

FieldNotes...

Affiliated with the
National Society of
Professional Surveyors

The Monthly Newsletter of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors

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Maine Society of Land Surveyors
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**SEE YOU AT
THE 2026 MSL
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
AT THE REGENCY
IN PORTLAND!**

Annual Conference Houskeeping



Coming? You won't be alone! This year's Conference has drawn a record of over 160 registered conferees, a dozen exhibitors staffing their booths with over 20 experts to talk to you about the latest in technology and professional services.

Here's the last minute buzz:

- Beanpots (or soup bowls with spoon rests) for all attendees will be at the registration desk. Please pick up yours when registering or later before you leave for the day or go to your hotel room. Beans not included!
- If you are not registered by now you should get in contact with Executive Director Bruce Bourgoine at director@msls.org or 207-882-5200. Our guarantee food and seating counts have been committed and with the record numbers we will need to make sure you can be accommodated.
- We are past refund timing. Our policy is: "*Refunds after the registration deadline date cannot be issued by MSLS due to its financial commitments already made in administrative, program, and venue planning.*"
- A digital package of selected items including some of Gary Kent's material will be going out to conferees by Tuesday evening. If you do not see that package by Wednesday AM, email director@msls.org and we will send it along. We have most emails but if you registered others, you may want to forward the packet to them as a precaution.
- Heads up, hands free, Thursday's lunch is primarily planned as a walk around casual sandwich buffet in the Exhibition Hall.
- Bring plenty of good cheer, this will be a great Conference! a

MSLS Contact Information

Levi Ladd, President	416-5644
Jonathan Stewart, Vice President	947-0019
Kevin Farrar, Secretary	215-6340
Jimmy Courbron, Treasurer	200-1678
Ellen Brewer, Director At Large	767-0821
Judd Vear, Director At Large	200-5877
Keith Morse, Androscoggin	754-5937
Spencer Caron, Crown of Maine	532-7313
Karl Olson, MidCoast	882-7008
Wayne Wood, Narragansett	657-3330
Rich Vannozi, Penobscot	(617) 429-7036
Stephen Gould, Somerset	474-6223
Matt Ek, NSPS Director	831-9470
Cassandra Quintal, Immediate Past Pres.	577-5840
Daniel Bernier, Esq., Legislative Monitor	877-8969
Bruce Bourgoine, Executive Director	882-5200
	director@msls.org



Legislative Committee
(Jonathan Stewart - Chair & Daniel Bernier, Esq.)
Nominating & Membership Committee
(Cassandra Quintal - Chair)
Budget & Finance Committee (Jimmy Courbron)
Board of Licensure (Jonathan Stewart - Liaison)
NSPS (Matt Ek, NSPS Director)
SVT at UM (Stephen Gould - Liaison)
GIS (Greg Copeland - Liaison)
FEMA (Mark Carpenter - Liaison)
DOT (Guy Ladd - Liaison)
Education Committee - (Cassandra Quintal - Chair)
Scholarship Committee
(John Lloyd & Stephen Gould - Co-Chairs)
Historical Committee - (Tom Blake - Chair)
Benevolent & Betterment Benevolent Fund Com't
(Matt Ek - Chair)
Program Committee
(Steve Gould & John Lloyd Co-Chairs)
Publications, FieldNotes and Website
(Bruce Bourgoine)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Online conference call via Zoom
January 5, 2026

Members Present

Officers -	
President	Levi Ladd
Vice President	Jon Stewart
Secretary	Kevin Farrar
Treasurer	Jimmy Courbron
Directors -	
Crown of Maine	Spencer Caron
Narragansett	Wayne Wood
MidCoast	Karl Olson
At Large	Judd Vear
At Large	Ellen Brewer
NSPS Director	Matt Ek
Past President	Cassandra Quintal
Executive Director	Bruce Bourgoine
Legislative Committee	Dan Bernier

The meeting was called to order by President Ladd at 5:05

Legislative Committee (Jon Stewart) – Dan Berner said that the legislature gets back into session starting tomorrow. He will come up with a list of bills to monitor within a week or so. He will try to be in attendance at the MSLS annual business meeting.

Secretary Report (Kevin Farrar) – The minutes from the December 11th ExCom meeting held at Governors Restaurant in Waterville were accepted with the amendment to fix typos in “new business items A”. ExCom voted and passed unanimously to maintain 2025 dues for 2026. Motion to accept amended minutes made by Matt Ek, seconded by Wayne Wood, passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report (Jimmy Courbron) – There is currently \$43,464.92 in the Checking Account. The scholarship fund currently contains \$275,477.49, a gain of about \$120 over the amount reported last month. There is \$9,202.93 in the Bereavement and Betterment Fund. Moved to accept by Karl seconded by Wayne, passed unanimously.

Executive Dir. Report (Bruce Bourgoine) – Bruce’s written report is below.

*From: Bruce Bourgoine, Executive Director
Regarding: December 2025 Report
Date: January 2, 2026*

Here are the items focused upon during December:

Focused on assisting the Program Committee with Annual Conference program securing speakers, setting the schedule, initial invitation to Exhibitors, opening registration for members and prospects, ongoing communications with venue, and initial marketing for attendance.

Dues notifications sent and initial collection underway.

Web update to support the Annual and began exploring with MemberClicks how to add a database to our AMS system for member only access.

Routine matters of ExCom meeting preparation, deposits, broadcast e-mails, website updates, FieldNotes publication, and handling external and member communications as required. Coordination with Scholarship Committee to promote and obtain applicants now under consideration.

Looking ahead, the following items will be of intermediate focus:

Assisting the Program Committee in executing plans to promote the 2026 Annual Conference, making it a success.

Looking ahead, the following item will be of post-conference focus:

Launching the historical records benefit for members via our AMS (website).

As always, I appreciate your feedback to help me best assist the interests of our members.



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Nominating & Membership Committee (Cassandra Quintal) – Bruce said that we had an associate move into full membership.

Member type	January 2026 Report		
	Jan. 2	Dec. 8	+/-
Associate	19	20	-1
Complimentary	2	2	0
Honorary	8	8	0
Life	10	10	0
Life Charter	2	2	0
Out of State	22	22	0
Out of State Charter	1	1	0
Regular	172	168	+4
Retired	34	34	0
Student	15	17	-2
Sustaining Individual	1	1	0
Sustaining	7	7	0

	293	292	+1



Education Committee (Cassandra Quintal) – Levi said that he will be instructing 3 surveying classes at the Tri-county Technical Center in Dexter this month.

Scholarship Committee (John Lloyd & Steve Gould) – John emailed the below report before the meeting.

The Scholarship Committee was presented with a total of four (4) applications for 2026 awards. Of those four, one application from an out of state post-graduate student was deemed ineligible per our Committee Bylaws. The remaining three applications were reviewed and scored by four voting members of the committee. There was a clear consensus on the committee that one applicant exceeded the others based on the quality of their submission.

We are recommending the following awards to be presented at our 2026 Annual Meeting.

LUKE PATTERSON (Brunswick, ME) \$3,000

PARKER DAY (Parsonfield, ME) \$1,000

JACK MORRISSEY (Cornish, ME) \$1,000

Steve and I have also been working on rewriting the Scholarship Committee bylaws. We have a draft version that should be ready for discussion in the next 1-2 months. Many of us have felt for some time that the current bylaws are outdated and can be too restrictive in terms of eligibility and disbursement of funds. We would like to see this change for 2027. Steve and I will share more details very soon.

Respectfully submitted, John Lloyd & Stephen Gould

Jimmy questioned whether \$5000 was a typical amount for scholarship awards. Steve said that the scholarship committee would generally love to give out more money each year but didn't feel this group of applicants really warranted that. The two \$1000 recipients really didn't have an interest in becoming licensed. They desire to work for construction companies. John said that he is aware of some states capping awards at around \$2500 (recipient tax purposes). Moved to accept the scholarship committee's recommendations for 2026 MSLS scholarships by Karl, seconded by Matt, approved by a wide margin.

Benevolent & Betterment Fund Committee (Matt Ek) – Matt urged those who are interested in this fund, its administration, its purpose and awards to attend a round table discussion to be held at our annual meeting on Friday at 2:30 in the “Board Room”.

Historical Committee (Tom Blake) – John Lloyd asked if we had ever converted the old editions of “Bearings” into PDF’s and made an index of the articles in it. Bruce said that he does have digital versions of FieldNotes dating back to the early 2000’s.

Also, Levi came up with an Excel index file formatted to be an index for historical surveyor records. He offered to send the template to ExCom members to have them add records if they wish. Bruce has started working with MemberClicks to try and find a way for the information to be formatted and made usable by members.

Public Relations Committee – No report.

Program Committee (Steve Gould & John Lloyd – MSLS Annual Meeting) – The meeting will be held at The Regency in Portland’s Old Port on January 29th and 30th. Steve said that the program is complete. He and Bruce indicated that after three years, we’ll be looking for a different venue next year.

LIAISONS –

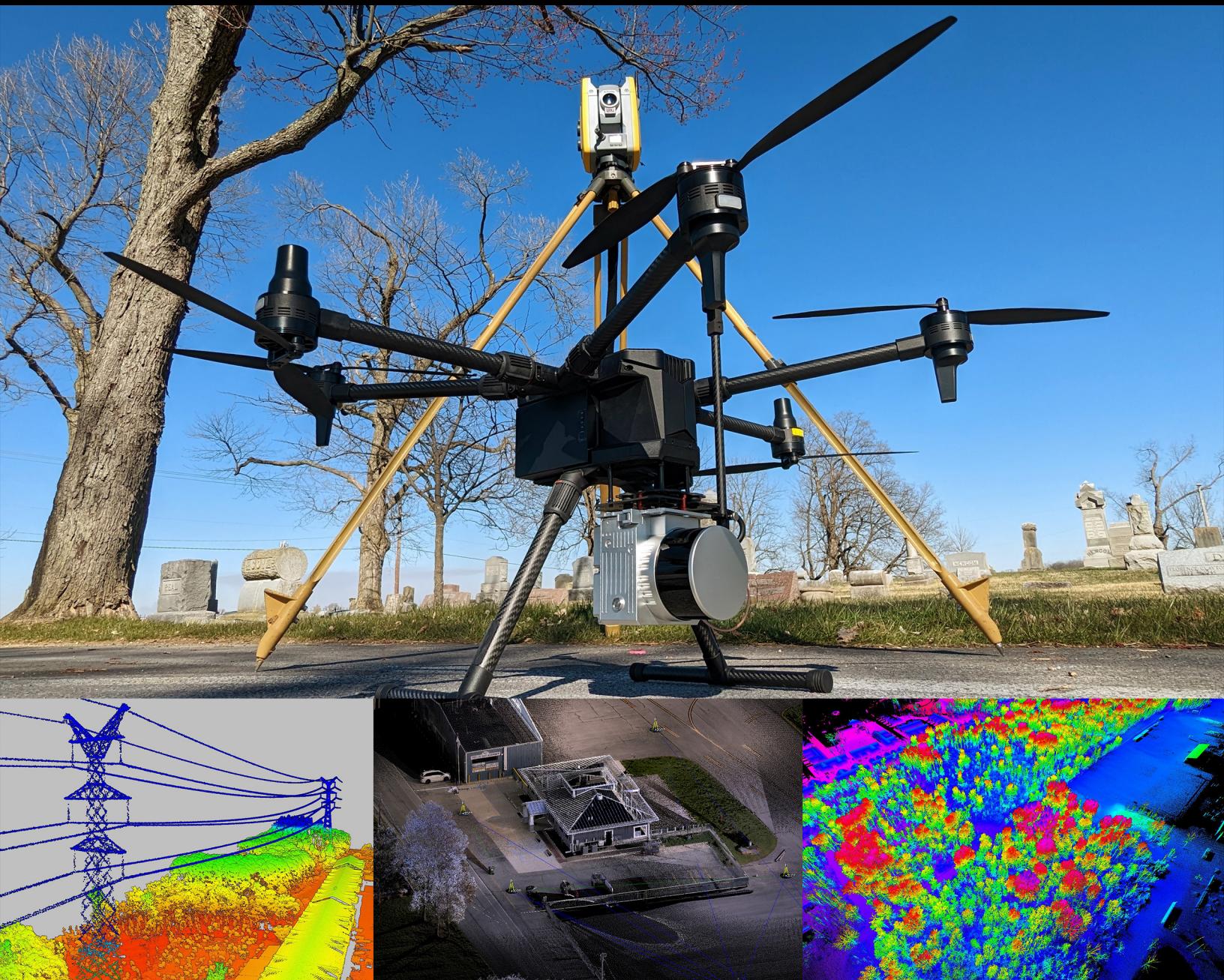
Board of Licensure (Jon Stewart) – Jon’s report on the last Board of Licensure is below.

December 16, 2025 - Meeting of Board of Licensure - Gardiner, Maine and Zoom

Minutes from last meeting approved. Three complaints heard... 1) First was regarding access over gated road. Notices sent, legal opinion from client, confirmed that civil matter. Case dismissed as land surveyor not yet used road. 2) Second, a survey was requested by client for neighbor's property. Client questioning neighbors' new structure and conformance to zoning and proximity to boundary line. No letter of engagement supplied but not much work done. Better communications between surveyor and client discussed. Board not able to address...real issue or be the avenue for client to get back at neighbor. Case dismissed. 3) 800 page submittal being a civil matter with court decrees. Documents presented were unclear and or vague on the issues. Not a clear board matter was identified, case dismissed.

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Board staff optimistic that new rule change for surveying experiences prior to FS (fka LSIT) will count towards PLS experience. Two years is still the minimum experience level required. Possibly in January for new rule. Next round of testing is in April 2026.

Meeting minutes and other board related matters are posted on the website:

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-licensure-professional-land-surveyors/home/board-meeting-information>

Next meeting is February 24, 2026.

Respectfully submitted, Jon Stewart, MSLS Liaison to Board of Licensure

NSPS (Matt Ek, Director) – Matt said that NSPS is trying to compile a list of rules and laws by state to post on their website.

SVT at UMaine (Rich Vannozzi) – No report. Joe McNichols will be retiring from the program after the spring semester.

CMCC (Cassandra Quintal) – No report.

GIS (Greg Copeland) – No report.

FEMA (Mark Carpenter) – No report

MDOT (Guy Ladd) – No report.

Registries (Kevin Sargent) – No report.

Chapter Reports –

Androscoggin Chapter (Keith Morse) – Cassandra said that they have a meeting coming up on January 21st at 6pm at Gritty's in Auburn

Narraganset Chapter (Wayne Wood) – No meeting, no report.

Crown of Maine (Spencer Caron) – After the annual meeting the Chapter is thinking of getting together and working to get information for the survey records index.

MidCoast Chapter (Karl Olson) – Next meeting is supposed to be Friday morning. The Christmas party was well attended and a lot of fun.

Penobscot/Hancock Chapter (Rich Vannozzi) – Jon said he likes the idea of trying to meet in February to work on the historical records index. They may do this as a joint meeting with Somerset.

Somerset Chapter (Steve Gould) – No report.

Unfinished Business –

Electronic voting update – Jimmy said that 30% of our membership have voted thus far. He was a little surprised at how low the participation is thus far. Bruce said that we typically get about 95-100 votes received each year. Spencer said that he thinks some people may think the email directing people to the MSLS online ballot is “spam”.

B&B fund workshop at MSLS annual meeting – This will be at 2:30 and Matt encouraged people to attend.

New Business –

Surveyor of the year – We got quite a few replies from members with nominations. The discussion came down to whether we select a member active within MSLS or a member who is representing the profession day in and day out. A motion was made, seconded and a nominee was selected by a wide margin. The winner will be revealed at the annual meeting.

Scholarship awards – previously discussed.

Student sponsorship – MSLS received a letter seeking sponsorship from the UMaine Student Chapter of NSPS. A \$500 scholarship would get the logo of the giving company or association on their surveying competition shirts. Cassandra made a motion for that MSLS provide a \$1000 sponsorship to come from our “B&B” fund (Benevolence and Betterment). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Confirm next ExCom date and place – This will be a very quick meeting at the MSLS annual meeting to pay bills associated with our annual meeting and approve the prior ExCom meeting minutes. The meeting after that will be February 24th at 5pm to be held via Zoom.

Correspondence - None

Consent Agenda -

January 5, 2026

From Whom	MSLS Committee	Amount
Bruce Bourgoine	Executive Dir. Expenses ~ December	\$1,549.67
Bruce Bourgoine	Executive Dir. Services ~ December	\$2,450.00
Total		\$3,999.67

Additions at meeting – None

Grand Total

\$3,999.67

It was moved to accept the consent agenda by Wayne Wood, seconded by Matt Ek and passed unanimously.

Moved to adjourn at 6:13pm, by Wayne seconded by

Matt and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

DRAFT

Kevin Farrar – MSLS





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Calendar Notes...

MSLS Annual Meeting

January 29 & 30, 2026

Well see you there!

Special ExCom

January 30, 2026

An abbreviated ExCom will be convened in the Conference Room at 2:30 on Friday at the annual Conference to primarily review and pay invoices.

B&B Fund Workshop

January 30, 2026

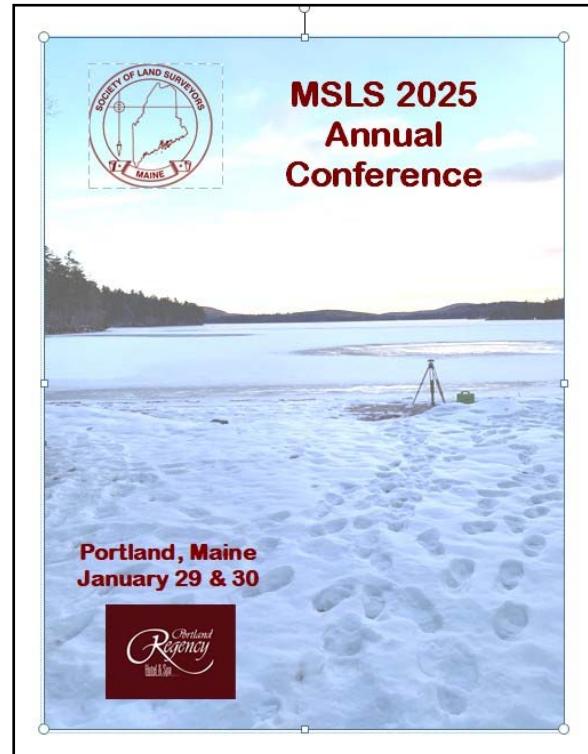
2:45 in the Conference Room at The Regency to work with Chair Matt Ek to shape the mission, procedures, and guidelines for the MSLS Benevolent and Betterment Fund. If interested in being involved, please let Matt know at the Conference; we welcome your involvement.

February ExCom

February 24, 2026

5:00 PM via Zoom

We always try to use member or local surveying photography in our publications. This nice photo by Darcey Barnard of Terradyn Consultants was chosen for our Annual Conference cover and lightened to add various elements. Thank you Darcey.



Email your interesting surveying or Maine "Parting Shot" to editor@msls.org!

The Parting Shot...