

NSPS Spring 2017 Meeting – NSPS/MAPPS Conference

I recently had the pleasure of attending the 2017 NSPS/MAPPS Conference in Silver Springs, MD. The conference took place in conjunction with the NSPS Spring Meeting. A few highlights from the conference and meetings were: attending the NSPS/MAPPS lobby day, watching the NSPS Student Competition, meeting the winner of the NSPS YSN Student Resume competition, Daniel Drennan, and interacting with all of the NSPS and MAPPS professionals.

Below are the highlights from the conference and meeting, in no particular order:

NSPS Board Meeting

- The Board of Directors installed new officers. They are Jan Fokens (MI) – President, Kim Leavitt (ID) – President Elect, Lisa Van Horn (WI) – Vice President, Tony Cavell (LA) – Immediate Past President, and Armand Marois (CA) – Director-at-Large. The NSPS press release is located here http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.nsp.us.com/resource/resmgr/officers/Press_Release_new_officers_2.pdf
- 3DEP is an ongoing initiative at the federal level and requires implementation at the state level. A motion was passed to distribute template legislation, proposed by the Government Affairs Committee, to each of the NSPS State Directors to aid in state level 3DEP legislation.
- A motion passed to allow the NSPS Governmental Affairs Committee to take advantage of every opportunity to state the NSPS position of being adverse to the CIBORG Program. The CIBORG Program would make surveying and mapping services available through the GSA Schedule.
- A motion passed to discontinue the joint conference with MAPPS. The makers and supporters, of the motion, stated that they felt NSPS has not realized benefit from the association with MAPPS. Additionally, it was stated that discontinuation of the joint conference should not affect the relationship with MAPPS or will it affect Lobby Day, which has been organized by MAPPS staff, although Lobby Day organization is not part of our contract with John Palettiello and Associates (our lobbyists and organization who manages MAPPS).
- A motion was brought forth to allow officers of the NSPS to be elected by a vote of the Board of Directors, not the membership. The makers of this motion cited low voter turnout and little knowledge of national candidates. The motion was defeated.
- A motion was brought forth to return the semi-annual business meetings back to a two-day schedule. The makers of the motion cited three-day meetings are expensive regarding investment of time and funds, and committee work should be accomplished throughout the year, not during the business meetings. A note should be considered, that the board voted to make the business meetings three days during the October 2016 business meeting. Motion was defeated.
- Jon Warren was named Chair of the NSPS PAC, and Rick Howard was re-appointed to the PAC Board.
- FIG is attempting to create a Global Surveyors Day. They are planning on March 21st, and the event should start in 2018.
- NSPS is bidding for the 2022 FIG International meeting. There is a committee working on preparing for the bid.

NSPS Student Competition

The NSPS Student Competition was divided into two categories of competitors: Baccalaureate degree programs and Associate degree programs. There were nine programs who competed, and the winners of each category are as follows:

Baccalaureate Category:

First Place: Texas A&M, Corpus Christi

Second Place: Oregon Institute of Technology

Third Place: Penn State University, University Park

Associate Category:

First Place: Central New Mexico Community College

Second Place: Dunwoody College of Technology

Competition Press Release

http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.nsp.us.com/resource/resmgr/student_comp/Press_Release_student_compet.pdf

NSPS/MAPPS Lobby Day

Members of NSPS and MAPPS spent Wednesday, March 12, 2017, visiting representatives from each of the member states. The members discussed the following issues with their representatives:

- Support for NFIP & Flood Map Reform. Improved surveying and mapping data will provide more accuracy and solvency in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in FEMA allowing fairer premiums for homeowners.
- Sponsor surveying and mapping provisions in infrastructure package.
- Increased private sector surveying and mapping utilization.

NSPS YSN Student Resume Competition

The NSPS YSN, with help from Rick Howard, held a resume competition, where students from across the nation submitted their resumes to be judged by the NSPS YSN Officers. There were six applicants, and the winner was Daniel Drennen from Nicholls State. Daniel won an all-expenses paid trip to the NSPS/MAPPS Conference. The NSPS YSN Officers would like to thank Ethan Gilmour for taking the reigns with this competition.

Regards,

Christopher Glantz, NSPS YSN Vice-President