



James Borsos (NSS 14814), Louisiana

I am of Slovenian descent, so the study, exploration, and conservation of caves and karst must be in my blood. My caving career began in 1971 when Bill Foot, a mentor from my hometown in Ohio recruited me to join an Explorer's post, which I was later elected to lead. Since then I have been a member of three grottos – the Cleveland Grotto, Nashville Grotto, and Central Florida Grotto, newsletter editor of the Cleve-O-Grotto News, and volunteer at an International Congress of Speleology. I am also a member of the Robertson Association, having met three of the four "Coot" qualifications for the Old Timer's Reunion.

While I have quite an interest in the scientific aspects of speleology, I am a recreational caver and my experiences have included the discovery, surveying, and mapping of virgin passages. I was even once involved in a vertical cave rescue, volunteering to be the guy who stayed behind with a man while the others continued through a sump and went for assistance. It is primarily the sense of adventure and comradery that first attracted me and has kept me interested in both caving and high altitude trekking, which has taken me all around our country and several times to the Andes and Himalayan Mountains.

I am Certified Land Use Planner, through the American Institute of Certified Planners, of the American Planning Association, and recognized LEED (Leadership through Energy and Environmental Design) Green Associate, through the United States Green Building Council. With an MBA and doctoral studies in economics, my experiences include current and comprehensive land use planning and policy formulation along with zoning administration. I have been both an elected and appointed member of many governmental land use and professional executive committees.

Prior to my 20-year career as a land use planner, for 14 years I was a Divisional Director for a 500-office, multi-million dollar nationwide personnel services corporation. That role included daily operational management, staffing, the identification and attainment of new revenue streams, budget formulation, and P&L responsibility. Additionally, as an adjunct instructor, I previously taught accounting and business management classes at the community college level for 7 years.

It is the unique combination of business acumen, land use expertise, and other previous executive committee representation experience that will allow me to excel as an elected Board of Governors Director. I will bring a sound business orientation to the satisfaction and running of our organization with achievable financial and marketing goals through policy design, objective monitoring, and measurable budgeting.

Even though caving is all fun and games to many (including me), the administration of our organization is a business and must be approached as one, as it is with any other professional membership organization. We must fulfill the reasons for our existence established through our primary objectives, satisfy membership needs, and meet fiscal responsibilities.

The identification and recognition of our organization's challenges with cooperative brainstorming and implementation of ways to meet solutions is what will keep the National Speleological Society viable. With your support for my election, I pledge that I will not let you down as I pay it forward to this organization and activity which has been a part of my fabric.