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# *Florida Surveying and Mapping Society*

**DATE:** April 8, 2023P  
**TO:** FSMS Officers and Directors  
**FROM:** Lou Campanile, Jr., Immediate Past President  
**RE:** Immediate Past President's Report for April 14, 2023, FSMS Board Meeting

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Since February 8<sup>th</sup>, I have been involved with or attended the following:

- FSMS Board meeting, February 17, 2023, Tallahassee  
I attended this meeting.
- FSMS Executive Committee meeting, March 3, 2023, Zoom  
I attended this online meeting.
- FSMS Education Committee meeting, March 7, 2023, Zoom  
I attended this online meeting.
- FSMS Education Committee meeting, March 23, 2023, Zoom  
I attended this online meeting.
- NSPS Spring Conference, March 30 – April 1, 2023, Arlington, Virginia  
I attended this conference. My notes regarding this meeting are shown below.

## NSPS Spring Conference, March 30 – April 1, Arlington, Virginia

The following are my notes on what I experienced at this meeting. I have also attached a schedule for this conference and have noted the portions that I attended. My notes pretty much chronologically follow the portions that I attended (sidenote: As you can see from the schedule, it is not possible to attend every portion of the conference as there are many time conflicts. I was told that for this reason, the next Spring meeting will be expanded by a day, and this is something we should consider with respect to our reimbursement funding for the NSPS Director. There was no Professional Practice Committee meeting this year (something had to give; also a reason for expanding the conference by a day). Also, there will be at least two meetings for the NSPS Southern States Directors before the NSPS 2024 Spring Conference (further described below). These are **NOT** inexpensive meetings to attend, and next year will be even more costly.

- ALTA/NSPS  
This meeting was led by Gary Kent (surprise, surprise...) from Indiana, and the following are what I consider the salient points of this meeting.
  - With no title work, one cannot title a survey an ALTA/NSPS LAND TITLE SURVEY (case in point: surveys on solar sites).

An Affiliate of the National Society of Professional Surveyors and the American Association for Geodetic Surveying

- Standards will be updated in 2026 and every 5 years thereafter.
- Look for a new standard of reflecting the relationship of set/found points to ground surface (e.g., 2" pipe 10" above ground, or 1" pipe 12" below grade).
- GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
This meeting was led by Mark Sargent (New Hampshire) and JB Byrd (Lobbyist for NSPS)
  - For the most part, what was discussed at this meeting was the Day on the Hill (Wednesday, March 29) where NSPS representatives meet with their Representative and/or Senator, or their legislative staff, and how successful this year was for the program. Florida is pretty much unique in that we do not have anyone involved in the Day on the Hill, and, yes, this includes me.
  - There is Federal Aid for certain Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) that will fund a military person's salary for the last six months of their service, but those folks will be working (transitioning) in the private sector. This is workforce development related and will provide 6 months of training on the Military's dime. Surveying is a MOS.
  - Deregulation was a big topic. Apparently, North Carolina has been deregulated.
  - Various legislation was discussed, including:
    - Images Act
    - Base Mapping Act
    - Digital Coast Act
    - Farm Bill Base Mapping Act
    - Sinkhole Mapping Act, which is legislation sponsored by Rep Darren Soto (Kissimmee). This is a link to that proposed legislation:  
<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr3681/BILLS-117hr3681rh.pdf>

Federal legislation related to surveying is listed on NSPS' website.
- PAC  
This meeting was led by Jon Warren (Washington)  
The NSPS PAC needs money. FSMS actually has a better funded PAC, and NSPS is hoping to raise funds at the FIG conference (golf & cornhole tournaments).
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
This meeting was led by Tim Murphy (Illinois)
  - The NSPS Workforce Development (WD) committee is seeking input from WD contacts in each state.
  - Some Federal programs mentioned are:
    - Skillbridge [DOD SkillBridge \(osd.mil\)](https://www.dodskillbridge.com/). This is somewhat related to what I mention above about the military transitioning folks into the private sector and funding their pay (last 6 months of service) even though their personnel are employed in the private sector.
    - Transition Assistance Program (TAPs)

(<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap>). This is another military program along the same lines as Skillbridge.

- Surveying is becoming the critical path on infrastructure projects.
- On the professional workforce level, there are several programs that have been developed at high schools that will accelerate the development of potential licensees. This includes Pennsylvania, Maine & Texas. The Texas program has had significant success in their program, which was developed through Lone Star College (Houston area). In fact, a group of students from a high school in Cline Texas (Houston area) competed in the student competition for this NSPS Spring Conference and they placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 24 schools competing (up from 11 schools competing last year – UF competed this year).
- SOUTHERN STATES DIRECTORS  
This includes most of the states south of the Mason-Dixon line, up to and including Nebraska, but not Texas.
  - There will be a Southern States Directors meeting at the upcoming FIG conference.
  - There will be a Southern States Directors meeting on February 24, 2024 in Vicksburg, MS.
  - We proposed the Director from Alabama to become one of the NSPS Executive Committee members (and this came to fruition).
  - We also proposed that two new NSPS membership categories be established: Associate Technician & CST Associate. This also came to fruition.
- EDUCATION/PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE
  - Young Surveyors are under the purview of the Education Committee. Geocaching at the student competitions needs to be updated (as in change out the geocaching points as most of the students know where they are).
  - The surveying high school program in Texas (discussed above) is willing to share their info to other programs seeking to replicate that program. Texas is looking into starting similar programs in Dallas/Fort Worth and San Antonio.
  - The budget for the annual student competition is \$35,580, which breaks down as follows:

Student Competition	\$22,000
Travel – Committee Chair	\$3000
Young Surveyors Activities	\$4080

Yeah, I know this does not add up to \$35,580, but those are the numbers we were given.
  - The Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors has a high school program similar to the Texas program. They call it “Early College”, and they have morphed similar programs in architecture to fit surveying. They are trying to have their students get their first semester of college in high school.
  - There is a nationwide concern over where we will get the next wave of college professors from. Apparently, China produces over 19,000 doctoral level geodesists every year. The US is in serious need of doctoral graduates (ones that become professors). A new doctoral level was discussed but could not be defined other than someone opined Doctor of the Profession (whatever that may be, if anything), just that

it was not supposed to be as intense as a PhD which concentrates on one small aspect of the profession.

- CST. The ACOE wants to run a CST program for their surveying technicians (which could be thousands of folks).
- Florida is still the leader with the most CSTs.
- The CST program is now NSPS' solely.
- DASHBOARD, SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS
  - NSPS.org has a new dashboard.
  - Purple Paint Law was discussed. States that have it like it.
  - NSPS has \$70K in their Disaster Relief Fund. A US agency must issue a Disaster judgment in order for money to be dispersed.

The rest of the time was for General membership (all of 30 minutes), and the Board of Directors meeting which is where certain motions developed out of the Committee meetings are discussed and voted upon, so this is the end of my report on the 2023 Spring NSPS Conference.

In addition to all of the above, I have been working (locally) on Workforce Development issues. The Urban League of Broward County is a client of mine and (in the last week or so) I have started a conversation with their CEO about involving their assistance in workforce development.

There are 8 affiliates of the National Urban League in Florida, which are:

- Central Florida Urban League
- Jacksonville Urban League
- Pinellas County Urban League
- Urban League of Hillsborough County
- Tallahassee Urban League
- Urban League of Palm Beach County
- Urban League of Greater Miami
- Urban League of Broward County

As I mentioned, I am familiar with the Broward County affiliate. Their headquarter facilities are **extremely** technologically impressive (think about the UF Davie REC site, but on steroids. Lots of steroids). They have facilities that can train both field and office surveying folks. And they have access to an unbelievable amount of capital from nationwide firms that are quite literally begging them for programs that they can support financially. They have an unbelievable amount of brand new computer equipment sitting around in their boxes.

At our Board meeting, I will further describe what I intend to do to work on the establishment of a state-of-the-art workforce development program using the Urban League as a partner, one that could be exported to most of Florida and further.