

When I was in grammar school, I read a short story about cave exploration. After reading that piece, I was fascinated by the prospect of caving someday. There were no caves in my neighborhood, but I discovered and explored a storm drain system under the interstate near my house. My first cave trip was a spelunking adventure with the Pennsylvania State University Mont Alto Outing Club (eight guys with maybe five flashlights) in 1975. After that trip, I checked out a caving book from the library; I think it was McClurg's *The Amateur's Guide to Cave and Caving*. I found that the club had hardhats and carbide lamps but were missing parts for which I found replacements at the local hardware store. After reading McClurg's book, I led the next cave trip as a new caver.

After transferring to the Penn State's University Park Campus, I continued caving with a small group of friends. In 1987, I enrolled in Will White's Caving and Karst class and discovered the Nittany Grotto and the National Speleological Society (NSS). During that period, I served as the grotto chair for a couple of years and helped put on several events including the grotto's annual picnics; a weekend cave rescue training course, and regular Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia cave trips.

After leaving Penn State, I moved around the country for a bit, but I always found a grotto to associate with: the Greater Allentown Grotto in Pennsylvania, the Carolina Borehole Cavers while I lived in North Carolina, and the Gem State Grotto in Idaho. Since moving to Idaho, I have served as the grotto treasurer and was the co-chair of the 1999 Filer, Idaho NSS Convention. I have attended several regional meets (Mid-Atlantic Region, Rocky Mountain Region, Western Region, and Northwest Cavers Association), West Virginia Old Timers Reunions, TAG Fall Cave-Ins, Kentucky Speleofest, and other caver gatherings.

For 47 years the NSS has been an important part of my life. Since my first NSS Convention in 1986, I have only missed one convention (I was in China adopting our daughter - now Cello Girl with the Terminal Siphons). I was named a Fellow in 2000. In 2004, I joined the Awards Committee. In 2012, the NSS Board of Governors (BoG) approved my appointment to be chair of the committee. I served in that role for ten years; I am still an at-large member of the committee.

Professionally, I am a recently retired hydrogeologist with a 38-year career assessing and remediating hazardous material releases to the environment. During this time, I practiced in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and the Pacific Northwest areas of the United States. I am one of the founding principals in an employee-owned environmental consulting and contracting firm. Until my retirement, I served as vice president, corporate secretary, member of the board of directors, and office manager for our firm.

I am also a first responder for our local fire protection district and served as a district commissioner (elected position) for six years.

Over the years I have been approached several times about serving as an officer and/or a member of the BoG for the NSS. I typically replied, "talk to me when I'm retired". Now that I'm retired and was asked again, I finally said yes.

While co-chairing the Idaho convention, I regularly attended BoG meetings between 1995 and 1999 reporting on our convention planning progress. As Awards Committee chair, I attended BoG meetings between 2013 and 2022 to brief the BoG on the Awards Committee efforts.

Why am I running for the BoG? I believe that the NSS is a strong organization and is working to enhance and modernize the leadership of our society. I believe that my NSS caving and professional experience can add value to the BoG's work. I can be particularly helpful in the area of corporate governance. I am not running for the BoG to fix the NSS (it's not broken), rather I wish to continue to offer my efforts for the betterment of the NSS. If elected to the BoG, I will work with the executive, the BoG, and our membership as the NSS navigates to a new administrative model for our society.