

National Speleological Society, Inc.

Agenda of the 262nd Regular Meeting of the Board of Governors

Huntsville, AL
3/14/26 – 9am CST

V 1.4

[Zoom Link Here](#)

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call: 9:00AM Local Time**

2. **Minutes to Approve –**

2.1. 02/10/25 Minutes - Updated

2.2. 06/23/25 Minutes

2.3. 08/11/25 Minutes

2.4. 10/04/25 Minutes

2.5. 12/04/25 Minutes

3. **Division Head & Board Reports**

4. **Comments from the Membership**

5. **Unfinished Business**

NONE

6. **New Business**

6.1. Schultz moves to approve budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

6.2. Johnson Moves to authorize the Executive Director to spend up to \$10k from cash on hand as a donation to the Gauntlet for their operating expenses. Any amounts will be spent only if authorized by the Executive Director, subject to any existing internal financial controls. These amounts must be spent in FY 26/27.

Notes: This motion is designed to authorize amounts to be spent outside the budget process while giving 100% discretion to the Executive Director about whether the money gets spent and how much would be spent. It is still subject to existing financial controls.

If a suitable agreement can be reached with the Gauntlet, the proposal is to contribute toward their insurance costs in exchange for promoting the NSS on social media and at events, and for an informal commitment to attend a specified number of NSS and regional events, along with any other mutually beneficial arrangements. If the Executive Director determines that a suitable agreement cannot be reached, the funds will remain unspent.

6.3. Schultz moves to authorize \$50,000 of cash on hand for the demolition of Cave Avenue.

Exact demolition costs are to be determined but \$50,000 is a conservative estimate. This has been voted on by the BoG and COG in the past.

6.4. Schultz moves to authorize \$190,000 from the Beech Fund to fund the museum design and installation during the 2026–2027 year upon delivery of a detailed proposal budget.

The latest Beach fund balance is \$390,000. According to the bequest information, their intention was to use the money for education infrastructure and programs, and for a museum at the Headquarters. From an infrastructure perspective, and depending on design and layout plans, the prep kitchen could be converted into museum space, such as for ticket sale and gift shop, or a VR room or for the CaveSim installation. Any of this would require some renovation. The restrooms already have commercial-grade services, but they could be refreshed for higher traffic use. The current security system needs to be upgraded to handle exhibit space blind spots for theft prevention and emergency response. The electronic sign at the road needs to be updated, and a significant advertising campaign will be needed. From an education program perspective, funds could be put toward interactive displays and curriculum development, modern cases with lighting and graphics, an upgraded sound system, etc. There are several routes to market the museum that can be decided once the NSS enters into a formal contract with a partner.

From a marketing and advertising perspective, Alabama Science Festival and IfEF have tremendous experience for their festivals and activities, and would be a great partner in meeting this need. An advertising opportunity already offered to the Executive Director is a public radio advertisement. Funds could be directed at writers and artists.

7. Closed Session of the Board

7.1. Awards Package

8. Adjournment