

89th Annual SLSI Land Surveyors Conference

Thursday-Friday ~ March 5-6, 2026

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 Welcome Reception

Gateway Hotel & Conference Center ~Ames, IA

www.SLSI.org



SLSI Purpose:

- To advance the science of land surveying and mapping
- To raise the standards of land surveying practice
- To advance the professional status and economic welfare of land surveyors
- To contribute to the public education of the necessity for professional land surveying
- To establish a central source of reference for land surveyors

Register online at www.slsi.org

**(Members Must Login With Current Username & Password to Receive Member Rates)*

Earn 13.5 Professional Development Hours

AGENDA~WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM ~ Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall.

Welcome Reception: Bar and Hors D'Oeuvres. Attendees are encouraged to attend the welcome reception to help kick off the annual conference; meet with colleagues and visit with vendors. Please indicate your attendance on the registration page of this brochure.

AGENDA ~ THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

7:30AM **REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST/EXHIBITS OPEN FOR VIEWING**

Gateway Hotel & Conference Center- Second Floor

9:00AM **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS OF EXHIBITORS**

9:20AM **IELSEB UPDATE (.5 PDH)**

TODDE FOLKERTS, PE, PLS EXAMINING BOARD REP., JACKSON BOES, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, IELSEB

An update of proceedings of the Board in the past year as well as any expected changes in the near future. Topics to discuss may include: PLS exam application changes, experience requirements, etc.

9:50AM **NATRF2022 (1 PDH)**

Seiler Geospatial Representative

What is the new national datum, how it will affect the geospatial community, and how users can prepare for it once officially released in late 2026 by the NGS. (This will be non-Trimble specific to all of the survey community and share Trimble software examples to understand how users can check their own field and office software to ensure compatibility.)

10:50AM **BREAK – EXHIBIT ROOM**

11:00AM **IOWA TREE LAW-A UNIQUE BRANCH OF LAW (1 PDH)**

KATHLEEN (KATHY) LAW, ATTONREY, NYEMASTER GOODE, PC

This presentation will explain Iowa law for many types of issues involving trees, such as “who owns a tree on a boundary line”, “can you take the fruit that falls onto your property if the fruit tree is located on someone else’s property”, and “who is responsible if my tree damages someone else’s property”?

12:00PM **LUNCH & BOARD MEETING**

- Board Reports - SLSI's role in leading the changes facing surveyors
- Gavel Exchange
- Scholarships & Awards

1:00PM **WHAT TO EXPECT BETWEEN NAD 83 (2011) AND NATRF2022 IN IOWA? WHAT TO EXPECT BETWEEN NAVD 88 AND NAPGD2022 IN IOWA? (3.5 PDHs)**

Dave Zilkoski, CEO, Geospatial Solutions by DBZ

Some of the topics (along with others) to be covered:

- ~Why is NGS modernizing the NSRS and what are the expected coordinate changes in Iowa?
- ~How are reference frames and datums defined?
- ~What are the differences in CORS coordinates between the Multi-year CORS ~Solution 2 (MYCS2) and Multi-year CORS Solution 3 (MYCS 3) in Iowa?
- ~What does NGS mean by time-dependent coordinates and why is it necessary for the new, modernized NSRS?
- ~How will plate tectonics be handled in the new, modernized NSRS?
- ~What's the difference between NAD 83 (2011) epoch 2010.0 and NATRF2022 epoch 2020.0 in Iowa?

3:00PM **BREAK – EXHIBIT ROOM**

3:15 PM **WHAT TO EXPECT BETWEEN NAD 83 (2011) AND NATRF2022 IN IOWA? WHAT TO EXPECT BETWEEN NAVD 88 AND NAPGD2022 IN IOWA? (CONT.)** ~ *Dave Zilkoski, CEO, Geospatial Solutions by DBZ*

5:00PM **CONCLUDE**

5:15PM **SOCIAL HOUR/CASH BAR/RAFFLE – EXHIBIT HALL**

6:15 PM **LIVE SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION, RAFFLE PRIZES AWARDED /50-50 RAFFLE DRAWING– HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES & CASH BAR**

Items will be auctioned and/or raffled to help raise money for the SLSI Scholarship fund. 50/50 Raffle. Be sure to buy your raffle tickets onsite!

AGENDA~ FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

7:30AM **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

Gateway Hotel & Conference Center, Second Floor

8:00AM **PROFESSIONAL ETHICS (1 PDH)**

Todd Horton, PE, PLS, Meridian Geospatial

Professional ethics are founded on core values. Come explore the core values and personal virtues promoted in the NSPS Surveyors Creed. Join us for a unique and refreshing view of professional growth in service of the American citizen

9:00AM **BREAK**

9:10AM **ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF GOOD LEGAL**

DESCRIPTIONS (1PDH) - *Todd Horton, PE, PLS, Meridian Geospatial*
Poorly worded legal descriptions can create ambiguity that lingers for many decades. Strong legal descriptions uniquely locate and define boundaries that we can perpetuate. Join us to explore essential legal description elements that will consistently lead future surveyors to the right solution.

10:10AM **BREAK**

10:20AM **RELATIVE POSITIONAL PRECISION EXPLAINED IN EVERYDAY LANGUAGE (5.5 PDHs)** - *Todd Horton, PE, PLS, Meridian Geospatial*

The 2016 ALTA/NSPS standards limit the relative positional precision of the points in your survey. Do you understand how that really works? Without using least squares adjustment software, it's impossible to generate a realistic relative positional precision value. This seminar builds a strong foundation of knowledge that will support your least squares adjustment efforts. Join us to review the error sources in our surveys, refresh your basic statistics knowledge, and explore the impact of equipment specifications. You'll see just how important redundant measurement truly is. Using error estimates, we'll apply weights appropriately to adjust our measurement data. Through an example project, you'll see the impact of redundancy, errors, and the resulting weights. We'll dispel the mystery in least squares adjustment, show you how to interpret the results, and equip you to certify your next ALTA survey with greater confidence.

12:00PM **LUNCH**

1:00PM **RELATIVE POSITIONAL PRECISION EXPLAINED IN EVERYDAY LANGUAGE (CONT.)** - *Todd Horton, PE, PLS*

2:30PM **BREAK**

2:45 **RELATIVE POSITIONAL PRECISION EXPLAINED IN EVERYDAY LANGUAGE (CONT.)**

4:30 **Adjourn**

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Todd Horton, PE, PLS ~ Meridian Geospatial

Todd Horton, PE, PLS, is the owner of Meridian Geospatial Consulting, LLC. Todd has provided technician training and continuing education seminars for the land surveying industry since 2005.

Todd served in the US Air Force and with the Illinois Department of Transportation in planning, design, construction, surveying and maintenance of civil engineering projects including commercial structures, airfields, utility systems and highways. He joined the full-time faculty at Parkland College in Champaign, IL, where he taught land surveying and construction management courses for 25 years. Todd founded the land surveying associate degree program at Parkland College in 2001.

Having retired from full-time teaching, Todd has joined Farnsworth Group Inc. as a part-time senior project land surveyor. You can reach him at todd@meridiangeospatial.com.



Dave Zilkoski, CEO ~ Geospatial Solutions by BDZ

David B. Zilkoski has worked in the fields of geodesy and surveying for more than 40 years. He was employed by National Geodetic Survey (NGS) from 1974 to 2009.

He served as NGS director from October 2005 to January 2009. During his career with NGS, he conducted applied GPS research to evaluate and develop guidelines for using new technology to generate geospatial products. Based on instrument testing, he developed and verified new specifications and procedures to estimate classically derived, as well as GPS-derived, orthometric heights.

Now retired from government service, as a consultant he provides technical guidance on GNSS surveys; computes crustal movement rates using GPS and leveling data; and leads training sessions on guidelines for estimating GPS-derived heights, procedures for performing leveling network adjustments, the use of ArcGIS for analyses of adjustment data and results, and the proper procedures to follow when estimating crustal movement rates using geodetic leveling data.

Auction /Raffle Items/50-50 Raffle



NOTE: Help the Iowa Surveyor's Foundation! Feel free to donate items for the annual meeting auction benefiting the Iowa Professional Surveyor's Foundation scholarships. Items auctioned in the past have included everything from old surveying equipment and books to sports memorabilia and computer software. **Also, please consider bringing raffle items for our drawings.**



Be sure to buy your raffle tickets onsite.

You may also make a monetary donation online at SLSI.org under the About Us/Foundation Tab. Questions: Please contact Justin Scott at the state office @ 515-284-7055 or email at INFO@SLSI.ORG.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS – GATEWAY HOTEL

A limited block of hotel rooms have been reserved for SLSI attendees at the Gateway Hotel. Please make your reservations early. While the hotel will guarantee the lower room rate until February 11, 2026 this does not mean they can guarantee that rooms will be available. There are a limited number of these rooms set aside at the hotel for SLSI. Rooms are on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations can be made at <https://reservations.travelclick.com/2958?groupID=5080747>

Or by calling 515-292-8600 and refer to the group as SLSI Land Surveyors Conference

Other Lodging in and around Ames can found at: <https://www.thinkames.com/poi/stay/>

CANCELLATIONS

Receive a refund minus a \$30 administrative fee if cancelled on or prior to **March 1, 2026**. No refunds will be made after that date. Attendee substitutions will be accepted at any time. **Refunds will not be given for no-shows.**

***SLSI will try and hold the workshop regardless of weather. Attendees travel safety is paramount, should a need to cancel occur SLSI will notify attendees the day prior.**

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SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS OF IOWA
1080 Jordan Creek Parkway, Suite 106C
West Des Moines, IA 50266



89th Annual Land Surveyors Conference March 6-6, 2026 – Gateway Hotel & Conference Center - Ames, Iowa

TO RECEIVE THE SLSI MEMBER RATE - SIGN IN AND REGISTER ONLINE WWW.SLSI.ORG

(To register by paper, complete form and mail with check to SLSI):

First Name			Last Name		
Company/Organization					
Mailing Address					
City		State		Zip	
Phone #		Fax		Email	

REGISTRATION FEES: Includes program materials, all meals and breaks on both days, along with the reception.

***Please indicate (X) if you will be attending Wednesday's Welcome Reception March 4, 2026: _____**
and/or Auction/Reception on Thursday evening March 5, 2026: _____

	<u>BY 3/1/2025</u>	<u>AFTER 3/1/2025</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> SLSI Member	\$295	\$310
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member	\$360	\$390
<input type="checkbox"/> SLSI Honorary, Student & Life Members	\$110	\$135
TOTAL PAYMENT	\$_____	\$_____

Method of Payment

- ☐ Check: Payable to SLSI Check # _____

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?'s: Call 515-284-7055
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