National Speleological Society
2019 Annual Report of the Directorate

The NSS is administered by a Board of Governors (BOG) consisting of twelve Directors (the Directorate) and five Officers, who meet at least three times annually to consider matters of policy. Four Directors are elected annually, each for three-year terms, with each term starting at the first Summer BOG meeting following their election. At this same meeting, the Directors elect a Chairman of the Directorate (COD) from amongst themselves to preside at meetings of the Directorate and conduct such business as falls to the Directorate, as apart from the BOG. Directorate business includes, but is not limited to, the election of Officers, the appointment of Committee Chairs for committees that report to the Directorate, and the review of reports from such committees.

Following is the contact information for each Director, as of January 1, 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Term Ending</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gary Barnes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The following pages present each individual Director’s Annual Report. These reports are meant as supplements to each Director’s public discussions, voting record, and official BOG meeting minutes.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the COD or any individual Director with any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this report or the Society in general.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Farrar, NSS#59222RL/FE/CM
Chairman of the Directorate
National Speleological Society
(540) 315-2643
cod@caves.org
National Speleological Society
2019 Annual Report for Director Gary Barnes, Alabama
Email Address: gbarnes@caves.org
Elected Term: 2017 - 2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
See below.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

MEETING ATTENDANCE:
Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd: Proxy Sent.
Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st: Present in Person
Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th: Present in Person

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:
Audit Committee (The Audit Committee is a Committee of the Directorate)

Relevant background: At the Spring 2019 BOG Meeting the Secretary-Treasurer noted that the NSS Finances were not in sufficient order to be audited for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year and the motion was made and passed to conduct a Financial Review. Bill Jackson, the Chair of the of the Audit Committee at that time, made arrangements with the CPA firm of Borland-Benefield to conduct the Financial Review with CPA Lisa Moates as the primary contact person. At the subsequent Meeting of the Directorate (July 17, 2019) I was elected to Chair the Audit Committee. Also serving on the Committee are Directors Cindy Wu, Savannah Sawyer and Nathan Farrar, and the former chair of the Committee, Bill Jackson.

The Committee's Activities communicated to BOG prior to the Fall (November 9th) Meeting are as follows:

I (Gary T Barnes, Audit Committee Chair) have periodically corresponded with Lisa Moates this past summer, the contact person in the firm, Borland-Benefield, we hired to do the Financial Review. Initially she thought the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Financial Review would be completed by August and then September. My recent communication was less positive. I asked her to summarize Borland-Benefield's observations and recommendations and have forwarded her Email response with the attached memorandum (Attachment A).

Borland-Benefield is unwilling to provide the NSS with the requested Financial Review for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. The reasons for Borland Benefield reneging on their commitment are outlined in Lisa's attached memorandum (Attachment A). The impression I have in my discussions with Lisa and with Gaylene is that the fixed assets accounting is the primary problem — the fixed assets baseline as of April 1, 2018 cannot be tied in with what was stated in our last audit. Additionally, there are a number of other problems and concerns she identifies that need to be addressed, i.e., assistance for the Secretary-Treasurer provided locally in Huntsville to review and reconcile and correct when necessary the day-to-day entries and provide him/her and BOG with appropriate financial reports.

Last week (the week of October 28th) the Audit Committee had a conference call and discussed the situation. Clearly the NSS financial bookkeeping needs to be corrected and made consistent with generally accepted non-profit good accounting principals and, in the Audit Committee's opinion, requires a professional, a CPA knowledgeable about non-profit accounting, to rectify the situation. As Gaylene
indicated at the Convention BOG Meeting that she will be stepping down at the end of the current fiscal year, it is the Audit Committee's recommendation that Lisa's Memorandum be communicated to the Secretary-Treasurer Candidates we will be interviewing in our November 9th Meeting. It is the Audit Committee's recommendation that the Audit Committee/BOG assist the incoming Secretary-Treasurer in hiring a CPA in the greater Huntsville area to address the major concerns noted in Lisa's Memorandum. In this regard at the Convention BOG Meeting (and prior to receiving Lisa's Memorandum) the Motion was passed: **Authorization for the Secretary-Treasurer to hire an accountant Act 01-950.**

The other concern raised in the Audit Committee's discussions is the status of the NSS 990 Form for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. The Form has to be filed annually with the IRS and is signed by the Secretary-Treasurer. The preparation of the Form is listed in Borland-Benefield's Engagement Letter. I have queried Lisa Moates regarding the 990 Form, and she indicated that the drop dead filing date has been extended to February 15, 2020 and indicated that Borland-Benefield will assist preparing the Form. Attached is a PDF of the October 10th Email I received from Lisa (Attachment B). [Note added by the Chairman of the Directorate: Form 990 Form for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year was filed with the IRS before the February 15th deadline — See the Secretary-Treasurer's Spring 2020 BOG Meeting Report.]

At the Fall BOG Meeting the Act 15-510 was amended to require an annual financial review rather than an audit. The amendment in effect changed the Audit Committee to the Financial Review Committee and made the Audit Committee defunct. My plan is for the Defunct Audit Committee to review the Board Manual and Acts and make the necessary recommendations to appropriately document this change. Additionally I will follow up with Lisa Moates in January regarding the preparation of the 990 Form.

**Research Fund Updating Committee**

Background: This is an Ad Hoc Committee charged by President Schindel to make recommendations to clarify and remove inconsistencies in the NSS Research Fund and associated NSS Research Grants and also to make recommendations to clear up any related inconsistencies in the NSS’ Contract with the National Speleological Foundation. The committee has two members: myself and Scott Engel and is Chaired by Scott Engel.

Scott and I have been in communication with the intent of preparing a report for the Spring BOG Meeting.

**MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:**

**Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st:**

- **Authorization for the Secretary-Treasurer to hire an accountant Act 01-950**—Barnes moved: “The Secretary-Treasurer has the authority to hire an accountant or bookkeeper at up to a cost of $2,000 per month to review and reconcile our accounts, and to provide advice when any problems are identified until such time as the position of the Chief Accounting Manager is filled by an individual who is competent to carry out these responsibilities; and $15,000 be added to the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget for this expense.”
  
  PASSED Unanimously

- **Expiration date of the Act Associated with above motion**—Barnes moved: “If the above motion is passed by the Board of Governors (BOG), the Act associated with the above motion will expire at the end of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.”
  
  Background: The position of Chief Accounting Manager (CAM) requires someone with an in-depth knowledge of NSS financial operations. The position is vacant and has been for the past several years. No one has volunteered or has been identified who is competent to carry out these responsibilities. The Secretary-Treasurer has been handling these responsibilities and as a volunteer with a full-time job does not have time to do both. This expense has not been budgeted.
and is to be added to the budget. In the past fiscal year, due to the hard work of the Secretary-
Treasurer and the Fundraising Committee, the NSS had a cash flow surplus. The money is to
come from this surplus and added to the budget.

PASSED—13 For; 3 Against

- Change By-Law IV. A. (c) Secretary-Treasurer's Term from Two-Years to One-Year
  Barnes moved: “By-Law IV. A. (c). is amended as follows: At every <other> fall meeting of the
  Board of Governors the directors shall convene and elect the Secretary-Treasurer-elect. The term
  of office of the Secretary-Treasurer shall begin at the opening of the spring meeting of the Board
  of Governors. The Secretary-Treasurer’s term will be a minimum of <two> <one> year<s>. ”

  Background: With the exception of the Secretary-Treasurers the four other NSS Officers—
  President, Administrative Vice President, Executive Vice President and Operations Vice
  President—have one your terms.

  FAILED—The motion was a By-Law change and was made last minute at the meeting. As such
  it required to be passed unanimously and did not. The motion was made by Director Farrar at the
  Fall BOG Meeting was PASSED in the Consent Agenda.
Attachment A

October 2, 2019

Memorandum to Gary Barnes, Chair of the Audit Committee

As you requested during our phone conversation on October 1, 2019, I have documented some observations we made during an assessment of where the NSS stands in the transition of its financial information from the former accounting processes and chart of accounts to the new accounting processes and chart of accounts.

1. Typically the Secretary/Treasurer is not charged with the sole responsibility of overseeing the employees and daily operations, preparing complete and accurate financial statements and implementing significant changes to the accounting policies, procedures and underlying accounting structure. There is no one, outside the current volunteer Secretary/Treasurer, with the required skills, knowledge and experience necessary to prepare complete and accurate financial statements or assist her with these changes.

The NSS needs someone, who is readily available to oversee the employees charged with managing the day to day financial operations. Someone who is available at any time to provide guidance and be a part of the internal control process and preparation of financial statements. We strongly recommend either hiring an experienced accountant or engaging with an outside CPA firm to be an active part of your day to day management team. They would be charged with providing a complete and accurate set of financial statements to the Secretary/Treasurer.

2. There is an absence of documented and applied accounting policies and procedures and internal controls.

3. There is a lack of supporting documentation to substantiate balances in some of the balance sheet accounts. One of the most important steps in obtaining assurance that your balance sheet accounts are complete and accurate is a statement, schedule or other documentation to support the balance.

4. There are questions regarding beginning balances including, but not limited to, fixed assets, the proper classification of net assets, fund balances, and which funds are considered quasi endowment funds. There needs to be significant time spent in ensuring that the balances are properly reflected and documented.

5. It appears there were expectations to make the conversion, correct the financial statements and fully update, document and comply with internal controls and accounting procedures in a time frame that was not reasonable for someone who was not able to be full time dedicated to the task. As a result, the financial control environment and resulting financial statements are in need of further work. The changes necessary to create a better reporting environment and minimize the risks associated with financial reporting take time and expertise to implement and follow. One volunteer is not adequate to fulfill all of the financial responsibilities of an organization the size of the NSS.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Moates, CPA

cc: Gaylene Speeet, Secretary -Treasurer

BORLANDBENEFIELD.COM
INFO@BORLANDCPA.COM
256-767-3555

201 S. COURT STREET, SUITE 500
FLORENCE, ALABAMA 35630
B

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Gary Barnes, Alabama
Page 4 of 5
Attachment B

Re: NSS Accounting

Thu, Oct 10, 2019 3:28 pm
From: Lisa Moates, CPA, CMA
To: Gary T. Barnes
Cc: Gary T Barnes and 4 recipients

1 Attachments

Yes we will be able to assist you with the Form 990. I am out of the office until next Wednesday. We will talk then.

Lisa

Get Outlook for iOS (https://aka.ms/o0ukef)
From: gt Barnes@radphysicsinc.com <gtbarnes@radphysicsinc.com> on behalf of Gary T. Barnes
<gtbarnes@radphysicsinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 10:02:08 AM
To: Lisa Moates, CPA, CMA <lmm@borlandcpa.com>
Cc: Gary T Barnes <gtbarnes@radphysicsinc.com>; Bill Jackson <unclebill4784@gmail.com>; Savannah Sawyer <ssawyer.wy@gmail.com>; Cindy Wu <ciindy.wu@gmail.com>; Nathan Farrar <nfarrar@caves.org>
Subject: RE: NSS Accounting

Lisa:

Thank you for filing the 990 Form extension.

In the Borland-Benefield Letter of Engagement, the preparation of the 990 Form was one of the services that was to be provided. When can we anticipate this being completed.

Gary T Barnes

From: "Lisa Moates, CPA, CMA" <lmm@borlandcpa.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 9, 2019 6:28 pm
To: "gt Barnes@radphysicsinc.com" <gtbarnes@radphysicsinc.com>
Subject: RE: NSS Accounting
Gary,

The 990 has been extended until February 15, 2020.
National Speleological Society
2019 Annual Report for Director Kristine Ebrey, Tennessee
Email Address: KEbrey@caves.org
Elected Term: 2017-2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
I finished my tenure as Chair of the Directorate at the Summer BOG meeting.
As the 2019 Convention Treasurer, I successfully closed the 2019 Convention books within three months of the convention ending and with a significant profit.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:
A membership promotion over 11/15/2018 – 2/28/2019 resulted in 85 new memberships (this was a Membership Committee initiative).

MEETING ATTENDANCE:
Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd: Present in Person
Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st: Present in Person
Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th: Present in Person

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:
Membership Committee: I stepped down from the Chair position in early 2019 to focus on COD and the NSS Treasurer for the 2019 convention. The largest of the accomplishments is still not fully implemented, The introductory rate for members under 26 years old that was voted and passed in the fall meeting of 2018. The website still needs to be revamped for better member access and lapsed member communication needs to be improved.

Landowner Relations Network Committee: I work closely with Julie on landowner relations and was able to nominate 2 landowners this year for the NSS Landowner Appreciate Award.
Cave Use Study - Membership: No new developments
Public Relations Committee: No new developments

MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:
Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th:

- Ebrey moved: rescind Bylaw 56-917

Convention Financial Officer 07-18-16:12 The position of Convention Financial Officer (CFO) is created in the Department of the Secretary/Treasurer. The CFO will assist and advise the individual Convention Treasurers, process each convention's financial activity in QuickBooks and assure that convention accounting is closed by the fall BOG meeting following the Convention. The CFO will not have signature authority on Convention checking account(s). The CFO will work closely with the Chief Accounting Manager to assure a timely annual closing of the NSS's financial records, and timely audits.

PASSED; No action needed
This is not well defined nor used currently. The Convention Treasurer and S-T currently does all the duties outlined in the bylaw.
Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st:

- Ebrey moved: *Every director will deliver an annual report outlining their accomplishments, fundraising initiatives and preparations, meeting (physical and virtual) attendance, an outline of committee participation and activity, and motions that they have authored or co-authored in the previous year of serving and the actions taken by the officer(s) on these motions and activities. The annual report will be due on January 1 of every year and must be submitted to the Chair of the Directorate. The Chair of the Directorate will compile the reports into one article for publishing purposes. The annual reports article will be published on the website, social media sites and in the next feasible NSS News for the membership to review.*

  PASSED, Action required by every director

- Ebrey moved: *Every director, within 12 months of taking office, is required to be active in an NSS committee(s) throughout their term as a director.*

  PASSED, Action required by every director

**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:**

Improved lapsed member communication to reduce our membership decline.

Stepping into the role and responsibilities as the NSS S-T
INTRODUCTION:

Elected Chairman of the Directorate (COD) in June 2019, I spent the latter half of the year working closely with the Directors and Officers, as well as many Division Chiefs and Committee Chairs, to further the Mission of the Society. It’s been a very active — and quite exciting! — six months; I only hope that I’ve been able to give back to the Society as much as I’ve taken away in learning opportunities.

I relocated to New Hampshire in July, where I am currently an MBA candidate at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, building my general management skills, which I have been able to directly apply in my role as Director, to the benefit of the Society.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Worked closely with the Executive Search Committee to find candidates for Secretary-Treasurer (S-T) and Operations Vice President (OVP)—Kristine Ebrey and Maureen Handler, respectively—as our past Officers stepped down, and helped coordinate the transitions. Thanks to Gaylene Speaect and Mark Skove for all of their hard work as S-T and OVP!

- Continued hosting monthly teleconferences of the Directorate (with Officers most welcome to attend) to keep the Directorate active and informed.

- Conducted a search for a, and found three candidates to, Chair of our new Executive Director (ED) Exploratory Committee. I also worked with the Board to better shape the expectations and boundaries of this new committee.

- Appointed a new Chair of the Audit Committee, Gary Barnes. Thank you, Bill Jackson, for your time as Audit Committee Chair!

- Guided the Directorate in preparation and submission of these Annual Director Reports, the first of their kind for the Society!

- Continued to Chair the Nominating Committee, coordinating the 2019 Election of Directors and preparing for the 2020 Election of Directors.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

While I have not been active in fundraising this past year, I am a proud member of Team 404.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd: Present in Person

Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st: Present in Person

Fall EC Meeting, Teleconference, October 21st: Present Virtually (Teleconference for all attendees)

Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th: Present in Person

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:

Nominating Committee, Chair. Effectively a committee of one, with website support from Alex Sproul and institutional knowledge support from Ted Kayes. The 2019 Election of Directors was a success, with eight candidates on the ballot to fill four seats. See my committee reports within the President’s Reports.
Audit Committee, Member. Vocal supporter of moving forward with a financial audit during 2019, including urging the Society to budget for the expense. Actively liaised between the Audit Committee and S-T, especially in regard to our engagement with a third party financial review firm.

MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:
Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th:

- Farrar Moved: “By-Law IV. A.(3)(c). is amended as follows: At every <other> fall meeting of the Board of Governors the directors shall elect the Secretary-Treasurer-elect. The term of office of the Secretary-Treasurer shall begin at the opening of the spring meeting of the Board of Governors. The Secretary-Treasurer’s term will be <two> <one> year<ss>.” PASSED

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:
In 2020, as COD, I foremost aim to keep the Directorate active and informed, through regular, personal communication with individual Directors and through continued monthly teleconferences of the entire Directorate, as well as by encouraging more Director communication, both among the Directorate, with Officers, and most importantly, with our members.

As COD, I will continue to guide, follow-up on, and encourage activity from the Audit Committee and Executive Search Committee, as they go about coordinating a review of the NSS’s finances and seek candidates to run for our Officer positions, respectively.

I anticipate appointing a Chair for the newly formed ED Exploratory Committee by March 2020, after which I will work with that Chair to build up the committee and make some headway on discerning the potential role of an ED in our Society and how such a position would be funded.

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I will continue collecting nominees for Director candidates and hopefully coordinate another successful election to fill the four seats that will be vacated this coming year.
INTRODUCTION:

I am about to time out as a Director, having served five years as S-T (2006-2011), eight years as an elected Director (2014-2020) and two years as an appointed Director (2011-2013). According to By-Law IVa(2)a, which states “An incumbent completing two contiguous full terms as Director is not eligible to run for reelection for one full term.” I must now stand down for three years.

I will deeply miss being on the BOG and knowing what is happening in the NSS. It has been a pleasure to be part of our Society’s progress for these 15 years.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Nothing to report; Just monitored NSS activity.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

Nothing to report.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd: Proxy Sent – Tony Canike (This was the first meeting I missed since elected – My last-minute cancelation and appointment of a proxy was due to medical orders not to fly.)

Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st: Present in Person”

Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th: Present in Person

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:

Was Finance Chairman in the S-T Department from the time I stepped down as S-T until I was replaced by Gary Barnes, which was done without telling me. I thought I was still Chairman and was reviewing reports. I would have joined another committee had I known.

Follow the link to https://caves.org/nss-business/bog/Table_4D_S-T_Div.pdf from the header of the S-T page on Current Personnel for descriptions of other personnel involved with NSS Finance. I monitored all financial activity.

MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:

None.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:

Reduce level of BOG micromanagement.

Wait until 2023 to decide whether to run again.
INTRODUCTION:

This report represents my first six months as a director, and not a full year like eight of the directors. A lot is happening in the society and within its governance. We have a lot of room to improve the transparency and frequency of communication between our society and our members. Some of this hinges on more professionalism in the Directorate and a deeper understanding of the rules governing its operation. We still have significant challenges in membership decline and finances – two things intimately tied together. The movement toward reorganizing society governance and hiring of an Executive Director is essential to address our challenges in a robust way.

In the past year I represented the NSS in multiple regional events and expeditions: Bisaro Anima, Papoose/T’ac Circus (x2), NSS Convention, and NRMG Cave Camp where I taught an advanced course on cave-aid climbing.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In the very first meeting of my term I proposed, and saw passed, a bylaws amendment that brought our governance into the modern era by referencing Robert’s Rules as Newly Revised. Previously, we referenced parliamentary procedure that hadn’t a reference published since 1951, which means a used bookstore would be the only way for a director to find a copy to use in meetings or when preparing motions.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

None

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd: Not yet elected

Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st: Proxy sent for the Monday session and Present in Person Wednesday onward.

Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th: Present in Person

Present for Directorate Phone Conferences: 23rd July, 10th October, 14th November, and 12th December

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:

- Joined Bylaws Committee (subsequent to passing a bylaws amendment).
- Code of Conduct reviews and suggestions
- Drafted stock debate limiting motions for use as needed

MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:

Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st:

- Gladieux moved: Section IV. J of the NSS By-Laws on Roberts Rules of Order be amended as follows: Robert's Rules of Order, as < Newly> Revised, shall govern all procedural questions arising at meetings of the Board of Governors. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th:

- Gladieux moved to amend motion (Schindel) to amend act 43-380 (agenda item 16): Third sentence to read as follows: Recipients must have been members for a total of five or more years and must be members <<without deliberate lapses in membership during the two prior years immediately prior>> to being <awarded><<nominated for>> fellowships.
  - This was meant to address issues in the past with small lapses due to payment or oversight interfering with worthy recipients. FAILED
- Gladieux moved to postpone motion (Urbanski) 12-951 till Spring meeting. FAILED
  - This was after two motions to amend the original motion’s text.
- Gladieux moved to amend Schenck-Brown amendment (proposed to Urbanski act-12-951) title and first sentence to change search to exploratory. PASSED

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:

We have a busy year ahead of us, and many big decisions. It will be a watershed year – or will have failed the society. Many paradigms will be shifted – they must, or we will not be able to surmount our challenges. There will be contention: between generations of membership, between regional views on the direction of the society and our headquarters. We will approve a polished Code of Conduct and outline means of enforcing it. We will address membership decline from every direction we can. I will:

- Prepare a submittal for candidacy for chair of the Executive Director Search Committee, and a plan for a modified NSS executive structure to go along with this new role;
- Continue my analysis of trends in our membership data, which mostly hinges on mining old data from various sources.
- Work to increase the frequency and quality of our communications. This means clearly showing the P&L for our headquarters, as well as the value of membership, and the efficiency of our donation dollars.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
Assisted in bringing back the Internal Organization Newsletter in order to inform the grottos of NSS updates and work on improved communication between the grottos and the NSS.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:
None

MEETING ATTENDANCE:
Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd: Present in Person
Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17 - 21: Present in Person
Special Meeting, Teleconference, July 23: Present Virtually
Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9: Present in Person

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:
Member: Audit Committee
Member: Internal Organization Committee

MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:
None

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:
Continue to work on the IO Committee updating information for grottos, communication with grottos, and informing grottos of NSS updates.
INTRODUCTION:

I am currently completing my second consecutive term as a Director of the NSS and have attended the NSS Convention, regional caving events and grotto meetings, community events, and Earth Day Festivals to represent the NSS. I have enjoyed discussion with our members and engaged the community to help promote an understanding of the need to protect and conserve the fragile underground environment.

During my first term on the NSS Board of Governors (BOG), I was appointed Chair of the newly re-established NSS Landowner Relations Network Committee (LRNC), whose principal goal is interacting with and supporting private landowners, as well as working with grottos and NSS members to provide support for questions and inquiries that private landowners have about their caves. I think landowners are an integral component to cave access, but an equally important component is the education of cavers and the general public. In this regard, there are landowners and cavers who do not understand the mission of the NSS and therefore we are missing an opportunity to grow the NSS membership, continue the scientific study and protection of caves, and promote responsible cave exploration and fellowship among those interested in caves. To this end, I have worked to re-establish a relationship between the NSS and the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (SCCi) as well as established a new relationship with the Land Trust of North Alabama (LTNA) through the development of an MOU and continue to work actively with those organizations to represent the NSS membership.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In February 2019, Alexander Dobrowolski asked me to transition into the position of NSS-Land Trust of North Alabama (LTNA) Liaison, as he was unable to attend the monthly LTNA Resource Advisory Committee meetings. As I had initiated the contact with Marie Bostick, Executive Director for the LTNA, and Andy Prewett, Land Manager for the LTNA, then worked on the Memorandum of Understanding with Jay Clark, NSS General Counsel, and Geary Schindel, NSS President, this appeared to be a logical change. Thus, I have been meeting with the LTNA Resource Advisory Committee on a monthly basis and communicate routinely with Andy Prewett as we have been working on developing a management and access plan for LTNA caves. In addition, I provide feedback to the LTNA about caves and karst features for their potential acquisitions.

At the 2019 NSS Convention, the NSS BOG approved the motion introduced by Kat Crispin, NSS AVP, for me to officially serve as the NSS Preserves Co-Chair. I had previously worked on the Acquisitions Subcommittee and have negotiated the donation of property to expand the Shelta Cave Preserve, as well as negotiated the acquisition of the newest NSS Preserve, the Albert & Ethel Ogden Nature Preserve.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

My main task on the NSS Fundraising Committee is donor recognition for the Buy-A-Brick fundraiser. All donor information maintained by the NSS Office has been checked against the donation forms with edits completed. Suggestions for vendors who sell engraved bricks has been provided to three different NSS OVPs and the list has been formatted for the order. In addition, several members have requested photos of their bricks, which will be provided when installation is completed with a timeline to be determined by the NSS OVP.

As the NSS Preserves Co-Chair, I work with cave conservancies who request grants, and contact cave conservancies to encourage grant submittals for their new acquisitions, then advocate for financial support
I have written articles about the NSS Cave Acquisition Fund and work with private donors to solicit funds. In addition, I have introduced successful motions at NSS grotto meetings for donations to the NSS Acquisitions Fund and the NSS Sarah Corrie Fund.

**MEETING ATTENDANCE:**

Attended all but one of the monthly NSS Directorate Teleconferences.

Planned, scheduled and attended seven teleconferences for the NSS Preserves & Acquisitions Committee with Dr. Kat Crispin, NSS AVP, and Tom Griffin, NSS Preserves Manager.

Attended all scheduled meetings of the Resource Advisory Committee of the Land Trust of North Alabama (LTNA), since my appointment as the NSS-LTNA Liaison in February 2019.

Presented an *Intro to Caving* seminar at the Straight to Ale Shelta Caverns History Seminar in Huntsville.

**Spring BOG Meeting, State College, Pennsylvania, March 23rd.** Present in Person.

**Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, Tennessee, June 17th & June 21st:** Present in Person.

**Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, Alabama, November 9th:** Present in Person.

**DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:**

NSS Landowner Relations Network Committee Chair (Report to Dr. Kat Crispin, NSS AVP)

- Served as a liaison between an Alabama landowner and a graduate student in biology who is conducting his thesis research on cave salamanders to coordinate access.
- Assisted a Tennessee landowner with obtaining information pertaining to the expansion of a conservation district that includes an area that has been closed to cavers and recreation enthusiasts.
- Assisted a landowner from Indiana with a referral to the Indiana Speleological Society (ISS) to obtain information about a cave on his property.
- Served as a liaison between an Alabama landowner and a biological research group who are conducting University-sponsored studies of bats.
- Provided a referral to the NSS General Counsel to assist a Florida landowner with liability concerns.
- Met with landowners near the site of the 2019 SERA Cave Carnival to arrange access.
- Completed edits to the landowner list for Holiday cards maintained by the Dogwood City Grotto and the Sewanee Mountain Grotto. Mailed approximately 60 hand-written cards to TAG landowners.
- Participated in project requests that were initiated by landowners, including the disassembly and removal of a pump from a cave that was previously used for drinking water, as well as assisting with marking property boundaries.
- Submitted a nomination for Mike Friday to be awarded the prestigious SERA Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award. Mike was recognized for the access that he allows to Varnedoe Cave in Alabama though a perpetual lease with the Southeast Cave Conservancy, Inc. (SCCi).
- Created templates for a thank-you letters to landowners. This document includes the NSS LRNC logo and can be edited by cavers to thank landowners for allowing access to a cave, as well as showing them a cave, allowing them to ridge walk, etc.
- Submitted six nominations for landowners to receive the NSS Landowner Relations Certificate of Appreciation and presented these awards to the recognized landowners/land managers.
• Solicited eight nominations from cavers to recognize landowners with the NSS Landowner Relations Certificate of Appreciation.

• Wrote social media announcements to promote the outstanding work of cave landowners, as well as promote the NSS Landowner Relations Committee’s Certificate of Appreciation, request nominations for the NSS Outstanding Landowner-Caver Award, as well as promote and distribute the NSS Landowner Relations brochure.

• Presented the 2019 NSS Outstanding Landowner-Caver Award to Lonnie Carr, who received a standing ovation, at the 2019 NSS Convention Awards Banquet.

NSS-Land Trust of North Alabama Liaison (Report to Geary Schindel, NSS President)

Last year, the Land Trust of North Alabama (LTNA) and the National Speleological Society (NSS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote karst education and management of natural resources. As part of this partnership, the Land Trust has partnered with the NSS to help manage the cave and karst resources found on LTNA Preserves.

Progress:

• Prepared a power point titled, *Caves of the Land Trust*, and presented it to members of the LTNA Resource Advisory Committee. Several LTNA Board Members commented after the presentation that they had no idea that caves were such an invaluable resource or that the LTNA owned so many caves. In addition, there has been perpetual enthusiasm by the Committee members about the partnership with the NSS to promote cave access, conservation, exploration, and education.

• Provided a cave management access boiler plate that was developed by Jay Clark, NSS General Counsel to the LTNA; this document, as well as the draft of the LTNA Cave Access Policy were edited to create a release, management plan and cave access card for LTNA caves.

• Solicited NSS member, Andy Zellner, to serve on the LTNA Preserve Management Team with Andy Prewett, LTNA Land Manager, and myself.

• Submitted a formal data request to the Alabama Cave Survey (ACS), which provided coordinates and meta-data for caves on LTNA Preserves. The LTNA will provide updated shape files of their Preserves as new acquisitions are complete as well as updated coordinates and descriptions for caves on their Preserves.

• Participated in a maintenance project at the LTNA Terry Preserve.

• Evaluated two potential acquisitions by the LTNA for the presence of caves and provided feedback in support of both acquisitions.

• Reviewed a cave biology research project proposal that was submitted to the LTNA and provided feedback in support of this project.

NSS Preserves Co-Chair (Report to Dr. Kat Crispin, NSS AVP)

*New Preserve Manager Report System*

In an effort to improve communication from our NSS Preserve Managers to the NSS BOG and membership, I developed a new report format for use by all of the NSS Preserve Managers. This new format highlights NSS Preserve Manager activities and projects, while helping the NSS Preserves Managers and the NSS BOG plan for any routine or long-range maintenance needs. There are several great projects going on at NSS Preserves, below and above ground, but this work is not always captured.
The comments from the NSS Preserve Managers regarding the new format was positive and report completion increased.

**Permits & Waivers Subcommittee**

Over the past year, Tom Griffin and I have been in conversation with Dr. Kat Crispin, NSS AVP, and Jay Clark, NSS General Counsel, about establishing and implementing a permit system for all NSS Preserves. As there is always the possibility of risk associated with any activity, Kat, Tom, Jay and myself have discussed how the NSS can manage this risk to protect our organization and Preserve Managers, as well as our members. This protection would be a multi-layered approach that would involve a permit system, standardized management plans and waivers for all individuals who access an NSS preserve, whether to visit our cave or go hiking.

In order to create the framework for the permits and waivers that will be used at NSS Preserves, a NSS Preserves Permits & Waivers Subcommittee has been created. Serving on this subcommittee are Taren Woelk, New River Nature Preserve Management Team, as well as Brad Long and Lesley Colton, Haggard Cave Nature Preserve Management Team. Taren, Brad and Lesley have been in the preliminary stages of developing a permit system, including evaluation of software for the permit system and digital application to streamline the process. Please remember the basic premise behind the permit will be to efficiently manage access to the NSS Preserves and limit liability for NSS Preserve Managers, as well as the NSS in general. We will also have a better understanding of who visits our caves and how we can engage them as NSS members or potential members.

**Management Plan for Thunderhole Cave, Tennessee**

Since June 2019, I have been working on obtaining access to Thunderhole Cave in Cookeville, as this is a classic TAG pit that has been closed due to concerns of liability. Working with the landowner and Jay Clark, NSS General Counsel, we have developed a management plan and identified two NSS members who are willing to serve as a liaison between the landowner and cavers who want to visit this cave. There are two motions that will be voted upon at a special meeting of the NSS BOG on January 9, 2020 related to the proposed management of the cave by the NSS, as well as Megan Atkinson and Warren Wyatt serving as the Preserve Managers.

**MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:**

**Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, Alabama, November 9th**

- Schenck-Brown moves that all expenses, including equipment, supplies, and labor related to the renovation of the NSS Headquarters & Conference Center will require three bids when the estimated value is at least $5,000.

  *Discussion*: Several members have raised questions about the vetting process for contractors, as well as the process for obtaining bids. For example, the first Contractor who was hired to complete the bathroom submitted a bid that was too low, whereas the single bid for the Campground Shower House was perceived as overpriced. Obtaining three bids will ensure that the NSS receives competitive pricing and reduces the risk of nepotism.

  **POSTPONED TO SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD JANUARY 9, 2020**

- Schenck-Brown moves that all expenses, including equipment, supplies, and labor related to the renovation of the NSS Headquarters & Conference Center that have an estimated value of at least $5,000 and paid for from the Beach Grant will be voted upon by the NSS BOG.
Discussion: Discussion by the NSS BOG, as well as the authorization to pay for expenses from the Beach Grant will maintain accountability to our membership and ensure the desire of Gale is executed in a judicious manner.

POSTPONED TO SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD JANUARY 9, 2020

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:

- Continue work on the NSS Landowner Relations Committee, the NSS Preserves Committee, and as the NSS Land Trust of North Alabama Liaison.
- Introduce motions that account for and promote the number of volunteer hours that NSS members donate to our Society. The US Government estimates volunteer labor at $24.86/hour, thus our members generate thousands if not millions in savings for our communities. However, we fail to recognize this or promote it in the Huntsville area where the NSS is located and beyond.
- Encourage Geary Schindel, NSS President, to meet with the Director of Urban Development for the City of Huntsville. The City of Huntsville has the fastest population growth of any city in the southeastern United States (outpacing Atlanta and Nashville) and encompasses a land mass equivalent to Chicago, however, city officials do not what the NSS does or our plans to renovate the NSS HQ into a world-class Education Center. Our presence is very weak in the local community and needs to improve, so we are part of the city’s growth and plans to be an inclusive community.
- Work with a graphic artist to create special recognition Certificates for volunteers and businesses that provide services at a reduced rate to cavers and the NSS. This could be an update or redesign of the NSS Certificate of Appreciation and would provide an extra level of recognition.
- Advocate to use more local businesses who provide discounts to the NSS. For example, the owners of C & A Printing print Certificates for the NSS Landowner Relations Committee at substantial discounts and also print Guidebooks for the Sewanee Mountain Grotto as well as the NSS Landowner brochures at substantially reduced costs. In addition, a Huntsville vendor that printed symbolic items for the 2014 NSS Convention, provided a substantial discount, but the NSS never followed up with price comparisons between current vendors and these local vendors, despite requests made at NSS budget meetings. Use of our local vendors would promote our presence in the local community and save the NSS money.
- Write and edit material for the NSS website that was scheduled to be redesigned. This project appears to be tabled and I have heard comments that there was no new content available, however, our NSS membership needs to be solicited. In addition, the NSS Landowner Relations Network Committee has material available for landowners and cavers that we want to share on the new NSS website, such as the templates mentioned in this report and a list of landowners who have been recognized by the NSS.
- Conduct an open house at the NSS Shelta Cave Preserve for the general public. This assignment has been placed under my direction by the NSS President, however, as this features an NSS Preserve, I also have a sense of duty to work with the NSS AVP. I have solicited several NSS members to work on the Shelta Cave Open House Committee, including Kristine Ebrey who will serve as the event Co-Chair. We plan to have regular meetings starting in January 2020 with the event to be tentatively held in October 2020.
- Introduce motions based on the recommendations of the NSS Convention Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee identified problems with the NSS Convention structure and created solutions that have not been implemented. As several NSS members and Convention Ad Hoc Committee members have expressed opinions that several of these suggestions need to be applied, I have been in discussion with Dr. Kat Crispin, NSS AVP, about the introduction of these motions.
INTRODUCTION:
I am a life member who started out as a sport caver and evolved into a project caver, survey and conservation are now my main areas of involvement. I am active at the grotto and region level as well as the National Society. I have a knack for problem solving and closed loop processes.

As a BOG member I feel I am there to represent all cavers, not just the ones I live close to and cave with. I have endeavored to get added to as many caver listservs as I can so I can be aware of what is going on in areas across the country. I am open to hearing from cavers who have issues with how things are being done. I cannot guarantee I can give a reason for why to everyone, but I know how to refer and escalate to the right people.

Through NSS Conventions I have had the pleasure to meet a lot of folks from other areas and got to make a lot of friends.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
After receiving an email from an upset member, our conversation led me to encouraged them to investigate materials and photos to send to the Museum and Photo Archives to honor their grotto’s members who have passed.

The IRS does not require non-profit organizations our size to perform audits. The Secretary-Treasurer had the requirement to do an annual audit, which burned a lot of volunteer time and was expensive. I proposed and it was passed that this requirement be changed to an annual review. Thus saving the Society considerable funds. Audits can still be recommended by the Financial Review Committee and voted on by the BOG.

I have the privilege of working with many convention staffs and seeing hundreds of my friends having a good time.

I have the honor of announcing the new fellows at the Annual Awards Ceremony.

My committee and I have been able to find candidates to keep the Executive Committee populated.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

MEETING ATTENDANCE:
I have attended all BOG meetings in person and been present on special phone meetings

Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd: Present in Person

Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st: Present in Person

Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th. Present in Person

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:

BOG - Executive Search Committee Chair - solicited candidates for EC positions, interviewed potential candidates, confirmed incumbents running, maintained file of those willing, willing in the future and not willing to run.
President - Awards Committee - Fellowship Sub-Chair - collected nominations, forwarded names and NSS numbers of those nominated for confirmation of 2 years of consistent membership, and at least 5 years as a member. Prepared nominations for distribution to committee members, prepared a ballot form, tallied the votes, and announced the new fellows at the 2019 Convention

AVP - Convention Division - Hosted Roundtable Meetings - working through the suggestions of the ad-hoc committee.

AVP - Convention Development Chair - worked with all groups confirmed to host a convention, provided documentation and gave guidance when requested. Sat in on conference calls for multiple years groups. Solicited, via the NSS News and social media, groups to host future conventions. Provided those interested with a short form of requirements and the Convention Manual. Updates Convention Manual as needed, Have a volunteer to post the Convention Manual on the NSS wiki, however there has been no progress in posting this or other documents because the wiki has been down

S-T - Convention Auditor - Review bank statements looking for any unusual charges. When any were observed, got clarification from the convention treasurer. In the event anything abnormal is discovered, they are reported to the S-T to pursue.

**MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:**

**Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd:**
- Amendment of Act 28-944 and Appendix BF, NSS Anti-Harassment Policy Tiderman moved: Act 28-944 and Appendix BF, NSS Anti-Harassment Policy is amended as follows: add to end… Complaints about harassment may also be directed, in confidence, to the NSS President (president@caves.org) and/or legal Department at (legal@caves.org) Jackson moved to amend: Delete legal department, add Chair of the Directorate, and remove email addresses. Passed as amended

**Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st:**
- Rescind Act 57-571 Project Underground Directors NSS Board Meeting Minutes Page 4 June 2019 v3 Tiderman moved: Act 57-571, Project Underground Directors, is rescinded. Act 57-571 reads: The Administrative Vice President shall appoint three NSS representatives to the Project Underground Board of Directors. The Board of Governors shall confirm such appointments and they shall be listed as part of the Education Division in the Administrative Vice President’s Department. Note: SCCi has taken over the running of Project Underground, therefore these acts are obsolete. Passed in consent agenda

- Rescind Act 57-545, Project Underground Tiderman moved: Act 57-545, Project Underground, is rescinded. NSS Board Meeting Minutes Page 5 June 2019 v3 Act 57-545 reads: The Society will co-sponsor, with the Richmond Area Speleological Society (RASS), "Project Underground", a supplemental environmental education program. Any contract or financial obligation must be further approved by this Board. The NSS agrees to work with RASS to solicit donations and grants and expand the program nationally. PASSED The AVP is working with Project Underground on a revised MOU.

- Director Annual Report Act 02-948 Ebrey moved: Every director will deliver an annual report outlining their accomplishments, fundraising initiatives and preparations, meeting (physical and virtual) attendance, an outline of committee participation and activity, and motions that they have authored or co-authored in the previous year of serving<and the actions taken by the officer(s) on these motions and activities>. The annual report will be due on <March 1> of every year and must be submitted to the Chair of the Directorate. The Chair of the Directorate will compile the reports into one article for publishing purposes. The annual reports article will be published on the website, social media sites and in the next feasible NSS News for the membership to review.

Carol Tiderman, Maryland
Page 2 of 3
Weberg moved to amend <March 1> VOTE: For: Unanimous PASSED Tiderman moved to amend to add after previous years of serving<and the actions taken by the officer(s) on these motions and activities>. PASSED

Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th:

- Termination of Project Underground MOU Tiderman moved: The Memorandum of Understanding with Project Underground is terminated per clause 3 of the modification and terminations terms outlined in the MOU. Passed in Consent Agenda PASSED

- 15-510 Financial <Review> The NSS shall engage the services of a certified public accountant or accounting firm to conduct an annual financial<review> of the NSS accounting and bookkeeping records in conformity with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP audit). The Directorate, or a designated <review> committee, must approve the selection of <review>. The Directorate, or a designated <review> committee, shall review and approve the <review>financial statements. PASSED

- Amendment of Act 15-700 Tiderman moved: Act 15-700, Audit, is revised as follows: 15-700 <Financial Review> 04-07-01 Any contract for <financial review> shall contain clauses guaranteeing performance for cost not to exceed a fixed amount. PASSED

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:
I plan to continue my committee activities as listed above
It is my intent to try to find more ways to lower our expenses.
Bring to the forefront Board Acts that have not been fulfilled.
Putting an issues before the COG because they would have to make it happen.
National Speleological Society  
2019 Annual Report for Director Will Urbanski, Montana  
Email Address: wurbinski@caves.org  
Elected Term: 2017-2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Website Redesign

Prior to the Spring 2019 meeting, Director Ebrey and I worked together to solicit bids to redesign and rebrand the NSS Website. The goal was to work with a marketing firm to develop a new brand for the NSS and re-build our web presence to focus on our conservation, education, and exploration initiatives, in addition to making our logo and brand more approachable to younger audiences. After reviewing web design bids and soliciting feedback we selected a marketing company that caters exclusively to the outdoor recreation community.

I was ultimately unable to execute on this project for two reasons: 1) I was unable to identify volunteers within the NSS who could provide content for the website and direction to the marketing company. 2) The NSS was unable to agree to the terms of the agreement with the company.

Headquarters Wifi

The IT division has planned for the installation of new wifi system in the headquarters. I helped identify the new system components to install.

Executive Director

I made a motion to search for and hire an Executive Director for the NSS.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

I have not participated in any notable fundraising activities.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd: Present in Person

Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, Tennessee, June: Proxy sent. I had a work commitment that involved international travel that I was unable to reschedule.

Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th: Present Virtually.

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:

IT Division Chair, June 2017 – May 2019. I served as IT division chief for 23 months and stepped down from this position in May of 2019. I did not seek a second term as IT Division Chair.

MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:

Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL:

- Urbanski moved: An Executive Director Search Committee shall be established in order to hire an Executive Director to oversee the administration, programs and strategic plan of the NSS. The Executive Director shall be responsible for leading fundraising, marketing, education, and community outreach programs for the NSS. The Executive Director shall report to the Board of Governors. Their salary will be funded by the Gale Beach Donation, and they shall have variable compensation based on achieving specific fundraising goals for the Society.
Meyer moved to amend: Delete the last sentence “Their salary will be funded by the Gale Beach Donation, and they shall have variable compensation based on achieving specific fundraising goals for the Society.”
Vote on amendment:
Against: Gladieux, Sawyer, Barnes, Ebrey, Warner, Urbanski
For: Rest
PASSED

Schenck-Brown moved to amend: First sentence to read as follows: An Executive Director Search Committee shall be established in order to hire an Executive Director to oversee the administration, programs, and strategic plan of the NSS.
Gladieux moved to postpone Spring meeting.
Vote on postponement:
For: Gladieux and Barnes
Against: 14
FAILED

Gladieux moved to amend Schenck-Brown amendment title and first sentence to change search to exploratory.
Vote on amendment:
Against: Schenck-Brown
For: Rest
PASSED

As a result of these motions we are identifying candidates to run this committee.
National Speleological Society
2019 Annual Report for Director Adam Weaver, South Dakota
Email Address: adam@caves.org
Elected Term: 2019 – 2022

INTRODUCTION:
Adam Weaver has been heavily involved with project caving for nearly 11 years. He has expedition caving experience in many different North American caves with 33 successful cave camp expeditions, having led 7 of them. He has assisted the BLM, USFS, NPS, and state agencies with restoration, survey, science, and management projects in caves within South Dakota, New Mexico, Wyoming, Kentucky, and Montana. Adam is a Director of the National Speleological Society, Director of the Cave Exploration Society, Vice-Chairman of the Paha Sapa Grotto, Programs Chair of the 2022 NSS Convention, and Vice-Chairman of the Dark Canyon Cave Preserve.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
The largest accomplishment of my first 6 months has been getting spun-up on the inner workings of the organization, and learning more about its areas of needed improvement.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:
N/A.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:
Spring BOG Meeting, (Not yet on the Directorate)
Summer BOG Meeting, 2019 NSS Convention, Present in Person
Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, Present Virtually
[One additional special meeting attended via teleconference]

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:
In this period, I joined and became active in the Internal Organizations Committee. I have become editor of a new version of the Internal Organizations newsletter, and recruited others to come to the committee to give Paul Winter assistance. In the last 6-months we, as a committee, have laid the groundwork for what we think is a useful newsletter to aide IOs with society news and information. We have also increased the ability of the IO committee to respond and assist grottos that request help. It is vital, that when help is asked for, a timely response is given. We strive to make this happen!

MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:
N/A.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:
Complete the IO website update, continue to look for avenues to improve communication within the organization, continue to always think about fiscal responsibility, continue to push for the focus of the NSS to stay with its roots: the enjoyment of caves and karst resources.
INTRODUCTION:
I was elected in the 2019 Board of Governors (BOG) election. I attended my first meeting at the Cookeville, Tennessee, NSS Convention in June.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
I have attended all in-person meetings and all but one monthly conference call meetings. I have joined two committees and proposed one motion (for the special BOG meeting on January 9, 2020).

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:
Not applicable

MEETING ATTENDANCE:
Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd: Was not yet elected
Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st: Present in Person
Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th: Present in Person

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:
Joined the Landowner Relations Network Committee; was not notified until December 31 that the AVP had let the committee chair know this, so I effectively did nothing to contribute.

Joined the NSS Vandalism Deterrence Reward Commission; have started researching this commission with the idea of including education and clean-up as a deterrent, rather than just criminal prosecution. According to the commission chair, this has worked effectively in past cave vandalism cases and really teaches ignorant people about the damage they have done.

Because I was so new to the BOG and was not put on the email list until after my first two meetings, I felt really ignorant about the processes. I started writing up a “New BOGer” guide, with suggestions like “don’t plan anything on the first or last day of Convention because you will be in BOG meetings all day.”

MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:
I did propose a motion for the special January 9, 2020, meeting, but will include it in the 2020 report.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:
I need to finish working on my “New BOGer” guide.
National Speleological Society
2019 Annual Report for Director Cindy Wu, Hawai’i
Email Address: cindy@caves.org
Elected Term: 2018 - 2021

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
Completed 100 newbies project with a goal of getting 100 new cavers underground. We hit 84/100.
Started Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Committee and expect to our Code of Conduct and protocol for reporting harassment the Spring 2020 BOG Meeting.
Manage the NSS Slack community daily.
Actively recruiting volunteer talent for all executive departments.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:
Actively working on creating unique caving merchandise to sell online to finance the NSS.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:
Spring BOG Meeting, State College, PA, March 23rd:
Present in Person

Summer BOG Meeting, Cookeville, TN, June 17th & 21st:
Present in Person for Monday; Proxy Sent for Friday: Amos Mincin, Pennsylvania

Fall BOG Meeting, Huntsville, AL, November 9th:
Proxy Sent: Sonia Meyer, California

DIVISION AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:
Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Committee – Chair
Audit Committee

MOTIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED:
None.