



New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors, Inc.

New York Affiliate Report: NSPS 2026 Spring Meeting

Amber Carpenter, Managing Director

Report Date: October 9, 2026



Board of Directors, Committees & Staff:

Association Officers:			
Postion	Name		
President	Steven J. Willard		
Executive Vice President	Scott A. Gillis		
Vice President	Scott B. Allen		
Treasurer	William R. Eggers		
Secretary	Nicole T. Kalicicki		
Directors:			
Regional	Director	Director	
Allegheny Plateau	Gerard Emborski	Michael Roeske	
Black River	Stephen Gracey	Howard Lyndaker, III	
Brooklyn	Lemuel Morrison	Alexander Alli	
Catskill	Jon Thompson	Joanne Darcy Crum	
Central	David Bardoun	Timothy Coyer	
City	Saeid Jalilvand	Lemuel Morrison	
Delaware Hudson	Brian Babcock	Stephen Dolson	
Eastern	Jason Peterson	David Schmidt	
Genesee Valley	Matthew Palmer	Martin Gotwalt	
Long Island	John Abruzzo	Martin Read	
Mid-Hudson	Caegen Burnett	Nicole Kalicicki	
Mohawk Valley	Jeffrey Moore	Jesse Magrath	
Nassau Suffolk	Daniel Weaver	Scott Gillis	
Niagara Frontier	Matthew Klettke	Joseph Mandell	
Northern	Owen Littlefield	Robert Marvin Jr.	
Southern Finger Lakes	Mark Flora	Jacqueline Dresser	
Southern Tier	Brian Bush	Edward Ripic	
Queensboro	Rodger Hess	Robert Castillo	
Westchester-Putnam	Daniel Merrits	C. Richard Moravec	
Trustees:		Committee Representation:	
Name	Name	Committee	Chair Name
Robert R. Allen	Daren L. Morgan	Annual Conference:	Kenneth Stigner
Steve Boddecker	Robert A. Smith	Constitution/Bylaws:	Marshall Wilson
Patricia P. Brooks	Edwin A. Summerhays	Education:	Jeremy Thompson
Gregory J. de Bruin	Gary L. Thompson	Ethical Practices:	David Zigler
Roy B. Garfinkel	Jeremy E. Thompson	Finance:	William Eggers
R. Ronald Kreiling	Glennon J. Watson	Govt Relations:	James Thew
Joseph G. Malinowski	Marie T. Welch	LSPAC:	Steve Boddecker
Daniel E. Marvin		Membership:	Nik Decker
Executive Director, Staff & Counsel:		Nominations:	Kaleb Winters
Executive Director	Glennon J. Watson	NSPS:	Roy Garfinkel
Managing Director	Amber Carpenter	Public Relations:	Jennifer Reap
Director of Operation	Heather Schultz	Strategic Planning:	Tim Massi
Administrative Assis	Sharon O'Brien	Workforce Dev:	Steve Boddecker
Legislative Counsel	Emily Whalen	Young Professionals:	Keith Burley
		Ad Hoc MTS:	Roy Garfinkel

Membership:

Membership year runs concurrent with our fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Current members = 1105

We typically see this number pick up as we near our conference dates in January.

NYSAPLS Membership History											
Breakdown by Membership Classification											
As of 10/09/26											
Class/Year*	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Total Members	1227	1284	1308	1319	1246	1251	1330	1312	1338	1303	1105
Life/Honorary	47	39	40	37	37	32	33	30	32	31	31
Regular/NL	907	937	932	904	886	887	877	850	848	831	742
Retired	–	–	–	–	–	7	17	22	24	21	23
Associate	154	192	223	254	222	222	294	283	297	282	218
Affiliate	25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Intern	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Corresponding	6	30	31	34	32	33	36	36	38	35	23
Student	60	59	58	65	44	47	48	63	67	72	36
Sustaining	28	27	24	25	25	23	25	28	32	31	32
% Gain/Loss from previous year	-0.81%	4.65%	1.87%	0.84%	-5.53%	0.40%	6.31%	-1.35%	1.98%	-2.62%	-15.20%

Events *(since the last NSPS meeting...)*

Date	Title of Event	Total Registrants
10/2/2026	NSRS Modernization Update	56
9/11/2026	Copyright Basics for Land Surveyors	68
8/7/2026	Introduction to AI for Land Surveyors	126
6/5/2026	Friday Webinar: Real World Applications of UAS	54
5/8/2026	Friday Webinar: Health & Safety for Land Surveyors	64

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

What's happened in New York since the Spring 2026 meeting in DC...

Strategic Planning Retreat



NYSAPLS held a productive Strategic Planning Retreat in Lake George, NY, April 30–May 2, 2026, bringing together 42 members, directors, officers, committee chairs, and staff. Guided by facilitator Susan Weinrich of Trellised Solutions, LLC, participants assessed the current state of the land surveying profession in New York, exchanged ideas, and identified key priorities for the association's future. The retreat provided a strong foundation for developing a focused, actionable strategic plan.

Since the retreat, the Strategic Planning Committee has maintained steady momentum, translating those discussions into a comprehensive five-year plan. The first draft is complete and is now undergoing committee and board review to gather feedback, refine priorities, and build broad support. This collaborative process is creating an ambitious yet achievable roadmap that reflects member needs and positions NYSAPLS for continued progress.

Our Core Strategic Priorities:

1. Membership

- Strong Regionals
- Impactful Programs
- Engaged Members

2. Public Relations

- Knowledgeable consumers
- Informed county and municipal leaders
- Professional alliances

3. Advancing the Field/Scoping the Future

- Innovative practices
- Workforce Development
- Legislative and regulatory support

4. Operations and Infrastructure

- Leadership
- Technology
- Communications

Adoption of the final plan is anticipated in January 2027.

Annual Conference

NYSAPLS' Annual Conference Committee, chaired by Ken Stigner, is preparing for the 68th Annual Surveyors Conference and Exhibition, January 25–27, 2027, in Saratoga Springs, hosted by the Mid-Hudson Valley Land Surveyors Association. Work includes coordinating education, exhibitors, sponsorships, marketing, hotel arrangements, and regional volunteers. Feedback from the 2026 conference is guiding improvements to exhibitor logistics and vendor presentations. By late September, approximately 87% of the sponsorship budget was committed, and 14 exhibitors had reserved 25 booths, about half the available exhibit space. The committee is also evaluating venues for 2029.



Constitution & Bylaws

NYSAPLS' Constitution and Bylaws Committee, chaired by Marshall Wilson, is updating the association's governing documents to clarify responsibilities, modernize communications, and improve member participation. A primary focus is separating the annual membership meeting from the Annual Conference and allowing a virtual meeting within six months of the fiscal year's close, providing members with more timely financial reporting. The committee also confirmed that a separate statewide election of directors is unnecessary under the current regional representation structure.

Additional work includes permitting electronic delivery of official notices, clarifying regional representation on the Board, and establishing procedures for regional associations to end their affiliation. The committee will also consider allowing associate members to serve in selected regional leadership positions. Proposed amendments are being prepared for Board review in November and a membership vote in January 2027.

Ethical Practices

NYSAPLS' Ethical Practices Committee, chaired by Dave Zigler, is addressing concerns about unlicensed surveying services and reviewing complaints involving professional conduct. Working with association counsel, the committee prepared a complaint to New York's Office of Professional Discipline concerning online site plan providers and coordinated efforts to educate municipal officials about surveying requirements and the proper use of survey documents.



Education

NYSAPLS' Education Committee, chaired by Jeremy Thompson, is developing continuing education that addresses both established surveying practices and emerging technology. Its monthly First Friday webinars have covered wetlands regulations, field safety, drone applications, and artificial intelligence, with the August AI session attracting 125 attendees. Additional programming is being arranged on updated surveying datums, digital signatures, copyright, and title company perspectives. The committee has also assembled the 2027 Annual Conference education program, including an AI keynote, boundary and land title topics, ethics, technical applications, and an Education Summit examining New York's surveying education programs. Speaker contracts and continuing education submissions are being finalized. Other priorities include arranging an NSPS Certified Floodplain Surveyor exam retake opportunity at the conference, planning the 2027 spring workshop, testing webinar sponsorships to help support educational programming, and launching a new Learning Management System (LMS), in which members will be able to watch webinar recordings and receive CE hours.

Government Relations

While we monitor over 100 bills with the assistance of our counsel and Government Relations Committee, the two biggest focuses this year continue to be:

1. Improving digital access to public land records to better serve the public

We've worked closely with the NYS GIS Association (NYSGISA) to host round table events to introduce the issue and its importance. This year, we are co-hosting our 7th event to be held virtually. The discussion will begin with a summary of the challenges our members face, and our progress with working with the NYSDOT, NYS ITS, and the NYS County Clerks Association. Our organization is dedicated to our goal of standardizing public access to digitized public land records statewide in order to better serve the people of New York state.

2. 2022 Datum Legislation

The committee finalized their draft legislation and are currently seeking sponsors to introduce the bill in the 2026 legislative session.

LSPAC

NYSAPLS' Land Surveyors Political Action Committee, chaired by Steve Boddecker, is planning their annual fundraiser to be held as a dinner on Sunday, January 24, 2027, in conjunction with the NYSAPLS 68th conference in Saratoga Springs, NY.



Minimum Technical Standards

NYSAPLS' Minimum Technical Standards (MTS) Committee, chaired by Roy Garfinkel, is awaiting feedback from the NYS Board for Engineering, Land Surveying and Geology on the draft MTS document. Earlier this year, Roy presented the drafted standards to our Brooklyn regional at their May 21st meeting.

Nominations and Awards

NYSAPLS' Nominations and Awards Committee, chaired by Kaleb Winters, presented the 2027 officer slate at our September 18th Board of Directors meeting:

President – Steven J. Willard, LS
Executive Vice President – Scott A. Gillis, LS
Vice President – Scott B. Allen, LS
Treasurer – William R. Eggers, LS
Secretary – Nicole T. Kalicicki, LS



A vote will take place at the November 20th board meeting.

Young Professionals Committee

NYSAPLS would like to expand their outreach to young and emerging professionals in New York. As part of the association's next strategic plan, the YP committee, chaired by Keith Burley, has been asked to conduct a review of other state Young Surveyors Networks (YSN) to evaluate their governance models, budgeting, programming, communication methods, and relationship with NSPS. They will then prepare recommendations for the board, identifying specific actions to increase engagement of young professionals in New York and improve alignment with NSPS initiatives.

Public Relations

NYSAPLS' Public Relations Committee, chaired by Jennifer Reap, continues to work with association staff and The Martin Group, our public relations firm, to explain the value of professional land surveying, share members' expertise, and support outreach to students and the public.

Sharing Surveyors' Stories

Media outreach tied to America 250, the nation's 250th anniversary, resulted in published interviews with members Scott Gillis and Jeremy Thompson. NYSAPLS promoted these stories through social media. The committee also arranged a Geoholics podcast, a surveying-focused program, featuring President Steve Willard's perspective on September 11. Released in September to mark the 25th anniversary, the episode brought a surveyor's experience to a broader audience.

Helping the Public Find and Understand Surveyors

The committee helped improve "Find a Surveyor," NYSAPLS' online directory connecting the public with member surveyors. County listings were standardized, and staff prepared reminders encouraging members to maintain accurate profiles and respond promptly to inquiries. The committee is developing short educational video topics explaining when to hire a surveyor, property-line misconceptions, survey findings, and changes in technology. Recording remained underway in September. An advertisement with a companion question-and-answer article for the NYC Transportation Annual publication was prepared, with publication confirmation pending.

Engaging Members and Building Public Awareness

The committee used monthly website and social media reports to guide communications. August results showed increased activity on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. The annual surveying photo contest received 47 entries, providing images and stories that showcase the profession.

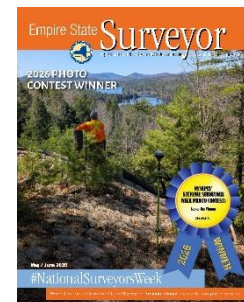
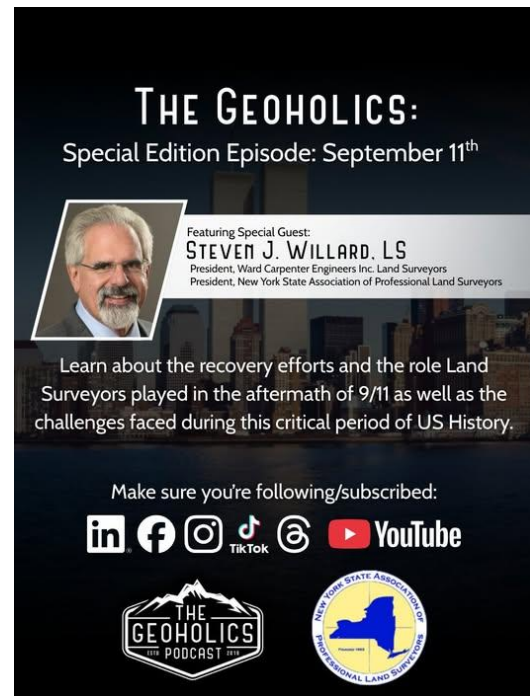
Connecting Surveying with Education and History

The committee supported publicity planning for a Questar III STEM Research Institute partnership that placed an Averill Park teacher with Colliers Engineering to develop surveying-related classroom lessons. It also prepared to promote a developing fifth-grade surveying program and discussed recruiting more Surveying Merit Badge counselors to introduce scouts to the profession.

NYSAPLS partnered with the Albany Institute of History & Art for a December event featuring an eighteenth-century surveying demonstration. The Institute included NYSAPLS in promotional materials, and the committee is coordinating publicity and association participation.

Next Steps

The committee is exploring how surveyors could participate in New York City's developing underground mapping initiative, with further strategy discussions proposed. For the 2027 annual conference, NYSAPLS purchased a life-size "Libby" cutout for photo opportunities. Other projects include finishing the public education videos and promoting education and community partnerships.



18TH CENTURY SURVEYING DEMO
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 11AM-2PM



Participants will employ the tools and techniques of the 18th century surveyor and actively measure and map a parcel of land, then use these measurements to draw maps and write property descriptions inspired by historic maps in the Albany Institute's collection.

Workforce Development:

NYSAPLS' Workforce Development Committee, chaired by Steve Boddecker, is expanding school partnerships and career outreach to introduce more students to land surveying. Working with Questar III BOCES, a regional educational service organization, the committee is developing classroom activities that connect surveying with mathematics, mapping, and technology. Projects include a sixth-grade mapping presentation and a fifth-grade "Survey the Playground" program planned for spring 2027. The committee is also recruiting volunteers for school visits, career fairs, and a statewide school counselor conference, while developing reusable lesson plans and outreach materials.

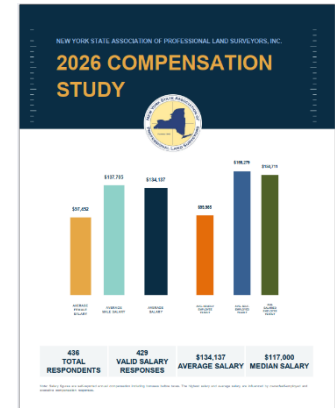
Additional priorities include exploring equipment support and qualified instructors for surveying education programs, strengthening outreach to vocational schools, and connecting members with BEaSURVEYOR's career promotion videos.

Compensation Study

We recently completed the 2026 NYSAPLS Compensation Study. The five-page study provides an overview of compensation, benefits, and career satisfaction among land surveying professionals, based on 436 respondents, including 429 valid salary responses.

The study includes:

- **Overall compensation:** Average, median, lowest, and highest annual pay, including bonuses before taxes.
- **Education and experience:** Salary comparisons by highest degree earned and years in the profession.
- **Employment characteristics:** Compensation by salaried, hourly, contracted, and self-employed status, along with firm size.
- **Work profiles:** Comparisons by industry sector, surveying specialty, primary job function, professional licensure, and supervisory responsibility.
- **Geographic differences:** Average compensation by county for locations with at least three valid salary responses, plus respondents working outside New York.
- **Employee benefits:** Paid leave, retirement plans, employer-funded insurance, flexible schedules, profit sharing, and other benefits.
- **Professional development and raises:** Employer support for professional development, the percentage receiving routine raises, and average raise amounts.
- **Career satisfaction and demographics:** Satisfaction levels and salary comparisons by gender and NYSAPLS membership.



The Compensation Study was provided complimentary to anyone who participated.