



**NSPS Representative to CCLS Report
CCLS Annual Meeting
(May 25 and 26, 2009)**

Presented by: Robert Dahn, Area 1 NSPS Director and NSPS Representative to CCLS

On behalf of the membership of NSPS, I wish you all good health and prosperity for the coming year.

I would like to thank the President, the Executive Officers, the Board of Directors and the membership of CCLS for allowing NSPS the privilege of attending your meeting and this opportunity to review the activities of the National Society of Professional Surveyors in 2009. I look forward to this opportunity to share with you the NSPS goals and programs and again learn about the various ways CCLS has developed to help carry our dynamic profession into the future.

2008/2009 has been a demanding year for the surveying profession in the United States. Across the country surveyors have been affected by the economic downturn, despite all this NSPS has maintained its focus on the many issues we believe to be critical to the evolution of the profession and the accomplishment of the NSPS objectives.

Among these objectives is a commitment to encourage improved higher education for the surveying profession. The NSPS approach to this objective is multi-faceted. Our successful participation in the ABET College curriculum accreditation program is on going. Not only does this enable NSPS to monitor the content and presentation of a survey curriculum, it provides a visible professional presence in the academic community. Work on defining course content most critical to the practicing sector continues. NSPS is also participating in the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping task force developing an enhanced body of knowledge (BoK) for surveying. NSPS does not focus on higher education alone. The university programs can only thrive, if outstanding students continue to pursue surveying educations. It is our clear responsibility to steer the finest candidates we can find to careers in surveying. To this end, NSPS supports an array of youth outreach programs. From the Boy Scout Merit Badge program to the successful Trigstar Program, a trigonometry contest for high school students offering scholarships to the winners, the NSPS commitment to youth outreach is greater than ever. The success of the Trigstar Program has afforded NSPS the ability to offer an additional Trigstar scholarship. In 2009 NSPS again awarded an additional scholarship recognizing a former contest participant who has enrolled in a collegiate surveying program.

NSPS is the national representative of the surveying profession in Governmental Affairs. In the United States laws affecting land surveying can be generated both at the State level, and by the Federal Government. The State Surveying Societies represent the profession at the state level, while NSPS represents the surveying community at the nation's capitol as part of the Joint Government Affairs Committee of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM). ACSM maintains a year round presence in Washington D.C.. Each September prior to the NSPS Fall Meeting, ACSM holds its annual "Lobby Day" at the Capitol. Representatives from the member organizations of ACSM, including NSPS, spend an entire day visiting the offices of their US Senators and Congressional Representatives reviewing surveying related issues being considered by the federal government. As a result of this kind of commitment, the ACSM and NSPS opinions, advice and assistance have been requested on numerous issues, by lawmakers and federal agencies alike. Examples of our work at the capital range from generating and providing language for proposed legislation, like our active effort to facilitate the monumenting of railroads upon abandonment, to working with agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Flood Map issues. NSPS has also enjoyed consistent success representing the profession with the federal government on an array service procurement issues, as well. In 2009 our proudest moment was having a National Surveyors Week enacted as an annual event. After countless hours of dedicated effort over several years our proposal was brought to the floor for a vote and passed by Congress. NSPS has developed a Surveyors Week Publicity Handbook which will be distributed to each of our affiliates to assist surveyors across the country in taking full advantage of this yearly opportunity to promote the profession to a diverse audience.

We are very proud of the many ways we provide financial support to the profession via the NSPS Foundation. The Foundation's Disaster Relief Fund provides assistance to members of the surveying community affected by natural disasters throughout the United States. The Foundation also maintains a number of trust funds established to provide annual scholarship awards to deserving students enrolled in university surveying programs.

NSPS is an active participant in FIG. The NSPS FIG Delegation has been expanded and additional resources have been committed to the delegation. These resources have enabled NSPS to send a highly qualified delegation to the FIG conferences.

I look forward to participating in your meeting. I know that I will gain many insights from the CCLS approach and solutions to the issues at hand and as we have done over the years, NSPS will make full use of this knowledge in its pursuit of solutions to similar issues confronting surveyors in the United States. We can only hope that any input we provide will be equally valuable to CCLS.

Thank you for this opportunity and your generous hospitality,
Robert Dahn, Area 1 Director, NSPS/NSPS Observer to CCLS