

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 4

HOOSIER SURVEYOR

JUNE 2026

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE INDIANA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS



INDIANA SOCIETY
OF PROFESSIONAL
LAND SURVEYORS



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SUBMIT CONTENT FOR THE HOOSIER SURVEYOR

If you have an article to share or a story to tell, we want to hear from you! Please submit content to our Senior Communications Coordinator via email (kanderson@ispls.org).

The Hoosier Surveyor is published quarterly by the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors to inform land surveyors and related professions, government officials, educational institutions, libraries, contractors, suppliers and associated businesses and industries about land surveying affairs.

Articles and columns appearing in this publication do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of ISPLS or the Hoosier Surveyor staff, but are published as a service to its members, the general public and for the betterment of the surveying profession. No responsibility is assumed for errors, misquotes or deletions as to its content.

COVER IMAGE

Against the backdrop of one of the nation's most recognizable landmarks, the next generation of surveyors gains real-world experience, mentorship, and industry connections through the Young Surveyor Network Competition. Pages 6 and 7.



CONTACT INFORMATION



INDIANA SOCIETY
OF PROFESSIONAL
LAND SURVEYORS

Editorial Advertising Offices
3502 Woodview Trace, Ste. 300
Indianapolis, IN 46268
(317) 454-8309
www.ispls.org

Michael J Davis, Editor-in-Chief
4310 Broadway St.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
(317) 283-4630
mijdavis4310@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



BY ZACH BEASLEY,
ISPLS PRESIDENT

As we welcome everyone to the second quarter of 2026, I hope this message finds you enjoying a warm and promising start to the spring season.

Over the past several months, we have continued to build momentum across the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors. The strength of this organization has always come from its members, and it is through your continued involvement, professionalism and dedication that we are able to move the profession forward.

Since my last message, our focus has remained on advancing key initiatives that will shape the future of surveying in Indiana. Workforce development continues to move forward in a positive direction, and we are actively seeking volunteers to speak at school career fairs across the state. This is one of the most impactful ways we can introduce the next generation to our profession. If you are interested in participating, please contact workforce@ispls.org.

I would also like to commend President-Elect Jacob Hoffman on his personal goal of visiting each of our local chapters at one of their meetings throughout the year.

This level of engagement reflects a strong commitment to our membership at every level. If you have the opportunity to see Jacob at your local meeting, please take a moment to welcome him.

We are also excited to report that the ISPLS Artificial Intelligence Committee is officially underway. The committee held its kickoff meeting on April 23, 2026, and is already beginning to explore how emerging technologies can be leveraged to support and advance the surveying profession.

Additionally, I had a virtual meeting in March with Professor Jinha Jung and Cole Teany. It was a very productive discussion, and they are working toward hosting a one-day Geomatics Conference at Purdue University in October 2026. More details will be shared as plans continue to develop.

As I close, I would like to share both a reflection and a challenge to our membership. Earlier this year at our Annual Conference, I attended a presentation by Dan Blann. He began by sharing a photograph of himself receiving his Professional Land Surveyor license from a member of the Board of Registration at the Indiana Statehouse. That image immediately brought back memories of my own licensure presentation — an experience that was incredibly meaningful to me and my family.

During that session, we learned that this formal presentation ceremony no longer takes place. Like many of you, I was surprised to hear this.



It was a moment of recognition that carried real significance — not only for the individual, but for the profession as a whole.

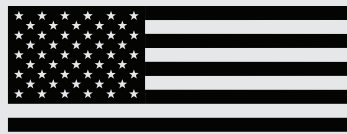
I have included two photos from my own experience — one with my father, Frank Ballintyn, and my grandfather, and another with John Stephens. These moments represent more than a certificate; they reflect the pride, accomplishment and continuity of our profession across generations.

This was a meaningful tradition, and I believe it is one worth restoring. I challenge our membership to consider how we can work together to reinstate this process for newly licensed professional land surveyors in Indiana. Recognizing this milestone in a formal and lasting way reinforces the value of the profession and honors those entering it.

Thank you again for your dedication to ISPLS and to the surveying profession.

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INFLUENCING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SURVEYORS



BY **LOTTY DRAKE**,
INDIANA YSN
CHAIR - 2026

Young Survey Network Competition 2026

Washington, D.C.

Every year, 24 college teams and a dedicated group of Young Surveyor Network volunteers converge in Washington, D.C., to participate in a competition designed to challenge, evaluate and develop the next generation of surveying professionals. The event features technical exercises that range from traversing and solving for unknown points to running level loops and completing a monument hunt across locations in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The purpose of institutional participation in this competition extends beyond performance outcomes; it is to cultivate mentorship, strengthen professional networks, and support long-term career development within the profession.



Students get rules, schedule and structure before the events begin.

The importance of engaging the next generation of professionals cannot be overstated. The profession is facing a significant workforce challenge, driven by an aging demographic and an insufficient pipeline of incoming talent. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of surveyors is projected to grow just 2% from 2022 to 2032, which is significantly slower than most occupations. This near-stagnant growth does not indicate stability, it reflects a profession that is not replenishing itself at a sustainable rate. At the same time, there are expected to be approximately 3,800 openings annually, largely due to retirements and workforce attrition rather than expansion.

This trend underscores a critical reality: demand for surveyors is being driven by replacement needs, not industry growth.

This imbalance highlights a growing concern: experienced professionals are exiting the workforce at a faster pace than new surveyors are entering it. Without a consistent and well-supported pipeline of emerging professionals, the industry risks losing not only capacity but also valuable institutional knowledge and field expertise accumulated over decades. Compounding this issue is a lack of awareness among students and young professionals. Many are unfamiliar with the surveying profession, its career pathways and the opportunities it offers. Without targeted outreach, mentorship and industry engagement, this awareness gap will continue to widen.

Events such as this competition serve as a direct response to these challenges by providing students with hands-on experience that bridges academic



A traverse with a vernier compass and chain was part of the event.

preparation and professional practice.

Teams engage in pre- and post-exercise computations aligned with the expectations of the Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exam. Participants complete tasks that reflect both traditional and modern surveying methods—from operating with a chain and compass to utilizing advanced GNSS technology—allowing them to appreciate the profession's evolution while developing practical skills such as coordinate geometry (COGO) and field crew leadership. The monument hunt, in particular, evaluates critical thinking, adaptability and independent problem-solving, while also introducing participants to resources such as the NGS Benchmarks database. Notably, teams were required to locate monuments without reliance on standard detection instruments or precalculated coordinates, reinforcing foundational skills.

I attended this competition as a student in 2025 and returned as a volunteer in 2026, providing insight

from both participant and organizer perspectives. As a student, the experience was both challenging and formative, highlighting the level of technical proficiency, adaptability and problem-solving required in the field. As a volunteer, I observed the broader impact of the event, particularly its role in fostering mentorship and strengthening professional connections across geographic regions and experience levels.

Beyond technical development, one of the most significant outcomes of this event is the sense of community it fosters. Participants and volunteers build relationships that contribute to the continued growth of a national network of emerging surveying

professionals.

Continued investment in initiatives such as this is not optional; it is essential to the sustainability and advancement of the surveying profession. Encouraging experienced professionals to actively mentor and engage with the next generation is critical. Deliberate efforts to recruit, develop and retain new talent will determine the profession's ability to meet future demands. Without such efforts, the ongoing workforce decline will have far-reaching impacts across the many industries that depend on surveying services.



Teams get a sendoff as they head to the GPS staking event.



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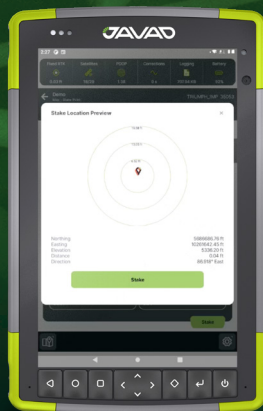


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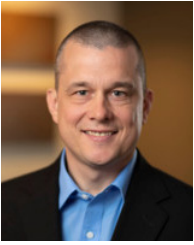


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LEGAL SURVEYS



BY JASON
McCORT, PS

The goal of this column is to provide brief summaries of recent Indiana Court of Appeals and Supreme Court opinions involving topics of interest to land surveyors but not to offer legal advice. I use Google Scholar to search for Indiana cases from the previous quarter and the Indiana Judicial branch website (www.in.gov/judiciary) to obtain a more conveniently formatted document. As this is only intended to be a summary of court opinions and I may have left out important information in my summary, I encourage you to look up the full opinion on either Google Scholar or the state of Indiana website for more detailed information. Comments or suggestions for future columns are welcome by email to: jmccort@hntb.com.

A recent adverse possession case was reviewed for this quarter's issue of the Hoosier Surveyor. Happy reading!

Charles F. Busse and Jonathan Busse v. Justin Scott Robinson and Charity K. Robinson, Court of Appeals Case No. 25A-PL-2567, March 24, 2026. MEMORANDUM DECISION - not regarded as precedent.

The Robinsons own property ("Robinson property") off of Old State Road 37 in Monroe County.

Charles Busse owns property ("Busse property") to the west of the Robinson property plus a 60-foot-wide strip to access Old SR 37. In 1973, Busse installed a gravel driveway that is located within the 60-foot strip except for an area where it encroaches upon the southwestern area of the Robinson parcel. At that time the Robinson property was owned by Robert Dale Robinson, the grandfather of Justin Robinson. Busse did not ask permission from Robert Robinson to install the driveway where he installed it. Busse maintained the driveway through the years.

Until 1996, the Busses had horses on the Busse property. Robert Robinson offered that Busse put up a fence on the Robinson property because he did not want to maintain that area of his property. Busse did install the fence on the Robinson property but took the fence down after they no longer had horses.

In 1993, Busse had his property surveyed. The survey showed the driveway located entirely within the Busse property and depicted the boundaries of the Busse property consistent with where Busse thought they were located. Jonathan Busse moved to the Busse parcel in 2020. Jonathan planted a garden and kept farm animals on what he believed to be Busse property.

In 2013, Justin and Charity purchased the Robinson property. In 2022, the Robinsons had the Robinson property surveyed. The 2022 survey showed the driveway encroaching onto the southwestern area of the Robinson property. In 2023, the Robinsons filed a complaint alleging the 2023 survey correctly described their property and requested an order for quiet title,

damages for trespass, attorney fees and permanent injunction. The Busses filed a counterclaim asserting they satisfied the requirements of adverse possession.

The trial court ruled in favor of the Robinsons, stating that though the Busses had exercised limited control over portions of the Robinson property, that control was not exclusive and, therefore, did not meet the requirements for adverse possession. The court found that all activities that occurred on the Robinson property were with the permission of the Robinsons. The Busses were ordered to remove all items that would interfere with the Robinson's use of the Robinson property. The Busses appealed.

The appellate court determined the Busses satisfied the elements of adverse possession (control, intent, notice, duration) for the driveway and the area southwest of the driveway. The court cited several reasons for this determination, including that Busse did not ask Robert Robinson for permission to install the driveway where he did in 1973, Busse had maintained the driveway through the years, the Busse family had cut dead trees for firewood for years on that portion of the property southwest of the driveway, and that Busse had believed in good faith that he had paid property taxes on the disputed area where the driveway was located.

Concerning the remaining disputed area (it is not totally clear from the court report, but I believe the remaining disputed area is a part of the western side of the Robinson property that is northerly of the driveway), while the Busses kept horses on a portion of the disputed area, they did so with permission from Robert Robinson. After the Busses no longer kept horses, the fence was removed, and the Robinsons mowed and maintained the disputed area. And while the Busses performed other activities on the disputed areas such as planting a garden, mowing, and maintaining a compost pile, the appellate court did not find these activities satisfied the elements of adverse possession.

The appellate court reversed the trial court's decision concerning the driveway and the area southwest of the driveway and affirmed the decision concerning the remaining disputed areas.

It's worth noting the factors the 1993 survey and the 2022 survey played in this case. Though Busse already believed the driveway was located entirely on his property, the 1993 survey appears to have reinforced that belief. Busse's good-faith belief regarding tax payment was a factor which the court considered in its adverse possession analysis. The trial court determined the 1993 survey to be unreliable and the 2022 survey to be correct.

However, the appellate court, while appearing to believe the 2022 survey was correct in the location of the driveway relative to the boundary line between the two tracts, does note that Busse's reliance on the 1993 survey as important though the survey might have been inaccurate. This highlights the appellate court's willingness to view the significance of boundary surveys differently than the trial court.

.....
Jason McCort, PS, is a project manager for HNTB Corporation. He holds a B.S. Construction Technology degree from Purdue University. He is a professional land surveyor, licensed in the states of Indiana, Maine, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

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Your Business and Your Future

Several years ago, I asked the Editor in Chief of Professional Surveyor, Shelley Cox, if she had any topics which she would like me to address in an article. Shelley sent me an e-mail suggesting basic Keynesian economics, financing, leasing, business plans, and other academic items.

While I probably implemented some facet of those items in thirty years of heading a surveying and engineering firm, I don't believe my knowledge is elevated to the level where I would be comfortable passing it on to fellow surveyors in an article.

What I would like to accomplish is to give a "pep talk" on why everyone needs to pay attention to all the above-mentioned items to protect their firms and their futures.

When leading seminars in various states, I have encountered surveyors of all ages, backgrounds, sizes, shapes, and economic positions. I see two things, as a lifelong surveyor, that break my heart. The first is to see a surveyor in the seventy age bracket who is still working fulltime, not because of a love of surveying, but out of necessity to live. The other is the surveyor who is a sole proprietor and purports to be "hanging on" in the current economy. Upon further questioning, the surveyor will admit not being able to earn enough to support their family

and can only keep the business open because the spouse is working and getting benefits through his or her job.

After thirty or forty years as a licensed professional, why is a surveyor in this predicament? Primarily, the answer is that we have no business training. But we can learn. So, I offer these suggestions to help, as the police say, to "protect & serve." Some of the suggestions are directly from the school of hard knocks. Believe me, I did not do everything right; but in balance, I was blessed to get most of the big things right.

1. Have a professional on your team for every business area in which you are unskilled. An accountant is essential for taxes, a lawyer for legal issues, a banker for financing needs and to help solidify a business plan, and possibly a collection agency if you don't like to do the dirty work yourself. (70% of something is better than 100% of nothing.) A financial planner will help you chart the waters and plan for the future. I am not suggesting you spend a lot, just an hour or two with each to get a grasp of each specialty. By far the most important concept is knowing what you don't know.
2. Your most important team member is your spouse.
3. The future is now. You must start planning for retirement early and often. (Ask some of your friends over sixty if they would like to go back thirty years and rethink their retirement planning.) If you are fortunate to work for a large firm, and some type of retirement plan is available, you are almost forced to start taking
4. Have an exit strategy. Plan ahead and make a fact-based program. If you delay, it will become an emotion-based (It's your BABY!) decision, which is not good as an owner.
5. If you do not have an exit or succession program, your estate may be devastated by decreased value or taxes.
6. Price cutting is NOT a way to increase business. I very much appreciate the need to feed your family and pay the bills. This is a very short term fix, but a long-term death sentence. While you may lose some money short term, you lose something much more valuable in the long term—the respect of your peers and your clients. And don't think for a minute that client you undercut everyone else to get is going to run to you with their next big project because of the great break you gave them. That project will go to the next

care of your future. Make sure to take advantage of any contribution matching the company provides.

For those small firm employees or owners, you are your retirement. If you started working thirty years ago at age 21, with a 5% per year increase, and saved just 2% per year with an average return of 6%, you would have somewhere around \$250,000 at age sixty-six. As someone over sixty-five, I can tell you factually, you CANNOT live comfortably on social security. If there is one thing I would like to do over it would be to have started a retirement program for my company in the 1970's.

That project will go to the next

surveyor who will undercut YOU by a nickel.

Ethically, you have a responsibility to your clients and the public. The part of ethics many forget is the responsibility to the PROFESSION. Surveyors fight a constant battle for recognition and respect as professionals. Letting the public think surveying is about nothing but price is why the profession faces some of the issues it does.

I once saw a sign in a contractor's office that said "Price – Quality – Time: pick any two". If you think about the possible iterations, you cannot provide all three. Protect your family—and protect this great profession.

7. If you are having business issues, do not be afraid to reach out to a successful surveyor you respect

and have a chat. If you listen to teenagers whenever they have an issue, they lead you to believe no one in the history of the earth had a problem as big as the one facing them!! Whatever business, or technical issue, you have, one of your peers has seen it and solved it. The roster of your local or state society, which I am sure is on your desk next to the State Code book, will have names of many people who can help you. It is incredible how much great information and guidance you can obtain for the price of a dinner and a libation.

You also have very successful clients. On many occasions I would approach one, who would be honored that I confided in them for guidance, on a business issue. Even now, decades after selling my business, I still speak with a few clients and surveyors

about life in general and personal issues. Those folks are a source that keeps on giving.

These items are things I have learned, assistance I have received, and mistakes I have made. I hope they will help.

Whether you are a department head in a major firm, or a two-person operation in a rural area, your future is in your hands and you may only get one chance to start it on the right path. But, it's never too late ~ START TODAY.

Bill Beardslee is a licensed Professional Land Surveyor, Engineer and Planner with over 55 years experience in the field of land development. He has a BS degree in civil engineering from NJ Institute of Technology and a masters degree in corporate and organization communications from Fairleigh Dickinson University.



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BY **LOTTY DRAKE,**
INDIANA YSN
CHAIR - 2026

Goals, Membership, and Sponsorship

The Indiana Young Surveyors Network (YSN) is currently seeking sponsors to support the growth of our organization. Sponsorship donations will help cover costs associated with our annual networking socials, including catering and venue expenses, as well as provide financial support for members attending the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) Convention, ISPLS convention, and the spring and fall meetings.

Not only are we seeking sponsors, but we are also actively welcoming new members. If you fall within the Young Surveyor category outlined under “Who Are Young Surveyors,” or know someone who does, we encourage you to join. Whether you’re a student, a regular member or a supporting member, there’s a place for you.

Although the Indiana YSN is currently in the early stages of becoming more active again, I am fully committed to helping build a successful and engaging program. Our goal is to create opportunities for individuals entering the surveying profession, those currently working in the field, and students pursuing surveying-related education to connect with one another and access valuable job resources, career guidance and professional networking.

Over the next year, our primary goals include strengthening support for the future of surveying in Indiana, securing sponsorships for Indiana YSN, and organizing networking and social events for our members.

What We Do

The goal of the Indiana Young Surveyors Network is to recruit, connect, develop and retain young surveyors by creating a supportive community within our professional organizations. Through networking, mentorship and professional development opportunities, we aim to help the next generation of surveyors build successful careers in the profession.

Who Are Young Surveyors?

A Young Surveyor is generally defined as someone under the age of 35 or someone who has earned their surveying degree within the past ten years. However, all surveyors are welcome to participate. While the focus remains on supporting those who are newer to the profession, experienced professionals play an important role in mentorship and guidance. This also includes individuals who have recently become licensed within the past five years.

The Indiana YSN currently has 32 participating members, ranging from freshmen in college to professionals up to age 35, along with supportive members over 35 who contribute their experience and mentorship.

How to Become a Member

To get involved with the Indiana Young Surveyor Network, simply complete the membership form.

Once submitted, you will be added to our network where you will receive information about upcoming opportunities and ways to stay engaged.

Interested in Becoming a Sponsor?

If you or your organization are interested in supporting the Indiana Young Surveyors Network, please complete the YSN Sponsor Form. Sponsorship contributions help us continue building opportunities for young professionals and students while strengthening the future of the surveying profession in Indiana.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please reach out. I would love to hear from you!

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KYLE BETZ, P.E., P.S.
Senior Associate

OFFICE: 765.448.1535
MOBILE: 765.412.3491
EMAIL: kbetzb@chastainengineers.com
f @ @



Eric White, PLS
Senior Project Manager, Survey
ewhite@cripe.biz

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STEVEN A. JONES, PS, CFedS
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EMAIL: sjones@dlz.com
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Bruce E. Strack, PLS

ofc: 317.849.5935
dir: 317.570.4714
fax: 317.849.5942
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Tim Coomes, PLS
Manager
Survey Department
tim.coomes@ucindy.com

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