

Western Region of the National Speleological Society Business Meeting

September 20, 2003

By Scott A. Schmitz

Call to order at 4:02 PM by Lynn Fielding, Western Region Chair.

Roll Call:

Diablo Grotto, Mother Lode Grotto, Southern California Grotto, Willamette Valley Grotto, Southern Oregon Grotto, San Francisco Bay Chapter, Shasta Area Grotto, and Stanislaus Grotto.

Minutes

The minutes from the 2002 Western Region Business Meeting were published in *California Caver*, Number 225 and posted on the Western Region Website. No corrections were received. Cindy Heazlit objected to having only the summary of the treasurer's report in the minutes. Peri Frantz mentioned that the full treasurer's report is available in the *California Caver*.

Financial Report

The financial report was accepted as provided by Scott Schmitz. Scott will send the NSS a check for the \$12 cost of hosting the Western Region website.

Awards

Gale Beach congratulated all who won awards at the 2003 NSS Convention and asked cavers to write nominations for 2004. November 15th is the deadline for submitting nominations.

Cave Conservancy

The Cave Conservancy of Hawaii formed in July 2003. They have acquired four acres to date with 42 acres pending for the Kipuka Kanohina System. In addition, they are attempting to buy access to Kazamura Cave. Contact Cindy Heazlit for more details.

Grant Fund

A grant fund report was published in *California Caver*, Number 226. Cavers should think about applying for grants for their projects. Both project and conservation grants are available. Contact Barbara Ruble for details.

Reactivated Grotto

San Joaquin Valley Grotto will apply for membership in the Western Region once the NSS paperwork has been finished. Shastcade Grotto in Redding, California recently submitted their paperwork to the NSS.

Electronic *California Caver*

Announcements asking region cavers if they wish to receive the digital version of the *California Caver* were published in the last two issues. Discussion ensued as to whether or not all Western Region cavers should automatically receive the digital version. The concern was raised that the size of the file, even in PDF, may be too large for some systems to handle. Recommendations were to get a membership list of all cavers in California, Oregon, and Nevada in electronic and paper format, and sending letters to each region grotto advertising the electronic version.

Membership List

Jim Lakner maintains the mailing list for the Western Region. He feels that the raise in dues has impacted membership.

Bank Accounts

Scott Schmitz reported on setting up the new accounts for the Western Region.

Business Meeting Timing

There was a discuss regarding what time the business meeting should take place during the Western Region Meeting and how much time should be allocated for the meeting. Most covers present favored a Saturday mid day to early evening meeting venue. It was thought that having a meeting agenda available in advance and available on the web page would be helpful.

California Caver

A discuss regarding the publication of the *California Caver* took place. Key points were that the position of editor is an appointed position, the editor should encourage material to be submitted by region members, and be willing to reprint articles.

Mother Lode Grotto motioned a call for a new editor be advertised on the NSS News, the NSS and Western Region website, and on the Western Region distribution list. Shasta Area Grotto seconded. Motion passed 13 to 9.

Upcoming Western Region Meetings

Diablo Grotto will host the 2004 Western Region meeting. Mother Lode Grotto will host the meeting in 2005.

Thanks

Thanks were extended to the Willamette Valley Grotto for hosting this year's West Region Meeting!

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

[minutes approved with corrections October 2, 2004]