

From the Chair

I started this article several weeks ago. At about the same time I got an invitation to attend a meeting of NSPS in Las Vegas. One of the items on the NSPS agenda is a discussion of the degree program for registration. I am finding out that COPS is not the only organization wanting to evaluate the degree program and that doing so it is a very personal, heated and controversial issue.

Let me, again, start out by saying that COPS does not advocate the abolishment of the degree program. Far from that, COPS is seeking ways to insure that the Land Surveying Profession continues to grow and prosper. It is just that we keep hearing from COPS members expressing concern over the future of land surveying and most of these comments work their way back to the degree program.

There seems to be a shortage of young people interested in entering the profession. We have been told that some States that have established the degree path as the only way to registration are having problems getting enough students to keep the classes open in their colleges that teach surveying classes. It has also been stated that some of the States that have the degree path in place are having second thoughts and are considering other options. Is there a problem? Should we keep the degree program as the only path? Should there be a second tier of registration? All very difficult questions - no real facts to base a decision.

So far I have had very few replies to the email I sent to the COPS membership asking for data

about each State. NCEES and NSPS have been a lot of help and have provided a lot of information. What I need to know is what is going on in your State? If your State requires a degree, is the number of entry level surveyors declining? Are you having problems hiring new surveyors? It sure would be good to have feedback from someone in each State as to the impact of the degree program.

To help find answers, in March two members of the COPS Steering Committee members are going to Phoenix for a meeting with NCEES. The next week the Steering Committee will meet in New Orleans. The following weekend I am attending an all day session in Las Vegas at the NSPS Annual Meeting where one of the topics to be discussed is the degree program.

April 13, 2005, at the annual meeting of ACEC, we will have a Steering Committee meeting from 7:00 AM until 9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend. That will be a great forum to voice your opinion, provide input and gather facts. I hope to see a lot of you there. For those of you do not actually manage your survey department, it might be a good idea to send your survey department manager to this meeting. Especially if the department manager is the individual that is charged with keeping a survey department staffed and profitable.

Frazier Christy, Chair COPS

COPS and NSPS Sign Partnering Agreement

Citing that it would be mutually advantageous for both organizations, the President of NSPS (National Society of Professional Surveyors)

and the Chairman of COPS Frazier Christy signed an agreement to work together in several areas including educational and political activities.

Both parties agreed that in order to provide the best possible surveying services to the public, constant improvements in equipment and surveying techniques must be developed. More higher educated surveyors are desirable to meet the ever increasing demands of new technologies and faster service.

COPS and NSPS also agreed to keep each other informed on political issues at the local, state and national levels (see next article).

Both organizations agreed to help with membership recruitment and to appoint liaisons to each other. Member of both groups will be able to attend the other's educational sessions at the member rate.

Update of ACEC Legislative Efforts

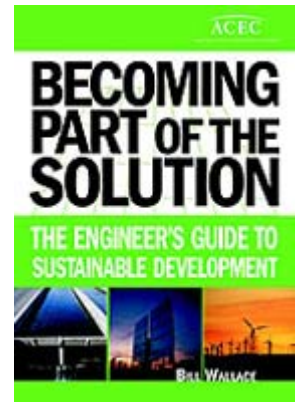
The following is a list of ACEC legislative priorities.

- ACEC is targeting the U.S. Geological Survey which has been actively marketing its in-house services to federal, state and local governments and thereby competing with the private sector,
- Outsourcing – Secure passage of legislation that incentivizes states receiving federal funds to outsource to private surveying firms.
- Encourage state DOT's to accept simplified invoicing through pre-certification.
- Reform the Federal Acquisition Regulations focusing on expanding allowable charges to include travel and non-bid and proposal work.

- Secure passage of tort reform legislation including that for medical which will positively impact surveyor's health insurance costs.
- Business meals – eliminate the current 50% disallowance on meals and entertainment expenses as a business expense.

"Hot Seller": ACEC's New Sustainable Development Guide

ACEC's new guide to sustainable development—*Becoming Part of the Solution: The Engineer's Guide to Sustainable Development*—is now available in ACEC's bookstore.



This ground-breaking book explores concepts and ideas central to "sustainability," a design approach that has been called a mega-trend.

Author Bill Wallace, a former CH2M Hill executive who is now an independent consultant, looks at sustainable development from an engineering company perspective.

Past ACEC Chairman Eric Flicker says, "the book is a 'how to' manual, focused on helping engineering company owners, managers and thought leaders evaluate what sustainable development means to their firms."

Also included is a CD linking the reader to key documents, organizations and software, making the book a valuable tool kit, saving literally thousands of hours of research and analysis.

To order or receive further information about *Becoming Part of the Solution: The Engineer's Guide to Sustainable Development*, call 202-347-7474.