



NEW MEXICO PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

an A.C.S.M./NSPS Affiliate

NMPS

412 North Dal Paso

Hobbs, NM 88240

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Date of Report – May 7, 2013

NMPS WestFed Delegates for 2013:

Amanda Allred (until June mtg.)

Earl F. Burkholder

Chris Medina (after June mtg.)

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eburk@globalcogo.com

terrasurveys@comcast.com

NMPS OFFICERS For 2013:

Larry Medrano, President

Amanda Allred, President Elect

Chris Medina, Vice President

Kery Greiner, Treasurer

Justin Miller, Past President

Patty Floyd, Ex. Director

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CONFERENCE:

The 2013 NMPS Annual Conference was held March 15 and 16 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico – see <http://nmpsconference.com/>. Conference attendance was down a bit, 163 paid attendees, but due to successful promotion and the fiscal diligence of Conference Chairman, Larry Medrano, the conference cleared approximately \$17,000.

We were honored to have WestFed President, Harold Baldwin, attend the conference. He effectively represented and promoted the interests of WestFed – both from the podium and in the WestFed booth. Fortuitously, to accommodate the demand for commercial exhibit space, WestFed and NSPS were asked to share a booth. The congenial exchange of stories and information between WestFed and NSPS representatives during the conference was a positive benefit for both.

The overall theme of the conference was “influx” meaning that the only constant in our professional lives is, in fact, change – technology, regulation, business conditions, etc. The conference program included a variety of topics such as leadership strategies, ethics, 3D for engineers/surveyors, mobile mapping, legal descriptions, marketing, geospatial technologies, and others. Two awards presented at the conference included a “Lifetime Achievement Award” presented to Earl F. Burkholder, retired from teaching at New Mexico State University, and the “Surveyor-of-the-Year Award” presented to Glen Haikin, former Albuquerque City Surveyor.

WESTFED DELEGATES:

NMPS Delegates to WestFed are appointed by the NMPS President year-to-year. The general procedure is to appoint the current NMPS Vice President as one of the Delegates for three WestFed Board meetings in addition to the current year-to-year appointment of Earl F. Burkholder as a WestFed Delegate. The NMPS Governor to NSPS is a separate Presidential appointment. The NMPS Delegates to WestFed and the NSPS Governor are all voting members of the NMPS Board of Directors.

TwIST 2013:

NMPS is sponsoring two Teaching with Spatial Technology (TwIST) applicants for 2013. The formal application forms have been filed/approved and both teachers have signed the confirmation letter detailing reimbursable costs. We got off to a slow start in recruiting applicants but, in the end, we had an excess of applications. With appropriate testimonials of the 2013 teachers and more experience at recruiting, competition for the 2014 TwIST slots should avoid the last minute push needed to line up qualified applicants.

MEMBERSHIP:

The NMPS membership for 2012 is 205 members – up a bit from last year. There are 8 different chapters in the NMPS and regular 2013 membership is \$165.00 per year. Other categories are listed on the membership application which can be downloaded from the NMPS web site, www.nmps.org.

WEBSITE and NMPS NEWSLETTER – BENCHMARKS:

The NMPS web site is posted at www.nmps.org and an email message to the NMPS Web Master can be sent to sls@sierralandssurveys.com. If your state organization does not receive a complimentary copy of the NMPS Benchmarks, contact the NMPS Benchmarks Editor, Barry Phillips, at barryphillips.pls@gmail.com. The NMPS Benchmarks is published 6 times each year.

NMPS BOARD MEETING 18 MAY 2013:

The next meeting of the NMPS Board of Directors is May 18, 2013, in the Shaw Conference Room in Goddard Hall at the New Mexico State University, Las Cruces. Following the NMPS Board meeting, a Bar-B-Q and socializing at Kery Greiner's place will occupy the afternoon.

NSPS 100% INITIATIVE:

Mr. Glen Thurow is the NSPS Governor from New Mexico. Glen did an excellent job of promoting the NSPS 100% initiative in New Mexico. Following presentations to the NMPS Board of Directors, several Chapters, and at the NMPS Annual Conference, there was a ballot provided to all NMPS attendees to the Annual Conference. The ballots were collected and counted prior to the close of the conference. The NSPS initiative passed with 94% approval of those voting. Thanks Glen.

RECOGNITION BY THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE:

Due to the efforts of Allen Grace and others, the New Mexico Legislature declared March 15, 2013, as "New Mexico Professional Surveyors Day." The State Memorial was introduced and read by Senator Nancy Rodriguez of Santa Fe. Eight members of NMPS were seated at the right-hand side, next to Lt. Governor, John Sanchez during the reading on the Senate floor. Numerous senators also addressed the House and commented on the positive interaction they have had with surveyors and the profession as a whole. Thank you Allen!

New Mexico Surveyors Support TwiST

Earl F. Burkholder, PS, PE

As one of two New Mexico Professional Surveyor (NMPS) delegates to the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WestFed) I am happy to report our successful participation in the 2013 TwiST program. WestFed, along with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering & Surveying (NCEES) sponsored a week-long training program for high school teachers devoted to helping them learn more about GIS and GPS in a program called Teaching with Spatial Technology (TwiST). The training session was held at Clarke College in Vancouver, Washington June 24 – 28, 2013. WestFed support originated with each of the 13 state surveying associations who picked up the tab for two teachers each to participate – including NMPS. The NCEES promised to support TwiST 2013 for one half of the overall costs up to \$25,000.

NMPS supported two teachers to attend TwiST 2013 – Mr. Jason McNiece who teaches science at San Andres High School in Mesilla, NM and Mrs. Serri A. Grube, CAD Instructor at Valley High School, Albuquerque, NM. The overall cost for sending those two teachers to TwiST 2013 was approximately \$3,500 (tuition, airfare, lodging, and per diem for each) of which half was covered by NCEES. Each of the two teachers expressed appreciation to NMPS for the opportunity to participate – see following letters.

Jason McNiece - Science Teacher
San Andres High School
Las Cruces Public Schools
2355 Avenida de Mesilla
Mesilla, NM 88046

July 22, 2013

Earl F. Burkholder, PS, PE, F.ASCE
New Mexico Professional Surveyors
412 North Dal Paso
Hobbs, NM 88240

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a heartfelt thanks to you and the New Mexico Professional Surveyors for the exciting opportunity afforded to me through the 2013 TwiST program in Vancouver, Washington, June 24-28, 2013.

As an educator, I feel that it is paramount for teachers to continue their learning experiences throughout their careers. A key component to educating our youth is to expose them to concepts, ideas, and career paths that they might not normally be exposed to. The TwiST program provides all of these by giving the tools necessary to enhance any classroom curriculum.

My hope would be that NMPS will continue to sponsor educators for the TwiST program so that others

can share with their students what I will be sharing with mine.

Sincerely,
Jason McNiece

Date: July 10, 2013

To: NMPS Board of Directors
412 North Dal Paso
Hobbs, NM 88240

FROM: Serri A. Grube, CAD Instructor
Valley High School
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Re: 2013 TwiST Workshop, Vancouver, WA

Hello, my name is Serri Grube and I teach the CAD courses at Valley High School in Albuquerque, NM. I first heard about the TwiST workshop last year from a surveyor friend, Glen Thurow. Unfortunately, last year's workshop did not work out, so I was very excited for the opportunity to apply this year. As a CAD teacher, I try very hard to connect my students to real-world applications and future careers. I have tried to interest them in Surveying and GIS for many years. I have been very blessed to have volunteers connected with NMPS work with my students.

Going to a workshop like TwiST was amazing. I was very enthused to attend the training each day. We had wonderful instructors that brought equipment and software to life showing me how I can use this with my students and really get them involved. In the training we were able to learn about GPS equipment which was very beneficial to me. I never really have had the chance to work with handheld receivers and was a little intimidated. However, now I feel very comfortable with the equipment and I have already begun planning several activities for my students to learn and use the GPS receivers I purchased for the classroom.

Learning the online and free GIS software was also eye-opening for me. I have tried to play with older versions of GIS software, but it was hard to remember things. The latest versions of software now offer free online applications that are much more user friendly. During TwiST I was making several maps and trying out my skills to use right around my own school. I know that my students will be able to grasp GIS better, and again I feel comfortable in showing them how.

The TwiST workshop was well organized. The instructors were very easy to work with, very knowledgeable, and planned activities for us that had good instructions and real applications. I also enjoyed meeting teachers from many states and we quickly bonded and worked well together. I am very glad I was able to attend; it was a training that was well-worth it. I learned so much information and I am excited to share it. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to go.
