

NSPS Executive Director Mid-Year NSPS Activities Summary June 6, 2018

NSPS Bid for 2022 FIG Congress

During the 2018 FIG Congress in Istanbul, Turkey NSPS presented its proposal to sponsor the 2022 FIG Congress in Orlando, Florida. FIG has not held an annual meeting (Working Week, or Congress) in the Western Hemisphere since the ACSM/ASPRS-sponsored Congress in Washington, DC in 2002. Unfortunately, the FIG member countries chose Cape Town, South Africa as the location for the 2022 meeting.

Promotions

NSPS will again this year have a booth during the American School Counselors Association conference which is being held July 14-17 in Los Angeles, California.

New or updated brochures that are available under the "PR/Brochures" tab on the NSPS website include: *Should You Hire a Land Surveyor*; *Professional Surveying*; *Certified Survey Technician*.

An updated version of the *Be A Surveyor* (www.beasurveyor.com) can also be found under the "Resources" tab on the NSPS website. NSPS has agreed with the North Carolina Society of Surveyors Foundation to manage the site henceforth.

NSPS is the North American distributor for the *Get Kids into Survey* posters created by Elaine Ball (UK). The most recent poster "Smart Cities" includes a NSPS flag and *Evan the (NSPS) Eagle*. Posters can be ordered through www.getkidsintosurvey.com. Contact Trish Milburn (trisha.milburn@nsp.us.com) in the NSPS office with questions.

NSPS is in discussions with the A&C International Exchange Center regarding an invitation for NSPS to participate in a *Sino-America Surveyors Competition* (between China and the US) which is tentatively scheduled to take place in the Washington, DC area in November 2018.

Licensing Issues

NSPS participated this year in the opposition to a proposal by the Governor of South Dakota to establish an agreement among a group of states that would have allowed licensed professionals in those states to practice in other states for up to a year without obtaining a license there. The proposed agreement was defeated.

NSPS is participating in the ongoing dialog regarding whether licensing for Surveyors should be all-encompassing, or if it should be task-specific as is currently the case (at least to some degree) in some states. NCEES has begun a discussion on what is referred to as "divisional licensing".

Outreach/Collaboration

NSPS continues discussions with UNAVCO regarding common interests and collaboration. UNAVCO is a non-profit university-governed consortium which facilitates geoscience research and education using geodesy. UNAVCO was created in 1984 in response to the challenge of applying GPS to the geosciences. At that time it was called the University NAVSTAR Consortium (UNAVCO).

NSPS has agreed to an *Association Partnership Agreement* with the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) to engage in mutually beneficial promotional exchanges and engage in mutually agreed upon lobbying efforts.

Through an arrangement with the NSPS Foundation, Inc., Smart Vent Products Inc. | Risk Reduction Plus Group has developed a National Survey Floodplain Resource Center (NSFRC) intended to better inform the public and Surveyors regarding flood issues.

NSPS is in discussions with the Association of Professional Pipeline Surveyors (APPS) regarding how the two organizations might work together to contribute to, and promote, the fledgling Pipeline Surveying Certification program recently established by APPS.

NSPS is in discussions regarding an affiliation agreement with the Pan American Association of Surveying and Topographic Professionals (APPT).

NSPS continues its quarterly meetings with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) for discussions on collaboration and information on common interests; such as the 2022 datum change and how state legislation will need to be revised in some states to indicate compliance with the 2022 datum.

Government Affairs Activities/Issues

Geospatial Data Act - NSPS continues to oppose this otherwise good legislation as long as it does not include language regarding the use of licensed professionals, nor the use of qualifications based selection of services, where required by licensing and procurement laws.

Ligado Networks - NSPS has taken the lead in drafting language for a letter to be sent to the FCC on behalf of the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) outlining the negative impact on the geospatial community, and the public, were the Ligado Networks proposal would significantly interfere with GPS signals. Readers will likely recall that Ligado Networks is the successor to Lightsquared in this endeavor.

Government Affairs Highlights, cont'd

Specialty Licensing-NSPS continues to monitor and participate in discussions on both the state and national levels regarding whether state licensing laws and procurement laws, as currently written, are appropriate for addressing the use of technological advancements for land data collection, processing, interpreting, and dissemination. This issues comes up repeatedly in legislation that is impacted by the use of geospatial data concerning whether there should be “specialty” categories in licensure (if licenses should be required at all) instead of the long-established overarching definitions. The topic is under discussion on many levels, including within NCEES where a group is discussing the concept of licensing “divisions” (categories).

Technical Mapping Advisory Council- NSPS is contesting a recent proposal that would eliminate private sector participation in FEMA's TMAC. Former NSPS President Wendy Lathrop has represented NSPS and the surveying profession on the TMAC since its inception as part of the Biggert-Waters Act. Although Wendy's participation limit has expired, NSPS has nominated Jim Nadeau as its representative. A meeting has been scheduled for June 7 with one of the legislators who proposed the change in composition of the TMAC to discuss the importance of private sector participate, especially for participation from the professional surveying community.

National Geospatial Advisory Committee - This entity, sponsored by the Department of the Interior, is another important opportunity for the voice of the professional surveying community to be heard. Gary Thompson, a NSPS Past President, previously admirably served two terms on the NGAC as a NSPS nominee. After a required absence, Gary is now eligible for reappointment. Preparations are underway for a NSPS nomination for Gary's appointment.

Annual “Day on the Hill”- On April 11, NSPS experienced another successful day of visits with legislators in both Houses, and in both political parties to discuss issues of importance to the surveying profession. Plans are underway to hold the Day on the Hill each year immediately preceding the NSPS Spring business meetings. This strategy will save time and money by allowing NSPS Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs, etc. to participate in both activities in one trip from home. Of course, all NSPS members are encouraged to participate in the Day on the Hill and to visit with their national legislators when they are “back home”.

NSPS Student Competition 2018

The 2018 competition format returned to the “head-to-head” structure that was utilized in its early days. The teams and instructors were very pleased with the return to this format. A really good article by Carl CdeBaca, Editor, The Nevada Traverse, and NSPS Director- Nevada was printed in the May 2, 2018 edition of *NSPS News & Views*, <http://multibriefs.com/briefs/NSPS/NSPS050218.php>.

Another highlight of the competition was the announcement that the first place award will henceforth be named for Student Competition pioneers Mike and Ann Besch.