



# Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors

## National Society of Professional Surveyors

### Fall 2024 Pennsylvania Affiliate Report

**Report Date:** October 20, 2024

#### Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors (PSLS) 2024 Officers/Directors:

President: Lawrence Leso, PLS

President Elect: Dylan Sites, PLS

Vice President: Troy Leighty, PLS

Secretary: Don Groesser, PLS

Treasurer: Terry McMillen, Jr., PLS

Immediate Past President: Pete Brothers, PLS

NSPS Director: Michael Given, PLS

Association Management Consultant: Miller Wenhold Association Management (Executive Director – John Palatiello) and (Executive Account Coordinator – Kelly Ameen)

**PSLS Member Report:** Total of 753 Members as of September, 2024

**Annual Surveyors' Conference and Board of Directors Meetings:** The 2024 Annual PSLS Membership & Board of Directors meeting was held on January 22, 2024 to swear in the new officers. The 2024 PSLS Surveyors Conference was held January 21-24, 2024, at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. PSLS offers the Webinar Wednesday program to help professionals keep current on new and existing technology, information, and other topics of interest during a one-hour period beginning at noon on the second or third Wednesday of each month. Education events can be found at: [EDUCATION | Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors \(psls.org\)](https://psls.org/EDUCATION)

**Pennsylvania Land Surveyors' Foundation:** Each year the Pennsylvania Land Surveyors' Foundation gives over \$10,000 to deserving Pennsylvania residents who are attending associate and baccalaureate surveying engineering and surveying technology degree programs. The Foundation awarded the first half of \$31,000 in scholarships to twelve recipients for the fall semester of 2024. The second half of the scholarships will be awarded in person at the PSLS Surveyors Conference in January 2025. To date the Foundation has provided over \$405,400 in scholarships to students.

#### Legislative Updates:

**SB 403 (Licensing Update)** Just prior to the summer recess and during the budget process SB 403 was signed into law on June 28k 2024. It is known as Act 32 of 2024. SB 403 removes an existing barrier to becoming a Licensed Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) and Professional Engineer (PE). This legislation makes the necessary updates to be more consistent with the national model law. Currently, in order for an applicant to be granted licensure as a professional engineer or a professional land surveyor, the applicant must hold and Engineering-In-Training (EIT) Certificate or a Surveyor in Training (SIT) Certificate and show proof of four or more years of experience in engineering or surveying work performed AFTER the issuance of the EIT or Sit Certificate. This legislation will allow the qualified experience to apply regardless of whether it was earned before or after the EIT or SIT certificate.



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**Right-of-Entry** This legislation will be introduced by PSLS in the 2025-2026 Legislative Session to grant surveyors and their subordinates the limited right-of-entry to the lands of others which are necessary to perform their work. This legislation will be similar to the West Virginia Law which states NO notification is required with the following modifications: (E) Entry where no physical damage is done to property (1) in the performance of surveying to ascertain property boundaries and (2) in the performance of necessary work of construction, maintenance and repair of a common property line fence, or buildings or appurtenances which are immediately adjacent to the property line and maintenance of which necessitates entry upon the adjoining owner's property. Currently, 29 states allow for Right-of-Entry.

**State Plane Coordinate System Law.** This legislation will replace the current Pennsylvania Coordinate System Law, P.L. 1223, No. 161, Cl.76. An update of this law is necessary to provide users with a new framework of planar coordinates that are aligned to the new geometric reference frame (AKA horizontal datum) in development by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and to allow those users of the State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS) to update/modernize their data while maintaining compliance with applicable Federal guidelines. There is a plan in place by NGS to modernize the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), which is the official definition of positional parameters including latitude, longitude, height, scale, gravity, and orientation throughout the United States. The new datum is known as the North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022 and the Final definition and acceptance is expected to occur in 2025.

**Revised Registration Law.** Finally, PSLS will be working on updating the Registration Law (Act of 1945). We will review and make necessary revisions to bring the profession to today's standards. This will address a lot of what we were trying to accomplish in Old House Bill 609.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Given".

Michael J. Given, PLS  
NSPS Director Pennsylvania