



Peri Frantz, NSS 10124RL/FE/OS, California

It's that time of year again. You are being asked to vote for people you barely know, based on inadequate ballot statements. If you don't already know me, what can I say in this limited space to induce you to vote for me? First and foremost, I'm a caver. I love being underground, surveying, and seeing what's around the next corner. The caving community is my extended family, and the future of the NSS is critically important to me. I've spent much of the last 45 years volunteering for the Society, have been on the BOG since 2012, and welcome yet another opportunity to help shape that future.

For the past several years, the NSS has been focused on paying off the mortgage for the new Headquarters facility. Thanks to some major gifts that mortgage has recently been refinanced and the Society is back on a stable financial footing. The new facility is serving us well and a portion of the property has been designated as the William J. Stephenson Nature Preserve (see <https://caves.org/preserves/index.shtml>). It is time to refocus our energies on our core values – science, conservation, education, and cavers. Yes, there's still work to do on the HQ, and a small mortgage to pay off, but we need to balance those initiatives with the fundamentals.

My priorities are largely unchanged from 3 years ago. I will continue my efforts to make progress in these areas;

- Assure continued **cave access** by advocating for science-based management decisions, supporting cavers in land-owner negotiations, and adding more recreational caves to our family of preserves.
- Increase our **membership** base by improving services, attracting unaffiliated cavers, non-caving supporters, and cave-related professionals, and promoting fellowship among cavers.
- Maintain our premier **publications** – a printed *NSS News*, an enhanced electronic *JCKS*, and continued publication of cave-related books.
- Foster **exploration, research, and public outreach** with an enhanced **grant** program, and by developing new innovative programs.
- Help **grottos** thrive by providing them with tools and materials to attract new members and promote strong caving ethics.
- Develop a strong public **outreach** program to promote our conservation values, and build enthusiasm, especially among youth, about cave related topics.
- Bolster **financial stability** by improving fiscal oversight and accountability.

Forty-five-plus years of volunteering for the NSS have exposed me to many facets of our Society. The knowledge and experience thus gained will continue to inform my actions on the BOG.

- NSS Member since 1967
- NSS Western Region Treasurer 1992-2002
- NSS Director 2012-2017
- NSS Secretary-Treasurer 2006-2011
- NSS Gunung Buda Expedition, 2001
- Down Thru the Decades (NSS News) 1989-2000
- Howdy Party 1975 NSS Convention

- Treasurer 1990 NSS Convention
- Chairman 2003 NSS Convention
- Field Trip Coordinator 15th ICS, 2009
- Grotto Chairman, Vice-Chair, Secretary, various years
- NCRC support staff 2016
- W. J. Stephenson Outstanding Service Award, 2013

If this doesn't tell you what you need to know about me, e-mail me at ladycaver@frantzfamily.us.
With your vote, I look forward to continuing to serve the NSS & the caving community.