

NYS GIS Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
Lake Placid Olympic Conference Center
Lake Placid, New York
Thursday, October 9, 2025
Minutes by Catherine DuBreck and Michelle Debyah

Board Members Present: Heather Ferrero, Dawn F. McCall, Catherine DuBreck, Ana Hiraldo-Gomez

Officers Present: Melissa Albino Hegeman

Not Present: Greg Andersen, Amanda Cruz, Casey Dunne, Jeff Herter, Ryan Mayr, Matt Adam, Michelle Debyah

Members Present: 62 in attendance of 482 members in good standing, quorum established.

Guests Present: 23 guests present

Minutes: The meeting began at 11:00 AM.

Welcome

President Heather Ferrero welcomed members and guests and thanked them for attending the NYS GIS Association Annual Meeting. President Ferrero acknowledged and thanked Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members for their dedication and hard work. President Ferrero also thanked the NYGeoCon Committee for an excellent conference.

President's Report

President Ferrero presented Association accomplishments for the past year:

- Information Technology Officer Role continued successfully
 - Implemented Google Workspace for the Association
- Treasurer actions in banking - new savings account
- Membership Drive
- Social Media
- Attended regional GIS groups annual meetings
- Purchased Esri Creator license and used that to create this year's NYGeoCon website
- Outreach & Support
 - Sponsored 2025 Annual GIS/SIG Conference, LIGIS Spring Conference, Westchester GIS User Group meeting
 - NYSAPLS & NYS GIS Association Joint Committee on Government Relationship Committee
 - Continued the NYS Alliance for Digital Access to Public Records
 - NYSAPLS 2025 Annual Conference Roundtable
 - NYS GIS Association 2025 Annual Conference Roundtable

Treasurer's Report: Matthew Adam, Treasurer

The Treasurer's Report dated September 16, 2025, was reviewed. The current balance is \$95,273.87, including money being held for GISMO and WNY. Major expenses for the year include website hosting and domains, D&O insurance, general liability insurance, marketing and awards, and meeting and conference expenses. There has been \$ 78,853.03 in income from membership dues and conference fees, and \$50,267.65 in expenses.

There is \$10,924.47 in membership money being held for GISMO, and \$1,693.55 for WNY.

A motion was made by Ana Hiraldo-Gomez to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion was seconded by Mary Susan Knauss. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

- GeoSpatial Summit Committee (Jeff Herter, John Marino)
 - Save the date! October 6-7, 2026, Skaneateles, New York
 - The NYS GIS Association is thrilled to announce the 12th Summit which will once again bring together leading professionals and enthusiasts in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for an engaging day of presentations, discussions, and networking opportunities.
 - The GeoSpatial Summit has established itself as a premier event in the GIS community, offering attendees insightful presentations & networking opportunities.
 - Pre-Summit Events: NYS GIS Association Legislative Committee Hosts NYS Alliance for Digital Access to Public Records & NYS GIS Association Annual Meeting and Evening Reception.

- Communications Committee (Max Villanueva, Chair)
 - Website and social media administration
 - Promoting the awards nominations, membership drive, Professional Development events, NYGeoCon and the Summit on social media, website, and email promotional blasts
 - Regular job postings on the website and social media for prospective GIS Professionals
 - Photography at annual events
 - Email communications
 - Membership database management

- Professional Development Committee (Melissa Albino Hegeman, Chair)
 - Looking for new members!
 - Virtual meeting in October - sign up to be notified
 - Check out previous recordings on YouTube
 - Melissa is hoping to schedule a mapathon after the holidays in January using missingmaps.org

- Legislative Committee (Dawn F. McCall, Chair)
 - The NYS Alliance for Public Records is an alliance between the NYS GIS Association and NYSAPLS. They are reaching out to the NYS Association of County Clerks regarding joining the alliance.
 - Met 10/8 with our largest number of attendees yet
 - Added a second working committee focused on the Clerks
 - DOT Tech Group will be working with NYSGISA to migrate data and a webmap to the associations' AGO account

- Worked with NYSAPLS to craft language for the legislation for NYS to allow National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) as the new datum
- Worked with the NY Clearinghouse and NYDOT to successfully make information about State Highway numbers available in the clearinghouse
- Education Committee (Paula Lazrus, Chair)
 - Committee renamed in 2025 to Educators Committee
 - Greatest challenge is to get more academics to see the Association as an organization that speaks to them
 - Looking into ideas to get more educators involved
 - Supporting geo mentor via GISMO
 - Ongoing outreach project with some K-12 schools in LI
- Membership Committee (Binod Shah, Chair)
 - Three new members joined the Membership Committee, expanding it to a total of six active members.
 - As of **October 5, 2025**, total membership has increased to **482**.
 - A year-long membership drive was successfully conducted, with promotional flyers shared widely across social media platforms.
 - Numerous private- and public-sector employees were personally contacted and encouraged to join and support the membership drive.
 - Members were notified about their renewal status, and information for new memberships was distributed through **LISTSERVs** and social media channels.
 - The committee **recommended introducing a Life Membership option** to help retain long-term members.
 - The committee also **requested an increase in the number of webinars** to better engage GIS students and professionals.
- Regional Coordination Committee (Dawn F. McCall, Chair)
 - We have been working on getting updated contact list
 - We will work on having a Regional Meeting in the coming months
 - Many of the Regions are having their annual events
 - In addition to their normal meetings, GISMO received several grants from OGC and from NSF for research projects
- NYGeoCon Committee (Karyn Tareen, Chair)
 - NYGeoCon 2025
 - October 8-10, 2025
 - Lake Placid, New York
 - The NYGeoCon Committee is a dedicated team of volunteers from the NYS GIS Association who plan and organize the state's premier geospatial conference.
 - Together, they coordinate speakers, sponsors, exhibits, logistics, and programming to create an engaging event that brings together GIS professionals from across New York to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and celebrate the power of geospatial technology.
- Awards Committee (Steven Russell Jr., Chair)
 - Annually, Awards are given to members of the NYS GIS Association community after a call for Nominations is made to the membership
 - Lifetime Achievement

- Individual Contributions to the Profession
- Outstanding Achievement in Geospatial Communication

Awards Presentation

- Individual Contribution to the Profession Award
 - Tal Litwin
- Outstanding Achievement in Geospatial Communications
 - Caitlin Jessop-Humphris
- Lifetime Achievement Award
 - Lucius Willis
 - Michelle Debyah

Departing Board Members and Committee Chairs

President Ferrero thanked departing Board Members and Committee Chairs:

- Amanda Cruz, Board Member
- Matthew Solo, Treasurer
- Caitlin Jessop-Humphris, Communications Committee
- Adam Purucker, Regional Coordination Committee Co-Chair

Election Results

President-Elect DuBreck announced the results of the election:

- President-Elect: Ryan Mayr was elected as President-Elect
- Board of Directors: Ana Hiraldo-Gomez was reelected to first full two-year term as Director
- Board of Directors: Dawn McCall was reelected to first two-year term as Director
- Board of Directors: William Trask, Jr. was elected to first two-year term as Director

Leadership Transition

Heather Ferrero, now Past-President, introduced Catherine DuBreck as the new President. President DuBreck thanked Past-President Ferrero for all she has done for the Association. President DuBreck congratulated Ryan Mayr on being elected President-Elect, and Ana Hiraldo-Gomez, Dawn McCall, and William Trask, Jr. for being elected to the Board of Directors.

Looking Forward

President DuBreck presented several areas of focus moving forward:

- Continue working with our Regional and Local User Groups
- Continue working with sister organizations including NYSAPLS
- Young Professionals Group as a new Committee
- Continue recruiting volunteers
 - Secretary
 - PD Committee Volunteers
- Continue Process Documentation
- Continue annual membership drives

Open Discussion

President DuBreck asked the membership for feedback:

- Alan Leidner suggested creating an AI Committee.

- Lis DeGironimo asked if there was a place on the website that lists past award recipients, including Lifetime Achievement recipients. Dawn McCall confirmed that information is on the website.
- Dawn McCall reiterated that Committee involvement can be as much as a volunteer would like and mentioned we are also looking for a webmaster volunteer.
- Wayne Howard commented that the idea of a new Young Professionals group could pair well with the Educators Committee.

President DuBreck thanked everyone for attending the NYS GIS Association Annual Meeting.

A motion was made by Heather Weller to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by William Trask. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

NYS GIS Association
September 16, 2025
Annual Treasurer's Report
Matthew Adam

***Bank Balance:**

Balance 9/5/2024: \$65,212.44
Balance 9/16/2025: \$95,273.87
Increase of \$30,061.43

* Balances include amounts for NYS GIS Association, GISMO and WNY

Date	NYS GIS Assoc.	GISMO	WNY GIS	Total
9/15/25	\$82,655.85	\$10,924.47	\$1,693.55	\$95,273.87

Income & Expenses 9/5/2024 - 9/16/2025

Expense Category	Debit
Adams & Son	\$761.00
AmTrust	\$540.00
Checks	\$26,640.08
Delaney	\$7,495.44
Deluxe Small Bus	\$87.35
GoDaddy	\$133.69
ESRI	\$756.00
Exchange Fee	\$1.93
Google	\$783.51
InMotion Hosting	\$109.99
NYSAPLS	\$200.00
Reimbursements	\$2,965.87
Purchase College	\$200.00
Really Simple	\$69.00
Survey Monkey	\$505.44
Stripe	\$76.06
The Lodge Cafe	\$8,385.51
USPS	\$88.79
HostMonster	\$22.99
Zoom	\$445.00
Total	\$50,267.65

Income Category	Credit
*Membership Dues Collected	\$6,938.41
Check	\$4,982.27
Delaney	\$37,768.34
STRIPE	\$1,934.46
Open Geospatial	\$27,000.00
Savings Account Interest	\$0.34
Other	\$229.21

Total	\$78,853.03
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* This amount includes multi-year memberships and WNY and GISMO membership dues