



National Association of County Surveyors

May 7, 2012

To: NACS Membership
From: Warren Ward, Past-President
Subject: National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) Report

The National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPA) met May 4-6, 2012 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Various committee meetings took place on May 4, the NSPS Board of Governors met on May 5, and the NSPS Board of Directors met on May 6. I attended all three days as the NSPS Governor for the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado, and Chair of the Government Practice Committee.

During the Board of Governors meeting, I was given the floor before the audience of the 53-members of the Board of Governors and the 16 seat NSPS Board of Directors and made a brief presentation regarding the NACS. I reported that NACS had recently addressed the existing MOU and considered other options available such as becoming an "Affiliate" or "Unit" within NSPS.

I reported that, for the moment, NACS had chosen to continue the MOU with NSPS and looked forward to resuming the annual County Surveyor Forum and Annual Meeting in Conjunction with NSPS Spring Meetings next year.

A summary of motions considered is described as follows:

ACSM/NSPS Merger: NSPS voted to withdraw from ACSM on April 28, 2010. Since that time, a number of legal realities have been exposed which make a merger with ACSM resulting in an NSPS headquartered in Frederick, Maryland to be a choice that best achieves the intent of the withdrawal. The motion to merge passed, and NSPS is now the sole national voice for surveyors.

100% Membership: Motion passed to implement NSPS bylaws changes to create a new category of "Affiliate Member." This will allow state societies to gain a voting seat on the NSPS Board of Directors and a reduced NSPS dues of \$40 if all that state societies regular voting members combine their dues and membership with NSPS.

All but two state societies (Alaska and Maine) are currently an Affiliate of NSPS. This gives each state one seat on the policy-recommending Board of Governors. The only qualification required for a state society to have a seat on the Board of Governors is to send their delegate, who must be a member of NSPS, to the NSPS Board of Governor's meeting and

pay a dues of \$220. The vast majority of members of the state affiliates are not NSPS members. Therefore, 48 state societies enjoy influence on national policy without any of its members required to be an NSPS member, except the one Governor.

All surveyors benefit from the work of NSPS. NSPS, along with most state societies, have experienced declining membership in recent years. The merger is an effort to offer better services to members and the profession. According to informal polls, 10 state societies have expressed strong interest in becoming an "Affiliate Member."

When the "Affiliate Member" category becomes available, each state society will have three general choices pursuant to its relation with NSPS:

1. Make no change, remain an Affiliate, and have one Governor on the policy-making 53-seat Board of Governors.
2. Withdraw as an Affiliate of NSPS and have no relations with NSPS.
3. Become an "Affiliate Member" through proper Membership and Board action, and gain a seat on the 16-seat Board of Directors.

Sustaining Member: Since January 1, 12 state societies have paid \$1500 to NSPS to become one of the newly created type of member called a "Sustaining Member."

National Museum of Surveying: The National Museum of Surveying will now become a standing NSPS committee. The museum is in Springfield, Illinois, where it is officially known as "Abraham Lincoln's National Museum of Surveying". The Museum encourages and needs support from all the state societies. A motion for continued funding by NSPS did not pass.

Engineering Surveys Definition: NSPS will petition NCEES to remove the definition of "Engineering Surveys" from the Model Law.

ALTA Certification: The NSPS Board of Governors will develop an ALTA Certification program.

Next meeting, is to be determined. It will be held probably near Washington, D.C, and will include an extra day at the Federal Capitol Building for the annual Lobby Day. It will likely be held next Fall, 2012, in October.

For additional information, I can be contacted at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren D. Ward, PLS
Past President, NACS
970-531-1120 phone
800-725-2734 fax