



# SDSPLS 36th Annual Convention

January 9, 10 & 11, 2019

Arrowwood (Cedar Shore) Resort, Chamberlain, SD

## General Sessions:

The Rectangular Survey System  
Is it a State or Federal System?  
Subdividing Fractional Sections

Easements

The Land Surveyor as an Expert Witness

Deeds and Descriptions

## LSIT Courses:

Plan Reading & Construction Staking  
Introduction to the Rectangular Survey System  
Geographic Information Systems  
Easements

## Activities:

Photo Contest  
Plat/Map Contest  
American Surveyor Legacy Rifle Raffle  
Live Fundraising Auction  
Exhibits  
Pacing, Chain Throwing & Transit Set Contests

## LODGING & CONVENTION CENTER

Arrowwood (Cedar Shore) Resort - 605-734-6376 (ask for the SDSPLS Convention rate)

### Alternate Lodging

Quality Inn (605-734-5593) • Econo Lodge (605-734-4100) • Howard Johnson Inn (605-234-4222) • Baymont Inn (605-234-1667)

**For information contact: Janelle Finck - Executive Director SDSPLS**

PO Box 8154, Rapid City, SD 57709

(p) 605-348-1538 - [Janelle@fisklandsurveying.com](mailto:Janelle@fisklandsurveying.com)

**THE RECTANGULAR SURVEY SYSTEM:  
Is It A State or Federal System?  
and Subdivision of Fractional Sections**

(1:00 – 5:00 pm)

Robert (Bob) Dahl, PLS & Ryan Lorenzen, PLS

This presentation will discuss the relationship between South Dakota and Federal laws, regulations, case law, standards, and practices governing surveys on the rectangular survey system. A review of South Dakota state laws, rules, opinions, and court decisions, and of relevant Federal laws and practices to the location of title boundaries will be conducted to assure proper jurisdiction is identified and the weighting of evidence is in accordance with boundary survey principles.

In addition, laws, regulations, and practices governing the subdivision of fractional sections will be discussed. The proper methods to subdivide sections made fractional by meandered water bodies, reservations and other causes will be examined. Classroom exercises will be used to illustrate the rules and concepts needed to subdivide a fractional section with a method that is defensible.

Concepts of "source of law", proper jurisdiction", "statutes", "rules and regulations", "last common grantor", "use and occupancy", "good faith location", "satisfactory local conditions", "unwritten rights", and "repose" will be explored.

Cadastral/cadastre is an important but often overlooked system of exerting political and economic control of land. Cadastral surveys, when conducted correctly, promotes orderly settlement, protects land rights, brings certainty and stability to boundaries and land title, promotes domestic tranquility, and does justice.

**Alternate/Concurrent Session**

**LSIT COURSE:**

**PLAN READING & CONSTRUCTION STAKING**

Aaron Norman, PLS & Joshua Vanderwerf, PLS

(1:00 – 5:00 pm)

This session will provide the participant with fundamental instruction on plan reading and best practices for construction staking. A simple calculator with trigonometric functions will be helpful for participation with in-class calculations.

*Class registration is limited to 40.*

*To register, you must check the "LSIT Courses" box on your registration form.*

**EXHIBITOR'S ICEBREAKER**

(5:30 pm)

**SCHOLARSHIP / FUNDRAISING AUCTION**

(7:00 pm) Edward Houska Auctioneer

**EASEMENTS**

(8:00 - 11:45 am)

John Matonich, PLS

Easement agreements are necessary for temporary trespass onto another's land, waterway or airspace. Although rights of way are the most common, you may need to draft an easement for utilities, encroachment or telephonic communications. There are critical legal issues and practical considerations involved. Whether you are assessing the impact of the easement on property use or finding the most strategic way of obtaining access, this presentation will help. The course will cover a number of objectives giving up-to-date information on creating easements, locating and defining their course, preparation of easement descriptions, easement kinds and purpose along with easement reversion.

**Alternate/Concurrent Sessions:**

**LSIT COURSE:**

**INTRODUCTION to the  
RECTANGULAR SURVEY SYSTEM**

Robert (Bob) Dahl, PLS & Ryan Lorenzen, PLS

(8:00 am – 1:45 am)

*Class registration is limited to 40.*

*To register, you must check the "LSIT Courses" box on your registration form.*

**THE LAND SURVEYOR AS AN EXPERT WITNESS**

(1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

John Matonich, PLS

The Professional Surveyor carries a special set of expertise that is used to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. In the practice of boundary surveying, the PLS must consider not only the exact sciences of measurement, but the inexact art of boundaries. Many times this work must be presented in a court of law to help determine the boundaries of a parcel.

This seminar will provide some insight into what may be expected if a surveyor finds him or herself having to explain their position on a boundary question and how to give their ultimate opinion on that location of said boundaries and why they believe their conclusion to be correct.

- Corner Records Update** (3:15 pm)
- SD BOTP Update** (3:45 pm)
- NSPS Update** (4:00 pm)
- SDSPLS Annual Meeting** (4:15 pm)
- Committee Meetings** (5:00 pm)
- Social Hour** (6:00 pm)
- Banquet & Awards** (7:00 pm)



FRIDAY - January 11, 2019

## DEEDS and DESCRIPTIONS

(8:00 am – noon)

John Matonich, PLS

This session will address key issues with regard to Deeds and Descriptions. Included will be information on understanding the purpose of a land description and who should prepare one, along with the importance of intent. It will cover survey terminology and definitions. Part of the presentation will be keys on how to research land records to check for adjoining property and indexes to land records. There will be a section on essential elements of a description as well as types of descriptions and common errors found.

### Alternate/Concurrent Sessions:

#### LSIT COURSES:

#### GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Linda Foster, PLS

(8:00 – 10:00 am)

#### EASEMENTS

Rod Breitling, PLS

(10:00am – noon)

*Class registration is limited to 40.*

*To register, you must check the "LSIT Courses" box on your registration form.*

## ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS

**Robert W. (Bob) Dahl, PLS** retired in October 2016 from the BLM Cadastral Survey Program and was subsequently hired back as a Reemployed Annuitant with the BLM's Washington Office.

His experience includes 18 years stationed at the Headquarters Office in Washington, DC, working for the BLM Chief Cadastral Surveyor providing technical support and policy development. Prior to the Washington Office, he surveyed 22 years conducting dependent resurveys for Cadastral Surveys in CA, OR and WA. Before the BLM he surveyed for a private surveyor and the US Forest Service. He is a licensed land surveyor in the states of CA, OR and WA. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Surveying from the Oregon Institute of Technology. He is a member of NSPS, an instructor for the CFedS Program, and was the Chief Editor of the 2009 edition of the Manual of Surveying Instructions.

**Ryan R. Lorenzen, PLS** is a Cadastral Land Surveyor for BLM Wyoming State Office and he is currently stationed at the BIA Winnebago Agency in NE.

Mr. Lorenzen originally planned a career in the field of forestry but an opportunity presented itself to join a Cadastral land survey field crew as a surveying aid in the BLM Gillette WY Project Office in the spring of 1986. After the first week on the job, he was completely hooked on what turned out to be a new career path in land surveying.

Since 1991, he has worked full time for BLM Cadastral conduction dependent resurveys. His primary duties since 2001 have been conducting dependent resurveys for Indian lands located in various Indian Reservations. He is a licensed land surveyor in both NE and SD. He holds a technical degree in Natural Resource Technologies (Forestry) from Brainerd, MN, and a BS degree from University of MN, Mankato.

**John Matonich, PLS** is the Chairman of the Board of ROWE Professional Services Company, a firm specializing in consulting engineering, surveying, planning, landscape architecture and land development services. John joined ROWE in 1981, was named a principal in 1992, was promoted to president in 1997, to Chief Executive Officer in 2001, elected Chairman in 2006, and retired from management in January of 2016. He is licensed as a Professional Surveying in MI, OH and WI. He served as President of NSPS in 2009-2010 and currently serves as the Treasurer of the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors. John is also a part President of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors. John was elected as a Fellow Member of NSPS, ACSM and MSPS organizations. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Land Surveying with honors from Michigan Technological University in 1982.

ANNUAL  
**SDSPLS**  
SURVEY *Photo* CONTEST

Bring a print of your favorite survey project photograph to the convention with your name and a short description of the photo or project.  
(8" x 10" maximum please)

Winner to receive a  
**\$100 CABELA'S  
GIFT CARD!**

SDSPLS reserves the right to post entries on the SDSPLS website and/or print in Backsights & Foresights (with appropriate credit).

# CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday pm – January 9, 2019

<b>Main Session</b> <i>(Hale &amp; Oacoma)</i>	<b>LSIT Session (40)</b> <i>(Glass)</i>
<p><b>The Rectangular Survey System: Is it a State or Federal System? Subdivision of Fractional Sections</b>  <i>Robert (Bob) Dahl, PLS &amp; Ryan Lorenzen, PLS</i>                      (1:00 – 5:00 pm)</p> <p><b>Exhibitor's Icebreaker Fundraising Auction</b></p>	<p><b>Plan Reading &amp; Construction Staking</b>  <i>Aaron Norman, PLS &amp; Joshua Vanderwerf, PLS</i>                      (1:00 – 5:00)</p>

Thursday am – January 10, 2019

<b>Main Session</b> <i>(Hale &amp; Oacoma)</i>	<b>LSIT Session (40)</b> <i>(Glass)</i>
<p><b>Easements</b>  <i>John Matonich, PLS</i>                      (8:00 – 11:45 am)</p>	<p><b>Introduction to the Rectangular Survey System</b>  <i>Robert (Bob) Dahl, PLS &amp; Ryan Lorenzen, PLS</i>                      (8:00 – 11:45 am)</p>

Thursday pm – January 10, 2019

<b>Main Session</b> <i>(Hale &amp; Oacoma)</i>	
<p><b>The Land Surveyor as an Expert Witness</b>  <i>John Matonich, PLS</i>                      (1:00 – 3:00)</p> <p><b>Corner Records Update</b> (3:15 – 3:45 pm)  <b>SDBOTP Update</b> (3:45 – 4:00 pm)  <b>NSPS Update</b> (4:00 – 4:15 pm)  <b>Annual Meeting</b> (4:15 – 5:00 pm)  <b>Banquet &amp; Awards</b> (7:00 – 10:00 pm)</p>	

Friday am – January 11, 2019

<b>Main Session</b> <i>(Hale &amp; Oacoma)</i>	<b>LSIT Session (40)</b> <i>(Glass)</i>
<p><b>Deeds and Descriptions</b>  <i>John Matonich, PLS</i>                      (8:00 – 12:00)</p>	<p><b>Geographic Information Systems</b>  <i>Linda Foster, PLS</i>                      (8:00 – 10:00 am)</p> <p><b>Easements</b>  <i>Rod Breitling, PLS</i>                      (10:15 am – noon)</p>