

SURVEYOR

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Issue #161

Preparing PLS Application and Reference Forms

Article by Jill Van Houten, PLS
page 10

The Description Writer's Toolbox

Article by Russ Forsberg, PLS
page 14

Being Professional is Good Business

Article by Phil Danskin, PLS
page 20

CLSA-~~NA~~LS CONFERENCE 2010

Retrospect pages 32-35

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Kids Korner

Do you have a picture of a "junior surveyor" in your family that you would like to share? Send it in and we will put it in the Kids Korner.



Alex Niccum and his grandfather Mericio C. Ortega, CLSA Associate, hard at work on Father and Son Day at the City of Burbank Water and Power Yard.



John and Molly Butcher, children of John and Cece Butcher, testing the S6 total station donated by Trimble to Cuyamaca College.

Letters to the Editor



Continuing the Continuing Education Debate

Submitted by: Francis "Frank" D. Romano, Jr., PLS

I am writing in response to the Continuing Education Debate in Issue #160 of the California Surveyor magazine. My career began over 30 years ago by completing an AAS degree in Land Surveying. I have taught surveying at the elementary, high school and community college levels. As an educator, life long learner, and one in love with my profession, I heartily endorse a person continuing to better himself and learn new things concerning his profession. However, Ian Wilson brings up what I believe is the most significant and relevant point. In fact, the whole continuing education debate hinges on the answer to the question; "Has anyone seen a statistically significant reduction in adverse actions against licensees in any of the 45 states that require it?" If not, I for one do not want another "feel good, sounds good" requirement that has the tendency to force me to "go through the motions."

As has been acknowledged by those on both sides of the debate, an education can be achieved by learning both inside and outside the classroom. However, I haven't heard anyone suggest on-the-job continuing education that would involve learning new tasks and performing methods new to the surveyor. Many of us have done so through implementing what we have read in professional periodicals, bulletin boards, blogs or discussions with our peers. There are times when we learn new things seemingly unrelated to surveying that we are able to apply to it, things that improve our performance. How would you log or keep track of this type of continuing education? Or, do we just ignore it?

I am of the opinion that a true professional will never stop learning. He will continually find new ways to better his performance and enhance his abilities. On the other hand, there are some who desire the title but have little or no inclination or ability to live up to it. The latter should be weeded out through the exam process and code enforcement. I am all for promoting continuing education in all its various forms, not mandating a bureaucratic form of it. ■

*Frank Romano, Jr., PLS is Relinquishment Coordinator, Right-of-Way Engineering, District 12, California Department of Transportation, a former Adjunct Professor, Survey Program, Santiago Canyon College, Orange, CA., and is currently a member of the college's Technical Advisory Committee. Over the years he has taught surveying classes to 4th through 12th grade students, is an active volunteer in Trig*Star and participates annually in various Career Day events throughout Orange County.*