



NSPS Director's Report Fall Meeting – October 2026

The Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ISPLS) Board of Directors met on April 24, 2026, June 19, 2026, and August 28, 2026 in Indianapolis. Below is a summary of key updates and activities since the Spring NSPS meeting.

Membership Information

Category	Members
Professional	448
Associate (Firm Members)	156 (100)
Student	75
Life Members (Active)	27
Affiliate	10
Total	716

ISPLS Organizational Updates

- **Life Memberships** – Approved Life Membership for Jim Tibbet (April 2026). A Life Membership request for Paul Marchese was considered in June and approved.
- **Government Affairs Succession** – Todd Bauer was appointed Co-Chair of the Government Affairs Committee for 2026 and will succeed Gary Kent as Chair in 2027.
- **2026–2027 Budget** – The FY 2026/27 budget was presented for approval at the June meeting.
- **Convention Speaker Compensation** – The Board took up guidelines for featured, workshop, and breakout speaker compensation.
- **Finance Committee** – The Board is gauging interest in a revised Finance Committee and investment administration structure.
- **Chapter Support** – ISPLS is setting up SharePoint for centralized chapter records and exploring the chapter group functions in the new membership database. The Tecumseh Chapter held its first meeting in some time and is working to revitalize.
- **AI Utilization Committee** – Held its kickoff meeting in April and is interested in hosting a panel discussion at the ISPLS Convention.
- **New Licensees** – The Board is discussing how ISPLS can recognize newly licensed Indiana PLSs.

Legislative

- **2022 Adjustment (SB 179)** – INDOT's bill was signed into law as Public Law 147 on March 12, 2026, and Indiana adopted the Indiana Plane Coordinate System effective July 1, 2026.



The enacted language needs amendment because the Legislative Services Agency did not carry all of the necessary changes. Eric Banschbach, Randall Nick, and Matt Badger are reviewing the published statute. Bryan Catlin is confirming whether INDOT will carry the fix in its next bill; if not, ISPLS will.

- **Certificate of Authorization** – Indiana remains one of very few states that do not require firms to hold a COA, which puts in-state surveyors at a disadvantage. ACEC Indiana has asked to be kept informed before any bill is filed. Gary Kent and Todd Bauer are exploring the issue further with lobbyist Mike O'Brien and Sen. Doriot.
- **Legal Survey Statute** – After discussion among Rep. Steuerwald, Mike O'Brien, Todd Bauer, and Gary Kent, the committee concluded the statute amended two years ago does not need a fix. This item is closed.
- **Local Government Interference** – The committee is gathering information on two issues: local governments refusing to record retracement surveys unless they carry plan commission stamps, owner signatures, or right-of-way dedications; and local requirements that surveyors display their names on vehicles. Jarrod Hahn and Rich Hudson are collecting details to determine whether these call for legislation or education.
- **Convention** – Mike O'Brien will be invited to speak at the ISPLS Convention when it is next held in Indianapolis.

Workforce Development & Outreach

Workforce development remains a top priority for ISPLS. The committee is organizing into subcommittees, and events attended since the Spring meeting include:

- Mini JobSpark
- Johnson County Skilled Trades Showcase
- CBIS Annual Career Day
- IGIC Annual Conference
- Civil Construction Pathways Teach the Teacher
- INDOT Future Leaders Day
- Indiana FFA State Convention Expo Hall

Other updates:

- **GKIS Surveyor's Monopoly** – ISPLS approved sponsorship of a surveying-themed Monopoly game being developed by GKIS; proofs are complete.
- **FFA National Convention** – Booth is booked in a high-traffic location for this year's event.
- **JA JobSpark** – Planning is underway for this year's event in Indianapolis.
- **Sandbox** – The Central Indiana Chapter is planning a replacement for the sandbox in the outreach trailer.
- **NCEES** – The BeASurveyor.com fulfillment center has moved to a new vendor and is fully stocked.



- **Graduation Requirements** – The committee is tracking Indiana’s upcoming high school graduation requirements and their effect on career pathway outreach.

Education

- **Vincennes University** – The ISPLS Board will conduct its annual VU Survey Advisory Board review on October 16, 2026, ahead of the regular board meeting.
- **Purdue University** – The ISPLS President met with Professor Jinha and the Purdue student chapter about a geomatics conference planned for mid-October.

Young Surveyors Network

Indiana YSN has 32 active members, not counting students, and was well represented at the Spring NSPS meeting. The YSN donation portal is live, with QR codes for the sponsor and membership forms, and the group is planning small events.

IPLS Foundation

The Foundation approved three grants in April 2026.

Liaison Updates

- **IGIC** – The IGIC Annual Conference was held May 14 in Bloomington. ISPLS exhibited and the sandbox drew strong interest. The 2027 conference will be at Purdue.
- **ACEC** – ACEC Indiana committees are in their off-season and resume later this year.
- **Past President’s Council** – Planning the next Surveyors Olympics.

2027 ISPLS Annual Convention

The 2027 Convention will be held January 20–22, 2027 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne. The education program has 20 sessions submitted, including full-day programs on the 2026 ALTA/NSPS Standards, a new mock trial, the transition to NATRF2022, and relative positional precision.

Session	Presenter	Hours
The 2026 ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys Standards	Gary Kent	6
Mock Trial – Needham v. Hise	Gary Kent	6
State Plane Coordinate System: Transition to NATRF2022	Todd Horton	6
Relative Positional Precision Explained in Everyday Language	Todd Horton	6
AI in Surveying	Kevin Woeste	4.5
Surveyors in Jeopardy	Gary Kent	3
Leadership: Building a Culture by Design	Charlie Thomas	3
Ethics, Morals, and Principles for the Surveyor	Tim Burch	1.5
Social Media and the Professional Surveyor	Tim Burch	1.5



Session	Presenter	Hours
Professional Ethics	Todd Horton	1.5
Early History of the PLSS in Indiana, 1799–1848	Todd Horton	1.5
Bridging the Gap: Developing the Next Generation of Land Surveyors	Trent Keenan	1.5
Beyond Precision: Leadership Dynamics and Strategic Growth	Cindy Candler	1
Basics of Vesting of Real Estate Title	J. Bryan Nugen, J.D.	1
Beyond 811: Private Utility Locating for Modern Survey Projects	Josh Roland	1
Best Practices in Drone Surveying for 2027	Logan Campbell	1
Indiana–Michigan State Line	Steve Jones	1
Navigating Your Future: Networking in Land Surveying	Trent Keenan and Nolan Mark	1
AI Panel	ISPLS AI Committee	1
County Surveyors Panel	NACS	1

Strategic Goals (2026)

The Board’s 2026 strategic goals are unchanged from the Spring report: meaningful member engagement, stronger chapter and volunteer participation, expanded education for technicians and para-professionals, engagement with the Professional Licensing Agency on path to licensure, and shared initiatives with ACEC and FFA.

Looking Ahead

- **Board Meetings** – The Board meets on the third Friday of even-numbered months, except December. The next meeting is October 16, 2026 at Vincennes University, following the VU Survey Advisory Board review.
- **2027 Convention** – January 20–22, 2027 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne.
- **2028 Convention** – Crowne Plaza, Indianapolis.

Respectfully submitted,

Don R. Williams, Jr., PS
Indiana NSPS Director