A Message from The National Speleological Society President

June 19, 2020

STATEMENT OF CLARIFICATION

Folks,

Last week, we distributed a Statement of Solidarity to the NSS Membership. It was interpreted by some as a political statement. Our intent was only to sincerely state support for the protection of the rights of our members and fellow citizens of color, to be treated equally and fairly and to feel safe and welcome during this period of social unrest and beyond. We outlined the steps the NSS would take to help achieve this goal. We apologize to those who viewed our statement as political and want to take the opportunity to clarify our position.

It was not the intent of the NSS to imply partisan support for any particular social reform legislation or to imply our law enforcement agents and first responders are anything less than honorable and of critical importance. We apologize to those who construed our position as such. The NSS is grateful for its partnership with these communities in support of our national and regional meetings, response to cave rescue, investigation of cave vandalism issues and resource damage, and more. We do support equal rights and equal treatment of all of our citizens, no matter their race, sexual orientation, gender, profession, political views, or any other identifier.

We reaffirm our Statement of Solidarity—we are deeply disturbed by the injustice and racism we see; we are committed to make the NSS a more welcoming Society for all; and we stand by our black community during this period of pain, anger, fear, and frustration.

The NSS mission is lofty and ambitious. Our members, despite their non-cave-related viewpoints on politics, societal issues, etc... are united by their passion for caves and all they contain and offer. This is the power of the NSS.

Thank you for your understanding during these difficult times of global pandemic and social unrest.

Sincerely,

Geary M. Schindel  
President  
National Speleological Society

Nathan Farrar  
Chair of the Directorate  
National Speleological Society