

**NSPS Director Report  
of the  
NSPS Spring 2019 Meeting  
Arlington, VA. and Washington D.C.  
for the  
LSAW June 2019 BOT Meeting**

**“DAY on the HILL” - April 10, 2019 - LSAW and NSPS WORKING for YOU**

We met initially on Tuesday evening, April 9<sup>th</sup>, to distribute the packets, provided by the NSPS Lobby firm, for us with specific topics for our Senators and/or Representatives. This packet is key for us to use as presenting a consistent message and a “leave behind” for reference. They also use this evening to talk about the meetings with the legislative staff and Representatives and Senators, the presentation, message and appropriate attire. It is an important introduction for new members and a refresher to the seasoned members to the plan and schedule for the “Day on the Hill”. Presenting a professional image, through communication, both verbal and visual, is important.

We, Kate Schalk, Pat Beehler, 40 other NSPS members representing 35+ states and I, began the next day at the Capitol Hill Club with a hosted breakfast and Senator Barrasso, of Wyoming, Chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, as our morning speaker. He provided good intel about the behind the scenes workings of politics to pass an infrastructure bill this legislative session of 2019.

Our target topic for promotion this session was **Infrastructure**, (roads, bridges, airports, rail), and Power (electric), fuel, and internet distribution grid. It is of great benefit to us all as citizens and long-term investment for design and construction surveys. The sub-topics, related to Infrastructure were: the **3D Elevation Program (3DEP)**, combining all the surveying resources of several federal agencies to develop one dtm (digital terrain model) for the entire US.; the **Digital Coast Act (DCA)**, providing digital data for use and analysis of the navigation channels, coastal subsidence, global warming, rising sea-levels, etc.; **Flair Act (Federal Asset Inventory Reform)**, researching existing databases and developing a common digital inventory of all federal lands; and the **Images Act**, improvement of mapping, addresses, geography, elevations, and structures.

Our first meeting of the day was a photo op with Senator Murray at the Russell Senate Office building, followed by a meeting with Zach Mallove, and a legislative assistant of her staff. We talked with them about Infrastructure and the supporting legislative acts noted as sub-topics. We were well received and remembered from last year and the previous few years.

We, Pat, Kate, and I, along with John Paletielo, one of our national lobbyists, next met with Andrea Brudnicki, one of Senator Cantwell’s legislative aides, to express our

appreciation to Senator Cantwell for her support of 3DEP. In fact, she was chairing a committee meeting, being televised around the legislative offices, where she was providing a forum for support of 3DEP and other related legislative action. We followed that with a talk about the same Infrastructure and supporting sub-topics.

Though we were able to meet directly with only one Congressperson, that being Congressman Derick Kilmer, WA. District 6, Kate's representative, it did appear to be a fruitful meeting. He was engaged, informed, and noted that the FLAIR Act would work well into the House Modernization committee he is chairing.

The remainder of the afternoon was meeting with the legislative staff of the remaining four Representatives that we were unable to meet directly with, because it was a very busy day for all of Congress in committee meetings and floor votes. However, the legislative staff is important to meet with, as they will likely be the ones doing the research, review, and drafting of the bills.

The past few years are beginning to reveal the benefits of the investment of our time, \$\$\$, and direct face-to-face meetings with staff and/or representatives. Specifically, we were able to emphasize one featured topic with supporting topics and bills following in the same theme. The staff appeared more engaged as they seemed to be able to follow one message/topic and drill down deeper when necessary.

They are also beginning to recognize us from year after year with a consistent message and attendance record. We began this effort back in 2006 with 8 NSPS members, representing 6 states, that has grown to 45+ members contacting 30+ states! It takes time, commitment, and a consistent message of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, but we are now beginning to see the rewards of our investment.

We ended the day by filling out reports of our activities and submitting them to NSPS. We also followed up with "thank you letters" to all our Senators and Representatives when we returned home.

## **NSPS Committee Meetings: April 11 and 12, 2019**

### **Thursday, April 11**

8:00 am – 9:00 am -	Western States Directors Council
8:00 am – 9:00 am -	Great Lakes Regional Council
8:00 am – 9:00 am -	Northeastern State Directors
9:15 am – 11:00 am -	Future of Surveying Outlook
8:00 am - 5:00 pm -	Young Surveyors
11:00 am - 12:00 pm -	Bylaws & Resolutions/Policy & Procedures
11:00 am – 12:00 pm -	Public Relations
11:00 am – 12:00 pm -	Government Practice
11:00 am - 12:00 pm -	ALTA/NSPS

*Lunch on own*

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm -	Workforce Development
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm -	Prof. Practice/Private Practice
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm -	Education
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm -	Membership
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm -	Trig-Star
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm -	UAS
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm -	PAC Jefferson Club
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm -	Reception & Student Competition Awards

**Friday, April 12**

7:00 am – 8:30 am -	Fellows Breakfast/Meeting
9:00 am – 11:00 pm -	Joint Government Affairs
9:00 am – 11:00 am -	Western States Directors Council
8:00 am – 12:00 pm -	State Executives Forum
8:00 am – 12:00 am -	NSPS Foundation Board
9:00 am – 12:00 pm -	Certified Floodplain Surveyors

*Lunch on own*

**NSPS BOD Meeting:**

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm -	General Membership
1:45 pm – 6:00 pm -	Dept. of Defense Workforce Development
	Update of Pipeline Surveyors Certification
	The Fate of the US Survey Foot after 2022:
	A Conversation with NGS (Michael Dennis)

Board of Directors Committee/Liaison Reports

**Saturday, April 13**

8:00 am – 1:00 pm - Board of Directors (continued)

	- Kate and I Attended
	- Kate
	- Jon

As you can see, there are several committees meeting simultaneously at the NSPS Spring meeting, so it is very beneficial for LSAW to send the Director and President-Elect (this case President Kate) to be able to cover multiple meetings when there is a schedule conflict. The Director (myself this time as a substitute) normally would cover more meetings, but I was invited to attend, along with 11 other NSPS Leaders, a special meeting at the Eisenhower Building, across an alley from the White House, with two key advisors to the President's Strategic Committee for the promotion of the Public Infrastructure Initiative.

Good work happens at all the committee meetings, but the highlights were coming from the Future of Surveying Outlook, Workforce Development, and Joint Government Affairs. The focus for NSPS is on Workforce Development, the Future of Surveying and Surveying

Education is evident and PowerPoint presentations were displayed and can be made available for each state to use as requested. Utube videos produced by Tennessee and Texas are also available for use for promotion of our profession. Workforce Development is critical to the health of the profession.

The Joint Government Affairs Committee and our lobbyist are the most important program for the benefit of the public health, safety, and welfare, as they are key to working with Congress and in turn beneficial to the profession. Our lobby firm has developed a search program "Government Hawk" that reviews all legislation in all states and searches by key words, so they can detect and alert all of our states to specific issues and/or proposed legislation that may benefit or harm the public health, safety, and welfare and/or our profession. As such, it is providing an additional benefit by noting, tracking, and alerting us all to trends happening in multiple states simultaneously.

### **NSPS BOD Meeting**

We, the entire BOD, listened to a presentation from the military talking about their capabilities and a renewed interest in the surveying profession for the soldiers moving from the military back into society.

We also had a very interesting and lively presentation from, and discussion of "the Fate of the US Survey Foot after 2022", from and with Michael Dennis of NGS. I believe his PowerPoint presentation will be available in the future, but exactly when is yet to be determined. More discussion to follow, but I believe we should get "onboard" and make the conversion at the same time as the datum conversion.

The meeting the first day is mostly involved with the above noted presentations and verbal reports from all the committee actions on going and as transpired at this meeting. As usual, the Joint Government Affairs Committee was the highlight of Committee reports and a copy of which is attached.

The remainder of the meeting the next day, Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>, was reviewing, discussing, and passing judgement on 7 motions, mostly dealing with "house keeping" issues like policy, procedures, by-laws, and membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Warren, P.L.S. (substitute for Jim Coan, P.L.S., LSAW Director to NSPS)  
Past President  
National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)