Idaho held its most recent Board meeting on August 24, 2019 in McCall, ID. The membership in the society is around 200; including all membership categories. The society has been trying to find ways to increase membership as many licensees, LSIs, and students are not members of the society. Some people I have spoken to ask; why should I pay to be a member, what do they do for me? I’m sure other people have heard these same concerns in their states as well. I have tried to explain it to them but ultimately, they won’t know what the state or national societies do for them unless they get involved and see for themselves.

Idaho is planning their 2020 annual conference. This will be held February 25-28, 2020 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa, ID. We are also considering a joint conference with Montana in 2021. This is in the early stages right now as both states are trying to work through the details.

At the recent Board meeting, we discussed the CFS program. The Board members liked the program but did not see a way for the state to take on the responsibility of a program like this in Idaho. They preferred to see it as a national program with NSPS taking the lead in administering the program and possibly making it an online course.

The Idaho Department of Transportation (ITD) and ISPLS are working with NGS to provide Benchmark Reset training to the surveyors in Idaho. This reset work is required by ITD for any federal monument that will be disturbed or destroyed as part of a state construction project. ITD has an interest in keeping these monuments and cannot replace all the destroyed monuments themselves. This training has been provided in the past as a 3rd-Order Reset training with some interest. This additional training would be provided by NGS personnel to train the surveyors in Idaho to complete an official reset ranging from 3rd-Order to 1st-Order. The tentative dates for this training are the first or second week in April.

ISPLS is working with the Idaho GIS groups to create criteria and legislation for the new 2022 datum. Idaho has been working with Michael Dennis at NGS to create the statewide single zone (layer 1) and SPC multi-zone (layer 2) for the 2022 datum. Michael and NGS have been very helpful and patient with us through this process.

Idaho State University in Pocatello, ID received a SECTOR Grant from the Department of Labor to help in Workforce Development. This grant will be used by the Surveying program to promote the profession and the university program. The grant has helped the university provide a fully online degree in Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Technology, which is an ABET accredited program. The university is also reaching out to incumbent survey technicians. The outreach program, known as TRIPOD, gives these workers an opportunity to earn college credits and earn CST certifications while working. More information on these programs can be found at www.isu.edu/geomatics.