



President's Fall Meeting Report

Deadwood, South Dakota, October 20, 2026

In my spring report I described the past six months as the calm before the storm. The storm has arrived, and it has been a productive one. Since taking office as President, I have led six Executive Committee meetings, four Town Hall meetings and have represented NSPS in South Africa, Kansas City, Las Vegas, and Somerset Kentucky.

NSPS is healthy, growing, and delivering measurable value to the profession through advocacy, workforce development, education, and national representation. That progress belongs to our volunteers, committee chairs, directors, and staff. Please take all of their reports back to your states and share a consistent message about what NSPS is doing for its members.

Executive Committee and Town Hall Meetings in May, June, July, August, September, and October. The Town Hall meetings have been well attended and have been a great way to provide more up to date information to our directors. The business conducted by ExCom is detailed in the minutes provided by the Secretary for approval earlier at this meeting.

NSPS Budget Committee – At our September ExCom I established an official Budget Committee made up of the Executive Committee officers. This is the first time in recent memory that NSPS has had a budget committee, and it gives the officers direct ownership of our financial planning and accountability to the Board.

International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) – In May, I traveled to Cape Town South Africa to represent NSPS at the FIG Working Week. Throughout the week I was able to connect with professionals from across the globe, including meeting the FIG leaders and the leaders of organizations similar to NSPS. It should not surprise anyone to hear that the issues that we face in the United States are also playing out in other countries. FIG has ten (10) separate commissions that address numerous topics that affect surveying globally. The commissions are very active and one of the items they are working on was a draft framework for the responsible use of AI in surveying, moving from foundational, low-risk applications to specific uses and safeguards. The theme of the conference was "Navigating Tomorrow and Empowering Surveyors for a Sustainable World". This aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is promoted through the FIG Task Force on SDGs.

FIG Young Surveyors Conference - While at the FIG Working Week, I stepped in for Executive Director Tim Burch for a panel discussion alongside panelists from Trimble, Leica Geosystems, and an FIG YSN volunteer. The panel was impressive and I addressed how



standards, ethics, and governance protect public trust through legally defensible measurements, honest and impartial conduct, and accountable licensing. The conference also featured workforce models worth studying, including a Dutch Cadaster earn-while-you-learn program that produced 250 new surveyors with 85% retention. There was also a session on starting a surveying business that offered some great advice beneficial to all of us. There was also a shared and common message that young surveyors are leaders now, and that is true internationally and locally within our own organization.

Kansas Leadership Program – No sooner had I arrived back home after a near 24-hour route from Cape Town, I was back on a plane and headed to Kansas City! Representing NSPS I presented on "Lobbying and Grassroots, What It Is, How to Do It, and Why It Matters" to the Kansas Society of Land Surveyors leadership program attendees. I shared my experiences from NSPS Lobby Day and covered building relationships with legislators before and after elections, forming coalitions, making Capitol visits count, and raising the society's profile. The message that we all need to understand is that if you're not at the table, you're on the menu!

NCEES Annual Meeting – In August I represented NSPS at the NCEES Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, connecting with NCEES leadership and state board members from across the country. There are many things that could be reported on, but there are a few things that stood out. First is that the exam numbers are strong with 92,000 exams so far in 2026, and on track to pass 100,000 exams for the first time, with FS and PS exams growing steadily. Second is the formation of a new task force that is addressing fraudulent digital seals. One state reported more than 20 cases, up from three years ago. You will hear more about this later from Gary Kent. At the Surveyors Forum, NCEES confirmed the updated PS exam launches in July 2027 and the PLSS exam in fall 2027. The PS Geospatial exam was also discussed and will be addressed later under new business. The NCEES Foundation fully funded \$663,000 in grants, including awards to surveying organizations. This fund is will be over \$900,000 in 2027 and NSPS will consider an application for a grant. Lastly, I was provided an audience with the executive leadership of NCEES and delivered a positive message that was well received. I believe this was a good first step to strengthened relationship with NCEES and look forward to further connecting NCEES leaders and NSPS leaders, more to follow on that.

Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors (KAPS) - In September, I spent two days at the KAPS annual conference and delivered the State of NSPS address to their attendees. The address was well received and explained what our national work means for Kentucky surveyors and firms, specifically, a voice in Washington, a growing pipeline of new surveyors, and support through the coming datum changes with the NSRS modernization. While there I had the honor to install President Shinabery and the newly installed officers and directors. I also recognized and asked KAPS to support Kentucky's own Luke Woodyard in his upcoming



role as YSN President. My closing message was that KAPS, just like all the other states, and NSPS, are partners working toward the same goal.

Who are we and what do we do? - NSPS serves as the national voice for about 15,000 surveyors, and our committees continue to deliver results across every part of our mission. I don't want to steal anyone's thunder, so for the most part I will skip this part of my report and let you hear it from our committee chairs. However, I commend and thank our committee chairs and all of those that have served on the committees. Please share my summary with your states, there is a lot of hard going on and our committees are making a difference.

Advocacy - The Government Affairs Committee and our federal lobbyist monitor legislation affecting licensure, property rights, mapping, and infrastructure. Lobby Day continues to build relationships on Capitol Hill, and our request to add Alpha Gal Syndrome as an FDA food allergen is gaining traction. Protecting professional licensure remains a top priority and you will hear more from our Government Affairs committee at our November Town Hall.

Workforce Development - Working with partners such as NCEES, NSPS is reaching school counselors, math teachers, FFA, and career and technical educators. BeASurveyor.com remains a key resource and exam participation for the FS and PS exam has continued to grow since the low point in 2015. It's a long road but we are making progress.

Military Outreach - The Military Committee is going strong and has represented the profession at over 20 military career fairs nationwide, opening a pathway for transitioning service members.

Outreach and Marketing – NSPS, in partnership with Ellaine Ball, has been promoting and marketing surveying and NSPS like never before. The obvious metric is the visibility gained from NSPS content generating more than 1.7 million social media impressions in 2025 and 2026. The not so obvious metric is the continued elevation of NSPS that will lead to sponsorships, increased membership and more kids getting into surveying! Speaking of the “Get Kids Into Survey” campaign, have you all ordered your surveying Monopoly game?

Certified Survey Technician Program - CST continues to be a bright spot giving technicians a professional career path and also helps firms identify and retain talent. This is one of the most recognized programs nationwide and is a great

Trig-Star – Trig-Star is alive and well and continues to be supported in high schools across the nation. This is a great opportunity for outreach and allows surveys to gain direct access



to math students to promote surveying, if you are looking for a way to get involved, please support this program!

Education Committee - The Education Committee continues to charge forward bringing back the SaLIS journal, developing the NSPS Speakers Academy, reviewing education programs, updating the Body of Knowledge for the first time since 2014, and shush, exploring options for survey programs in high schools.

NSPS Foundation - The Foundation manages a sizable scholarship fund and the annual awards to surveying students is approaching \$100,000!

NSRS Modernization Committee – The NSRS Modernization Committee started in 2025 and continues to gain momentum. Working closely with our colleagues at the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), they continue to provide resources to educate and assist surveyors to prepare for the new datums. The new datum is coming R U will you be ready?

Young Surveyors Network (YSN) - The YSN is yet another bright spot for the surveying profession, NSPS and the young surveyors. The YSN mentoring program grew from about 100 participants in 2025 to nearly 250 in 2026. The YSN also launched a podcast in 2026 and continues to run the student competition, which reached 24 collegiate teams and more than 220 student participants this past April. Congratulations to the YSN leadership and all of the young surveyors that making it all happen.

Our profession still faces real challenges. We need more people entering the field, we must adapt to new technology, and we must keep explaining our value to the public and policymakers. But the momentum is real, and together we are stronger than any one of us alone.

And there is much to celebrate. More students are discovering surveying, more young professionals are stepping into leadership, and our voice is respected from Capitol Hill to Cape Town. From a record-setting student competition to the many successes in advocacy and outreach, NSPS is stronger, more connected, and more forward-looking than ever. This is a proud moment to be part of this organization, and our best days are still ahead.

In closing, I want to thank the NSPS staff, led by Executive Director Tim Burch, for their hard work all year and especially in the weeks before our meetings. Thank you to the Executive Committee, the committee chairs, and each of you for your trust and support. It is an honor to serve as your President.

As John McTonish likes to say, "It's a great day to be a surveyor!"

COMMITTEE NAME/POSTIONS	CONTACT/TERM
Executive Committee (10 Members)	
President	Tim Murphy (2026-2027)
Past President	Linda Foster (2026-2027)
President Elect	Jeff Clendenning (2026-2027)
Vice President	Cotton Jones (2026-2027)
Secretary	Danny Martinez (2026-2028)
Treasurer	Patti Brooks (2025-2027)
Director (Vote for new director at the Spring 2027 Meeting)	Norm Ellerbrock (2025-2027)
Director (Vote for new director at the Spring 2027 Meeting)	Jim Hollandsworth (2025-2027)
Director (Vote for new director at the Spring 2028 Meeting)	Alexander "Sandy" Peabody (2026-2028)
Director (Vote for new director at the Spring 2028 Meeting)	Christopher Juliano (2026-2028)
Standing Committees (12 Chairs)	
Admissions	Rick Brooks
Admissions Subcommittee - Fellows (Chairman selected by the Fellows)	Gerry A. Curtis
Budget and Finance (Chaired by current Treasurer)	Patti Brooks (2025-2027)
Bylaws and Resolutions	Christopher Juliano
Bylaws and Resolutions Subcommittee - Policy Review	Nancy Almanzan
Membership and Awards	Tim Brewer
Nominations (Chaired by immediate Past President)	Linda Foster
Nominations Subcommittee - Tellers (Directed by immediate Past President)	Linda Foster
Government Affairs	Mark Sargent
Government Affairs Subcommittee - NSPS Political Action (PAC)	Jon Warren
Special Committees (19 Chairs)	
Strategic Planning (Chaired by President)	Tim Murphy (2026-2027)
Subcommittee - Past Presidents Council (Chaired by immediate Past President)	Linda Foster (2026-2027)
Education	Seneca Holland
Education Subcommittee - Body of Knowledge	Linda Foster
Education Subcommittee - Endorsements (Chair)	Jon Roder
Education Subcommittee - Endorsements (First hand observer)	Trisha Lund
Education Subcommittee - Surveying Definitions Update	Seneca Holland
Professional Standards	Tim Murphy
Professional Standards Subcommittee - Model Law Review	Gary Kent
Professional Standards Subcommittee - ALTA/NSPS	Mike McEvilly
Professional Standards Subcommittee - NRSR Modernization	Michael Banta
Advanced Technologies	Ben Shinabery
Outreach and Marketing	Stewart Ward
Outreach and Marketing Subcommittee - Military	Sean Ireland
Outreach and Marketing Subcommittee - Scouting	David Collier
Outreach and Marketing Subcommittee - Diversity	Tom Silva
Student Competition Committee - Co-Chair	Denver Winchester
Student Competition Committee - Co-Chair	Nolan Mark
Workforce Development	Trent Keenan
Regional Councils (4 Chairs)	
Colonial	Christopher Juliano
Great Lakes	Jim Hollandsworth
Southern	Tim Brewer
Western	Pat Gaylord