NSPS contacted the National Association of Realtors regarding its Code of Ethics, stating "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(r) 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.`

The NSPS proposed statement is similar to an existing statement in the NAR Code of Ethics related to activities that may constitute the unauthorized practice of law. After further interaction, and NSPS responding to a NAR request for examples of the types of activities we are concerned about, the NAR Interpretations and Procedures Advisory Board responded that it sees no reason to add the NSPS proposed statement, adding that it feels confident that NAR’s overall Code of Ethics language is sufficient with regard to "surveying activities". Of course, NSPS disagrees with this and plans to readdress the issue.

Certified Floodplain Surveyor (CFS)

There is rekindled interest for expanding the use of a joint NSPS/ASFPM Certified Floodplain Surveyor certification program to other states. Currently the program is available only in North Carolina. Recent discussions regarding the expansion of the program will be continued during the Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors conference in March between NSPS Executive Director Sumner, members of the group (including the North Carolina Society of Surveyors) operating the CFS program in North Carolina, and some individuals in Tennessee to discuss possible implementation of the program there. Several of the state surveying societies have invited representatives of the group operating CFS in North Carolina (including NSPS Past President (2001) Gary Thompson) to make a presentation on how the program works.

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 can be accessed from the NSPS website, [http://www.nsps.us.com/resource/resmgr/NGS/Template_Draft__Final.docx](http://www.nsps.us.com/resource/resmgr/NGS/Template_Draft__Final.docx).
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 which was originally initiated with NCEES support. 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. Continued participation under this circumstance is indicative of the importance of this effort, and the dedication of so many organizations to the cause. 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. Three committees were formed to focus on critical issues which need to be addressed. NSPS is also seeking to have the Young Surveyors Network to become more active in this effort.

The NSPS 2017 budget includes money to fund the cost for the facilitator utilized during the first two meetings to provide that service during a Spring/Summer 2017 meeting of Task Force. Subsequent to the June meeting of the Task Force, three state societies (Maryland, Oklahoma, and Virginia) began Workforce Development initiatives (which are working in concert with the work of the Task Force) through their respective state governments/agencies.

Workforce Development

During its Spring 2016 meetings, NSPS established a Workforce Development initiative to work in concert with the activities of the Future of Surveying Task Force and the respective state surveying societies to develop a program to create the framework for insuring the perpetuation of the surveying profession. Three state societies (Maryland, Oklahoma, and Virginia) have initiated Workforce Development initiatives through their respective state governments/agencies. A page ([http://www.nsps.us.com/page/WorkforceDev](http://www.nsps.us.com/page/WorkforceDev)) has been set up on the NSPS website where information about NSPS and state society efforts can be viewed.

Davis Bacon Act

NSPS recently sent a letter ([http://www.nsps.us.com/resource/resmgr/Davis-Bacon/NSPS_letter_to_Dept_of_Labor.pdf](http://www.nsps.us.com/resource/resmgr/Davis-Bacon/NSPS_letter_to_Dept_of_Labor.pdf)) to the Department of Labor (DoL) regarding the application of Davis Bacon prevailing wage rates to members of survey crews. The letter suggests 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 NSPS letter also requested that DoL issue a revised All Agency Memorandum reflecting this fact. In its response dated 11/28/16 DoL rejected the NSPS proposal, stating “the Department believes that its current guidance is accurate and that no additional action is necessary” With the potential impact on federal agency leadership as a result of the recent elections, NSPS will revisit this issue. Visit [http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=DavisBacon](http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=DavisBacon) for information on the history of this topic.
NSPS outreach to American School Counselors Association (ASCA) inspires activity

The success of the team from NSPS (led by President Cavell) which attended the national ASCA conference in New Orleans in early July has spurred similar participation by NSPS members and their respective states societies. NSPS will continue this effort and is encouraged that several state societies are following its lead on this. NSPS has developed a series of brochures to be used for this outreach, in conjunction with state society developed materials.

NSPS Encourages more participation in the National TrigStar Competition, the NSPS Map/Plat Competition, and the NSPS Journalism Competition

The 2016 national TrigStar competition included participation by 38 state winners. The TrigStar Committee continues to work for broader participation among the state societies. The recently initiated NSPS $5000 TrigStar scholarship (http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=TSScholarship) seems to have served as an incentive. Any graduating high school 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 drew 43 total entries among its five (5) categories. Results are posted on the NSPS website (http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=MapPlat). The respective state surveying societies are urged to submit the winning plats from their annual competition.

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 in 2016. The results are posted on the NSPS website (http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=Journalism).

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 from the estate of Dr. Ing. Desider E. Slavoj. Learn more about the scholarship program at (http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=Scholarships). The Foundation is currently working on a Support Program through which individuals and companies can support its activities.

NSPS Workshop Database

NSPS is nearing completion of the first edition a workshop speaker database to be shared with the respective state societies for use in planning for their conferences and other educational activities. The list will include primarily those speakers who can be available on a nationwide basis. More than 30 speakers have responded positively to the inquiry sent by NSPS. NSPS hopes to also coordinate with other national organizations that provide workshops to their respective members, but could also be pertinent to surveyors.
Property Records Industry Association (PRIA)

On Wednesday March 15 during the NSPS/MAPPS 2017 Spring conference (March 12-17), NSPS and PRIA will hold a two-hour session on the concept establishing a way to link actual survey plats to property records so they are used for property information rather than relying on GIS data. Several years ago, NSPS began discussions with PRIA leaders with the goal of establishing an interactive relationship for dialog on issues of mutual interest. Recently, that dialog was rekindled when the NSPS Executive Director met with PRIA leaders during the PRIA conference in August. That meeting resulted in an agreement to establish a working group similar to the ALTA/NSPS Committee to work on common issues.

FIG XXVII Congress and General Assembly 2022

NSPS has begun its research to determine whether to make a bid to host the 2022 FIG Congress and General Assembly. FIG holds an international meeting each year, but its Congress and General Assembly meets every four years, during which meeting the FIG presidency transitions. The last FIG meeting to be held in the US was sponsored by ACSM and ASPRS in 2002. John Hohol and Curt Sumner met with Colleen Campbell of Conference Managers, Disney hotel staff, and the Disney Event Group to discuss the possibility of NSPS hosting the 2022 FIG conference at Disney in Florida.

NSPS Student Chapters

NSPS is beginning an initiative to establish Student Chapters within the respective college programs throughout the US and Territories.

Thanks to information provided from NSPS members, leaders, and affiliated state societies, NSPS has created a page (link to page) on its website listing of all the programs of which it is aware. Currently, only 12 of those programs have NSPS Student Chapters. Any assistance is appreciated in identifying programs, and in setting up Student Chapters.

New NSPS Brochures

New brochures related to surveying careers, NSPS benefits, and information about what NSPS does have been developed, and printed. The brochures are available to members, the state societies, and educational institutions. Samples can be viewed on the NSPS website (http://www.nsps.us.com/page/PamphletsfromStates). Brochures developed by state surveying societies can also be viewed using this link.
NSPS Social Media Update

Members are encouraged to take advantage of the extensive NSPS social media outlets.

In addition to the very popular weekly email newsletter, NSPS News & Views (which is sent via email) and the weekly web radio show, NSPS Radio Hour (accessible at [http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=RadioShow](http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=RadioShow)), members can also get current information and share in dialog by searching National Society of Professional Surveyors on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube accounts.

Recent Memoranda of Understanding by NSPS

1. Young Surveyors Network (signed during the NSPS 2017 Fall meetings)
2. United States Institute of Building Documentation (USBID) (signed October 2016)
3. Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute (American Society of Civil Engineers) (approved for signature)

Direct Point Positioning Survey Procedure (DPPS) - BLM/Alaska

A NSPS Committee, Chaired by Tim Kent, has submitted its final report related to the effect of the DPPS process proposed by BLM for the establishment of boundary line markers for the remaining lands to be ceded to the State of Alaska as a result of Alaska statehood over 50 years ago. The DPPS process, as proposed by BLM, would utilize calculated GPS positions rather than monuments placed in the ground, as was initially required in the statehood agreement. The Committee is now in the process of developing a response in opposition to a statement by a BLM official stating that the Committee found "no fundamental technical issues" related to BLM's proposed approach. ([http://www.nsps.us.com/page/BLMDPPSAlaska](http://www.nsps.us.com/page/BLMDPPSAlaska))

Should Hydrographers be Licensed as Surveyors

In case the issue is presented to the Oregon legislature in the Spring of 2017, Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon Lobbyist Darrell Fuller has requested a position statement from NSPS regarding the question of whether hydrographers must be licensed to provide services in the state. A committee has been looking at this issue for some time, and is finalizing a position for NSPS to decide upon.
International Property Measurement Standards and International Ethics Standards

NSPS is a member of the international coalitions of professional organizations, agencies, and academia which have developed non-binding international standards for property measurement (what is located, not how) and ethics. Each coalition has issued a press release, <https://communities.rics.org/connect.ti/ipmscoalitionmembers/view?objectId=22613029#22613029> for IPMS Residential, and https://ricstest.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/international-ethics-standards-final.pdf for Ethics. The NSPS Executive Director has been an active member of both groups since their inception.

NSPS Reacts to HeroX Challenge Related to ALTA/NSPS Surveys

Mid-year 2016 NSPS became aware of a "challenge" set to be offered through a company called HeroX. In order to learn more about this, a representative of HeroX was invited to be a guest on the NSPS Radio Hour. During the show, it was learned that HeroX is a company which facilitates "challenges" put forth soliciting innovative solutions to perceived problems or opportunities. In this case, a company that builds storage units across the U.S. was seeking to shorten the time required to perform ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys, assuming that "modern technology" should be able to resolve boundary issues and provide "feature location" more readily, thus shortening the time. During the radio show, and thereafter, Gary Kent and Curt Sumner attempted to explain that conducting "ALTA Surveys" (or any boundary related survey) is more than simply gathering data, making some calculations, and drafting a plat. Still, there is always the possibility that someone would come up with a more efficient way to gather records/data which might be of use. NSPS continues to monitor the concepts presented in response to the "challenge" in order to make comments about their validity and/or feasible. Gary Kent has agreed to participate in evaluating the entries in order to provide the surveying perspective to any proposed “solutions”.

NSPS Seeks Financial Support for 2017 Boy Scouts Jamboree Participation

In preparation for its sponsorship of the team of Merit Badge advisers for the upcoming Jamboree, NSPS is seeking donations to its ongoing fund for the project. No donations have been solicited during the past few years; however, expenses for the upcoming Jamboree are anticipated to be substantially higher. The concept is to establish an ongoing donations program. The 2017 event will be held at the Bechtel Reserve in WV. Potential donors can contact NSPS Executive Director Curt Sumner (240-439-4625, ext. 106; curtis.sumner@nsps.us.com).
NSPS 2017 Election Results

The NSPS Tellers Committee has confirmed the electronic voting for the 2017 NSPS elections.

2017 President Jan Fokens (MI)  
2017 President-Elect Kim Leavitt (ID)  
2017 Secretary Tim Burch (IL) second year of two-year term  
2017 Treasurer Bob Miller (PA) second year of two-year term  
2017 At-Large Director Armand Marois (CA) one-year term

In the three person race for 2017 Vice President, Lisa Van Horn ( WI) was elected with Henry Kuhleum (TX) and Mark Sargent (NH) finishing second and third, respectively.

A Bylaws change was passed establishing that in future years, the Vice President elected each year will automatically accede to President-elect the following year, then to President and Past President is succeeding years.

NSPS and MAPPS 2017 conference to feature innovative interaction opportunity

The NSPS/MAPPS March 12-17 conference in Silver Spring, MD will offer an unusual concept in vendor/participant interaction. In addition to the annual NSPS Student Competition, two all-day workshops, agency briefings, and Capitol Hill Day, the early-week program will also offer a Speed Mentoring/Speed Dating inspired 'Tech Time' program in lieu of a traditional exhibit hall. This concept consists of short (10-15 minute) small-group dialog sessions between exhibitors and attendees, at the end of which each small group rotating to the next "booth". Time and accommodation is set up for follow-on one-on-one discussions. Tech-Time events will be held on Monday and Wednesday late afternoon. NSPS Committee meetings will take place on Tuesday and Thursday, with the NSPS General Membership meeting and Board of Directors meeting held on Friday. Current information can be found from the home page of the NSPS website, www.nsps.us.com.

NSPS Disaster Relief Fund assists storm victims

The NSPS Foundation has approved payments from the NSPS Disaster Fund to assist individuals whose homes and families were/are affected by recent flooding. Donations fund this important endeavor. Those interested in donating to insure the future of the fund may do so via the NSPS website,

<http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=DisasterRelief>  
http://www.nsps.us.com/?page=DisasterRelief.