The UAS Committee is committed to integrating UAS into our survey toolbox. The hurdles that must be navigated are programmatic, including manuals, standard operating procedure and training, technical, with rapidly evolving hardware and software, and legislative; the national, state and local regulatory and legislative environments are nothing if not fluid. Currently there are two active Sub-committees which are working hand in hand to move Surveyors forward in the UAS sphere.

Legislative: Craig Amey

Liaison: Brent Birth

Moving into its third year, the NSPS UAS Committee realized that it needed to reach out to the membership for time-sensitive feedback on the current needs of the survey community. A UAS questionnaire was both posted in NEWS and VIEWS and sent out via email last month and approximately 500 responses were received. The committee would like to recognize and thank Trish Milburn for making the questionnaire available to all NSPS members. We are currently compiling the results and appreciate the extra time taken by those that responded at length with opinions and ideas regarding UAS and Survey. We plan to summarize the results and post them to NEWS and VIEWS.

Subcommittee Reports:

Legislative: (Craig Amey)

Craig is following UAS legislative issues at the federal and state levels including the FAA reauthorization. JB Byrd has been our indispensable liaison between FAA developments and the UAS committee.

Initial review of the UAS Questionnaire indicated that NSPS members feel ongoing legislative monitoring and influence is vital to NSPS’s efforts to move forward with UAS. More specifically responses strongly identified the following areas:

- Continue to monitor federal legislation
- Assist the States with UAS legislation
  - Monitor state legislation through AUVSI and advise states on problematic legislation
  - Develop Legislative guidelines for the State Societies to mitigate unnecessary UAS legislation (i.e. privacy and trespass)
  - Discourage States from too much legislation and encourage Federal legislation.
- Consider a general information process to the membership, such as a monthly addition to News and Views.
Liaison: (Brent Birth)

The UAS Committee feels it is critical to reach out to groups that are at the forefront of UAS technology in order to make a visible place for surveyors at the table.

NSPS now has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with AUVSI (Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International) Thanks to all involved for persistence and hard work. It looks to be a fruitful relationship with benefits for both organizations.

JB Byrd will be communicating with the AUVSI Advocacy Team to identify common political and legislative interests to both organizations.

Included with the MOU are the following benefits to NSPS members:

Discount for initial individual memberships in AUVSI

Discount to the AUVSI xPonential annual exhibition (2019 xPonential is April 29-May 2 in Chicago

UAS Legislative subcommittee will receive periodic access to the AUVSI state legislative spreadsheet showing pending bills involving UAS for each state

The MOU also provides for opportunities to promote both organizations’ programs to our respective members. Stay tuned for a possible interview of an AUVSI representative on the NSPS Radio Show introducing AUVSI and their various programs, including their Workforce Development initiatives and their Trusted Operator Program; and a reciprocal interview of NSPS on AUVSI’s monthly webinar.

Membership

The Committee is open to participation at any time; our meetings are quarterly via conference call. Please contact Joanne Williamson at joanne.williamson@heco.com to be put on our mailing list.