I attended the American School Councilors Association convention in Los Angeles, California July 13th through the 15th, 2018 at the Downtown Convention Center. Darren Leavitt went with me to bring and demonstrate the augmented reality sandbox.

We met the CLSA contingent who was there to support NSPS in this effort. Thanks to Armand for reaching out to the leadership and organizing this group. We were all busy showing the councilors the NSPS brochures, the Get Kids into Surveying poster and the sandbox. It was so well received and of great interest to all who stopped by. There was a record 3800 councilors at this convention and it felt like we met with all of them after the two and a half days of exhibiting.

The sandbox was a big hit again and Darren did a great job demonstrating a map in a box and the surveyor’s role in collecting and modifying the earth’s surface. The councilors were lined up to see the demonstration. A new tool, the Get Kids into Surveying poster was laid out and shown as a tool to get kids interested in recognizing a map to interact and find different characters on the map. This excited a lot of the councilors. They wrote down the website information, hopefully we will be seeing some orders. Next year we might think about having a QR code for scanning that will be tied to all of our websites with all information that can be used by this group. One of the things an easy way to pull up the University Survey Programs across the US. They are shown on the Beasurveyor website and the NSPS website but it’s not easily found.

My presentation to the group was well received and positive comments came from those who came to see the sandbox after the presentation. Thanks to Trish and Curt for the power point presentation, mixed with a few side comments of my own, we made a good impression.

I really enjoyed getting to know some of the California surveyors. I got a chance to talk to them about membership. They have a unique situation that will need to be explored to create another tear of membership. I think they are convinced that NSPS is looking out for all of us. This was a very positive experience for the state and gave them many contacts for exhibiting a sandbox at career fairs across the state.

Directors please make sure your state executive directors know who this group is, because we have been telling councilors from every state to get in touch with the state society to send surveyors to local career fairs. They want to let the youth see our profession, so please help where ever you can.

I was also invited to the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors held in Galveston on October 4th through the 6th. I was treated so well and would like to thank TSPS for the positive experience and the professionalism displayed throughout the convention. I attended their board meeting where I addressed the membership. Henry and I spent time in the exhibitor’s hall manning the NSPS booth, where I was fortunate to meet and talk to a lot of NSPS members as
well as educators and students. There was displayed a renewed sense of optimism for the perpetuation of our profession.

Texas has been busy with convincing a school district to start a Surveying and a GIS program in the high school, where a student can take classes and have an Associate’s Degree at graduation. The students and parents have embraced the program. Everyone is happy with the way it is going and hopeful that it will bring more young people into our profession.

This may be a perfect model of what each state needs to do to bring the youth into our profession. Congratulations to Texas for leading the way.

I traveled to Maryland October 15, 2018 to our Fall Meetings. The meetings were very successful with many directors working hard to make a difference. Curt’s gift of a hand made guitar for his years of service was a big hit.

I traveled to Wisconsin January 21st through the 25th for an Ex-Com transition meeting held at the Wisconsin Society meetings. The attendance was terrific with 1000 attendees. The Ex-com members participated in a panel discussion on NSPS issues.

We spent the rest of the time preparing an Amicus Brief to help the State of Louisiana defending the GLO original survey. Thanks to all who helped. This was a situation that we had to respond to.

I went to St. George Utah to the Utah Council of Land Surveyors meetings February 19th through the 22nd. I was asked to speak to the assembly. I helped in the NSPS booth. I spoke to many, having good discussions about education and outreach. The convention was very well organized and attended. It was good to see many friends and associates.

I attended the Nevada and California association meeting in Reno, Nevada March 23rd through the 26th. It was good to meet all of the members of both boards and participate in discussions with them. I participated in roundtable discussions on education and outreach, workforce development and the future of surveying. The content always comes back to us doing a better job at selling our profession. All of the information discussed was so pertinent for a national discussion.

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