

LSAW Foundation

Promoting and advancing the surveying, mapping and
land information professions

Message from the Chair

Need I say it? 2020 was an interesting year...and then some! And things continue to be interesting and stressful and busy! We've been fortunate in our industry that the market sectors we work in are very strong and look to stay that way, at least for the near future.

From my conversations with colleagues around Washington and other States, firms are busy and in high need of both professional and technical survey staff. Nearly everyone I've spoken with says they are having a tough time finding available candidates for their staffing needs. The tools we use today, both in the office and in the field, require smart, well trained individuals. A person entering the land surveying field today has a great opportunity to have an interesting, fulfilling and great paying career. Needless to say, a proper education will help kickstart their career and help them advance in their career at a faster pace.

The LSAW Foundation exists to provide a means whereby people interested in advancing the profession could work together to provide financial assistance to deserving students, educators and others who work to enhance the standing of the profession Washington State. Each year we generally award 10 to 12 scholarships. For the last five years we've averaged total scholarship amounts just above \$11,000 per year. In 2020, we awarded \$15,150. Early in the year, with many survey programs in an uncertain status, we received only one application. We opted to do a second round of applications late in the year and awarded 10 scholarships in December. It looks like there is a good chance that 2021 will be more normal and we expect to return to our normal award cycle.

We continue our financial growth to help ensure that the Foundation is enduring and can meet the current and future needs of our those in pursuit of a career in land surveying, as well as provide for increasing award amounts. We get strong financial support from LSAW corporate, from individual LSAW Chapters, from our vendor community and from individual contributors. To all of our financial supporters, we give you our deepest thanks.

Looking forward, our profession needs your continued financial support and assistance promoting both our professional services and supporting our educational institutions. With your financial support the Foundation can provide more effective scholarships to more students. In doing so, we help our profession by increasing the number of educated, qualified candidates available to us. In turn, we benefit the entire profession.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Chair	1
Scholarship Apps Available	2
Board of Directors	3
Financial Report	4-5
Scholarship Report	6
Goals and Strategies	6
Meet the Directors	7-8

Message from the Chair (continued)

There are a number of way you can provide financial assistance; become a member of the Foundation for \$35.00, a one-time or yearly donation, donation of an auction item, or simply making a cash donation. Another option for donation is to consider including the Foundation as part of your estate financial plan. And don't forget about Amazon Smile. It's easy and painless.

Please feel free to contact any LSAW Foundation Director at any time. We value your support and input.

To the Foundation Directors, thank you for your continued participation in this worthy cause. To anyone who may be entertaining the idea of becoming a Director, reach out to one of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Waltrip, PLS
2020 Foundation Chairperson

Contribute to the LSAW Foundation through Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by **Amazon** with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the **AmazonSmile Foundation** will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. It is a small contribution for an individual purchase. But, if we can get a number of individuals to participate throughout the year, it adds up. And.....THERE IS NO COST TO YOU!

Simply type smile.amazon.com in your browser. You will be prompted to select a charitable organization from the the list of eligible organizations. You will find the LSAW Foundation in the list. It's that easy!



2021 Scholarship Applications Available Now!

Scholarship applications for 2021 are now available for downloading from the Foundation Website. To obtain an application, go to

<http://www.lsawfoundation.org/scholarships/scholarshipapplication.html>

Applications are available in both Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF formats. To be eligible for consideration, completed application packages must be postmarked by June 1, 2021.

Send completed applications to:

Tom Brewster, Scholarship Chairperson, LSAW Foundation, 740 Cross Street, Bellingham, WA 98229 (tbrewster@wilsonengineering.com). Email submittals are preferred.

Along with the application form, the Application Instructions document should be downloaded from the website. While it doesn't happen often, we have had to reject some applications due lack of completeness. Applications must be complete, signed and dated to be considered.

For scholarship applications and instructions, visit

www.lsawfoundation.org

Board of Directors and Past Directors

Current Board

Rich Waltrip – Chair (Director 2007-present)

John (Tom) Brewster – Vice Chair, Scholarship Chair (Director 2014-present)

Darin Deehr – Treasurer (Director 2017 –present)

Erynn Sullivan – Secretary (2016-present)

Ken Swindaman – Director (Vice Chair 2007-2013, Chair 2014-2019)

Carla Merrit – Director (2014-present)

Greg Brooks – Director (2015-present)

Tom Barger – Director (2019-present)

Kevin Carlascio – Director (2019-present)

Past Members of the Board

John Thalacker – Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors (2007-2013)

Walter O. Dale – Founding Director, Treasurer (2007-2011)

James Main – Founding Director (2007-2011)

Vicky Thalacker – Founding Director and Scholarship Chair (2007-2013)

Jon B. Purnell – Founding Director, Secretary (2007-2012)

Michael (Mick) Sprouffske Jr. – Treasurer (2011-2015)

John R. Christensen – Director (2011-2016)

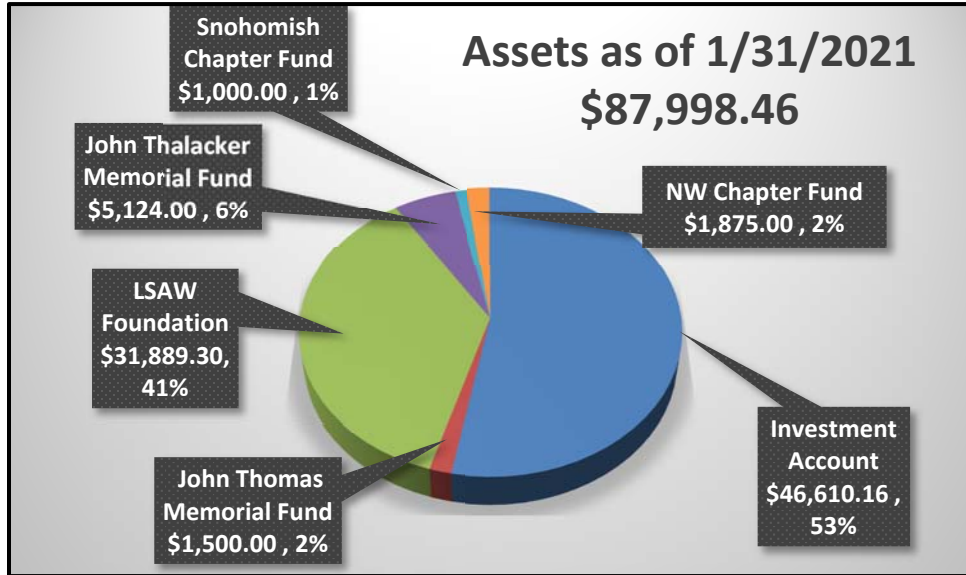
John Thomas – Director, Treasurer (2013-2017)



Financial Status Report

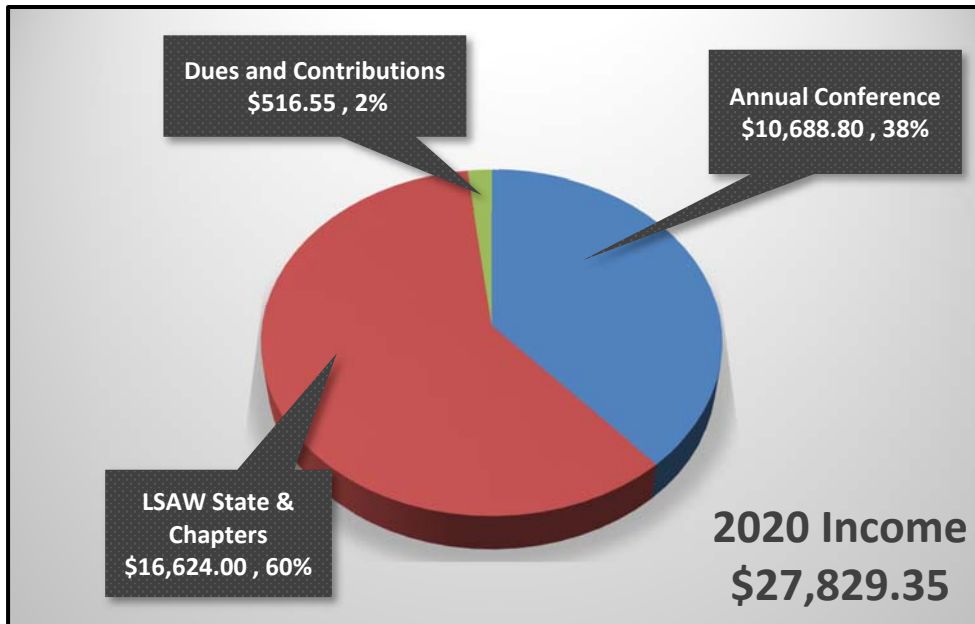
Assets

The Foundation had a total of \$87,998.46 in the following accounts through year-end 2020.



Income by Source

Our yearly income for 2020 was very good at \$27,829.35. We've been averaging a bit over \$15,000 with growth most years. Contributions generated at the Annual Conference we up significantly. We also had increases from the individual Chapters, particularly those with memorial scholarships.

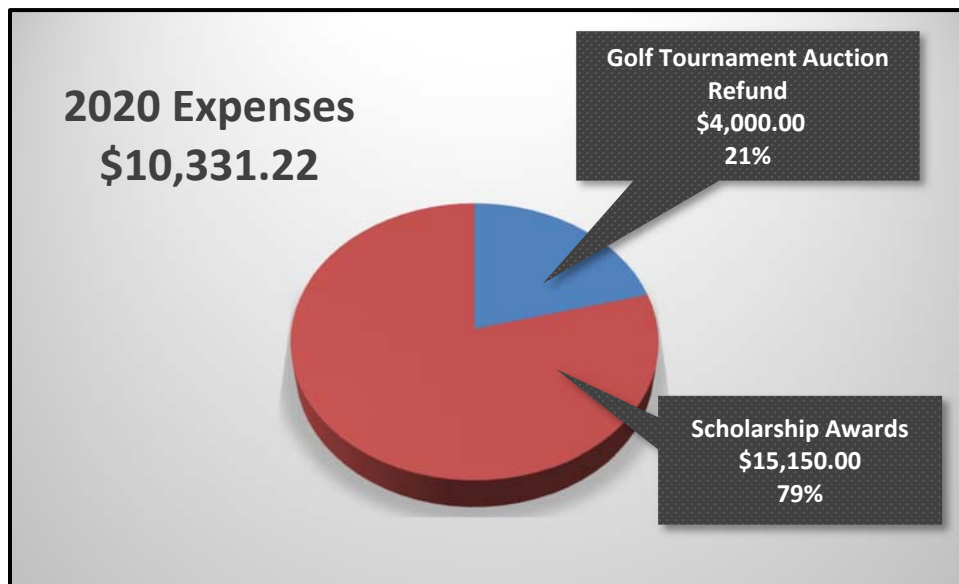


The **Foundation Board** thanks one and all for your generous and continued support.

2020 Expenses

The Foundation strives to keep overhead costs as low as possible. For instance, Board members do not receive reimbursement for mileage, lodging or meal expenses when traveling to attend Board meetings.

In 2020, the Foundation distributed \$15,150 in scholarship award. Generally this accounts for 99% of its expenses for the year. This year we needed to refund \$4000 that had been collected at the Annual Conference. The \$4000 was collected by Silent Auction and was to provide the winner lodging and entrance fees to a Professional Golf Association event. Due to Covid, the event was cancelled. Thus the refund.



Chapter leaders, if your Chapter has yet to make contribution, please consider a dedicated scholarship or yearly support for the general LSAW Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Scholarships

2020 Scholarship Awards

In 2020, the LSAW Foundation provided \$15,150 in scholarship awards to ten students attending three Washington colleges and the Oregon Institute of Technology. This brings our total amount to **\$109,450 since 2009**. Your support has assisted a significant number of aspiring students and future employees. We now have a number of awardees working at firms across the State of Washington.



Goals and Strategies

The overall mission of the Foundation is to **promote educational, scientific and charitable activities in the fields of surveying, mapping, and land information sciences.**

It seeks to do this by **providing financial support, in the form of scholarships and grants**, to students entering the profession and to educators and others who advance and improve the profession and its standing with the general public in the State of Washington

To make this possible, the Foundation seeks to build a self-supporting endowment that will allow it to award **impactful** scholarships and grants to deserving surveying students and educational programs perpetually. If this goal is to be accomplished, a portion of the funds we receive must be saved and invested. Otherwise, the Foundation would

function in a pay-as-you-go fashion and scholarship and grant awards would be vulnerable to market conditions and totally dependent upon the continuing and continuous generosity of donors.

In its fund raising activities, the Foundation seeks to avoid competing with other established groups such as the George Walker Fund, LSAW Chapter fundraisers such as seminars, and the LSAW State Conference. This makes financial support from LSAW at the State and Chapter level essential to the Foundation's mission.

The Board continues to revisit and revise the strategic plan each year, thereby keeping an up-to-date framework as it seeks to fulfill its mission in 2021 and beyond.

Foundation Board for 2020



Chair, Rich Waltrip, PLS received a B.S. in Geology from the University of Missouri in 1978 and completed several surveying courses at various colleges in subsequent years. He is licensed in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Missouri and Nevada. He believes in the increasing importance of higher education for personal development, as well its benefit to the profession. He has been an active member of LSAW since moving to Spokane, Washington in 1999, and is a past president and trustee of the Inland Empire Chapter. Rich is a founding member of the LSAW Foundation, serving as a Director since its inception in 2007. He served as Foundation Scholarship Committee Chair from 2013 through 2019. Besides working for a living, he enjoys camping, hiking and playing music.



Vice-Chair and Scholarship Chair, John Thomas (Tom) Brewster, PLS was born and raised in Bellingham, Washington. He enrolled in Bellingham Technical College's surveying program in 1988, after realizing that his B.A. in Philosophy from Washington University in St. Louis was not going to pay the bills effectively. Starting work as a survey technician in early 1990, he moved to Wilson Engineering in 1994, becoming their principal GPS and Hydrographic Technician. In 2001 he sat for and passed the LSIT exam, and received his professional license in 2007. He served on the Technical Advisory Board for the Surveying and Civil Engineering programs at Bellingham Technical College for twelve years, and took a leave of absence to teach there for a full year. As an instructor, he saw the impact that even a relatively small scholarship can have on a student's ability to perform and succeed. He sees his service on the Foundation Board as an opportunity to re-engage with surveying students, and perhaps help to "spread the word" about the scholarships the Foundation administers. Tom joined the Board in 2013.



Secretary, Erynn Sullivan's interest in surveying and land use came late, after several years working for YMCA, then in retail management for well over a decade; she enjoys the novelty and creativity involved in field surveying, and relishes working outdoors. Most days. Erynn graduated with an Associate's degree in Land Surveying from Renton Technical College in 2010, a recipient of several generous scholarships provided by the Washington surveying community. She then earned a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Huxley College, with the goal of delineating and mapping wetlands and streams, and a not-quite-Minor in Environmental Policy. Erynn has served LSAW as secretary for the Snohomish Chapter, and as a member of the Annual Conference committee. In 2011, the Snohomish Chapter honored Erynn as its Associate of the Year; she also served on the first all-female Executive Committee of any LSAW chapter. She was a member of the summit team on the 2010 Mt. Rainier resurvey, sponsored by LSAW, and has given short lectures on the intersection of surveying and environmental consulting.



Treasurer, Darin Deehr, has been active in the survey industry since 2010. Prior to launching the land survey phase of his professional career, Darin worked for 20 plus years as a Production Manager in the window manufacturing industry. When the building industry collapsed due to the 2007/2008 recession, Darin quickly turned the negative into a positive and seized the opportunity to go back to school and change careers. After 2 years of study Darin graduated with highest honors and received an ATA Civil Engineering Technology Degree from Centralia College. Since graduation Darin worked as a survey draftsman/survey tech in the private sector for five years and currently works for the WA State Department of Natural Resources as the aquatic research specialist in the Engineering Division, Title and Records Office. Darin is a member of the LSAW SW Chapter where he has previously served as secretary and now has joined the board of directors of the LSAW Foundation as of 2017.

Foundation Board for 2020 continued



Director, Carla Meritt, PLS has been a licensed professional land surveyor since 2003, currently holding licenses in both Washington and Oregon. She has been working in the private sector of the land surveying industry since 1995 and currently manages a division of the surveying group at MacKay Sposito in Vancouver, Washington. She has been a member of LSAW since 2003 and held various leadership positions within the organization, including Lower Columbia chapter president and trustee. She served as LSAW's liaison to the OIT Geomatics Advisory Committee from 2007-2012. Carla has been a part-time adjunct instructor at Clark College, teaching the legal description class, since 2011. She has been a member of the Clark College Survey Advisory Committee since 2007, and held the position of Advisory Committee Chair from 2010-2012. In 2012 she was appointed as LSAW's delegate to WFPS. With a background and a degree in Education, Carla is passionate about promoting recruitment and funding for students entering into the surveying profession and is looking forward to continued service on the Foundation Board.



Director, Greg Brooks, PLS is a graduate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, where he received his BS in Civil Engineering. His course studies were within the Surveying tract of the Civil Engineering program, and he has been licensed in Washington since 2008. Greg's passion for supporting education, and golf, has served him as he has been the Chairman/Organizer for the George F. Walker Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament since 2007. He has also served on the Board of Director's for the Walker Scholarship Committee for the past 4 years. Greg has been actively involved with LSAW since moving to Washington in 1998, serving for several years as the North Puget Sound Chapter Secretary, and is currently starting his 6th year as the Snohomish Chapter Treasurer – Greg was also the LSAW Associate Surveyor of the Year for 2005. Greg currently holds a position as a Senior Civil Engineering Specialist (aka Surveyor) with Seattle Public Utilities, where he started in June of 2015, after 17 years in the private sector with CH2M HILL in Bellevue.



Director, Ken Swindaman, PLS has always supported higher education. While attending Oregon Institute of Technology he was awarded a \$500 PLSO scholarship. He understands the importance of supporting students pursuing higher education. Ken Served on the Gorge F. Walker Memorial Scholarship Fund prior to serving on the LSAW Foundation. He has been licensed in Oregon since 1996, and in Washington since 1997. Ken is one of the founding Directors of the Foundation. He served as its Vice-Chair from 2007-2013 and Chair from 2019-2019. He is a former president of LSAW.



Director, Kevin Carlascio, LSIT has served as the South Central Region Survey Supervisor at Washington State Department of Transportation for ten years and been with the department for fourteen. Kevin, joined his alma mater in 2009 as an adjunct instructor at Yakima Valley College, YVC. Instructing classes such as; MicroStation, InRoads, OpenRoads, Plane, Intermediate, Advanced Survey and STEM Undergraduate Research classes. Also has served on the YVC education advisory board for eight years where they recently, unanimously approved adding 14 credits for survey classes to the Land Survey and Construction Design program. Throughout Kevin's sixteen year long career in Land Surveying he had worked in the private sector, been involved in various organizations, chapters and committees and currently the treasurer of his local LSAW chapter. While Surveying is his professional addiction, Kevin's personal time includes relaxing; swimming, hiking, mountain biking and restoring classic VWs with his wife Stacy of 23 years and their four children. Like any good surveyor passing on the legacy by pointing out every section corner and bench that he has ever occupied during family road trips, outings and vacations.



Director, Thomas S. Barger, Jr., PLS is the Chief Surveyor for Seattle Parks and Recreation and a Senior Survey Manager with over 37 years of surveying field and office experience throughout the Pacific Northwest and the Lower Hudson Valley of New York. Tom has been a member of LSAW since 1993, leading the North Puget Sound Chapter as president from 2015-2019, chairing the NATRF 2022 Task Force, Liaison to both the DNR Survey Advisory Board and the WA Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and is the 2018 LSAW Surveyor of the Year. Tom's support for education includes volunteer work in middle and high school presentations, founding the CORSE-Council on Remote Sensing Education (now TwiST-Teaching with Spatial Technology) teachers award program as the chair of Washington State Section of ACSM, joining the Renton Technical College Survey Advisor Board (1998-2002), volunteer judging the Land Surveying award for Future City-Washington with NCEES/LSAW sponsorship and encouraging educational pathways into the Geospatial Sciences for administrators, teachers and students with the help of "Get Kids Into Surveying" and "Mini-Mapmakers".