



## **NSPS Report to CCLS Annual Meeting (October 3, 2007)**

Presented by: Patrick J. Beehler PLS, President-Elect NSPS

I would like to thank your President and the rest of the officers, the directors and the assembled membership of CCLS for allowing me this opportunity to share with you the activities of the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) in 2007. NSPS is a Member Organization of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM).

I am Patrick J. Beehler, the President-Elect of NSPS. I am presenting this report for Robert Dahn, the Area 1 Director, NSPS Board of Directors. I extend greetings and wishes of good health and prosperity, from the NSPS President, Rita Lumos and the membership of NSPS, to all our fellow professionals across Canada.

I would also like to thank CCLS for sending Wayne Brubacher as an Observer to NSPS and for his past participation at our semi-annual meetings.

NSPS continues to have a very busy agenda representing the professional surveying community in the United States. We are blessed with a diverse and skilled membership allowing us to work successfully on a myriad of issues.

NSPS, as the national surveying society in the United States, is committed to promoting and improving the land surveying profession in the US. It is our goal to serve our membership by enhancing the standards of the profession, while at the same time cultivating a new generation of surveying professionals.

We developed a Speakers Kit as a promotional tool that was produced in conjunction with the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES). It is being used across our country to encourage young people to consider a career in Geomatics. Many of our State Affiliate Societies also have active, thriving youth outreach programs. As reported to you last year by Mr. Dahn, NSPS supports the Boy Scout Merit Badge and other youth outreach programs. 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. In 2006 we made an additional scholarship grant to a former Trigstar participant who has enrolled into a University surveying program. We hope that with broader funding we can expand both this type of commitment as well as the program itself in the future.

The ACSM/NSPS commitment to representing the surveying profession in Governmental Affairs is one of our most successful efforts. In the United States laws affecting land surveying can be generated both at the State level as well as at the Federal. State Surveying Societies represent the profession at the state level, while ACSM/NSPS represents the surveying community at the nation's capitol. On September 27<sup>th</sup> prior to the 2007 ACSM Fall Meeting, NSPS members participated in ACSM's annual "Lobby Day" in

Washington D.C. We met with Senators and Representatives from across the country and discussed 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 and ACSM represent the interests of the surveying and mapping community with the U.S. Federal Government.

Among the efforts NSPS and ACSM are actively pursuing in Congress is to have the U.S. President Declare a National Surveyors Week as an annual event. Our effort on this issue fell narrowly short on a procedure matter. All our meetings about Surveyors Week have been greeted with interest and we believe we have a good chance for passage this year.

We continue to monitor legislation regarding Federal Prison Industries Reform. Prison industries have begun to encroach into the mapping professions. NSPS and ACSM hope to influence these efforts in a way that will protect both the profession and the public.

NSPS and ACSM will continue to pursue passage of legislation which will facilitate the process through which Professional Associations like NSPS can establish Association Health Care and Insurance Programs.

Work continues regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Modernization. NSPS and ACSM have 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 and ACSM were contacted by the Congressional Committee to provide specific recommendations on how to best achieve these goals.

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 NSPS Board of Directors approved a version of the NAFTA MRD which was forwarded to Canada and Mexico. The intent of the language is to remove residency requirements while maintaining the integrity of the local statutes and allowing for cross border licensing.

NSPS continues its participation in FIG. The NSPS FIG Report has been completed. Funding for the FIG Delegation was increased and the delegation recently attended the FIG working Week in Hong Kong.

Anyone interested in specific details on any of the topics of this report or any other matter of interest please do not hesitate to contact us either through the NSPS Office, Robert Dahn or directly with me, and we will be happy to help in anyway we can.

Thank you

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick J. Beehler, PLS