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July 2018 Newsletter

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association

August 2018 Newsletter

Hello NYS GIS Association Member!

There is so much going on!

- It's time to renew.
- There's an August webinar coming up.
- GeoSpatial Summit and NYS GIS Association Meeting Sept 25 - 26.
- Do you, or does someone you know, want to get more involved in calling the shots for the NYS GIS Association? Nominations for board members are open.
- Do you know someone who's contributed to the GIS field and deserves to be recognized? Nominations for NYS GIS Association awards is open.
- Meet another board member! **Richard A. Reichert**
- Members in the news!

Read on and enjoy,

The NYS GIS Association Communications Committee

AUGUST WEBINAR Aug. 23, 12:00 - 1:00 PM.

GIS Data Sources I Never Knew

Have you every found yourself searching for what should be readily available data so that you can create the next great visualization? Well, do we have the webinar for you. Bob Scardamalia, president of RLS Demographics, Inc., will explore data sources that can add value to your research and analysis for all GIS users alike. Please join us for this webinar.

Register

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Often times we get stuck in our silos with project demands and little time and resources to explore new data and tools. There is a world of public data available from state and federal agencies – in addition to the primary statistics agencies like Census and BLS – and this webinar will explore sources that can add value to your research and analysis. We'll focus on public data with small area statistics and also explore examples of sites specializing in data aggregation and presentation.

Biography

Bob Scardamalia is President of RLS Demographics, Inc., a firm specializing in the use and analysis of economic and demographic data for private and public applications. He is also an adjunct faculty member in the Sociology Department at the State University of New York at Albany and was formerly Chief Demographer of the State of New York and Director of the State Data Center. Bob has served on numerous state and federal statistical committees and was involved in the early days of the GIS Clearinghouse and GIS Coordinating Body. He is a past president of the Association of Public Data Users.

Webinars are Recorded

If you missed a webinar or would like to watch one again you can find them on our [YouTube](#) channel and on our [website](#).

The Membership Year is Over. Time to RENEW!

It's time to renew your membership for the 2018/2019 membership year. If you've already renewed or set up auto-renewal, THANK YOU!. If not, head on over and [renew](#) right now and cross that task off your TO-DO list. If you can't remember your password, there's a 'Forget Password' link. If your email address has changed please contact us at info@nysgis.net and we'll get you squared away.

Joining supports all the programs the NYS GIS Association provides and gives us strength in numbers when we speak other groups or legislators about issues affecting the GIS community.

Thanks,

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GeoSpatial Summit Sept 25 - 26, 2018

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Mark your calendar for the **2018 NYS Geospatial Summit** on **Wednesday, September 26th** at the **Welch-Allyn Lodge in Skaneateles, NY**. If you've never been to this event before, we urge you to give it a try. The Geospatial Summit enables sharing and discussion of innovative and emerging ideas in our field and you won't want to miss it! This will be the only statewide GIS-focused event this year as the NYS GIS Association alternates between NYGeoCon and the Geospatial Summit.

All the details are on the GeoSummit [website](#).

2018 NYS GIS Association Awards Program

Do you know someone who is passionate about GIS, or an individual that has contributed to the betterment of the GIS community here in New York State? Here is your opportunity to give them recognition for their hard work!

Submissions are now being accepted in the two award categories listed below. Review the NYSGISA [Awards Program Instructions and Procedures](#) for details on each award, eligibility requirements, and procedures for submitting a nomination. Nomination forms are available [here](#). The deadline for submissions is September 5th, 2018.

Winners will be recognized for their achievements at the [NYS Geospatial Summit](#) at the [Welch-Allyn Lodge](#) in Skaneateles NY, on Wednesday, September 26th, 2018.

- **Individual Contributions to the Profession**
- **GIS Champion Award**

Feel free to contact the Awards Committee with any questions.

<https://www.nysgis.net/committees/awards/>

Thanks!

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NYS GIS Association Board of Directors and Geospatial Advisory Council Nominations Sought

Seeking Nominations for NYS GIS Association Board and President-Elect Positions

The NYS GIS Association is looking for member nominations and candidates for soon to be vacated Board of Directors and President-Elect positions. The Association relies on the committed volunteer efforts and leadership from its membership to be successful and will look to fill two open Board of Directors positions this fall. Directors serve for two years and are eligible to run for a second term if they desire. So if you've ever wanted to give back, now is a great time to contribute as our membership grows. Prior Board Directors are eligible to run again if it has been two years since their last term ended.



Additionally, the Board will be looking for a new President-Elect as the current one transitions into the role of President. President-Elects serve a three-year term as President-Elect, President, and Past-President with evolving responsibility over that term.

If you think these positions might be right for you, please reach out to the Nominating Committee Chair, Rick Reichert, through email with any questions at: info@nygis.net. Letters of intent, biographies, resumes and other relevant materials should also be submitted through the above email. All nominations should be submitted by August 31st, 2018.

You must be a member in good standing to run for any of the Board positions so please verify or renew your membership [here](#). The membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. Election results will be announced during the [2018 GeoSpatial Summit](#) at the Annual Meeting September 25th, 2018. The Summit will take place at the Welch Allyn Lodge in Skaneateles, NY.

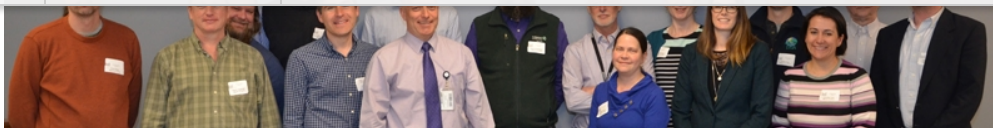
Seeking Nominations for Geospatial Advisory Council

Additionally, the Association is seeking recommendations and nominations on behalf of the [NYS Geospatial Advisory Council \(GAC\)](#). The GAC is a separate organization that works with the NYS ITS GIS Program Office to coordinate, promote, and facilitate the effective development, use, and sharing of geographic information.

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The Council meets quarterly in Albany, NY or via teleconference, with members serving three-year terms. The 21 member Council relies on volunteers from local government, academia, non-profits, and private industry in addition to State and Federal representation.

More information will be provided on what sectors have vacancies as it becomes available. Questions can be directed to Rick Reichert at info@nysgis.net or GAC Council Chair Ross Baldwin at rbaldwin@southhamptontownny.gov.

Meet Board Member Richard A. Reichert

1. What made you interested in taking up GIS/geospatial technology as a career and how did you end up in the field of GIS?
What is your educational background?

My goal when I first got out of the military in 1995 was to go to college while ensuring that I pursued an education that I thought would have practical merit for employment once I graduated. Initially I started my education at Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) in Utica, NY where I planned to focus my studies on a career in physical therapy. About a year into my studies however, I decided that I did not feel that was the best career path for me so I transferred into a course of study that focused on my interest in science and the environment. After two years at MVCC I transferred to the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) where I enrolled in their Environmental Studies program with a focus on Land Use Planning. It was at SUNY ESF that I received my first exposure to mapping sciences and GIS focusing on work with ESRI software. Since my graduation in 1999 my professional career has been entirely GIS centric.



2. Can you explain your job and what you do there?

I am a Senior GIS Analyst with the Herkimer Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program in Utica, NY, where I have worked for the last 18 years. My job tasks vary significantly but often focus on asset management for sanitary and stormwater systems as well as creating and maintaining various GIS

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mapping applications. I feel like I am constantly exploring new territory and growing my skillset as a professional. It is always my goal to create useful and practical products and data sets to allow for the best decision-making. I enjoy working through problems and finding the right solutions. I like taking something that does not work, and making it into something productive.

3. How did you get involved in the NYS GIS Association board? How long have you been a part of the committee?

I was elected to the board in 2017 after our GIS Coordinator suggested I run for one of the open positions. After serving on the board for 1 year, I chose to pursue the President-Elect position, which I now occupy. It is my goal to expand the educational and professional development opportunities we provide for our membership and to ensure we are doing the best we can to enhance their capabilities as professionals.

4. What's the most interesting project that you have worked on and why?

The most interesting project I have worked on has been part of what I do for 18 years. I was on the ground floor for the development of our sanitary sewer asset management system. It has been very professionally rewarding being involved in bringing us from paper contract drawings as our primary source of information to the fully integrated GIS based system we have today. Currently we are involved in the build out and development of an almost completely new sanitary sewer treatment plant while continuing to serve the needs of the customers in the region.

5. What is your favorite memory from NYGeoCon or the GeoSpatial Summit?

This past year one evening after the official sessions had ended I had the opportunity to sit and listen to some live music at the Lake Placid Brewing Company while chatting with a young member just starting his career in GIS. It was nice to be able to offer my career insight and perspective one on one in an attempt to help him along his path. The music and draft beer were also very pleasant.

6. What do you like most about mapping?

It is always changing. It keeps me on my toes and keeps me intellectually engaged. You can't work in the GIS field and not be adaptable to technological change.

7. If you could visit any one place in the world, where would it be and why?

As a prior service member and military dependent, I have had many opportunities to travel. I have however never had the chance to visit Ireland. Many of my ancestors emigrated from Ireland and it would be great to experience that cultural history and connection first hand.

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Be adaptable and always strive to create a quality and useful product right from the beginning. Foundationally, good GIS is built on good data. Non-GIS individuals often struggle to articulate what their final needs are and being able to translate that into the something they want, need, and can use is also very helpful.

Members in the News

Congratulations to GISMO member Dr. Sunil Bhaskaran of Bronx Community College, recipient of \$300,000 NASA grant to support STEM program in middle and high school!

NASA awards \$300,000 to Bronx Community College

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced an award of more than \$300,000 to Bronx Community College (BCC) for a two-year program that will contribute to the training and development of the future workforce of NASA and other high-tech employers. The grant will fund a collaboration with Medgar Evers College to engage middle school and high school students in innovative hands-on science through workshops, field activities and mentoring from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) scholars and professionals.

Read more

<https://www.universitybusiness.com/news/nasa-awards-300000-bronx-community-college>

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