

Sonia Meyer, 68607RE, California

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About Me: Diving Swildon's Hole sump on my first caving trip got me hooked. That trip led me to discover and join my first NSS grotto — BATS of Northern Virginia. I caved in Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and TAG before moving to California, where I serve as the Treasurer of the San Francisco Bay Chapter (SFBC) grotto.

In 2019, I spent 1,200 hours underground. My experience going on international expeditions to Mexico (Sistema Huautla and Sistema Cheve), China, and the U.S. (Fisher Ridge, Marbles, Carlsbad, Lechuquilla) inspired me to create an SFBC scholarship fund to support cavers from underrepresented groups in expedition caving. Last year, I interned at Carlsbad Caverns and conducted research on anthropogenic carbon dioxide.

Prior to the quarantine, I caved every single weekend for two years, and devoted my weekdays to my grotto. I'm now willing to sacrifice *some* caving weekends for NSS Board meetings.

My Qualifications: My financial experience in accounting and serving as SFBC Treasurer, and working for two 17,000+ membership-based medical associations (gastroenterology and nephrology) that have the same governance structure and functions of the NSS have prepared me well to serve as a director for the NSS. I served as a proxy for a recent Board meeting, so I know exactly what I am getting into. I am up to date on all the current issues, and I am ready to hit the ground running.

What I Stand For: Good Finance & Transparency

The NSS grew rapidly until 2007, when I believe the organization reached its maximum capacity given the internal structure resulting from decades long accumulation of being run by extremely hardworking volunteers, but without any standardization. Since then, the NSS has made great strides into utilizing technology to streamline operations; however, there is more work to be done. Before we can reverse our membership decline and continue growing, we need to address these important internal issues—namely, finances.

The NSS leadership and current secretary/treasurer Kristine Ebrey have already been working hard to address financial challenges from COVID-10 while transitioning our accounting system to QuickBooks Online. **My main goal is to champion good corporate financial hygiene and support and enable the NSS leadership, staff, and volunteers to clean up our finances and bring financial transparency to our members.**

With good finances and standardization of financial and operating procedures, we can position the NSS for scalability and future growth.

I understand VAR, TAG, and Western Regions, project and expedition caving, sports caving, NCRC, NPS caves, cave science and research, cave conservation, and running an IO. If elected, I would be honored to serve **all** members of the NSS and the issues that matter most to them.