



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

STATE AFFILIATE REPORT: WEST VIRGINIA

State Affiliate: West Virginia Society of Professional Surveyors (WVSPS)

Meeting: NSPS Fall Business Meeting (October 18–20, 2026 | Deadwood, South Dakota)

Submitted by: Jason Smithson, PS | WV PS #2153 | WV NSPS Director

Attending for WVSPS: Paul Hicks

Reporting Period: Fall 2026 Executive, Legislative & State Activity

I. State Governance & Organizational Actions

- **WVSPS Dues & Membership:** At its July 17, 2026 meeting, the WVSPS Board approved an amendment to Bylaw 6 revising state membership dues, effective October 1, 2026. Total membership stood at 278 as of October 1, 2026, compared with 292 at the same point in 2025.
- **National Media & Podcast Promotion:** Following the national launch of the Young Surveyors Network podcast "*Between the Stakes*" (under the *Surveyor Says!* umbrella), the podcast was presented and shared at the July 2026 WVSPS Board meeting as a tool for local early-career recruitment, CST student engagement, and mentorship across West Virginia.
- **Licensure Outreach Collaboration:** WVSPS is assisting the West Virginia Board of Professional Surveyors (WVBPS) with member outreach regarding 41 delinquent 2026 license renewals. Per the WVBPS Meeting #354 report (August 12, 2026), the State Specific Exam duration was reduced from 2 hours to 1.5 hours, and WVBPS is considering revisions to its online license and COA process.
- **Executive Leadership:** WVSPS continues active leadership under President Doug Bell, President-Elect David Chestnut, Vice President Mack McCarty, and Executive Director Julie Hewett.

II. State Conferences & Events

- **58th Annual Convention (Oglebay Resort, Wheeling):** WVSPS held its 2026 Annual Convention at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, April 16–18, 2026.
- **59th Annual Convention (Summersville):** The 2027 Annual Convention is scheduled for March 1–3, 2027 at the Summersville Arena & Conference Center. The Convention Committee selected the venue so exhibits, meals, and breaks can share one 24,000 sq. ft. arena space, and a vendor reception is planned in place of the exhibitors' dinner. New for 2027 are a Monday-only Technician Track (March 1, \$100) for field crews, instrument operators, and party chiefs, and virtual continuing education sessions for members who cannot attend in person. Registration is targeted to open in early November 2026.

III. State Legislative & Geodetic Modernization (NSRS 2022 Readiness)

- **Statutory Framework (W. Va. Code §1-1-5):** Through WVSPS Legislative Committee advocacy, West Virginia enacted Senate Bill 540 (2024 Regular Session), amending W. Va. Code §1-1-5 to

tie the West Virginia Coordinate System to the most recent system of plane coordinates established by the NGS. This is intended to allow West Virginia to transition to SPCS2022 upon official NGS release without additional state statutory changes.

- **Inter-Agency Representation:** The WVSPS NSPS Director communicates with the WVSPS Legislative Committee and with the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey (WVGES), working alongside the WVGES leadership team.
- **Statewide RTN Preparation:** The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) operates the 32-CORS West Virginia Real-Time Network (WVRTN) and is currently broadcasting a dedicated live test mountpoint (NATRF2022_Test) using a Trimble beta release, allowing state practitioners to test multi-constellation RTK corrections on NATRF2022. NGS released NSRS 2022 beta tools on September 15, 2026.
- **Risk Management & Multi-Phase Projects:** Practitioners across West Virginia are generally engaged and awaiting final NGS transformation grids. WVSPS focus is on risk management for long-term infrastructure projects, specifically ensuring coordinate consistency between initial design surveys, active construction staking, and multi-phase contractor deliverables as transformed grids take effect.

IV. Career & Technical Education (CTE), CST & Grant Pathways

- **Local CTE & High School Outreach:** WVSPS is working to build workforce pipelines with local Career and Technical Centers, including pre-engineering and technical surveying tracks at institutions such as the Putnam Career and Technical Center.
- **CST Curriculum & Proctoring:** State efforts are focused on embedding Certified Survey Technician (CST) Level I field/office curricula into technical high school programs and establishing certified local CST proctors to host on-site testing.
- **Grant Development (NCEES Foundation):** WVSPS and CTE partners are reviewing the NCEES Foundation grant window (LOI deadline February 1, 2027) to seek funding for modernizing surveying field equipment, digital software, and instructional labs for technical students.
- **Certified Floodplain Surveyor (CFS):** The WVSPS Board formed a task force in July 2026 to explore a Certified Floodplain Surveyor (CFS) certification pathway for West Virginia.

V. Topics of Interest to WVSPS

- **NSRS 2022 readiness:** WVSPS would welcome information on what other states are doing to prepare practicing surveyors, not only geodesists, for the modernized NSRS.
- **Model Standards:** WVSPS would welcome an update on the review of the NSPS Model Standards and what may change.
- **Workforce development and YSN:** WVSPS is interested in successful state workforce development models and ways to build on the Young Surveyors Network.

Respectfully submitted October 18, 2026

Jason Smithson, PS | WV NSPS Director