

# LSAW Foundation

Promoting and advancing the surveying, mapping and  
land information professions

## Message from the Chair

The past year was a great year for the Foundation. We have a new website with one-click donation buttons. We had a banner year from a revenue and donation standpoint and gave out the most award dollars to date. This year we awarded \$22,000 in total scholarship dollars. We believe we will be able to continue with more generous award amounts going forward.

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Some things remain the same. Our market sectors remained strong, and workloads remained high. Firms continue to struggle to find and keep their qualified staff. Opportunities for individuals entering the field are greater than ever, particularly if they start with a strong educational foundation. In Washington State, we have an abundance of strong surveying programs for those interested, and online educational opportunities are increasing each year.

Did I mention that this year we completed a major update of the LSAW Foundation webpage? We've added online donation options, making it easier than ever to donate. You can donate to the Foundation or donate to an individual fund, all with the click of a button. Why not grab your smartphone and check it out now! [www.lsawfoundation.org](http://www.lsawfoundation.org)

We had another successful Giving Tuesday this year and it has become a standard fund-raising event. We will continue to need your financial support and your assistance in promoting both our profession and our educational institutions.

**If you are at or nearing retirement, please consider the Foundation in your estate planning considerations.**

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following donors for their very generous 2023 donations.

- 1 Alliance Geomatics
- Contour Engineering
- Gregory Irrevocable Trust
- South Central Chapter
- Cascade Columbia Chapter

Thank you to the Snohomish Chapter, the North Olympic Chapter, and the Northwest Chapter for continuing to generously fund their respective scholarships.

Thank you to the Inland Empire Chapter for their generous pledge for 2024.

Thank you to LSAW for your generous annual donation.

### Message from the Chair (continued)

In 2023, Jeff Lynch, past LSAW President, joined the Foundation as our newest Director. Jeff fills the opening from Carla Merritt's retirement. Welcome aboard Jeff!

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, please reach out to one of us to discuss this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Waltrip, PLS  
2024 Foundation Chairperson

### 2024 Scholarship Applications Available!

Scholarship applications for 2024 are available at the Foundation website.

To obtain the 2024 application, go to

<https://www.l sawfoundation.org/application>

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, 2024.

#### 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.

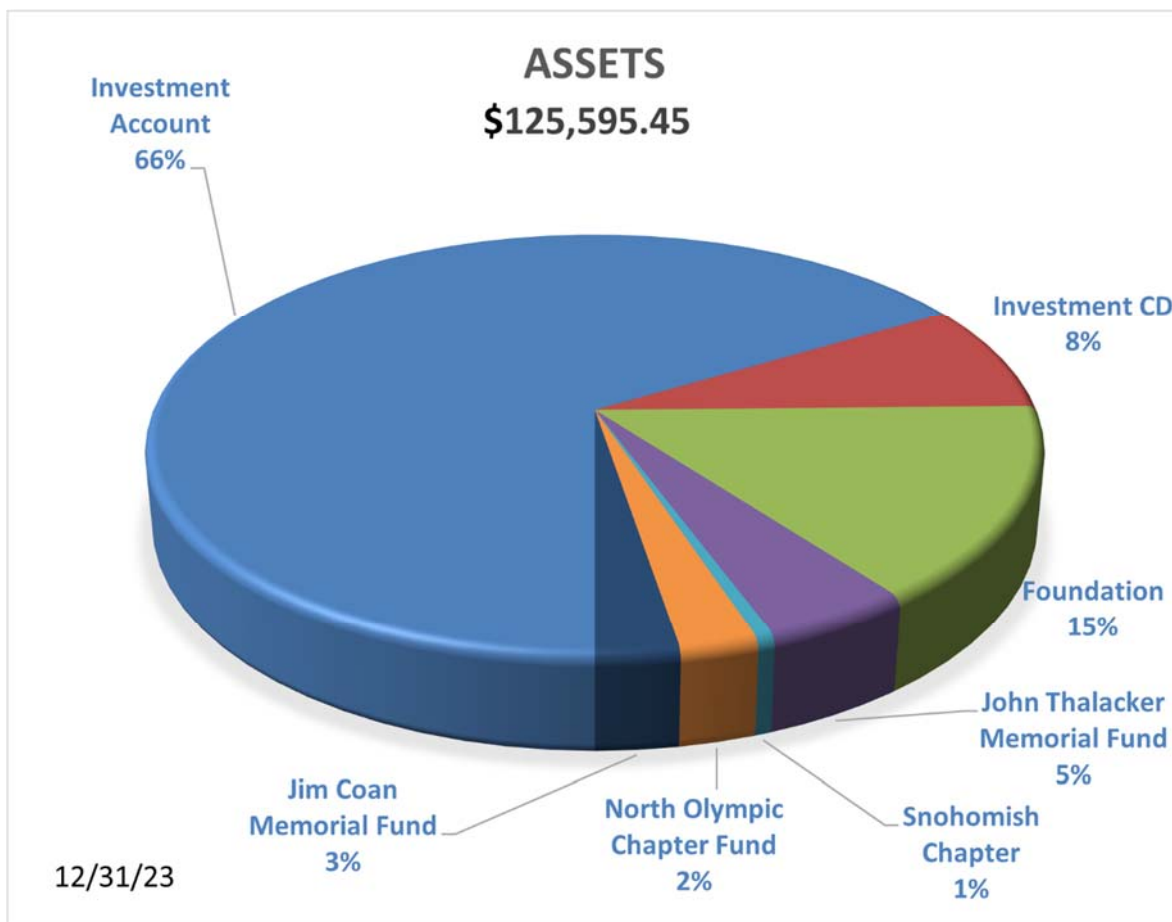
*For scholarship applications and instructions, visit*

[www.l sawfoundation.org](http://www.l sawfoundation.org)

## Financial Status Report

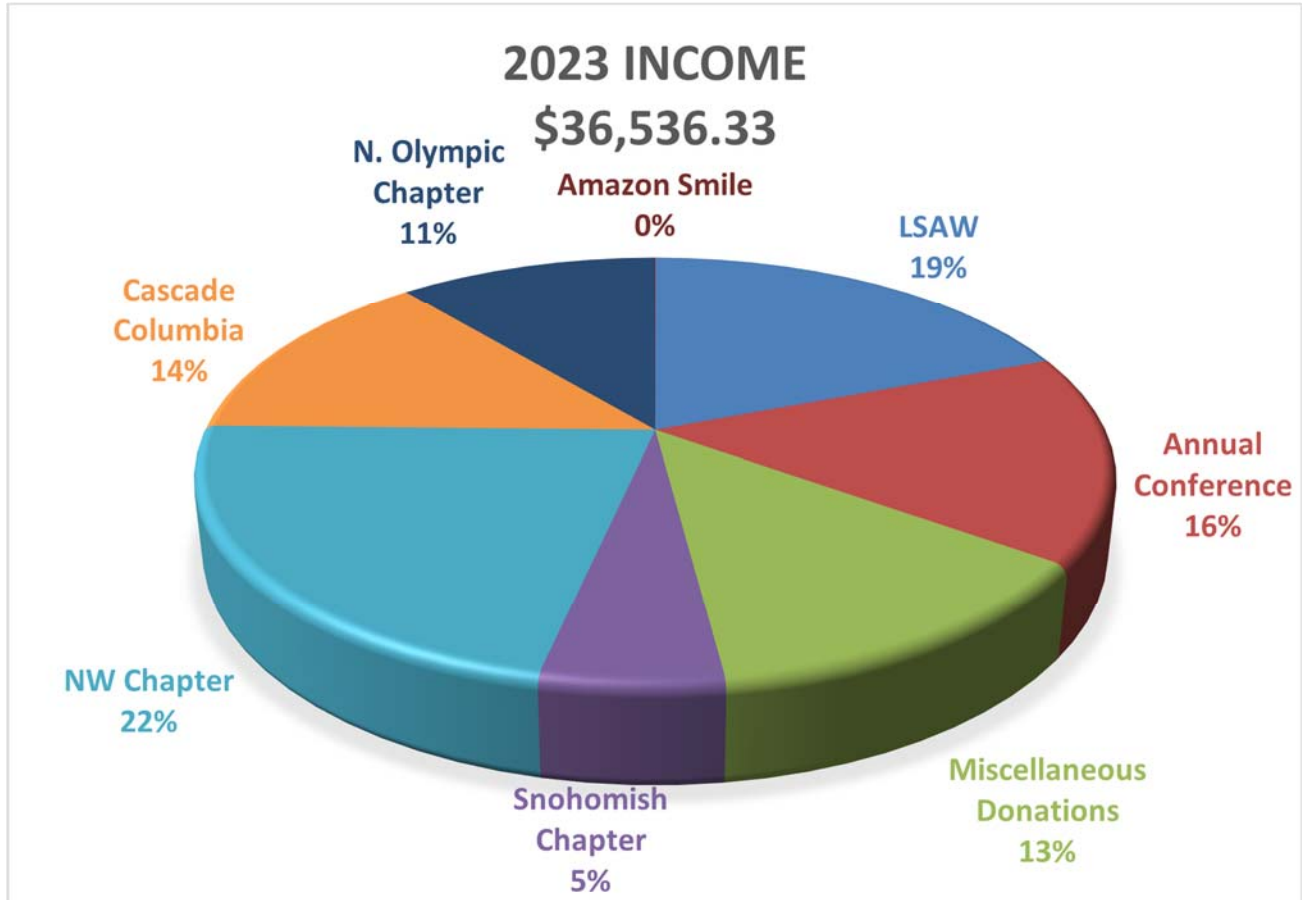
### Assets

- The Foundation had a total of \$125,595.45 in the following accounts through year-end 2023.



### Income by Source

Our yearly income for 2023 was \$36,536.33. It was our best income year to date.



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

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



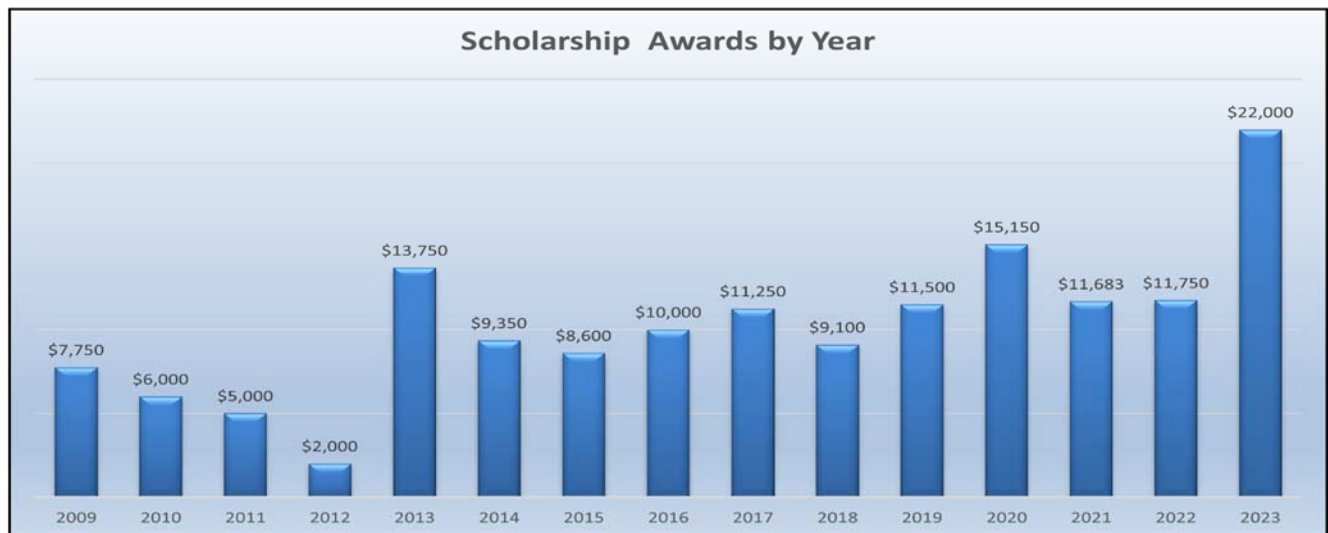
### 2023 Expenses

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.



### Scholarships

#### 2023 Scholarship Awards



In 2023, the LSAW Foundation provided \$22,000 in scholarship awards to five students. Three are attending Bellingham Technical College and the third is attending Renton Tech. This brings our total amount to **\$154,883 awarded since 2009**. Your support has assisted a significant number of aspiring students and future employees. We now have several 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 and success.

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 2024 and beyond.

## 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)

Greg Brooks – Director (2015-present)

Tom Barger – Director (2019-present)

Kevin Carlascio – Director (2019-present)

Jeff Lynch – Director (2023-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)

Carla Merrit – Director (2014-2023)



## Foundation Board for 2024



**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** 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. 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. 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 is on the board of directors of the LSAW Foundation as of 2017.

## Foundation Board for 2024 continued



**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 since 2014. Greg has been actively involved with LSAW since moving to Washington in 1998, serving for several years as the North Puget Sound Chapter Secretary, followed by a long stint as the Treasurer for the Snohomish Chapter, where he will serve as Chapter President for 2023. 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. 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.



**Director, Thomas S. Barger, Jr., PLS #35144 (1998)** is the Chief Surveyor for Seattle Parks and Recreation with over 40 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, secretary and director, and serving the LSAW at the state level by chairing the NSRS Task Force, Liaison to both the DNR Survey Advisory Board and the WA BORPELS and is the 2018 LSAW Surveyor of the Year. Tom's support for education includes volunteer work with CORSE, TwiST, Future City, Get Kids into Surveying and Mini-Mapmakers.



**Director, Jeff Lynch, PLS** Jeff started his survey career in 1995 and spent his early years working his way up from rodman, to party chief, and finally to project manager in the private sector. Soon he decided it was time to finish his AA degree and get licensed, and after becoming both a college graduate and a Licensed Land Surveyor, Jeff went on to work for the City of Vancouver. Jeff continues to volunteer and advocate for support of the survey program that he completed, by serving as an active member of the Clark College Survey Advisory board. In 2011 he was elected to serve as a Director for the Lower Columbia LSAW chapter, where after several terms as President and Vice-President of his local chapter, Jeff was elected to serve on the LSAW Executive Committee. He began that service in 2019, which was highlighted by his term as LSAW State President for 2021. Jeff was not done with his service yet, as he graciously joined the LSAW Foundation Board as a Director in 2023.