

FieldNotes...

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The Monthly Newsletter of the **Maine Society of Land Surveyors**

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October, 2026

Maine Society of Land Surveyors
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www.msls.org



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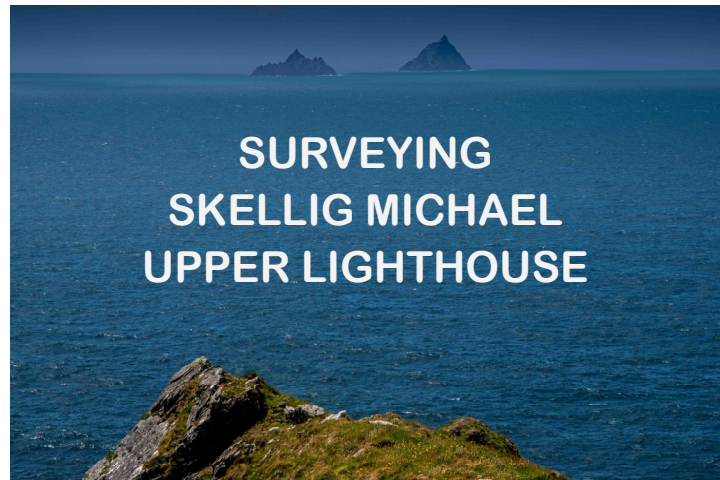
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Associates Regular Members Retired

PLEASE VOTE

Your electronic vote on the ballot emailed to you on Oct. 10 regarding the MSLS Constitution and Bylaws changes is valued. Voting members have access to an online packet of information. Voting ends on Nov. 10. Please participate.



Editor's Note: Traveling in Ireland, I looked out at rocky Skellig Islands and wondered if and how they might have been recently surveyed, especially since Maine land surveyors often undertake similar challenges. With a little checking I found the story of work done by Paul Corrigan & Associates (PCA) Ltd. Geo-Surveyors who kindly gave us permission to reproduce their article about the job found at their [website](http://www.pca.ie). Above photo by Bruce Bourgoine, all others courtesy of PCA.

Having successfully completed the survey of the main lighthouse in 2018 for the Office of Public Works (OPW), the PCA team returned to Skellig Michael once again to survey the original Upper Lighthouse.

Constructed in the 1820's and abandoned in the 1870's, the ruins of the lighthouse sit on the western end of the island away from the main OPW living quarters. Due its remote position, the Upper Lighthouse gave rise to a unique set of challenges in which the team called upon many years of experience to successfully complete.

The Survey

After a four hour journey down to Portmagee, Co. Kerry, the four man team loaded up the gear on the boat and set off for the island. Upon arrival in the evening, the team got to work immediately by establishing two new control points. Since GPS signal is not available on the western side of the island the control had to be installed on the eastern side of the island. This control was critical for the successful completion of the topographic survey, drone survey and laser scanning.

Continued on Page 8

MSLS Contact Information

Levi Ladd, President 416-5644
Jonathan Stewart, Vice President 947-0019
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Jimmy Courbron, Treasurer 200-1678

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Cassandra Quintal, Immediate Past Pres. 577-5840
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Bruce Bourgoine, Executive Director 882-5200
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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 - (Levi Ladd - 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
5 p.m. October 21, 2026



Members Present

Officers -	President	Levi Ladd
	Vice President	Jon Stewart
	Treasurer	Jimmy Courbron
	Secretary	Kevin Farrar
Directors -	Crown of Maine	Spencer Caron (5:50)
	Mid-Coast	Karl Olson
	Somerset	Stephen Gould
	At Large	Ellen Brewer (5:25)
	At Large	Judd Vear (6:00)
	Past President	Cassandra Quintal

MSLS Executive Director Bruce Bourgoine

There was a little confusion about the 5pm start time. Once we had a quorum, President Ladd called the meeting to order at 5:14.

Legislative Committee (Jon Stewart) – Jon emailed the following information prior to the meeting.

Legislative Liaison Report for October 21, 2026

Summary Major Land Use Legislation enacted in the 132 Legislative Session (Jan-Apr 2026)

<u>Bill & Citation</u>	<u>Primary Legal Impact</u>	<u>Key Provision</u>
LD 1829 (PL Ch. 385)	Housing Density & Zoning	Mandates 3–4 residential units per lot; prohibits stricter rules on multi-units than single-family homes.

LD 1396	Land Use & Subdivisions	Changes subdivision trigger threshold from 3 lots to 5 lots. Exempts boundary line adjustments.
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LD 997	Commercial Land Use	Permits residential development inside commercial zoning districts.
LD 427	Zoning / Parking	Caps local parking mandates to 1 space per unit.

For more information or a deeper dive, most AI searches will return lots of info but good to go the State of Maine Site directly to see...e.g. search "LD 1829 Maine" and see what you get... look for Maine State Legislature or State of Maine sites.

After the election on November 3, 2026, once new members of the Legislature are selected, the 133rd Legislative Session starts in January 2027.

Respectfully submitted, Jon Stewart, Legislative Liaison of MSLS

Secretary Report (Kevin Farrar) – The minutes from the September 15th ExCom meeting held online via Zoom were accepted as printed. Motion to accept made by Karl, seconded by Jimmy, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Jimmy Courbron) – As of October 15th, the checking account currently has a balance of \$40,204.52. The Bereavement and Betterment Fund (B&B) account holds \$14,448.35. The scholarship fund currently holds \$290,828, a gain of about \$3000 over the amount reported last month. Moved to approve by Kevin, seconded by Karl, passed unanimously.



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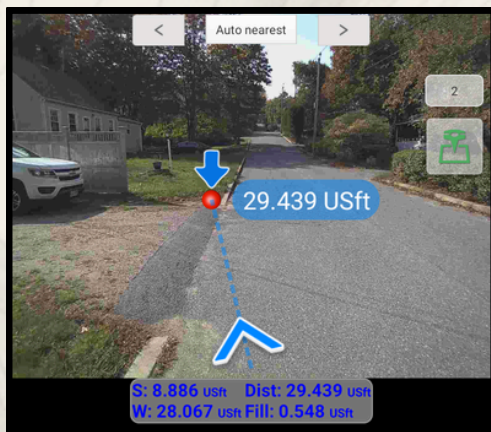
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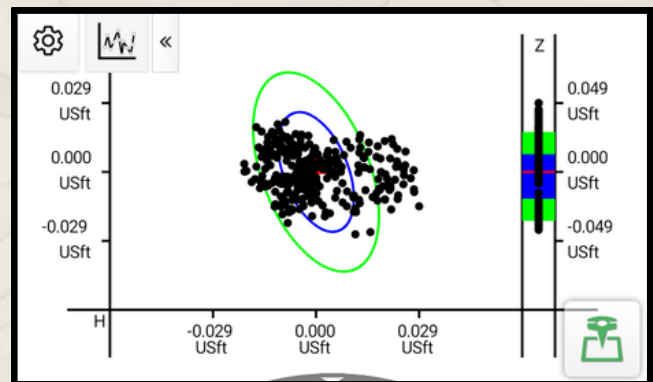


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Executive Dir. Report (Bruce Bourgoine) – Bruce’s written report is below.

From: Bruce Bourgoine, Executive Director

Regarding: September 2026 Report

Date: October 12, 2026

Here are the items focused upon during September:

- Assist Narragansett Chapter with Fall Meeting venue logistics and communication, managed registration and promotion, produced meeting booklet.
- Supported Bylaws and Constitution amendment logistics and information for members.
- Routine matters of ExCom meeting preparation, deposits, broadcast e-mails, website updates, FieldNotes publication, and handling external and member communications as required.

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

- Support the Scholarship Committee’s application announcements and processing.
- Complete logistics and launch historical records benefit for members.

The following item will be of longer-term focus:

- Venue management for the 2027 Annual Meeting and supporting Program Committee.

As always, I appreciate feedback to help me best assist you in serving member needs.

Nominating & Membership Committee (Cassandra Quintal) – Cassandra reports that Judd Vear will run for Vice President. She also got a few ‘no thank you’ replies from members for running for ‘director at large’. She is still looking for interested members.

<i>Member type</i>	<i>September 2026 Report</i>		<i>+/-</i>
	<i>Oct. 12</i>	<i>Sept 15</i>	
<i>Associate</i>	27	27	0
<i>Complimentary</i>	2	2	0
<i>Honorary</i>	8	8	0
<i>Life</i>	10	10	0
<i>Life Charter</i>	2	2	0
<i>Out of State</i>	23	23	0
<i>Out of State Charter</i>	1	1	0
<i>Regular</i>	167	167	0
<i>Retired</i>	31	31	0
<i>Student</i>	15	15	0
<i>Sustaining Individual</i>	1	1	0
<i>Sustaining</i>	7	7	0
<hr/>			
	294	294	0



Education Committee (Cassandra Quintal) – No report

Scholarship Committee (John Lloyd & Steve Gould) – Scholarship applications will be going out and are due back in late November.

Benevolent & Betterment Fund Committee (Matt Ek) – No report. Jimmy asked about moving these funds into a high yield account. No further discussion.

Historical Committee (Levi Ladd) – Bruce sent an RFP to Member-clicks (our membership services/web provider) for add-on services to allow the historical survey records index to be hosted on-line in the MSLS members area.

Program Committee (Annual Membership meeting) – The 2027 MSLS Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday and Friday, January 28th and 29th at the Well’s Conference Center on the University of Maine campus in Orono. There will be a block of rooms available for \$119 per night at the Ursa Hotel, which is also on campus. Some ideas for topics and speakers were briefly discussed. The Committee will be working this coming month on selecting topics/speakers.

LIAISONS –

Board of Licensure (Jon Stewart) – The meeting scheduled for August 25th was cancelled due to lack of agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27th.

NSPS (Matt Ek, Director) – No report. Matt is currently at the NSPS meeting.

SVT at UMaine (Rich Vannozzi) – No report.

CMCC (Cassandra Quintal) – No report.

GIS (Greg Copeland) – No report. Some discussion about the Maine GIS presentation at the Fall meeting. Some expressed disappointment about the search and download issues for arials. There was a minor discussion about scheduling someone from Maine GIS to speak at the MSLS annual meeting.

FEMA (Mark Carpenter) – No report.



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MDOT (Guy Ladd) – No report.

Registries (Jon Stewart) – The Registrars have created a subcommittee to review and discuss allowing color on recorded plans.

Chapter Reports –

Androscoggin Chapter (Keith Morse) – No meeting, no report.

Narragansett Chapter (Wayne Wood) – No report.

Crown of Maine (Spencer Caron) – No report.

MidCoast Chapter (Karl Olson) – Met on Friday the 16th for the first time since summer. They had a discussion around terms in deeds like “near” and “approximate”.

Penobscot/Hancock Chapter (Nate Rice) – No meeting, no report.

Somerset Chapter (Steve Gould) – No meeting, no report.

Unfinished Business –

Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) ‘Spaghetti Lot’ Outreach (item was tabled in September) – This may become a topic for a general membership meeting.

Update on deliverables for historical survey records launch – As previously discussed, Bruce is working through technical issues with MemberClicks.

Input from MSLS on Maine Subdivision Law Review, LD 161 – We’ll have to get an update from Matt.

New Business –

Fall meeting observations – Bruce prepared a profit/loss statement from our Fall general membership meeting. We had a total of \$5,046.53 in expenses, including room rental, lunch and snacks, meeting booklets and speaker gifts. We took in \$6125 in registration revenue. This resulted in a net profit of \$1078.47. We had budgeted a profit of \$2500 for this meeting. We fell about \$1400 short of that projection.

Bylaws & Constitution voting and officers election (update on process). Jimmy said that ‘Election Buddy’ just sent out a reminder notice to members that have not voted yet. Voting closes on November 10th.

Confirm next Executive Committee meeting date and location – November 18th, 5pm via zoom. The meeting after that would be a live meeting to discuss the budget and annual meeting. We are aiming for Tuesday December 8th (with a zoom option) for that second meeting.

Correspondence – none

Consent Agenda -

October 15, 2026

<i>From Whom</i>	<i>MSLS Committee</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Bruce Bourgoine	Executive Director Services – Sept.	\$1,500.00
Bruce Bourgoine	Executive Director Expenses – Sept.	\$348.70
Matt Ek	MSLS President travel (Vermont for Ladd)	\$563.55
Matt Ek	NSPS travel (South Dakota fall mtg airfare)	\$482.06
Total		\$2,894.31
Additions at meeting –		
Lincoln County Publishing	Fall meeting booklet	\$440.99
PGM, LLC	Tax Preparation	\$1,300.00
Jimmy Courbron	Election Buddy (MSLS voting)	\$99.00
Grand Total		\$4734.30

Karl Olson moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Spencer and passed unanimously.

Moved to adjourn at 6:09pm, by Kevin seconded by Karl and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted DRAFT
Kevin Farrar – MSLS Secretary



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The following day a full traverse up the short hike from the living quarters to the Upper Lighthouse was completed. This provided the control for both the laser scan and drone data while simultaneously allowing topographical detail to be captured.



A unique challenge for the drone survey was the position of the ruins relative to the surrounding outcropping rock. The ruins are embedded into the rock face leading to hazards both above and below. A 'pre survey' flight was carried out as per PCA procedure to identify the area and height of the rocky outcrops. This gave the drone operator confidence that the survey could be carried out without any unwelcome surprises.



Both the laser scanning data and drone data were combined to provide a complete internal and external survey of the Upper Lighthouse. This combination of data greatly assisted the laser scan data since much of the external façade was not accessible by terrestrial methods.

A major concern for the survey, particularly the drone, was weather. Due to Skellig Michael's very remote nature, 12km off the Kerry coast, it was

expected that some poor weather conditions were inevitable. Monitoring the weather and communicating with the OPW, the team fortunately got a break in the weather and sea swell to be able to get onto the island and carry out the complete survey safely.



In keeping with PCA's commitment to provide the best results for clients, the most up to date technology was used during each part of the survey. The Leica TS16 total station, Leica GS18, DJI Phantom 4 RTK and Leica RTC 360 laser scanner were all deployed to the island. This provided the most accurate and effective method of data collection possible.



Survey Data Output

Drone point cloud and images
Laser scan point cloud
3D Topographic linework and spot heights

Final Deliverables

Floor plans
Wall top plans
Elevations
Sections
Photogrammetric imagery
Topographic map

MAINE SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS (MSLS)

2027 MERIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- This scholarship is open to college students who are considered Maine residents as described at this link: <https://umaine.edu/sfs/residency/> or their own respective college.
- Students must have been attending their present college for more than the current semester and be enrolled in a course of study that meets "Minimum Surveying Core Curriculum" specified by the Maine Board of Licensure for Land Surveyors in Training (see <https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-licensure-professional-land-surveyors/licensing/professional-land-surveyor-land-surveyor-training#2>).
- Please provide as much information as possible to assist the committee in evaluating your application. You may choose to leave questions blank and use a computer to answer in more detail on a separate page.
- Scholarship winners may be asked to supply an official transcript.
- All applications submitted become the property of MSLS.
- Please email completed applications to **director@msls.org** or by postal mail to **MSLS Scholarship Committee, Post Office Box 420, Readfield, Maine 04355**.
- Applications MUST be received by **12:00 PM (noon) on Monday, November 23, 2026**. Late applications will NOT be considered.

Applicant's Name _____
Street Address _____
City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone Number(s) _____
Email address _____

Parent/Guardian's Names _____
Street Address _____
City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Do you file your own federal & state tax return? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Are you a resident of Maine? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you pay Maine resident tuition at your school? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you have a close relative who is a member of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If so, please list them and your relationship to them _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL: _____
City/State: _____ Dates attended: _____

NAME OF COLLEGE: _____
City/State: _____ Dates attended: _____
Course of Study/Major: _____
Credit Hours: Total Completed: _____ Spring 2026: _____ Current Semester: _____
Grade Point Average (GPA): Overall _____ Last Semester _____

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

Are you a member of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Are you a member of the Student Chapter of NSPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO

OTHER INFORMATION:

Have you had other previous post-secondary education? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, please explain: _____

What percentage of your college expenses including room and board are contributed by others including your family, grants, scholarships, etc. (not including student loans)? _____%.

Have you received or do you anticipate receiving any other scholarships? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, please explain: _____

If you are employed or working to help pay for your schooling, please explain the nature of the work. Include all school year and summer employment with hours per week in each period:

Are there any circumstances that place a hardship on you as a student or factors that would make you particularly deserving of financial assistance? _____

Are you currently or have you ever been a member of the Armed Forces? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, please explain: _____

Do you have dependent children (per IRS standards)? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, how many? _____

Have you taken an LSIT or CST exam? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, please provide details, dates and results:

ESSAY:

Please tell us about your professional aspirations. Essay should be in the range of 500 to 1000 words. Please note that grammar, spelling and punctuation will be considered in scoring this essay.

- What led you to pursue an education in Surveying?
- What are your goals during and after college?
- What kind of work would you like to do in your professional career?
- In what part of the country or world would you like to work?
- Anything else that you would like to share about your personal or professional aspirations.

Please attach your essay as a separate file to your application.

Calendar Notes...

November ExCom

November 18 at 5:00 PM

This meeting will be via Zoom only.

Ballot Deadline

November 10

For Constitution & By-Laws Changes

Electronic Ballots were emailed to voting members.

PLEASE VOTE!

Scholarship Application Deadline

November 23, 12:00 Noon

For receipt of applications via email or postal mail.

MSLS 2027 Annual Conference

January 28 & 29, 2027

University of Maine, Orono

More details to come later this year!

The Parting Shot...



**Happy
Halloween!**

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