submitted by Jediah Scott of Sebago Technics.

Boundary – “Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust” submitted by John Schwanda of Owen Haskell. This plan was also voted by attendees to be the winner of the “Moses Greenleaf, Best in Show” award.

Land Title Survey – “Caribou Solar” submitted by Spencer Caron of Northern Maine Surveyors.

Steve Gould made scholarship awards to Thomas Berry (\$1500), Bill Clifton (\$2750), Jack Morrissey (\$1250) and Owen Tull (\$1750).

Don Dostie announced the election results. There were 80 ballots. With 79 votes Judd Veer was elected to be Director-at-Large, Jimmy Courbron received 78 votes for Treasurer, Kevin Farrar received 80 votes for Secretary Jon Stewart received 80 votes for Vice President and Levi Ladd received 77 votes for President.

Tim Burch, representing NSPS, recited the pledge and installed the newly elected officers.

Levi Ladd took to the podium to give his incoming remarks. One of the main goals he has is to put the profession of surveying in front of as many young people as we can.

An honorary life membership award was presented to John Shwanda.

The “Surveyor of the Year” award was presented to Steve Gould.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted - Kevin Farrar, MSLS Secretary