

**Board of Directors
2004 - 2005**

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Northern
Upper Peninsula
West Central*

Field Notes

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Noted

by Patrick Hannon, C.S.T. II
STC President

A number of exciting events have been taking place on the Board recently. Last October the STC closed nominations for Directors and the STC Representative to the Society Board with eight vacant positions. Three terms expired, two positions opened, and three new positions were created. There was only one member who accepted a nomination to the Board. That is the reason no ballot was developed last October. Bill Hohlock Jr. was accepted to the Board as unopposed with unanimous approval by the Board. We were in a bit of a jam until our December meeting when a number of folks stepped forward. Jacob Feindt was appointed by the Board to fill the remaining two years of a vacated seat. John DeDecker and Bill Strable were appointed to fill two seats. Beth Braun, who is the STC Representative to the MSPS Board did not run for re-election, but has agreed to stay in the capacity until the Board can appoint a replacement. At the December meeting, the Executive Board positions were filled.

I am pleased to announce the 2005-2006 Survey Technician Council Board of Directors. They are; Mark Stephens, C.S.T. II as President, John DeDecker, C.S.T. III as Vice President, William Strable, IV, C.S.T. II as Secretary/Treasurer, Beth Braun as the STC Representative to the MSPS Board (Interim), Steve Clifford, C.S.T. II, Director, Jacob Feindt, C.S.T. I, Director, Bill Hohlock, Jr., Director, and Patrick Hannon, C.S.T. II as Immediate Past President.

While there is a functioning Board of Directors, we are still in need of three Directors and a Representative to the MSPS Board. The Directors are important to the health of the Board. But where are the Chapter Representatives? Currently, we have only two Chapters that

are represented at our meetings. The Society is proud of all her members, including Survey Technicians. The Survey Technician Council is run by Technicians for the betterment of the Society's Technicians. Michigan is the only state surveying society that has a functioning Technicians Council at the state level. We all take knowledge, experience, and financial gain from this career, why don't you give back by being a part your Society? Please contact any Board member listed on this newsletter to be a proud part of your Society.

The 2005-2006 session begins at the close of the Annual Meeting in February being held at the Hyatt in Dearborn. The STC will have a business meeting on Thursday, February 10 at 3:30 pm. Please join us in welcoming the new board and saying thanks to the last. All members of the Society are welcome to attend.

Having fulfilled our terms in office, Matt Chrzan and I did not run for re-election.

Matt Chrzan has been with the STC since it was rejuvenated in 1997. Matt was instrumental in getting the Board started and populated. With a one-year hiatus, Matt has served as a Board member since 1998 and has served in different Executive positions including one term as President, and most recently as Vice-President. Matt will continue to be active with the STC as a member of the Past-President's Committee.

I started with the STC in 1999 as an elected Director. I have served in an Executive position since 2000 including two sessions as President. I will serve the next session as the Immediate Past-President and chair the Past-President's committee.

Though I will always be available to the Technician Council, I wish to spend more time in other pursuits. I also feel that in order for the Council to continue to adapt and grow, it needs to be infused with new people. I will always look proudly on my time with the Board. I have met many folks and learned much along the way. I have developed confidence and leadership skills that one might not otherwise experience.

MARCH Meeting
March 21, 2005, 6:00 p.m.
Location TBA

MAY Meeting
May 16, 2005, 6:00 p.m.
Location TBA

MIOSHA SAFETY

Jim Fink, CST3
STC Immediate Past President

Every year there are times when field crew members end up in situations that result in injury or at the very least, a near miss. Some times these situations occur by no fault of the crew members. They may have been doing everything that they were trained to do regarding safety in that situation. Some times that is not the case. At times accidents occur that could have been avoided if those individuals had adhered to the training that they had received or simply used a little common sense. The number of reported accidents involving survey technicians is a lot higher than most of you realize. MIOSHA requires that our employers provide us training in how to handle any hazards that we may encounter in the performance of our jobs. This includes instruction on the proper use of hand tools, the proper way to set up traffic signs for the various types of roadways that we work on, the proper use of the personal protective equipment that we have been issued, and many others. It is required that you have any necessary safety equipment that may be needed including vest, hard hat, safety glasses, hearing protection, etc. It is required that we all have a written safety plan, and that we have a copy in our field vehicles. While working on a construction site, one of our crews was asked to produce a copy of our safety plan by a MIOSHA inspector who was doing a spot inspection of the site. If they had not been able to, it would have been an automatic fine.

We all know most of this already. We have been told many times. We've read it in the survey publications, we've heard it in seminars, and there have been sessions at the annual meeting, (and will be again this year). If your employer is not providing training on the hazards that you encounter, let them know. It could be that they just did not know that it is required. If someone gets hurt while doing something that they have been trained not to do then they will usually be the one at fault. If they are doing it and they have never been told in training that it is not correct, it is the employers fault. The key here is that regardless of whether your training is up to speed, use common sense. If your partner tells you that "we shouldn't be doing this." You probably should not be doing it. If you see that there is a possibility of injury in a procedure that you are using, then maybe you should change that procedure. If you don't have the right equipment to do the job safely, then put it off until you do. After all, what's easier, explaining to the boss why you'll have a couple extra hours on the job, or explaining to the boss that your partner is in the hospital because of the procedure that you were using?

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