

**NSPS Representative to CCLS Report  
CCLS Annual Meeting  
(October 16, 2006)**

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

I would like to thank President Bert Hol, the rest of the officers, the directors and the assembled membership of CCLS for allowing me this opportunity to review the activities of the National Society of Professional Surveyors in 2006.

I am Robert Dahn, the Area 1 Director, NSPS Board of Directors, I have been a member of the Board of Directors for three years and was honored to be appointed the NSPS Observer to CCLS at our Fall Meeting in September. On behalf of NSPS and the NSPS President Joseph Dolan, I bring wishes of good health and prosperity for the coming year, to all our fellow professionals across Canada.

I hope I am able to follow in the footsteps of my counterpart Wayne Brubacher representing NSPS to CCLS and will strive to understand any issues that are important to the profession of land surveying in Canada and the United States. I will make myself available to CCLS and its committees whenever it is appropriate that I participate in your endeavors and when ever possible will share information and resources with CCLS.

It has been an active year for NSPS. There have been many exciting initiatives and accomplishments during the past year.

NSPS, as the national surveying society in the United States, continues to dedicate substantial resources to promoting and advancing land surveying in the US. NSPS is not only dedicated to improving the quality of practice of our existing professionals, it is committed to reaching out to the next generation of surveying professionals as well.

In 2005 NSPS produced a Speakers Kit in conjunction with the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors and generous financial assistance from Topcon. The "Kit" has been distributed and in use for nearly two years and has proven to be a valuable tool for presenting surveying to young people exploring career opportunities. NSPS support of the Boy Scout Merit Badge program continues. Trigstar, a trigonometry contest for high school students offering scholarships to the winners, has been so successful it has outgrown our ability to administer it on a volunteer basis. Agreements are in the works to make a promotional video prepared by the California Affiliate available in a national format.

NSPS continues to be 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, the approximate equivalent of your Provincial governments 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. In the US, having active representation at the Federal Government is every bit as important, as it is at the State level. Only through active legislative efforts can we ensure that the interests of the profession and the public are being safeguarded. In September prior to the NSPS Fall Meeting, NSPS held its annual "Lobby Day" in Washington D.C.. During one day we were able to meet in the offices of over 60 Senators and Representatives and discuss a variety of issues important to the surveying profession. Partly via these meetings and most importantly via the year round efforts of our lobbyist at the Capital, NSPS represents the interests of the surveying community with the Federal Government.

Among these efforts; NSPS is actively pursuing an amended version of the Federal Prison Industries Reform Act. Prison industries, in the US, continue to expand the services they offer using inmate labor. Among these services, map scanning and digitizing is currently being offered in some areas. NSPS believes that offering these services without the benefit of professional supervision is not in the best interests of the consumer. NSPS has also argued that inmate access to any personal information may put the general public at risk. NSPS has worked to have language included in this Act that will prohibit these practices. The Bill has passed the Senate and is currently being reviewed by the House.

NSPS has and will continue to pursue passage of any legislation which will facilitate the process through which Professional Associations like NSPS can establish Group Health Care and Insurance Programs. Obtaining and providing health care benefits for surveying professionals and their employees is an increasing problem in the US. This type of legislation has faced significant opposition, whenever it is raised.

NSPS continues to work actively on both the application of the Brooks Act to Mapping Services and the effects of Davis Bacon on surveying. We are currently working to have surveying services removed from the Government Services Agency's (GSA) Federal Supply Schedule. The inclusion of surveying services on this schedule, continues to derail language requiring Quality Based Selection (QBS) for surveying services contained in the Brooks Act. Repeatedly NSPS has succeeded in reversing these practices and this inappropriate application of fee schedules.

Work continues regarding FEMA Flood Map Modernization. NSPS has requested a reprioritization in the direction of this program. It is our hope that the funding already in place for modernization be used to improve the actual data in critical flood prone areas, as opposed to simply using these funds to digitize the existing maps. This suggestion has been well received, and after a recent Public Hearing regarding the National Flood Insurance Program, NSPS was contacted by the Congressional Committee to provide specific recommendations on how to best achieve these goals.

We are working with Congress to have the President Declare a National Surveyors Week an annual event. Surveyors Week would recognize the contribution of surveyors from our founding fathers to the present day. The Declaration has been passed by the Senate and we are currently working to garner the necessary sponsors to bring the declaration to a vote in the House.

As a result of discussions with the Federal Transportation Board, we have begun to explore possible legislation involving monumenting railroad track locations prior to right of way abandonments. This issue was raised with several Senators and representatives on Lobby Day.

In addition to Governmental Affairs, NSPS represents the surveying community in many other ways.

NSPS is proud to have played an integral role in the development and realization of the first ever Mapping and Surveying exhibit now open at the Library of Congress. This exhibit presents a broad stroke history of mapping and surveying, in the US and will become a part of the permanent collection at the Library.

The ALTA/ACSM Land Title Committee completed its review and update of the ALTA Standards for Surveys and Maps. The Committee met with representatives from ALTA's Standards Committee in August of 2005, a final edit approved by both committees came out of that meeting. The updated standards were subsequently approved by both ALTA and NSPS and took effect on January 1, 2006.

The NSPS Foundation continues its strong support of the surveying community. In addition to scholarships and other awards, a video production company has been contracted, to produce a work place safety video for the survey profession. We believe this survey specific video will be a first of its kind and will fill an obvious void in information regarding surveying safety.

The longest standing surveying issue concerning Canada and the US, is NAFTA and the efforts establish a Mutual Recognition Document (MRD). MRD 8.2 since its presentation to the NSPS Board of Directors has been met with considerable resistance. At the Fall NSPS meeting in 2005, the NSPS Board of Directors decided to step back from the Proposed MRD, to review issues ranging from the specific charges regarding NAFTA, to the ability of the Federal Government to dictate policy/law that could in many situations circumvent State Law. Each jurisdiction (State) in the US has separate licensing and enabling legislation. The Licensing Boards through NCEES their representative body have expressed opposition to the "two tiered" surveying system proposed in MRD 8.2. It also became apparent there was substantial opposition throughout much of the surveying profession. An opinion regarding MRD 8.2 was requested from each of our state affiliates. The overwhelming response to these inquiries was to abandon MRD 8.2. The NSPS Board of Governors has voted to rescind its approval of MRD 8.2 effectively removing it from the Board of Directors table. The Board of Governors also voted that

this effort should not be suspended. The Board of Directors subsequently voted unanimously to pursue an agreement on NAFTA based on the following principal: “It is agreed that Licensure of Surveying and Mapping Professionals will be based on the host jurisdiction’s requirements. Citizenship and residency requirements in the host jurisdiction are not be considered for licensure if the licensing requirements were adopted after 1994. The language of commerce of the host jurisdiction will be used.” Drafting proposed language has been assigned to committee and is to be presented to NSPS at the Spring 2007 Meeting in Saint Louis.

NSPS continues its participation in FIG. The NSPS FIG Report has been completed. Funding for the FIG Delegation was increased and the delegation is prepared for the meeting in Munich.

Anyone interested in specific details on any of the topics I have gone over or any other matter of particular interest please do not hesitate to contact me either through the NSPS Office or directly and I will be happy to help in anyway I can.

Finally the National Society of Professional Surveyors Foundation Inc. in addition to its many other efforts, maintains a disaster relief fund. For several years running these funds have been completely dispersed. The Foundation strives to respond to any disaster affecting surveyors in the US. This can only be accomplished through the continued generosity of the many surveyors across the US who support the Foundation year in and year out. If you wish to help this on going effort please, either as an organization or as individuals make a donation to the Foundations disaster relief fund at 6 Montgomery Village Avenue, Suit 403, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879.

Thank you

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Dahn  
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