National Speleological Society, Inc.

Board of Governors Meeting

Agenda of the Special Meeting Held

Virtually via Zoom

August 24, 2021

Version 1.0

A virtual meeting of the Board of Governors will be held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

2) Comments from the Membership:

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

3) A motion to revise Act Section 43-744 Defining the role of the Awards Committee

Schindel moves: Act 43-744 is amended as follows:

The Awards Committee is established in the office of the President and is responsible for administering the NSS Awards Program as provided in other acts and bylaws. <<The Awards Committee will coordinate NSS award nominations and selection of recipients as noted in the bylaws listed under Section 43 of the bylaws. The Awards Committee will advertise the call for nominations from the NSS membership. Recipients will be honored at the annual awards banquet under the procedural administration of the Awards Committee. The NSS Awards Committee will select the timing and deadlines for nominations of all awards and transmit all selections to the NSS Board of Governors for review and approval.>>

4) Establishment of Group Conservation Award

Weaver moves: to established the Group Conservation Award as follows:

This annual award recognizes the conservation efforts of an NSS Group or Internal Organization. The recipient will be announced during the NSS Convention Awards Banquet. Candidates for the Group Conservation Award may be any of the following: an NSS Grotto or Region, an NSS Conservation Task Force, NSS Commission, Committee, Subcommittee, Conservancy, Expedition, Project, Section, Survey, Affinity group, Institutional member, or a subunit or partnering organization of any of the above. Any Internal Organization (IO) nominated for this award should be in good standing with the NSS. Any Group nominated for this award should have
at least two participants in good standing with NSS membership. Nominations in the form of a letter of nomination or application summarizing the IO or Group contributions to cave or karst conservation should be sent to the NSS Awards Committee or submitted to the NSS Conservation Division Chief for consideration.

The Awards Committee will forward the Group Conservation Award nominees to the Conservation Division. The Conservation Division will also accept nominations sent directly to the NSS Conservation Division Chief (CDC) and select the recipient for approval by the Board of Governors. The selection will be forwarded to the Chair of the Awards Committee for transmittal to the Board of Governors.

Note: The NSS Group Conservation Award was not part of the Awards Committee process.

5) Amend Act 43-913, Steve Hudson Cave Rescue Award

Schindel moves: Act 43-913 Steve Hudson Cave Rescue Award is amended as follows:

<<The Awards Committee will advertise the Steve Hudson Cave Rescue Award and will forward all nominees to the National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC). The NCRC will also advertise and accept nominations sent directly to the NCRC National Coordinator. The selection will be forwarded to the Chair of the Awards Committee for transmittal to the Board of Governors.>>

Note: This act authorizes the Awards Committee to advertise the Steve Hudson Cave Rescue Award.

6) Amend Act 43-923, Outstanding Landowner – Caver Relations Award

Schindel moves: Act 43-923 is amended as follows:

An award for Outstanding Landowner-Caver Relations will be awarded during the NSS Awards Banquet at Convention each year>>, and will be presented before our annual Awards Committee presentations<<. The award shall consist of a plaque and an invitation to attend the convention. <<The Awards Committee will advertise for the Outstanding Landowner – Caver Relations Award.>> Specific guidelines and requirements shall be determined by the Landowner Relations Network awards sub-committee >>. The Administrative Vice President shall have final approval.<< who will forward all nominees to the Administrative Vice President (AVP) for consideration. Nominations may also be sent directly to the Chair of the Landowner Relations Network Committee who will bring them to the AVP. The selection by the AVP will be forwarded to the Chair of the Awards Committee for transmittal to the Board of Governors for final approval.>>

7) Creation of Regular Member Payment Plan

Schindel moves: to create a Regular Member dues payment plan as follows:

Regular monthly print and electronic membership dues may be paid with a credit card or debit card on a monthly auto-renewing basis. Monthly payments are calculated as the annual cost of the membership plus administrative and processing costs divided by twelve. Membership will be
extended for as long as a monthly payment is provided but must commit to being a member for a full year.

Note: This act will allow us to charge a monthly fee to a debit or credit card and include administrative and processing fees. For example, Regular NSS Membership with the print option is $50 per year. The monthly membership fee will be $5.00 for a total of $60 per year. Regular NSS Membership with the electronic option is $40 per year. The monthly membership fee will be $4.00 per year for a total of $48. The additional costs should be sufficient to cover administrative and processing costs. Bylaw 1.C. requires a ⅔ vote for approval.

8) Creation of a Payment Plan for Life Membership and Conservation Life Membership

Schindel moves: to create of a Life Membership and Conservation Life Membership Payment Plan is approved as follows:

The payment structure for the Sustaining Life Membership Payment Plan is the cost of a regular membership (electronic or paper option) + 1/10th of the current rate for a Life Membership. A member may choose to pay above the minimum amount to shorten the life of the payment plan. Once the payment plan is started, two years can be skipped toward the Life Membership, but regular membership must remain current. If by the third year, payment toward Life Membership does not occur, the membership reverts back to the Regular Membership status and any monies paid become a donation to the Endowment Fund. If at any point after that, the member desires to pay installments toward a Life Membership, they must start over. For the purpose of resetting the maturity due to lapse in continuous sustaining membership, the two-year period for current accounts shall not begin before the end of the member's current membership year, or immediately if the account holder is not now a member.

The NSS will accept the $1,000.00 Conservation Life Membership fee (over and above the life membership cost). Conservation Life Membership can be paid in installments of a minimum of four yearly payments of $250.00 per year.

Note: As an example, the current Life membership is $1000, 1/10th of that would be $100 +50 (Regular Membership) for a total of $150 per year.

9) Bylaw IV.A.(2)b – on NSS Elections

Tiderman moves: Bylaw IV.A.(2)b is amended as follows:

(b) The deadline for receiving ballots shall be no later than thirty days before the elected directors will take office. Ballots shall be made available to voting members at least twenty-one days before the deadline for receiving ballots.

Note: When balloting was done via the mail 45 days were needed. Now that balloting is done electronically 45 days is excessive. per the Nominating Committee, most voting is done within 24 hours of receipt or a reminder.
ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

10) Mr. David Hoffman (5761RL FE) and Ms. C.J. Rushin-Elron (11372 RL FE) are designated as benefactors of the NSS.

Schindel Moves: Mr. David Hoffman (5761RL FE) and Ms. C.J. Rushin-Elron (11372 RL FE) are designated as benefactors of the NSS.

Note: Mr. Hoffman and Ms. Rushin-Elron have been longtime members and contributors to the National Speleological Society.

11) Receive Presentation on Vertical Training Ad Hoc Committee

President Schindel created the ad hoc Vertical Training Committee to explore the need and methods for creating a national training program for vertical caving skills. The committee was chaired by Dr. Hazel Barton, NSS Safety and Techniques Committee Chair. Dr. Barton will report on the findings and recommendations from the committee.

12) Creation of Vertical Training Transition Committee

Weaver moves: The Vertical Training Transition Committee is formed to develop the draft charter for the formation of the Vertical Training Commission. The committee will be located within the Education Division of the Administrative Vice President. Committee members will be selected by the Administrative Vice President.

Note: This committee will develop a draft charter for the Vertical Training Commission for review and approval by the Board of Directors.

13) Recess for the closed session of the board and directorate

14) Reconvene

15) Report of the closed session of the board

16) Report of the closed session of the directorate

17) Adjournment

_______________________________ moves: The meeting is adjourned. President Schindel declares the meeting adjourned at _______ PM.