



Tennessee Association of Professional Land Surveyors

AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

607 Due West Avenue, Suite 96

Madison, Tennessee 37115

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NSPS

Tennessee State Director Report

By: Benjamin J. Moorman, TN RLS-1501/TN CFS-016, TN NSPS Director

Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors (TAPS) Membership:

- Fellow Members - 14
- Full Members – 388
- Retired Members - 3
- Student Members - 33
- Associate/Business Members – 55
- Newly Licensed Members - 19

TAPS Executive Committee Members:

- President – Tim Lingerfelt
- President Elect – Jay Caughman
- Past President – Andrew Stokes
- Vice President/2026 Conference Chair – Mario Forte
- Secretary/Treasurer – Jimmy Cleveland
- NSPS Director – Benny Moorman

Notes:

- **TAPS** has been active on Capitol Hill with representation at our Annual Day on the Hill. **TAPS** had no direct legislative action this past year, either to secure legislation or to defend against potential legislation that could have a negative impact on the land surveying community or the general public. As previously reported, legislation was codified on 01 July 2025 that required Property Descriptions for newly created parcels be drafted by Registered Professional Land Surveyors only. That law was revisited in 2026 to allow for licensed attorneys utilizing a survey prepared by a licensed land surveyor to draft property descriptions. Also, the section of law does not apply to any deed of conveyance prepared by or for a governmental department or agency. Said revisions were codified on 01 July 2026. At TAPS Fall Business meeting an Action Item to revisit the law again in 2027 was made to make it a requirement that all descriptions must include the Surveyor's Name, Project Number and Date of Survey as part of the property description.
- **TAPS** is recognizing and promoting the **NSPS CST Program's** effectiveness and benefits. This program is promoted by **Tennessee Land Surveyors, LLC** as a route to a career in Land Surveying to students who are not interested in pursuing a college degree. This program has been approved



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by the Career and Technical Education Committee of the Tennessee Department of Education as a recommended industry certification.

- **TAPS'** relationship and partnership with the **Tennessee Farm Bureau** continues to thrive. **TAPS** has formed a committee specific to its involvement with the **Tennessee Farm Bureau** and is active at their annual conference and providing articles for their Newsletter. **TAPS** remains excited to see where this relationship will lead. At the very least, it is viewed as another opportunity to extend our outreach efforts.
- **TAPS** implemented the **Certified Floodplain Surveyor Program** in 2017. Classes are offered annually across the state to afford additional surveyors the opportunity to better prepare themselves to operate at an extremely elevated level when performing Floodplain Surveying Services. This past year's class had 20 attendees, with many of those being from out of state. This resulted in the addition of 2 newly Certified Floodplain Surveyors to Tennessee specifically and 13 newly certified **NSPS Certified Floodplain Surveyors**. To date we have certified over one hundred individuals as **Certified Floodplain Surveyors** in the State of Tennessee, with 74 currently still holding their certification. **Nationally**, over 400 surveyors have been certified as **Certified Floodplain Surveyors**.
- **Tennessee Land Surveyors PAC** is currently operating without a chairman. I have shared my concerns regarding this, and I am actively pursuing someone to step up in that role. Our PAC has historically been extraordinarily strong and currently has \$76,807.09 in its account.
- **East Tennessee State University (ETSU)** is the only school in the state that offers a Bachelor of Science Degree in Surveying and Mapping Sciences. Other institutions offer coursework that will aid potential licensees in acquiring the education credits needed to qualify for licensure in the state. ETSU's leadership and staff have recently undergone major changes. It is my hope that those changes will lead to positive changes in the program. Currently, ETSU has over 200 students enrolled in the Surveying and Mapping Sciences program, but most are utilizing online learning. It is my position that students would be better served in a classroom environment.