



**NSPS Representative to CCLS Report
2010 Annual National Forum of Canadian Surveyor Associations
March 28 & 29, 2010**

Presented by: Robert Dahn, 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 extending NSPS the privilege of attending your meeting and the opportunity to share with you the activities of the National Society of Professional Surveyors in 2009. I regret that I am unable to attend this year's forum. I hope that this report will allow CCLS the opportunity to review the NSPS goals, activities and programs and look forward to hearing about your efforts in the past year and the great things you have accomplished both during the year and at this meeting.

In the past year we have continued to struggle with the economic downturn in the United States. Although the economy has been a primary focus amongst surveying societies cross the country, NSPS continues to represent the surveying profession developing a wide spectrum of programs and initiatives including a diverse range of topics like educational, professional development, working in concert with an array of allied professions, governmental affairs among many. Here is a review of some of the highlights.

NSPS has always maintained a strong commitment to educational programs at all levels of training and expertise. NSPS has educational initiatives from youth outreach to higher education and continuing education. We are active participants in the ABET College curriculum accreditation program. NSPS is working as part of several on going reviews of the core curriculum for college survey programs. Our focus is not limited to higher education; we also recognize the importance of presenting a diverse picture of the benefits of a career in surveying to the young people who will be the next generation of college students. Our high school trigonometry contest, Trigstar is thriving. Part of the intent of Trigstar was to create an opportunity to present surveying as career option to high school math students. The greatest evidence of Trigstar's success, is former participants have begun to graduate from college surveying programs. Because of this success, we are now offering a scholarship to a former participant enrolled in an accredited survey program, in addition to the scholarship's already provided to the winners. The Boy Scout Merit Badge program is yet another way NSPS and the State

Surveying Societies, have successfully presented surveying as a viable career option to young people. The number of Boy Scouts pursuing surveying merit badges has steadily increased in recent years. NSPS is proud to be sending its largest contingent ever to this year's National Boy Scout Jamboree.

NSPS believes it is the responsibility of the national professional society 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, and by the Federal Government. NSPS has a long standing and successful governmental affairs agenda. NSPS representatives make up a significant 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. With this effort we are able to provide input on Congressional Bills affecting the profession, advance initiatives beneficial to the profession and respond to requests from lawmakers and federal agencies alike.

We lend emergent financial assistance/support to the surveying community in several ways via the NSPS Foundation. The Foundation provides numerous scholarships to worthy students annually. The Foundation also offers assistance to surveyors affected by a variety of circumstance through its Disaster Relief Fund.

NSPS is an active participant in FIG. The NSPS FIG Delegation is a dedicated cross section of the US surveying community. They have tirelessly worked to expand and enhance what we consider to be an outstanding delegation.

The NSPS membership is individual based. NSPS is continually working to address needs of our members with a quality member benefits package, including insurance programs to a widely stocked bookstore for example. An update to the Contract Manual prepared in the seventies is under way. Over recent years it has become increasingly apparent that many surveying firms are ill prepared to deal with unexpected crises. NSPS has begun work on a guide to crises management. We hope this guide help our membership be better prepared for the unexpected.

I am disappointed that I was unable to attend this years Forum. Each year I have attended has been a rewarding experience. I look forward to hearing about this years Forum and I am sure I will gain many insights from your approach and solutions to the issues at hand. NSPS has always benefited from our relationship with CCLS. We hope the relationship is equally beneficial to you. Have an outstanding gathering and I hope be with you at your next meeting.

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