



South Carolina Society of Professional Land Surveyors (SCSPLS)

NSPS South Carolina Director's Report - 2026 Fall NSPS Meeting

2026–2027 SCSPLS Officers & Directors

- **President:** Floyd A. Sweatt, Jr., PLS (sweattsurveying@gmail.com)
 - **President Elect:** Charles “Chuck” Dawley, PLS (charles.dawley5@gmail.com)
 - **Vice President:** Terry Hatchell, PLS (thatchell@surveyingconsultants.com)
 - **Treasurer:** David Gasque, PLS (david_e_gasque@yahoo.com)
 - **Secretary:** William “Bill” White, PLS (bwhitesurvey@yahoo.com)
 - **Past President:** Ralph Vanadore, PLS (vanadorer@bellsouth.net)
 - **Executive Director:** Allison King (allison@jma-associations.com)
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Annual Conference

- Hosted the 2026 SCSPLS Convention & Technical Conference on **February 25-27, 2026** at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Columbia, SC.
 - **381 attendees** participated.
 - **10 sponsors** (Platinum, Diamond, Gold, Bronze, Bag, WiFi, Beverage and Lanyard)
 - **25 exhibitors**, including first ever NSPS Booth
 - **2026 Land Surveyor of the Year** – Floyd A. Sweatt, PLS
 - **16 hours** of continuing education offered.
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Membership

- Membership cycle: **July 1 – June 30**
 - Current membership: **159 renewals** for 2026–2027.
 - Organization includes **10 chapters** and **6 districts**.
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SC Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation (SCLLR) Report

At the 2026 Conference, **Gene Dinkens, PE/PLS, Henry Dingle, PLS, and Lenora Addison Miles** reported:

- In-state licensed Professional Land Surveyors: **604**
 - Out-of-state licensed Professional Land Surveyors: **398**
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Membership Dues

- Resident Members: **\$250/year** (+ \$10 new member fee)
 - Out-of-State Members: **\$200/year** (+ \$10 new member fee)
 - Sustaining Members: **\$200/year** (+ \$10 new member fee)
 - Associate Members: **\$100/year** (+ \$10 new member fee)
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SC Young Surveyors Network (YSN)

- President **Kenneth Dunn**
- Vice President **Zach Riley, PLS**
- Secretary **David Melben, PLS**
- Vice President Elect **Connor Gasque**
- Secretary **David Melben, PLS**
- State Coordinator **Aaron VanMaanen, PE, PLS.**
- Held **6 meetings** in 2026 to date
- Held **2 Joint-State YSN** meetings in 2026 (South Carolina/ North Carolina; South Carolina/Georgia)
- Number of YSN Email list to date: **92**.

- Coordinating several YSN socials, tech days and online educational webinars for 2027.
 - In-person multi-state YSN meeting planned for 2027/2028
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Legislative

- **South Carolina Drone Regulation and Public Safety Act** - Signed in to law and effective January 1, 2027. This law makes it illegal to fly a drone 1500 ft from Military installations of correctional Institutions without permission. SCSPLS was concerned that the original legislation could interfere with the use of drones by professional land surveyors for mapping, surveying, inspections, and other project activities. SCSPLS testified before legislative committees and worked with lawmakers to narrow the legislation, protecting legitimate professional drone operations while addressing public safety concerns.
- **Modernization of Chapter 2** (Coordinate System for Defining Location Points Within the State, Section 27-2-10) The State of South Carolina has drafted legislation to modernize Title 27, Chapter 2 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, which governs the coordinate system used to define geographic locations within the state. Implementation will follow adoption of the North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022 (NATRF2022). The legislation is expected to be filed again in 2027. The SCSPLS Board of Directors will discuss whether this initiative should become a legislative priority during the 127th General Assembly.

- **H.3021, Act 251 of 2026: Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act**

The Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act originally contained provisions that raised significant concerns for professional licensing boards, including requirements to eliminate two regulations for every new regulation adopted and automatic expiration of existing regulations.

SCSPLS worked closely with lawmakers, and members of the surveying profession testified before legislative committees to explain how these provisions could undermine the Board of Registration's ability to maintain professional standards and protect the public.

As a result of these efforts and those of other professional organizations, the legislation was substantially revised. The final version eliminated the automatic regulatory sunsets and two-for-one repeal requirements while retaining regulatory accountability measures, including economic impact reviews for regulations exceeding \$100 million over five years. SCSPLS ultimately supported the revised legislation, demonstrating the importance of professional involvement in the legislative process.

- **S.831, Act 177 of 2026: SCDOT Modernization:** Act 177 modernizes SCDOT operations and expands alternative project delivery methods, including phased design-build, Construction Manager/General Contractor, and public-private partnerships.

These changes are expected to accelerate transportation projects and create additional opportunities for professional land surveyors, including boundary and topographic surveys, right-of-way plats, easements, property acquisition support, utility surveys, and construction staking. Greater flexibility for county transportation projects and municipal coordination could further expand surveying opportunities throughout South Carolina.

Governmental Affairs

- **Legislative Reception:** January 14, 2026 – attended by **70 state legislators**.
- **State House & Legislative Breakfast / SC Professional Land Surveyor Day:** March 25, 2026.
- **Awarded:** SC State House **Representative Tom F. Hatnett, Jr** 2026 Legislator of the Year.

South Carolina Trig-Star

- Hosted **3 Trig-Star events** in 2026.
- Attended Horry County Lead Math Teacher's Conference
- Attending National Council for the Teachers of Mathematics in Denver Oct. 28-30
- Attending SC Teachers of Mathematics in Myrtle Beach Nov. 19-20
- South Carolina student came in 6th in the Nation.
- Trig Star awarded 3 \$5000 scholarships.

Scholarships - 2026

- **SCSPLS** Awarded three **scholarships totaling \$3,750:**
 - Dylan Sowers - Part time, ETSU Student, works for SCDOT: \$750.00
 - Benjamin Anderson -full time at The Citadel: \$1,500.00
 - Leonard Huxford - full time at The Citadel: \$1,500.00
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Other State Accomplishments

- Began discussions with the **University of South Carolina & Coastal Carolina University** to establish a **four-year Geomatics degree program**.
 - **SCSPLS Midlands Chapter** Celebrates a 50th year Anniversary
 - **The Citadel** Military College competed in the 2026 **NSPS** Student Competition.
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Upcoming Events

- **Quarterly Meeting** – October 30 – November 1, 2026 Fall Meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC
- **Design Construction Legislative Reception:** Wednesday, January 27, 2027
- **Quarterly Meeting** – February 24, 2027 Quarterly meeting and Convention, Columbia, SC
- **SC Professional Land Surveyors Day and Legislative Breakfast:** March 24, 2027, The Palmetto Club and the SC State House, Columbia, SC
- **Quarterly Meeting** – April 3, 2027 – Cypress Gardens, Summerville, SC
- **Quarterly Meeting and Swearing in of Officers** – June 25, 2027 – Meech House at Mungo Park, Irmo, SC

Alexander C. Peabody, SCPLS #20194 – NSPS South Carolina Director
survey@peabodysc.com – cell (843) 270-4847