

**Report to NMPS Membership of WestFed Board of Directors Meeting
On September 29, 2012 in Boise, Idaho**

The Western Federation of Professional Surveyors, WFPS, (also known as WestFed) is a federation composed of two delegates each from the state surveyor association in each of the 13 western states in the United States. Formed in 1979, WFPS is dedicated to education, fostering common goals within the western states, and providing a regional voice at the national level. See www.wfps.org. NMPS delegates to WestFed are:

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The WestFed Board of Directors met on June 2, 2012, in Seattle, Washington. A report of that meeting was given to the NMPS Board meeting on August 3, 2012. The same report was included in the September 2012 issue of Benchmarks. The WestFed Board met again on September 29, 2012, in Boise, Idaho, and is the subject of this report. The intent is for this report to be published in the November 2012 issue of Benchmarks and to be presented to the December 2012 meeting of the NMPS Board of Directors. The next scheduled meeting of the WestFed Board is in conjunction with the joint WestFed/Utah Council of Land Surveyors (UCLS) Conference on February 26-28, 2013 in Sandy, Utah.

Earl F. Burkholder and Amanda Allred both attended the WestFed Board meeting on September 29th. A copy of the minutes of that meeting are not “posted” but can be obtained from either NMPS delegate. Much of the time during the WestFed Board meeting is spent discussing the various issues brought up during the state association reports and discussion of those ideas/concerns is enormously beneficial for the delegates present. The NMPS report included reports on our 2012 conference, the Ruidoso workshop held in August, the seminar sponsored by the 4-Corners Chapter, NMPS disappointment that TwiST was canceled for 2012 (plans are for TwiST to be offered again in 2013), and the NMPS discussion of the proposed combination of state/national membership in NMPS/NSPS.

Correspondence and committee reports were discussed following the state reports. The committees are By-laws, Conference, Direction/Revenue, Education, NCEES Liaison, Legislative, Nominating, Public Relations, Scholarship, and TwiST. Even though many of the committee reports are routine, the interchange of information and ideas is very beneficial as delegates carry issues back to their sponsoring state societies. A summary of issues discussed at the September 29th meeting include:

The issue of state/national society membership generated lots of discussion – even to the point of making a state-by-state tabulation of positions on the issue. Alaska has been a 100% participant for a number of years. The Montana Association Board of Directors voted to join the 100% membership in NSPS at \$40 per active member with no dues increase to members. The costs are covered by the general budget and/or additional seminar offerings. Several state associations are on record as “opposed” to mandatory NSPS membership but most states (like NM) are adopting a wait-and-see attitude pending additional information from NSPS and/or discussion among the membership.

California delegate Aaron Smith reported on “monument preservation” efforts and encouraged all WestFed delegates to forward information/legislation to WestFed regarding monument preservation.

Earl F. Burkholder was appointed Chair of the WestFed Education Committee. One of the first tasks is to develop and distribute a list of ABET accredited surveying (and related) programs. Other issues will be raised and/or discussed.

The concept of having WestFed delegates come “early” to the Board meeting for the purpose of sub-committee meetings prior to and to be reported at the Board meeting. The possibility of working with the local (hosting) association to present workshop/seminar prior to WestFed Board meeting was also discussed.

WestFed Chair-Elect, Richard Heieren, is a member of NCEES and is working on two specific issues on behalf of WestFed – support of the TwiST program and development of surveying scholarships. Both issues can have positive long-range impact for the surveying profession – especially in light of the declining numbers of persons taking the NCEES Fundamentals of Surveying Exam. For example, in 2007/08 2883 persons took the FS exam. That number was 1553 in 2011/12.

WestFed delegate, Dick Smith, from Montana will Chair the TwiST Committee with the intent of developing a step-by-step guide for identifying and recruiting teachers for the TwiST program in 2013.

Paul Reid, WestFed delegate from Wyoming, is Chair of the Scholarship Committee and provided a comprehensive tabulation of past scholarship awards (it is impressive). It is encouraging, even in tough times, that WestFed remains committed to support of surveying education.

The financial status of WestFed remains solid due to tightening up on expenses and reallocating resources as needed. But, the long-range health of WestFed will require additional revenue to cover the legitimate expenses of presenting a credible Regional Voice for Surveying at the National Level.

The bulk of WestFed revenue comes from the bi-annual conference. The next WestFed Conference is being held jointly with the Utah Council of Land Surveyors on February 26-28, 2013, in Sandy (close to Salt Lake City), Utah. All NMPS members are encouraged to consider the benefits of attending this important regional surveying conference. Find additional information on the WestFed web site – www.wfps.org under “events.”