

Musings from your CT Director

NSPS Business Meeting

March 17th & 18th, 2016 – Arlington, VA

To all of my fellow NSPS Directors, Good day!

It was a pleasure to see all of you last week for a pleasant and productive meeting. Our new president, Tony Cavell was heard to say that he thought there was a good deal of camaraderie during our meetings, and who could disagree? Then again, most all of us would concur there always is, and this meeting was no different. For those of you who followed the link provided in Tony's thank you letter (provided below), you would have found an article on *Tech Insider* about the science of productivity. One of the key points observed dealt with psychological safety, and a quote from Amy Edmondson was shared "It's a shared belief held by members of a team that a group is a safe place for taking risks, a team climate characterized by interpersonal trust and mutual respect in which people are comfortable being themselves." It is a concept I believe we have whole heartedly embraced during my entire tenure with NSPS, and I appreciate what you all have shared with me in our mutual endeavors. Let's be sure to convey the same message to all new directors and attendees of our meetings as we move forward.

The business meeting kicked off on Wednesday with Lobby day, in which many of us from NSPS and MAPPS brought issues to congress of mutual concern. We had 4 new issues to pursue this year, due in part to the success of seeing past issues move successfully through congress, as observed by our lobbyist's John Palatiello and John Byrd. This year we had discussions on the following topics with our congressional representatives: Workforce Development, Private Sector Utilization, Flood Insurance Reform & Modernization Act and Ocean & Coastal Mapping. Please see the NSPS Joint Government Affairs Update for further detail – found with other reports here <http://www.nsp.us.com/general/custom.asp?page=Reports>.

In particular, I found workforce development to be a new topic of interest for our directors and congress in general. Congressional staff appeared to be well aware of the topic and the State of Virginia, through its director Dave Holland, brought a motion forward suggesting NSPS be part of the discussion regarding where our future geo-spatial professionals and surveyors will come from. Many secondary education programs are struggling from the standpoint of student enrolment and their ability to find qualified candidates to run the programs. From a congressional standpoint I believe it is much broader than that, but they may very well craft legislation that our situation will apply to. The workforce meeting chaired by Dave Holland was very well attended.

I noted two subjects under old business that I feel we should convey to our membership:

- We need a champion(s) for the ALTA Certification Program to take the reins and move the program forward. Mr. Kent is supportive of the idea, but looking for other leadership to make it happen. If you, or your members feel strongly about the program please consider stepping forward to help make it happen.

- We are continuing to pursue having a joint meeting with FIG in 2022. Sites for consideration may include Orlando, New Orleans or Washington D.C. – stay tuned for further development.

Here than are a list of new initiatives and observations from our spring meetings:

- First and foremost, a warm welcome is extended to our fellow surveyors in West Virginia who recently voted themselves into the 100% membership program. John Green (a past WVSPS President) sat in for Jared Wilson who will serve as their first NSPS Director. I hope John found our spring meeting engaging and worthwhile!
- If I hadn't welcomed West Virginia into the fold first, the Young Surveyors would have been front and center. We will have a signed MOU shortly and they will have a non-voting seat on the NSPS BoD. They are an inspiring group of individuals to have involved in the workings of NSPS.
- We had 9 teams competing in the student competition. Congratulations to our winners: The University of Akron (4 year) and Dunwoody College of Technology (2 year)
- Geodetic Certification committee is pressing forward. Many of you may have seen the online poll requesting input from our fellow surveyors across the country, if not please seek it out and complete it. Dave Doyle offered that they want to make a concerted effort to obtain professional input and support versus relying on recommendations from an academic panel. From my point of view, it appears to be a thoughtful and commendable approach.
- NGS 2022 Datum – Model Law. NSPS continues to work with NGS on templates we can provide the states to use in crafting legislation to recognize the new datums.
- NSPS is working on a white paper to share with our state associations to support professional licensing. We are aware of a tangible force within federal and local governments that seeks to eliminate licensing, referring to it as an impediment to work force development and our economy.
- NSPS will develop “Best Practices Guidelines” which our membership can follow to help ensure Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Compliance.
- Our Joint Government Affairs Committee will pursue having the geospatial (or Geomatics) field included as a STEM discipline (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). This classification would open up sources of funding for grants, scholarships and tax credits targeted towards STEM majors
- NSPS will craft a letter to the National Association of Realtors requesting that specific language be inserted in their Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice to the effect that they will not engage in activities that constitute unauthorized practice of land surveying – such as suggesting to their clients where their boundaries are, or what constitutes a legal property corner monument.
- The NSPS Public Relations Committee presented two awards. The first went to The Texas Society of Professional Surveyors for a flyer and website they put together for educating youth about land surveying – see link below

The second was a humanitarian award given to the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association for a joint effort between the Northeast Chapter of IPLSA and The Northern Illinois University's Geomatics program to survey an area wiped out by a tornado, replacing monumentation and documenting existing infrastructure – see link below

Those are the things that readily come to mind. Please chime in if I've left out something important that I should include in my report. I've attached a couple of photos and captions below for your use. Cut and Paste, as well as blatant plagiarism are all encouraged. If you have a unique observation, please share with the rest of us.

Many thanks to the NSPS staff for all of their efforts.

Be well. Stay thirsty my friends.

Rick Howard, NSPS Director – CT



Past President John Warren addresses the General Membership Meeting. Sitting left to right Bob Miller – Treasurer, Tony Cavell - President, Jan Fokens President Elect. Newly elected Vice-President for 2016 Kim Leavitt missing from the photo, sworn in by the end of the meeting.



Curt Sumner leads the Installation of Officers, Standing Left to Right: Jon Warren-Immediate Past President, Kim Leavitt-Vice President, Jan Fokens-President Elect, Tony Cavell-President; Sitting far left Bob Miller-Treasurer

Tech Insider Link:

<https://webmail.east.cox.net/do/redirect?url=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.techinsider.io%252Fa-pulitzer-prize-winning-journalist-investigated-the-science-of-productivity-heres-what-he-found-2016-3>

PR Award Winner – Texas

<http://www.becomeatexassurveyor.com/>

PR Humanitarian Award Winner – Illinois

Note: this link may automatically download the pdf vs display in your browser...

http://www.nsps.us.com/resource/resmgr/Public_Relations/PR_Competition_-_NEC_Fairdal.pdf