



NYS GIS Association: Regional Resources Guide v2

Organizing Association Resources For Easier Access By NYS Regional GIS Groups

Purpose: Many of the members of the NYSGISA also belong to Regional GIS Groups. The NYSGISA believes that the health of the State Association depends upon a close, collaborative, synergistic relationship with its regional affiliates. This ***Regional Resources Guide*** is intended to make the use of State Association resources by Regional Groups easier by providing a listing of services available and points of contact. It should be Regional Group chairs and their representatives who reach out to the POCs in this Guide.

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NYSGISA Board of Directors and Officers

POC: Julie Tolar, President: jtolar@rgta.com, 585-654-0724

Susan Nixon, Incoming President: snixon@gmail.com; 607-346-2003

Mission: Provide leadership to the NYSGIS Association, setting policy and organizing and managing Committees and functions.

Current Services

- **Regional Policy:** The NYSGISA Board of Directors has established a policy to emphasize the importance of Regional GIS Groups which wish to collaborate. The Board has authorized the Regional Committee to develop this Regional Resources Guidebook and has asked all Committee heads to contribute to its contents.
- **GAC:** Represent regional GIS interests at the State GeoSpatial Advisory Council (GAC) advocating for policies that encourage the growth of GIS services and jobs.
- **Affiliation:** Encourages formal affiliation with Regional and Local GIS groups where membership dues are co-paid and shared as in the case of GISMO. Provide information about this option. (With Treasurer)
- **Sponsor Regional Meetings:** Supports the sponsoring of local and regional meetings and conferences (Westchester, GIS SIG/Rochester Region), with a willingness to provide funding and physical presence.

Services and Benefits in Planning

- **Branding:** Provide Association/GIS “give aways” such as branded coffee mugs and pens.
- **ROI Study:** Develop an ROI study and GIS 101 Presentation for local officials.
- **Green Light To Attend Conference/Summit:** Develop a strategy to encourage local officials to allow their GIS personnel to attend NYSGISA Summits and Conferences.

Regional Committee:

POC Alan Leidner, leidner_alan@bah.com, 212-551-6416

Mission: Work to improve collaboration, cooperation and mutual support between the NYS GIS Association and NYS Regional GIS Groups. The NYS GIS Association recognizes that its regional partners are critical to the success of GIS in the State and understands that by helping to strengthen them, it will also be strengthened.

Current Services

- **Local meeting support**
 - **Sponsor Local GIS Meetings:** On request, consider providing financial support for sponsorships and refreshments at Regional Group meetings. (With Board of Directors)
 - **PPT About Association:** Develop/modify a powerpoint presentation about the Association to be delivered at local meetings and conferences.
 - **Speaker Service:** Provide an Association spokesperson to make a presentation at regional gatherings.
- **Shared services and equipment.** Arrange for regional group use of State Association (Instructions to be provided soon. In the meantime call Alan)
 - Conference call services
 - Survey Monkey subscription
 - Webinar services
- **Drafting Local ByLaws:** Provide assistance writing local bylaws to govern activities and procedures. (With Rich Quodomine)
- **Interpret Robert's Rules:** Assist with interpretation of Robert's Rules of Order for local meetings. (With Bill Johnson)
- **Mentors:** Pair a developing Regional/Local GIS Group with a mentor from a stronger association for support and guidance. (Consider organizing a retired GIS professionals corps to serve as mentors.)
- **RRG:** Development and maintenance of this Regional Resources Guide.

Services in Planning

- **GIS Day Strategies:** Share strategies for regional activities on GIS Day in November sharing info about approaches and leveraging resources
- **GIS 101 Course and Cost Benefit** justification for GIS services for use by regional and local GIS groups in NYS.
 - Many County and Municipal government GIS managers would benefit from a slide presentation that could inform non-technical leaders about GIS in easy to understand terms.
 - NYSGISA should consider helping to put together a cost benefit analysis to help local groups justify GIS expenditures in their regions.

Communications Committee:

POC Carol Zollweg, Chair: czollweg@sprynet.com; 585-232-5135

Mission: The Communications Committee manages and disseminates information that represents part of the public face of the New York State GIS Association (NYSGISA).

Current Services

- **Web support:** Each regional group has a page as part of the NYS GIS Association website on which they can post information important to their members and the larger GIS Community. The communications committee will assist in posting information, sending out posts, and putting events on the NYS GIS Association calendar.
- **Dissemination of News:** Regional Association POCs are encouraged to let Carol know about significant news items concerning GIS in your region for possible posting to the front page of the Association's website.
- **Blog:** Information of interest to the GIS community at large can be posted on the NYSGISA blog. Ask Carol if you require assistance.

Services in Planning: TBD

- ***Independent Website Development:** The Association is considering providing the services of its web designer to assist local groups to improve or develop their own website.
 - Use of code and components employed by the State Associations site
 - Consulting and guidance from the NYSGISA web designer

*Call Alan Leidner at 212-551-6416 if these services are of interest to you.

Professional Development Committee:

POC Mickey Dietrich, Chair: mickey@tughill.org; 315-785-2380

Mission: Provide training, guidance, and assistance to the members of the NYS GIS Association at all levels of expertise in an effort to further their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the many geospatial technologies and solutions that are available.

Current Services

- **Webinars:** Support the development of information and training webinars specifically designed for the needs of Regional Groups.
 - **Geospatial Technology Institute:** Training geared for GIS users who are likely not full time GIS professionals.
 - **GISP:** Provide support and encouragement for regional members seeking to gain GISP certification.

Services In Planning

- **Geospatial Technology Institute “Franchise”:** Develop educational materials and methods that would allow NYS GIS Regional Groups to replicate on their own the GTI model developed by Mickey for Tug Hill.

Education Committee:

POC Ann Deakin, Chair: ann.deakin@fredonia.edu; 716-673-3884

Mission: Supports the NYS GIS Association in meeting the educational needs of its membership and fostering GIS education across New York State.

Current Services

- **Speaker services**
 - Arrange for Association officers to talk at State colleges about the organization and on other subjects. (With Board of Directors)
 - Tap the academic community for possible speakers on technical subjects.
- **K -12 Program** and other ways of introducing GIS into local schools.
 - Advocate for inclusion of GIS into school curriculum and teacher training. (With Board of Directors)
 - Organize regional GIS volunteers to speak at public schools.

Services in Planning

- **Regional Groups and Academic Connections:** Look for ways to bring together academics and students from colleges and universities within a region. (With Regional GIS Groups)
- **Student Internships:** Establish a student internship program between Regional Groups and the colleges in that region.
- **Research Synergies:** Pair college related research projects and capabilities, with Regional needs.
- **Student Lightning Talks:** Encourage students from local colleges to give lightning talks at regional meetings. Provide “vendor swag” as a reward.
- **Meeting Facilities:** Help Regional Groups to find low/no cost meeting facilities – perhaps at local colleges.

Membership Committee:

POC Razy Kased, Chair: rkased@gflrpc.org; 585-454-0190

Mission: Encourage users of geospatial technology from all backgrounds to join and participate in the Association. To ensure member user experience is of the highest quality and benefit. Also, in conjunction with other committees of the Association, strive to leverage all activities for continued membership growth.

Current Services

- Strengthening local and Regional GIS Groups.
 - **Support Regional Group Membership Drives:** Provide regional Associations with State Association member breakouts from the State Association's membership listing to facilitate regional membership drives. This with the expectation that regional groups will share their membership listings with us.
 - **Encourage Regional Group Members to Join NYSGISA:** Find ways to use regional meetings as opportunities to encourage regional membership to also join the State Association.
 - Send speakers to regional meetings.
 - Arrange for a State Association table.

Services in Planning

- **Form Professional Affiliation Groups:** Support the formation of professional affiliation groups across the Association and Regional Groups to foster engagement. Possible affiliation areas include Health, Transportation, Public Safety, and Environmental Protection.

2014 NYSGISA Summit Committee

POC: William Johnson, Chair: William.johnson@its.ny.gov; 518-549-8575

2015 NYSGISA Conference Committee

POC: Bruce Oswald, Chair: bruce.oswald@gmail.com; 646-808-4070

Mission: To put together the best and most informative Geospatial Summit and Conference for GIS professionals in NYS.

Current Services

- **Green Light For Attendance:** Work towards having State leadership encourage local government officials to allow their staff to attend State conferences and summits.
- **Financial Support for Attendance:** Explore whether it would be possible to obtain state financial support for local government attendance at conferences and summits.
- **Facilitating Transportation to Events:** Develop web capabilities that help regions organize carpooling efforts to attend Summits and Conferences. (With Communications Committee)

Services in Planning

- **Awards:** In collaboration with the Awards Committee develop award categories and selection procedures that culminate in an awards ceremony at Summits and Conferences.

External Development Committee

POC: Rich Quodomine, Chair: rich.quodomine@dot.ny.gov; 518-457-8346

Mission: Supports the NYS GIS Association in establishing a consistent message, encouraging growth, and enhancing the relevancy of both the Association and the Geospatial Information Technology Profession in New York State.

Current Services

- **Build Relationships With Relevant State Organizations:** Look to develop relationships with strategic State-wide organizations of local government officials such as the New York State Association of Towns (<http://www.nytowns.org/>) to promote the value of GIS and support local GIS personnel.

Services in Planning

- **Private Sector Firms Serving Regions:** Identify private sector companies in each region that provide GIS services, and which employ GIS staff, and make available to Regional POCs for recruitment and collaboration

Government Committee

POCs: Julia O'Brian, Co-Chair: Julia.obrien@fema.dhs.gov; 212-680-3698

Mike Ross, Co-Chair: mike.ross@cityofrochester.gov; 585-428-6103

Mission: To engage government entities on behalf of the NY State GIS Association to promote and influence GIS employment standards and education in the public sector, and to elevate GIS and GIS professionals in government service.

Current Services

- **Civil Service GIS Jobs:** Develop research concerning the title structure of GIS personnel in state and local government agencies, and the consistency and quality of civil service exams. Identify ways to make GIS hiring and promotion practices more standardized and professional.

Services In Planning

- **GIS Applications Award Competition:** With Awards Committee hold an annual or biannual GIS applications awards competition. Application developers would write up their projects for evaluation and sharing. Give awards. (With Summit/Conference Committees)
- **Applications:** Develop an inventory of GIS applications implemented by government agencies across the state, and help promote sharing between government agencies.
- **Shared Needs:** Identify shared needs for application development, hardware, software and other GIS services to find opportunities for government entities to get together on procurements, specification writing etc. Address common procurement and shared development opportunities.
- **Data Resources:** Identify data resources in each region and support efforts to promote data sharing between governmental entities.

Legislative Committee

POC: Joe Jones, Chair: josephj1938@optimum.net; 516-826-1950

Mission: To monitor state and local legislation that might have an effect on the GIS profession in NY State and to take any actions deemed appropriate.

Current Services:

- **Monitoring State Surveyor Legislation** in the interests of GIS professionals in the state.

Services in Planning:

- **Legislative Initiatives:** Identify existing or new legislation that would benefit the GIS profession and work towards enactment.

Awards Committee (Currently In Planning)

POC: Ben Houston, Chair:

Mission: To ensure that the Association recognizes members who have made significant contributions and to identify top GIS initiatives in the State and give them proper recognition.

Current Services

- **Annual Awards Event:** Create and hand out Certificates of Appreciation to NYSGISA Board Members, Officers, Committee Chairs and other contributors at annual Summit/Conference. (Last done by Assn. Officers)

Services in Planning

- **Applications Awards Competition:** With Government Committee, organize an awards competition for GIS projects and initiatives that also supports the compilation of “intellectual capital” across the state to promote innovation and sharing.