



CLSA
CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS
ASSOCIATION

eNewsletter

JANUARY 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Joseph Padilla, PLS
President, CLSA

Questions? Comments?
Concerns? Contact me:
JoePadilla@johnson-frank.com or (714) 777-8877

January President's Letter

Dear Members,

As I sit down to write this letter, I realize how many changes have happened and how things remain the same. Despite various changes and challenges in 2025, as I complete my year as president, I am excited to introduce our new Executive Director, Will Hixson, CAE. Will's resume is very impressive, and I look forward to seeing him help move CLSA in a great direction.

I am also pleased to inform you that Chief Deputy Surveyor Lily Sandberg has been hired as the County Surveyor for Orange County. Congratulations Lily, I wish you all the best in your new role.

A few highlights from the past year:

In March I was honored to receive resolutions for Land Surveyor's Week at the State Assembly in Sacramento and at the Orange County Board of Supervisors. I also traveled to Reno for our joint conference with NALS. Although I tried to keep it a secret, it got out that it was my birthday at the CLSA Presidents Reception, which was a very special moment.

In late April and May, I was busy with Aaron Smith, Bill Hofferber, and Mike Dauer on the Golf Committee. We set up a golf tournament on June 8, 2025, to raise money for the CLSA Education Foundation and had a great time despite a small turnout.

Finally, we voted on the CLSA Executive Committee for 2026. The Executive Committee will be:

- Kristie Achee - President
- Michael Pulley - President-Elect
- Kathy Nitayangkul - Secretary
- David Murtha - Treasurer
- Josph Padilla - Past-President
- Members-at-Large - To Be Determined at the Board Meeting.

Our next Board of Directors Meeting will be Saturday, February 7th. This will be a hybrid meeting with optional virtual attendance. That being said, I would encourage all directors to travel to Sacramento for this meeting. If you are a new director, attending these meetings in person is a good way to see how the Board conducts business and a great way to meet other surveyors from across the state.

Finally, be sure to mark your calendars with these important dates:

- February 07, 2026 | Board of Directors Meeting;
- March 18-21, 2026 | 2026 Western Regional Survey Conference;
 - February 24, 2026 | Hotel Info: Horseshoe Las Vegas booking cutoff date
- March 20, 2026 | CLSA 60th Anniversary Dinner

Joseph Padilla, PLS

2025 CLSA President

NEW CLSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: WILL HIXSON, CAE



We are pleased to welcome William Hixson, CAE as CLSA's new Executive Director. Will joins CLSA with more than a decade of experience in association leadership, communications, and marketing. Will has previously served as an Executive Director at an association management company, where he led multiple local and statewide associations, including the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers.

In addition to his association leadership experience, Will has a strong background in communications. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from Sonoma State University and most recently served as Director of Communications and Marketing for the California Business Properties Association.

A proud holder of the Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential and a recognized ASAE NextGen Scholar, Will is passionate about advancing the association community through thoughtful leadership and strategic engagement.



Try to identify the location of this month's photo. Please describe how you identified the site. Submit your answer and/or your photo of a special location for use in a future CLSA eNews to: [Rob McMillan](#)



The answer to the last ***Where in CA*** is: Nowhere! I forgot to change the title to ***Where OUTSIDE CA!*** The photo was taken by Casey Lynch, PLS of Ramona, CA, from the pool deck at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki, Hawaii. My apologies for the difficulty.

- Rob McMillan

SURVEYING IN THE NEWS

2026 CLSA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't forget to renew your CLSA membership! Now is the time to renew, join, or rejoin CLSA to support all the work CLSA does to enhance and advance our profession. Also, reach out to your coworkers and colleagues to encourage them to join CLSA. Be sure you are a member of both the local chapter and the state association.

[RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)



CLSA 60TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER - FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

CLSA is turning 60 this year! Join us for a milestone celebration on Friday, March 20, 2026, at the Las Vegas Country Club during the Western Regional Survey Conference.

Early bird registration is \$100, with a \$50 increase after February 24, 2026. Click the link below for more information!

CLSA 60th REGISTRATION

Western Regional Survey Conference - March 18-21, 2026

We are pleased to announce that the Alaska Society Of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS), Arizona Professional Land Surveyors (APLS), California Land Surveyors Association (CLSA), Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS), New Mexico Professional Surveyors (NMPS), Utah Council of Land Surveyors (UCLS), Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming (PLSW) and Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS) will be hosting a [joint Conference in Las Vegas on March 18-21, 2026.](#)

Check out the links below for information on registration, sponsorship and exhibiting, and hotel booking.

[Conference Registration](#)

[Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities](#)

[Hotel Booking](#)

Note from Joe Padilla:

I will be driving my Dodge Ram 2500 with an 8' bed to Las Vegas for the West-Fed Conference. If you have anything you would like to donate to the Scholarship Auction but cannot get it there, I will be happy to take it there. Auction items need to be dropped off at Johnson-Frank (address below) and packed securely so it doesn't fly out of the back. Please "No Plotters." Let me know if you have any questions and let me know when you plan on dropping it off.

Johnson-Frank & Assoc., Inc. 5150 E. Hunter Ave. Anaheim, CA 92807

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: SUPPORT TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS

The NSPS Military Committee is seeking volunteers to assist at upcoming **Hiring Our Heroes** events at Camp Pendleton (February 10) and Travis Air Force Base (February 26). For the past year, the committee has participated in these events to connect with military service members who are preparing to transition out of active duty and explore careers in surveying and related professions.

Volunteers will help staff the NSPS booth, engage with service members, and share information about licensure pathways, career opportunities, and the surveying profession. NSPS will provide informational materials, pamphlets, a VR simulator, and other outreach resources to support the events.

Each event is a full-day commitment, and due to the high number of participating service members, we are seeking 3–4 volunteers per event.

Event details:

- **Camp Pendleton: (no additional volunteers needed)**
- **Travis Air Force Base: (still looking for volunteers!)**

TRAVIS AFB INFORMATION

CAMP PENDLETON INFORMATION

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

Sean Ireland, P.L.S., P.S.

NSPS Military Committee Chair

Email: sireland@meiamerica.com

HELP NSPS - FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING (FS) CONTENT REVIEW

NCEES is seeking licensed surveyors and geomatics faculty to participate in a knowledge content review for the Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exam. The results of this online survey will be used to update the content of the FS exam, a process that occurs every six to eight years.

NCEES requires a cross section of licensed professional surveyors and geomatics faculty – including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia – to complete the survey. If you are a licensed professional surveyor or geomatics faculty, we would appreciate your input. The online survey can be completed in about 20–30 minutes.

Click here for access to the online survey:

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ONLINE SURVEY](#)

The survey will be open until April 6, 2026. Please help us spread the word about this important study by sharing this email with any colleagues who are licensed surveyors. NCEES sincerely thanks you for your contribution to ensure that the FS exam is reflective of current practice. For more information, contact NCEES Exam Development Engineer Cheryl Warren, Ph.D., P.E., at help@ncees.org.

JOIN NSPS FOR A FREE VIRTUAL NCEES FS/SIT EXAM STUDY SESSION

The session is on Saturday, February 7th, 2026, from 8 am-noon US **Central** Time. Their last session had over 150 registrants from multiple states, including Florida, Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

Sign up for the comprehensive study group at the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) LinkedIn page. The class is hosted by hashtag#HALFF and open to anyone preparing for the NCEES FS (SIT) exam, regardless of company affiliation.

The session will be conducted through Microsoft Teams, with study materials and the Teams link provided one day prior to the session. If you're interested, please register by the end of business on Thursday, February 5th.

Whether you're a returning participant or joining for the first time, we look forward to helping you prepare for exam success.

[REGISTRATION PAGE](#)

SAD NEWS – PASSING OF TED MADSON

Nationally known land surveyor, attorney, and author, Ted Madson, passed away on January 1, 2026, at the age of 88.

MORE SAD NEWS – PASSING OF JON BLAKE

A legend in San Diego County Land Surveying circles, Jon Blake, found his last monument about 3 weeks prior to losing his battle with cancer. John was licensed in California as PLS 4368 and federally as a Mineral Surveyor. He was a mentor to many and will be missed.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW LICENSEES!

10,0026 FICKERT, NATHAN RUSSELL

10,0027 ROBISON, SEAN

10,0028 GREGORY, FREDERICK MASON JR

10,0029 HELLWIG, BRIAN DOUGLAS

10,0030 BURFORD, JAMES DAVID

10,0031 FORGY, DARREN EDGAR

10,0032 YIN, PATRICIA CRUZ

10,0033 ESPINO, ARTURO JR

10,0034 CHO, STEVE CHAE

10,0035 MILLOT, JESUS EMMANUEL

10,0036 PASCUA, GILBERT CARBULLIDO

10,0037 FASTOVICH, VLADIMIR

10,0038 USHAKOVA, ARINA

10,0039 SHOUP, CHRISTOPHER JOHN

10,0040 MAGGIO, ANTHONY

10,0041 MURRAY, BRANDON WAYNE

10,0042 HANSON, HENRY H.

10,0043 RAY, ROBERT HOYLE

10,0044 TALBOT, NICHOLAS COLEMAN

10,0045 LUMLEY, GARRETT COLCORD

10,0046 ZAREZADEH, SAJJAD
10,0047 OLMSTED, WILLIAM
10,0048 CAPELL, LILLIAN ANN
10,0049 BETTS, COLETON TRAVIS
10,0050 RUBIO, CRISTINA
10,0051 CHAFFIN, JAMES
10,0052 TRUMPER, EVAN LEE
10,0053 SIDDIQUI, HUMZA KHALID
10,0054 LINDSEY, CHANDLER DAVID
10,0055 NELSON, LAIRD H.
10,0056 JONES, CONNER
10,0057 GARRETT, MARK DONALD
10,0058 ANDERSON, KEVIN BRADLEY
10,0059 FREI, RICHARD DOMINIC
10,0060 LARSON, MARGARITA
10,0061 BUCHHOLZ, TODD DAVID
10,0062 MURPHY, JONATHAN FRANKLIN
10,0063 ANAYA, DAVID CEBALLOS
10,0064 ANGEL, SEAN M
10,0065 JONES, STEVEN ARTHUR
10,0066 BAKER, BRUCE GUY
10,0067 ARDIS, JACOB MICHAEL
10,0068 HADIK-BARKOCZY, SANDOR GEZA
10,0069 JARQUIN, MANRIQUE
10,0070 KINNEE, MARCUS AARON
10,0071 MCCABE, JOSHUA JOHN
10,0072 SCHEUERMANN, JAMES RUSSELL
10,0073 WHITE, JACK LOREN II

10,0074 DINKINS, DANIEL PAUL
10,0075 KRIETEMEYER, AUSTIN DAVID
10,0076 RODRIGUEZ, ERNESTO
10,0077 GLAVES, ERIC FOSTER
10,0078 GOETZ, KYLE
10,0079 CERVANTES, CHRISTOPHER JAMES
10,0080 PICKERING, TODD KURT
10,0081 ZIOBRO, PATRICK STEPHEN
10,0082 AMEZCUA, ETHAN
10,0083 POPP, PATRICK MICHAEL
10,0084 CLANCY, STEPHEN JAMES
10,0085 TIRADO, JORGE JR
10,0086 LINDSEY, GREGORY THOMAS
10,0087 CANTER, ROBERT CHARLES
10,0088 MURPHY, COLE LEVI
10,0089 DEASON, NICHOLAS JAMES
10,0090 GRUGINSKI, MADISON
10,0091 OLDHAM, DANIEL JOSEPH
10,0092 STOTT, NEIL DAVID
10,0093 NICOVICH, KEITH

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Aerial Photomapping Services



BizWatt, LLC



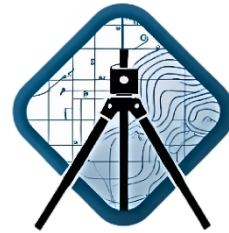
Carlson Software



Looq AI



Survey Helper



Tait & Associates, Inc.



That CAD Girl



SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the California Land Surveyors Association, Inc. as a Sustaining Member is open to any individual, company, or corporation who, by their interest in the land surveying profession, is desirous of supporting the purposes and objectives of this Association. For information regarding Sustaining Membership, contact:

2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 150 • Sacramento, CA 95833
916-239-4083 • 916-924-7323 Fax • clsa@californiasurveyors.org

PUBLICATIONS

2025 publication orders and 2026 publication pre-orders are being accepted now.

CLSA STOREFRONT

ARTICLE & PHOTO SUBMISSIONS FOR CALIFORNIA SURVEYOR MAGAZINE

Do you have a photo from your field work that would make a great magazine cover? Do you have an idea for an article or have you written an article that you'd like us to consider including in the next issue? Please send your submissions and ideas to CLSA Headquarters,

clsa@californiasurveyors.org

NSPS - STOLEN EQUIPMENT REGISTRY

Reminder - NSPS provides a registry of stolen equipment.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

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CLSA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

page to CLSA when members download courthouse documents through this website. These instruments include Deeds, Easements, Rights-of-Way, Releases, Liens, etc.

The Education Foundation was established in 1993 and is committed to supporting land surveying students and programs. Last year almost \$50,000 in scholarship aid was provided to land surveying students. Your monetary and surveying equipment donations are appreciated! [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the Education Foundation.



Contact Info:

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