

## Ideas for Continuing Education in COVID-19 Times

Earl F. Burkholder, PS, PE, F.ASCE

October 2020

- I. Circumstances
  - A. Surveyors (and Engineers) need PDHs for license renewals – 15 hrs. per year.
  - B. In “normal” times, PDH hrs. were often earned at the Annual NMPS Conference.
  - C. The Annual Conference was canceled in 2020 and may be canceled again in 2021.
  - D. License renewal cycle is every other year. Renewals are split by even/odd birth years.
  - E. NM licensing board has been asked to “waive” or reduce PDH requirements.
  - F. The Annual Conference is not the only way to earn PDH hrs.
  - G. PDH hrs. can be earned in a variety of ways. . .
    - 1. Taking or teaching formal college classes.
    - 2. Attending seminars/webinars offered by various persons/organizations.
    - 3. Commercial courses such as:
      - a. PDH Academy [www.pdhacademy.com](http://www.pdhacademy.com)
      - b. McKissock [www.mckissock.com](http://www.mckissock.com)
    - 4. Being a member of and reading professional society publications.
    - 5. Others. . .some people get to be quite creative. Licensing boards have last say.
  - H. **Webinars/seminars are becoming readily available via Zoom (and other).**
- II. SRG Chapter can “host” or sponsor continuing education sessions offered via Zoom.
  - A. Sessions can be flexible in content, duration, and schedule.
  - B. Persons signup for session and participate.
  - C. Certificates of attendance given to attendees (attendee list also sent to BOL).
  - D. Pricing structure can be developed to pay instructors/hosts.
- III. Philosophical considerations
  - A. Surveyors provide professional services and are expected (by society) to be competent.
  - B. Earning PDH hrs. does not guarantee professional competence.
  - C. No person is expected to be “competent” in all possible areas of practice.
  - D. Competence can be enhanced by exchange of information (stories) with others.
  - E. Collectively, we surveyors should be promoting (enhancing) services without needing PDHs.
  - F. But there is unmistakable correlation between enhancing competence and getting PDHs.  
(We can learn from each other – a rising tide lifts all boats.)
  - G. Minimum Standards are important. Minimum Standards should not be used as a “club.”
- IV. Alternative – Burkholder could consider developing a PDH/seminar “business”
  - A. Over 25 years teaching college level surveying courses – another 25 years private.
  - B. Resume/web site lists courses/seminars presented over the years.
  - C. Focus has been on measurements, coordinate systems, computations, etc.
  - D. Has written book on generation and use of 3-D spatial data.
  - E. Practically all book material is posted on Global COGO web site.
  - F. Articles in Benchmarks can be used for discussion.
  - G. He is staying up to date with regard to NGS plans for 2022 update to NSRS.
  - H. Has programs to handle all low-distortion projections - just waiting for NGS parameters.
  - I. Has a “commercial” version of Zoom and is “ready to go” with separate web site.
  - J. Will need practice and help to develop on-line instructional efficiency.
  - K. Anticipates using frequent guest hosts to cover wider range of topics.