National Association of Realtors

NAR has responded to a letter from NSPS President Cavell, and requested a meeting to discuss a statement requested by NSPS to be placed in the NAR Code of Ethics. The NSPS letter states, “NSPS urges the National Association of Realtors to add the following language to Article 13 of its Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice document:

**REALTORS® shall not engage in activities that constitute the unauthorized practice of Land Surveying and shall recommend that counsel of a professional land surveyor be obtained when the interest of any party to the transaction requires it.**

President Cavell responded to the NAR request for examples of the types of activities about which NSPS is concerned, and is working to set up the requested meeting for further discussion of the need for the NSPS proposed statement which is similar to an existing statement in the NAR Code of Ethics related to activities that may be the unauthorized practice of law. Receipt of letter acknowledged. No response as to 8 11 16

Issue being discussed during NAR’s Interpretations and Procedures Advisory Board September meeting

Certified Floodplain Surveyor (CFS)

There is rekindled interest from American Society of Flood Plain Managers for a joint NSPS/ASFPM certification which is currently available only in North Carolina. Discussions are ongoing. Exec. Director Sumner and NSPS Past President (2001) Gary Thompson are working with ASFPM.

NAD 22

NSPS representatives worked with NGS and representatives from other groups to develop template legislation for use by the respective state legislatures to revise/amend their state laws dealing with datums when NAD 22 becomes effective. The template will be released after full discussion among the affected groups.

Template released; Briefing for NSPS Officers scheduled 9 13 16
Briefing presented as noted
Joint membership

A breakaway group in Arizona has started a new surveyors’ organization there, and has sought affiliation with NSPS. NSPS has confirmed its commitment to Arizona Professional Land Surveyors, the existing organization, and joint membership partner.

NSPS is reviewing its Bylaws and procedures related to this request.

Future of Surveying Task Force

During a meeting of the Task Force, June 10-11 in Baton Rouge, NSPS took the reins as the “lead organization” for future activities of the group.

Surprising, and very rewarding, is the fact that from among the 18 organizations participating in the initial Forum meeting in January 2016, sixteen (16) of those organizations sent representatives to this second meeting. It is important to note that NCEES funded travel for all groups to the initial meeting, but each organization was responsible for the expenses of its representative for the second meeting. Such participation is indicative of the importance of this effort, and the dedication of so many organizations to the cause.

Good progress was accomplished in setting an agenda for moving forward. Among the topics discussed were the results from a questionnaire, prepared (at no cost) for NSPS (and the Task Force) by Gavin Schrock and xyHt magazine. Over 2200 surveyors from across the country responded.

NSPS 2017 budget includes funds for facilitator to attend Spring/Summer 2017 meeting of Task Force. Name of Task Force may be changed to avoid confusion regarding the “lead” organization.

Davis Bacon Act

Executive Director Sumner has sent a letter to the Department of Labor suggesting that a recent statement by DoL related to the classification of air balance engineers also “accurately describes the standing and circumstance of a survey crew member”, albeit in the performance of a different activity. The letter also requests that DoL issue a revised All Agency Memorandum reflecting this fact.

As of 8 11 16 no response; probably not before elections.

NSPS attending American School Counselors Association (ASCA) conference

A team from NSPS (led by President Cavell) is attending the national ASCA conference in New Orleans in early July. NSPS will give a presentation to attendees on the surveying profession, and will operate an exhibit booth.

Successful exercise; good contacts made.

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NSPS enters into discussion with ASPRS and MAPPS for joint 2017 conference
The last time NSPS partnered with ASPRS for a conference was the Spring 2002 international joint conference (with FIG). With the recent success of the joint NSPS/MAPPS spring conferences in 2015 and 2016, the two groups have begun discussions with ASPRS for a joint conference in Baltimore in mid-March. At the time of this report, the possibility for such a conference looks good. As of 8 11 16 no agreement signed. Meeting with ASPRS not likely. NSPS and MAPPS continue discussions and strategies for 2017. 600 responses received to NSPS questionnaire sent to members regarding conferences.

National TrigStar Competition continues to thrive; as does Map/Plat competition, and Journalism competition
The 2016 national TrigStar competition will have at least 38 state winners competing. The number of national competitors has remained relatively the same for a few years. The TrigStar Committee continues to work for broader participation among the state societies. It is believed that the recently initiated NSPS $5000 scholarship has served as an incentive. Any graduating student who has competed in TrigStar at any time during their high school years, and can demonstrate proof of acceptance in a college program providing education applicable toward achieving licensure, is eligible to apply for the scholarship.

The 2016 NSPS Map/Plat competition is in the process of being judged. This year there are 43 total entries among the five (5) categories. Judging completed; results published in NSPS News & Views

Similarly, the NSPS Journalism competition among the respective state societies continues to draw participation with eight (8) state societies presenting entries in the four (4) categories. Judging completed; results published in NSPS News & Views

NSPS Foundation issues $29,000 in scholarships
Two new scholarships were initiated in 2016. One was created through the New Jersey Society of Professional Surveyors in the name of well-known Surveyor/Attorney/Instructor Walt Robillard. The other was initiated through NSPS, and resulted from a gift of $130,000 which was designated for a scholarship by the estate of Dr. Ing. Desider E. Slavoj.