



THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY
EASTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

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From Charles Olson, National Director . . .

Elections: Prior to the end of the year, we need to elect a President, a Vice-President and one Director. The Director slot to be filled should be that vacated by Wayne Myers [due to the determination that he really isn't a member of this Region]. Nominations for any or all of these positions are requested. Continuing members of the Board of Directors are Secretary-Treasurer George Leshkevich, Region Directors Harry Stiller and Kathy Peila, and National Director Charles Olson

Bylaws: The ASPRS Bylaws Committee is currently reviewing the Bylaws of all Regions. The review isn't complete, but there are several things in our Bylaws that should be corrected or improved. At our June meeting in Greentree, PA, it was pointed out that our so-called "Constitution" has material in it that does not belong in a Constitution. After review and discussion with the ASPRS Bylaws Committee, it is apparent that we do not need a Constitution, just a set of Bylaws. An appropriate revision is underway but waiting for results of the ASPRS Bylaws Committee Review. ☺

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**Interesting program, congenial atmosphere,
and good food highlight the June 19
EGLR meeting in Pittsburgh**

Twenty-one members and guests heard two very interesting presentations at the June 19 EGLR meeting. Charles Olson introduced aspects of



Eva Paska explains many intricacies of the DARPA Grand Challenge

legalities concerning digital photographs. Revealing slides demonstrated where some problems might arise. Charles Toth and Eva Paska discussed the Robotic Vehicle/DARPA Grand Challenge, in which OSU was a participant. Information about this fascinating project involving a robotic truck can be found at: <http://www.grandchallenge.org>, <http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge>, or http://www.oshkoshtruck.com/defense/technology~robotic_vehicle.cfm.

Those attending the meeting were: Kevin Chappell, Larry Christenson, Bryn Jones, Dean & Jackie Merchant, Carolyn Merry, Chuck & Connie Olson, Kathy Peila, Helen



Kathy Peila organized the Pittsburgh meeting and is the new Chair of the EGLR Program Committee

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Robertson, Richard Robinson, Ed Stevens, Harry Stiller, Charles Toth, and Students David Alvarez, Nora Csanyi, Eva Paska, Dharmendra Saraswat, Mark Seidelmann, Christopher Wells, and Li Zhang. ☺

Excerpts from letter to ASPRS National and Regional Officers, forwarded by EGLR President Larry Christenson

Action Plan is designed to increase membership

Dear ASPRS National and Regional Officers,

As many of you are aware, at the recent ASPRS Board of Directors meeting in Kansas City the Board endorsed a new Action Plan designed to address the significant decline of membership in the organization. This Action Plan is the result of a Working Group, headed by Past President Don Lauer, which I appointed during the ASPRS Annual Conference this past May. The Working Group was charged with studying how the Society should tackle the issues of membership recruitment and retention. The Working Group met over the summer and prepared a plan that was presented to the Executive Committee, Region Officers and Directors meeting, and Board of Directors last week. After several refinements, the Action Plan was endorsed by the Board.

By endorsing the Action Plan, the Board agreed to immediately implement six action items in the Plan that were deemed of the highest priority.

1. Headquarters Staff will engage a market research firm to conduct a survey of all current members, and targeted groups of potential members, that assess the effectiveness and value of the Society's programs, activities and services, and will report the results. [will require budget item for 2005]

2. Regional Officers are expected to establish, if they have not already done so, a position called Membership Officer or equivalent (such as Chair, Regional Membership Committee). [This may require a change in bylaws at the regional level].

3. The ASPRS Board of Directors will agree that a graduate student working toward a degree (with no minimum requirement for number of course hours) can be a Student Member-so that a practicing professional returning to school as a non-traditional graduate student, who has not previously held Member status, can be eligible for Student Membership [requires a change in the national bylaws].

4. The President of the Society, with the support of Headquarters Staff, will identify potential "champions" for recruiting new members into the Society by contacting, via personal letter and/or notice included with the election ballot, all current individual members and asking them "What is the likelihood that you would recommend ASPRS to a non-member friend or colleague?" and will compile the results (list of potential "champions") of this single question survey.

5. The Regional Officers, with possible assistance from interested corporate entities, will explore ways in which they can subsidize student membership dues for current and potential Student Members in their respective regions.

6. The national Executive Committee, working with the Convention Planning and Policy Committee, will implement a new registration policy at the ASPRS Annual and Fall Conferences whereby all non-member registrants would be offered a one-year complimentary membership to the Society.

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I am asking each of you to redouble your efforts in your Region to attract and retain members for ASPRS. All ASPRS national and regional officers **must acknowledge** that declining membership is a priority issue. The Society has lost approximately 33% of its membership over that past 11 years. This rate of erosion is unacceptable and must be reversed if the Society is to remain a vibrant, active voice for the profession for years to come.

Thank you for your timely attention to this issue
Russ Congalton, President, ASPRS
<mailto:russ.congalton@unh.edu>

Two EGLR members will present workshops at the ASPRS 2005 Annual Conference in Baltimore

At the *ASPRS Geospatial Goes Global: From Your Neighborhood to the Whole Planet* Conference in Baltimore, MD, March 7-11, the following two members of our region will present workshops:

Bob Burtch will repeat his popular Workshop on Preparation for Certification

Chuck Olson will repeat his Workshop on Remote Sensing of Vegetation. ☺

Joint regional meeting will be held in Detroit on October 26

A first ever, joint ASPRS - Great Lakes area - regional meeting will be held in Detroit during the 2004 Great Lakes Regional Data Exchange Conference, Oct. 26-28. **Members who wish to attend this joint regional meeting do not have to be registered for the RDX Conference.** The meeting will run from 1-4 PM on Tuesday, October 26 in the Brule Room on the 5th Floor of the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center.

Pre-registration for the joint regional meeting is not required. You may contact Kathy Peila at 724-493-3487 for additional information. Please stop by and join us; the meeting will be informal and topics of discussion will include: Membership, Great Lakes Remote Sensing issues, Future meetings and conferences, and Other ASPRS issues.

As members of ASPRS, your opinions and insight into the above topics are extremely valuable in establishing future policies and events.

A general announcement and hotel directions can be viewed at: <http://rdx.glc.org/mailler/email3.html> ☺

August 27 GIS Conference focused on a broad range of applications

Western PA GIS Conference 2004 was held on August 27, 2004. It was sponsored by the Earth Sciences Department at California University of Pennsylvania, Allegheny County, University of Pittsburgh, URISA-CAC, Thinformation, PA Geographical Society, PASDA, West Liberty State College and ESRI.

The 5th annual event took place at California University of Pennsylvania's Southpointe Campus. The conference brought together academics, public officials and private business for the purpose of discussing and showcasing geographic information systems applications.

Presentations focused on how GIS applications and theory applied to a broad range of topics such as biology, civil government, education, legal services, energy, internet mapping applications and LIDAR.

The keynote speaker was Jim Knudson, Director of Geospatial Technologies for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He discussed the role of Geospatial Technologies in Pennsylvania.

This one-day conference was well-attended and provided a comprehensive view of the activities and applications of GIS technology in various industries. ☺



Dean Merchant is sitting in front of the excellent facilities at the ISPRS Congress Headquarters in Istanbul

International Congress addresses broad range of topics in photogrammetry, remote sensing, and spatial information sciences

The XXth ISPRS Congress was held in Istanbul Turkey July 12-23. The fact that attendees were from 120 countries and the location spanned 2 continents emphasized the Congress theme of *Geo-Imagery Bridging Continents*.

This well-organized meeting stressed the importance of the international aspects of a learned society, and gave professionals from diverse disciplines the opportunity to discuss new technology developments.

Social activities provided opportunity to learn about Turkey and its people. A dinner cruise on the Bosphorous (pictured below) was one of the very enjoyable events. ☺

