



The Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS) held a Board of Directors meeting on September 14, 2019 in Reno, Nevada.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 13 WESTERN STATES

ALASKA (ASPLS) Steve Buchanan – Current membership is 185. ASPLS is modifying their membership categories and pricing structure. A new website is being developed and expected to launch soon. Conference will be held April 6-8, 2020 in Anchorage, AK. The University of Alaska Anchorage Geomatics program is in jeopardy even though it continues to attract students and produce graduates (12-15 annually for the last 5+ years). This is due to the Governor's veto of \$130 million from the university's operating budget. The Geomatics Advisory Board (GAB) mobilized and started a fundraising campaign to save the program and they have almost reached their goal of \$160,000.

ARIZONA (APLS) Mike Fondren – Current membership is 355. Chapters are currently reviewing their bylaws and a boilerplate has been provided to chapters to utilize as a resource. A membership survey was sent and the Board is reviewing feedback to determine what issues the membership finds most important and what new programs APLS can develop to provide more value to membership. A task force has been established to review the Arizona Minimum Standards. APLS is working with AGIC to develop language to address the 2022 Datum. APLS held a summer seminar featuring Michael Dennis. The event was successful and registration sold out. APLS developed a Right of Entry best practice guide which is available to members.

CALIFORNIA (CLSA) Ray Mathe & Rob McMillan – Current membership is 1592. CLSA Education Foundation provides over \$40,000 in scholarships each year. SB 556 which was opposed by the Board of Registration, CLSA, and ACEC was referred to the Committee on Business and Professions. The California Board of Registration has completed sunset review process.

COLORADO (PLSC) Roger Nelson & Todd Beers – Current membership is 329. PLSC Board voted not to raise dues and instead absorb the increase in NSPS dues. The 11th annual Rocky Mountain Surveyors Summit will be moved to a new venue in Golden Colorado and will be held February 26-28, 2020. PLSC volunteers have established a survey degree program at the Western Colorado Community College and Colorado Mesa University. PLSC has committed \$250,000 to the program. PLSC members will be participating in the Boy Scout Jamboree, Colorado State Guidance Counselor Conference, and various other career days throughout the state.

HAWAII (HLSA) Meyer Cummins – Current membership is 88. HLSA worked with its members and crafted a bill, SB 898, to amend the current Land Court Deregistration Legislation and require land owners seeking deregistration to submit a File Plan and Regular System description of the deregistered parcels as part of the deregistration process. The bill did not pass and HLSA is working to enlist a lobbyist to assist. HLSA held a successful workshop and plans to hold more throughout the year. Hawaii continues to struggle with unlicensed practice.

MONTANA (MARLS) Dick Smith & Russ Kluesner – MARLS conference will be held February 19-21, 2020 in Great Falls, MT. The Montana Board of Registration presents commemorative pins for 30 years of licensure. MARLS Board of Directors will review an updated Standards of Practice Manual at their next meeting. MARLS is in the process of updating their laws and regulations reference guide. Dave Dorsett has retired and Corryn Greenwalt is now the survey instructor at Flathead Valley Community College.

NEVADA (NALS) Nancy Almanzan & Matt Gingerich – Current membership is 252. NALS membership has increased 40% over the last four years. The APLS-CLSA-NALS Conference will be held March 28-31, 2020 at the Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. NALS passed a resolution reaffirming support of a four-year degree requirement for licensure. A bill tracking service is used to identify legislation that affects the profession. NALS has recently established and funded a Young Surveyors Network (NV YSN). The YSN has been extremely active and assists NALS with many outreach opportunities. The NDOT Ad Hoc Committee was formed in March 2019 with an immediate goal of increasing accessibility of NDOT records. The committee has helped to create direct lines of communication between NALS and NDOT. A workshop was held in both Reno and Las Vegas to provide a demonstration of the NDOT AX system. Discussion is occurring on possible funding to make this system

accessible by the public. The bylaw amendments recommended by the NALS Board of Directors passed. The amendments broaden the purpose of NALS to include attracting and mentoring the next generation of land surveyors. In addition, retired and honorary membership categories were added. NALS continues to support the Great Basin College survey program and has pledged to help fund a second professor. Workforce development continues to be a key focus and NALS has sent a letter to the Nevada Career and Technical Education (CTE) department to determine if we can partner on outreach efforts.

NEW MEXICO (NMPS) Allen Grace – New Mexico State University was awarded the 2019 NCEES Surveying Education Award with a \$25,000 grand prize. The Young Surveyors Network is very active in New Mexico and assists in outreach activities. Bills HB-268 and SB-312, for the required 4-year degree, were not successful at this session and have been tabled. NMPS will stay focused on these areas.

UTAH (UCLS) Mike Nadeau – Current membership is 399. The Surveyors Historical Society Rendezvous will be in Salt Lake City September 18-21, 2019. UCLS Conference will be held February 19-21, 2020 in St. George, UT. Legislative Committee is working on legislation to address the 2022 datum and on language to include legal descriptions as part of the definition of land surveying. UCLS participates in the TrigStar and Boy Scout merit badge programs.

WASHINGTON (LSAW) Ben Petersen & Jeff Lynch – Current membership is 872. LSAW will hold a fall seminar series which will include a track for survey technicians. The track is being developed to also prepare technicians for the NSPS CST exam should they wish to pursue certification. The LSAW-WFPS Conference will be held February 26-28, 2020 in Tulalip, WA. Featured speakers include Kris Kline, Dave Doyle, and John Stahl. LSAW has affiliated with American Association of Geodetic Surveying (AAGS) which provides LSAW members a discount on AAGS membership. The LSAW Chapters have each adopted new bylaws which are in conformance with the LSAW bylaws. The Evergreen State Surveyor (ESS) magazine has been revived and is now being published, in both print and digital format twice a year. LSAW will introduce monument preservation fund legislation during the 2020 legislative session. The Washington Uniform Common Interest Ownership Action (WUCIOA) affects all subdivisions of property and agencies are working to determine how this affects surveys.

WYOMING (PLSW) Mark Corbridge – Current membership is 198. Fall Technical Session will be held November 7-8, 2019 in Casper, WY. PLSW is working with the Board of Registration and the University of Wyoming on an outreach program to elementary through high school students. PLSW is also working with GeoInquiry in conjunction with the GIS community to reach high school students. A beta version of this program has been presented to teachers and was well received. The national TrigStar winner was from Laramie, WY.

WFPS OFFICERS 2019-2021

Steve Parrish installed the 2019-20 WFPS Officers and the gavel passed from Matt Gingerich to Mike Nadeau.

Mike Nadeau (Utah) – Chair
Ben Peterson (Washington) – Chair-Elect
Mark Corbridge (Wyoming) – Secretary/Treasurer
Matt Gingerich (Nevada) – Immediate Past Chair

WFPS FOUNDATION

The WFPS Disaster Relief and Scholarship fund has been established through the NSPS Education Foundation. Donations are now being accepted. The criteria and application information has been sent to all State Associations and can be found on the WFPS website. Urgent assistance is needed for land surveyors that have been affected by the California wildfires.

The WFPS Foundation has awarded a California surveyor relief funds to aid after their home and all belongings were lost in the recent California wildfires.

Donations can be made mailed to WFPS: 526 South E Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

<https://www.nsps.us.com/donations/donate.asp?id=18191>

WFPS AREAS OF FOCUS

Providing Resources to Benefit State Associations

WFPS is dedicated to providing resources to state associations. Following are a few of the resources that are available:

1. **Speakers Bureau**
2. **Article Bank for Association Magazines**
3. **STEM Outreach Flyer**

Serving as a Regional Voice

WFPS has adopted a resolution to support Quality Based Selection (QBS). The resolution is attached for your use. Should your state need a letter of support from WFPS regarding a QBS issue please contact the WFPS Office at admin@wfps.org.

WFPS sent a letter of support of the Amicus Brief prepared by NSPS to the Louisiana Supreme Court in the case of Crooks vs. the State in support of the effort to the reconsideration of the court ruling.

WFPS has adopted an elevator pitch to provide a quick response to what a surveyor does: "We're really good at math and measuring. We use light beams, satellites and drones. You know that GPS in your car or phone? Well, that's accurate to about 10 feet. Good enough to get you to a restaurant or Home Depot. The stuff we use? We're talking millimeters - about the thickness of a dime. Did you know there's four faces on Mt. Rushmore and three of them are surveyors. The other guy started the Panama Canal and got teddy bears named after him. We also show you the limits of what is probably the most expensive thing you will ever own – your property - so you stay friendly with your neighbor and out of court. And when you make your fortune, and that ship pulls into harbor with your new jet-black BMW? Well, we surveyed the sea floor to make sure it doesn't bottom out. You know those steep curves on the NASCAR tracks? A surveyor laid those out just right so the cars don't jump over the top. Well, sometimes they do anyway! And when you get back from your Caribbean cruise, and it's been pouring rain and your plane lands at 200 miles per hour at (name of airport)? You know why you don't skid off the runway and make the 11 o'clock news? Because we banked the runway so the water runs off. We saved your life. Your welcome."

About WFPS - PowerPoint

Get to know WFPS and how we serve the 13 western state surveying association. Visit the WFPS website, click "About WFPS" and download the WFPS PowerPoint.

About WFPS

The Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS) was formed in 1979. The Board of Directors includes two delegates from each of the 13 western states. WFPS serves as a regional voice for Land Surveyors and meets quarterly to discuss practice issues affecting western state surveyors. For more information about WFPS and the state associations, visit WFPS.org

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