

**National Speleological Society, Inc.**  
**Board of Governors Meeting**  
**Minutes of the 218th Regular Meeting**  
**Glenwood Springs, Colorado**  
**July 18 & 22, 2011**  
**FINAL**

The 218<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Board of Governors was held at Glenwood Springs High School, Glenwood Springs, Colorado. These minutes, when accompanied by corrections submitted by the Board, constitute the official record of the meeting.

President Gordon Birkhimer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Jean DeVries was present as recording secretary.

**Roll Call**

**Officers**

Gordon Birkhimer, president

Geary Schindel, administrative vice-president (AVP)

Wm Shrewsbury, operations vice-president (OVP)

John LaMar Cole, executive vice-president (EVP) – arrived approximately 9:15

Debra Young, secretary-treasurer (S-T)

**Directors**

Gary Bush

Jay Clark

Linda Devine

Mark Joop

Ted Kayes

Ron Kerbo

Bill Liebman

Randy Paylor

Bill Putnam

Carol Tiderman

Keith Wheeland

Dean Wiseman

**1) Approval of the April 2, 2011, Albuquerque, New Mexico Board of Governors Meeting Minutes**

Birkhimer moved: The minutes of the April 2, 2011, Board meeting are approved as published.

Kayes seconded.

**VOTE:**

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

## 2) Officer Reports:

- A. [President](#) – Gordon Birkhimer  
There were no additions to the submitted written report.
- B. [Administrative Vice-President](#) – Geary Schindel  
Additions to the submitted written report::
1. Report on the status of the proposed Hupps Hill Lease agreement for Crystal Cave, Virginia.
  2. Report on the status of the NSS liability study. Report was sent to the Legal Committee for review, and will be presented at the fall Board meeting.
  3. A motion for the 2013 NSS Convention bid will be presented during this meeting.
- C. [Operations Vice-President](#) – Wm Shrewsbury  
Additions to the submitted written report:
1. The NSS Cavechat forum has been updated to handle file attachments, hidden forums, and closed forums as a possible replacement for the NSS Board Yahoo group.
  2. Copies of the *NSS News* were sold at a commercial cave, with specially marked membership brochures inserted so if returned they can be identified.
- D. [Secretary-Treasurer](#) – Debra Young  
There were no additions to the submitted written report.

Executive Vice-President John LaMar Cole arrived at approximately 9:15 a.m.

- E. [Executive Vice-President](#) – John LaMar Cole  
There were no additions to the submitted written report.

Schindel moved: Shippensburg State University in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania is approved as the site of the 2013 NSS Convention.

Devine seconded

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

## 3) Committee Reports:

- NSS Headquarters (HQ) Commission: Bert Ashbrook for Chairman John Scheltens – oral report
- 2011 NSS Convention: Dave Lester, chairman – oral report
- 2012 NSS Convention: John Pearson, chairman – oral report
- Planning Committee: RD Milhollin, chairman – oral report
- White-nose Syndrome (WNS) Committee: Peter Youngbaer, WNS liaison – oral report
- Election Committee: Allan Weberg, chairman – oral report

## OLD BUSINESS

#### **4) Strategic Plan Approval (Postponed from April 2011 Meeting)**

Birkhimer moved: The Board adopts the following as the summative strategic plan for the National Speleological Society. This document is understood to be a working guide for the organization and for the planning committee, which will continue to assist the Board in developing and updating the various goals contained within.

Summative Strategic Plan:

##### **Strategic Goal 1: Increase Public Outreach**

Strategy: The NSS will work to make its name and mission known among the public outside the caving community and encourage supporting memberships among people interested in conservation and other cave-related topics.

By summer 2011 the NSS will develop marketing techniques and advertising pieces for targeted journals, magazines, and group newsletters that solicit cave conservation supporter memberships and donations.

By summer 2011 the NSS Board will address the most effective way to coordinate the outreach efforts to both the general public and the non-NSS caving public. There are many functions and duties within the organization that will need to work in concert to have the most desirable impact.

By summer 2011 the NSS will offer a discount for first-year members as part of a coordinated outreach/marketing plan to attract initial membership and then demonstrate the advantages of continued membership.

By summer 2011 the NSS will incorporate price/benefit considerations into the dues structure, incorporating the option for members to receive NSS publications in digital rather than printed format.

By summer 2011 The NSS Headquarters Commission will have a general plan for a headquarters facility that will address and incorporate the goal of public outreach.

By summer 2011 the NSS will have in place at least three cooperative marketing or advertising agreements with conservation or exploration oriented organizations that will enable mutual public outreach.

By summer 2011 5% of the membership income for the NSS will be from the cave conservation supporter membership category.

By summer 2011 The NSS will present a workshop at Convention that teaches members how to give public presentations and facilitate public outreach, and will provide copies of NSS outreach curricula, presentation supports, and posters.

By summer 2012 The NSS will develop a DVD or downloadable media for use as presentations at meetings such as university outdoor clubs, scout troops, hiking/rock climbing clubs, etc., and at conservation group meetings.

By summer 2012 The NSS will produce a separate publication suitable and appropriate for cave conservation supporting members, which will be sent to all addresses in that membership category.

By summer 2012 10% of the membership income for the NSS will be derived from the cave conservation supporter membership category.

By summer 2012 the NSS bookstore will have increased sales by 10% by marketing NSS publications suitable for the general public in bookstores and gift shops of state and national parks featuring caves, and commercial cave operations. NSS public-interest/conservation-themed brochures should be provided for free distribution.

By summer 2015 The NSS will open a national caving museum at the NSS headquarters with educational exhibits for visitors illustrating the history of U.S. Cave exploration, cave archaeology, historical aspects of caves and caving, cave biology, prominent cavers, cave and karst geology, and the progressive development of caving technologies.

By summer 2016 The NSS will have a traveling museum exhibit with trailer to be shown at science museums, universities, NSS regional and affiliate group events, and other venues.

By summer 2016 The NSS will host conferences, seminars, and workshops at the new NSS headquarters on significant cave and caving topics in cooperation with the NPS, NFS, USFWS, BCI, NCA, and like organizations.

### **Strategic Goal 2: Increase Caver Outreach**

Strategy: Recruit individuals that are involved in the various aspects of caving to join the NSS in order to further our common goals.

Strategy: Increase the membership renewal rate of members, especially those with less than three years as members.

### **Strategic Goal 3: Increase the scope and quality of Member Services**

Strategy: Make the benefits of membership in the Society more objectively apparent and desirable to a wider number of cavers.

### **Strategic Goal 4: Improve Organizational Effectiveness**

Strategy: Increase the ability of the NSS to achieve its organizational goals in the most effective and efficient manner possible given available resources.

### **Strategic Goal 5: Streamline Organizational Governance and Decision Making**

Strategy: Decrease the time needed for the NSS organization to reach decisions necessary in order to carry out its organizational goals.

Strategy: Institute procedures that will assure the NSS leadership is as responsive as possible to the membership.

### **Strategic Goal 6: Choose optimal location and configuration for a national headquarters**

Strategy: Select the location that can best serve the members, purposes, and goals of the Society.

Strategy: Develop a plan for the NSS national headquarters that will be practical in the short term, flexible in use over time, and expandable to meet the projected needs of a national

membership-based organization over the long term.

Strategy: Select a headquarters plan that will be financially self-supporting over the long term.

**Strategic Goal 7: Transform key aspects of the NSS organization to ensure long-term success and viability as a membership-based non-profit**

Strategy: Establish a formal process for evaluating the effectiveness and responsiveness of the NSS organization in relation to similar organizations, and be prepared to make bold changes based on the results of such a study.

Tiderman seconded.

A) Liebman moved to postpone to the Fall BOG meeting.

Putnam seconded.

VOTE to postpone:

In Favor: None

Opposed: Majority

FAILED

B) Putnam moved to table the motion.

Liebman seconded.

VOTE to table:

Unanimous in favor

PASSED

**5) Procedures for Posting to NSS Website (Postponed from April 2011 meeting)**

Tiderman moved: The publication, distribution, or posting of an official document, announcement, or statement in print or electronic form (including venues such as the NSS website, Twitter, and/or Facebook) represents the Society to the membership and to the world. For this reason, such communications are expected to be as accurate and appropriate as possible in order to reflect positively on the Society, its members, and the community of cavers and speleologists.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Society that documents, statements, and announcements of an official nature must:

- 1) Be factual in nature;
- 2) Responsibly and accurately represent Society business;
- 3) Not disparage or ridicule any individual or group;
- 4) Not include confidential NSS material;
- 5) Not intentionally include anything that is misleading.

Official documents, statements, announcements, or other material of an official nature of the Society must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Governors prior to publication, distribution, or posting. The president, or the chairman of the directorate in the event that the president is unavailable, shall normally perform this function and shall do so in consultation with the Secretary. The Board may delegate this review authority to persons other than the president for specific publications, announcements, statements, or other material as may be deemed

necessary and appropriate.

Material of an official nature to be published in print form in one of the Society's publications or in other publications must also be reviewed and approved by the EVP. Material of an official nature to be posted on the Society's website, or to any Web or Internet site, must also be reviewed and approved by the OVP. Any portion of such material deemed inappropriate may be subject to editing and/or removal by an officer. The Board may override the decision of any officer by majority vote.

This policy applies only to official documents, statements, and announcements related to NSS business, such as minutes, reports, memoranda, letters, policy statements, announcements, and other official communications or material of an official nature, and is not intended to apply to personal and individual expressions of ideas or opinions by members of the Society in unofficial and non-business contexts, such as on Cavechat or social networking sites, in letters to the editor, or the like. The Society encourages and supports the free expression and exchange of ideas among its members.

Putnam seconded.

A) Shrewsbury moved to table the motion.

Liebman seconded.

VOTE table:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

#### **6) Recess Monday**

President Birkhimer declared an adjournment of the Monday session. The directorate met in closed session following the adjournment. Birkhimer thanked the Board and committee chairmen for their service during his tenure as president.

He announced that the meeting will reconvene on Friday, July 22, 2011, at 9:00 a.m.

#### **7) Reconvene Friday**

President Shrewsbury called the continuation of the 218<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting to order on July 22, 2011, at 9:18 a.m. All officers and directors were present. Jean DeVries was present as recording secretary. Wm Shrewsbury was seated as the president, and Dave Luckins was seated as operations vice-president.

#### **8) Report of the Closed Session of the Directorate**

Ted Kayes, chairman of the directorate, reported that Geary Schindel was re-elected administrative vice-president, John LaMar Cole was re-elected executive vice-president, Dave Luckins (NSS #14010RL) was elected operations vice-president, Gary Moss was re-elected president pro tem, and Ted Kayes was re-elected chairman of the directorate.

#### **9) Report of the Closed Session of the Board**

No closed session of the board was held.

## **10) Procedures for Posting to NSS Website (Act 66-853 and Appendix AZ)**

Tiderman moved: Agenda Item #5, Procedures for Posting to NSS Website, is removed from the table.

Putnam seconded.

A) Tiderman moved to substitute:

The publication, distribution, or posting of an official document, announcement, or statement in print or electronic form (including venues such as the NSS website, Twitter, and/or Facebook) represents the Society to the membership and to the world. For this reason, such communications are expected to be as accurate and appropriate as possible in order to reflect positively on the Society, its members, and the community of cavers and speleologists.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Society that documents, statements, and announcements of an official nature must:

- 1) Be factual in nature;
- 2) Responsibly and accurately represent society business;
- 3) Not disparage or ridicule any individual or group;
- 4) Not include confidential NSS material

Official documents, statements, announcements, or other material of an official nature not generated by the BOG, an officer, or their committee, shall be reviewed by the president prior to publication, distribution, or posting. Another officer, in the event that the president is unavailable, shall perform this function. The Board may delegate this review authority to persons other than the president for specific publications, announcements, statements, or other material as may be deemed necessary and appropriate.

Material of an official nature to be published in print form in one of the Society's publications or in other publications must also be reviewed and approved by the EVP.

Material of an official nature, not listed above, to be posted on the Society's website, or to any Web or Internet site, must also be reviewed and approved by the OVP. Any portion of such material deemed inappropriate may be subject to editing and/or removal by an officer. The Board may override the decision of any officer by majority vote.

This policy applies only to official documents, statements, and announcements related to NSS business, such as minutes, reports, memoranda, letters, policy statements, announcements, and other official communications or material of an official nature, and is not intended to apply to personal and individual expressions of ideas or opinions by members of the Society in un-official and non-business contexts, such as on Cavechat or social networking sites, in letters to the Editor, or the like. The Society encourages and supports the free expression and exchange of ideas among its members.

Bush seconded.

VOTE to substitute:

In Favor: Majority

Opposed: Kayes, Wiseman

PASSED

VOTE on motion as substituted:

In Favor: Majority

Opposed: Kayes, Wiseman

Abstain: Liebman

PASSED

**11) IT Committee Chairman Appointment**

Shrewsbury moved: Christopher E. Francke (NSS #62417RE) is confirmed as chairman of the Information Technologies Committee.

Devine seconded.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

**12) Headquarters Commission Chairman Appointment**

Shrewsbury moved: David E. Haun (NSS #24672RL) is confirmed as chairman of the Headquarters Commission.

Luckins seconded.

A) Joop moved to table the motion.

Bush seconded.

VOTE to table:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

**13) Finance Committee Chairman Appointment**

Young moved: Peri Frantz (NSS #10124) is confirmed as chairman of the Finance Committee.

Devine seconded.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

**14) Fall 2011 Board of Governors Meeting**

Shrewsbury moved: The fall 2011 NSS Board of Governors meeting will be held in Houston, Texas on October 22, and hosted by the Greater Houston Grotto.

Tiderman seconded.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

**15) Repeal of Electronic Publishing of Members Manual Act**

Putnam moved: Act 84-817 (Electronic Publishing of the Members Manual) is repealed.



Cole seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Majority

Opposed: Liebman

PASSED

**Agenda was suspended for the Congress of Grottos Report**– Carol Jackson reported on the Congress of Grottos (COG) meeting. See [Attachment A](#).

### **16) Outstanding Service and Honorary Membership Awards**

Schindel moved: Board Act 43-246 and Appendix AO are amended to add: <<The Outstanding Service and Honorary Membership award recipients receive complementary registration for the NSS convention the year they receive their award. A line item will be established in the president's budget.>>

Luckins seconded.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

### **17) Revised Draft Minutes Requirements**

Shrewsbury moved: Appendix J, Section V.A is revised as follows:

Draft minutes will be distributed to Board members by the recording secretary as soon as possible after the meeting, preferably within <30> <<14>> days. Board members will be asked to submit corrections and suggestions to the recording secretary within <15> <<7>> days. After making all necessary corrections the recording secretary will submit to the president a copy of <all> the comments and corrections <<related to the business conducted,>> as well as the final draft minutes for approval by the Board at the next regular meeting. The final draft <and final minutes> will be posted <on a public area><<to the NSS Business page>> of the NSS website <<as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the meeting. The draft version will be replaced by the final version approved at the following meeting. Only corrections relating to the content of minutes of the previous meeting will be brought before the Board for approval. The NSS recording secretary is responsible for ensuring the minutes are posted online.>>

Tiderman seconded.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

### **18) Repeal of Act 05-194 Meeting Minutes Corrections**

Shrewsbury moved: Act 05-194 (Corrections) is repealed.

Tiderman seconded.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

**19) Landowners Assistance Fund Request**

Young moved: Up to \$5000 will be made available to the Cave Diving Section from the Landowners Assistance Restricted Fund (18-655) for legal assistance for the current lawsuit regarding School Sink.

Luckins seconded.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

**20) Electronic Publication of *Journal of Cave & Karst Studies* (Act 81-854)**

Cole moved: In accordance with the approved FY 2011-12 budget, the December 2011 issue of the *Journal of Cave & Karst Studies* will be published electronically. Life members & sustaining members who are entitled to receive the *Journal* may request printed copies at no additional cost. All other members may request printed copies for an additional fee (to be determined).

Kayes seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Majority

Opposed: Liebman

PASSED

**21) Funding for Strategic Planning Committee**

Shrewsbury moved: The board approves \$8,000 for use by the Strategic Planning Committee for consulting services.

Bush seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Majority

Opposed: Kayes, Liebman

Abstain: Kerbo

PASSED

**22) NSS Headquarters (Act 26-855)**

Shrewsbury moved: The recommendation of the NSS Headquarters Commission to purchase Cahaba Shrine Temple and property, 6001 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Alabama, is adopted.

Wiseman seconded.

A) Bush moved to substitute: The NSS will create its new national headquarters as a custom designed, newly constructed building, located in the greater metropolitan area of Huntsville, Alabama.

Devine seconded.

VOTE to substitute:

In Favor: Bush, Devine, Tiderman

Opposed: Majority

Abstain: Cole, Joop, Kerbo FAILED

B) Joop moved to postpone the motion until the NSS strategic plan is complete.

Paylor seconded.

C) Wiseman called the question.

VOTE to call the question:

Unanimously in favor PASSED

VOTE to postpone:

In Favor: Bush, Cole, Devine, Joop, Kerbo, Paylor, Tiderman

Opposed: Clark, Kayes, Liebman, Luckins, Putnam, Schindel,

Wheeland, Wiseman, Young FAILED

Kayes called the question on the primary motion.

VOTE to call the question:

Unanimously in favor PASSED

VOTE on the motion:

In Favor: Clark, Kayes, Liebman, Luckins, Putnam, Schindel, Wheeland, Wiseman, Young

Opposed: Bush, Cole, Devine, Joop, Paylor

Abstain: Kerbo, Tiderman PASSED

### **23) Recess**

President Shrewsbury declared a recess at 12:10 p.m. for lunch.

### **24) Reconvene**

President Shrewsbury reconvened the meeting at 12:44 p.m. Dave Lester gave an oral report on the 2011 Convention.

### **25) NSS Headquarters Purchase (Act 26-856)**

Shrewsbury moved: The operations vice-president, working with the secretary-treasurer, is authorized to negotiate with the owners of the Cahaba Shrine Temple, 6001 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Alabama, to purchase the property for the NSS headquarters. The secretary-treasurer working with the president is authorized to handle all the financial and legal arrangements necessary to purchase the property, including obtaining a mortgage loan not to exceed an amount to be discussed in closed session.

Liebman seconded.

VOTE:

For: Majority

Against: None

Abstain: Joop

PASSED

**26) NSS Headquarters Funding Transfer Request**

Luckins moved: The NSS requests the National Speleological Foundation transfer \$70,000 from the Publication Trust Restricted Fund (Attachment O of the master contract), and \$100,000 from the excess of the Life Member Fund (Attachment A of the master contract) into the NSS Headquarters Restricted Fund (Attachment B of the master contract).

Wiseman seconded.

VOTE:

For: Majority

Against: None

Abstain: Joop

PASSED

**27) National Speleological Foundation Fund Request**

Luckins moved: The secretary-treasurer is authorized to request up to \$290,000 from the NSS Headquarters fund from the National Speleological Foundation for the purpose of facilitating the purchase of the new NSS office facility.

Liebman seconded.

VOTE:

For: Majority

Against: None

Abstain: Joop

PASSED

**28) Editor of *Journal of Cave & Karst Studies* Appointment**

Cole moved: Erin Lynch (NSS #48123RE) is confirmed as production editor of the *Journal of Cave & Karst Studies*.

Devine seconded.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

**29) Headquarters Commission Member Approval**

Shrewsbury moved: William O. Putnam (NSS #21117RL) is confirmed as a member of the Headquarters Commission.

Luckins seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Majority

Opposed: Bush, Joop

Abstain: Putnam

PASSED

**30) NCRC Regional Coordinators Confirmation**

Schindel moved: The following individuals are reconfirmed as NCRC regional coordinators:

John Evans – Northeastern Region  
Bob Rodgers – Southwestern Region  
Roger Mortimer – Western Region  
Forrest Wilson – Diving Officer

Luckins seconded.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

**31) Recess for Closed Session of the Board**

President Shrewsbury declared a recess for a closed session of the board at 1:22 p.m. Gary Moss was seated as proxy for Jay Clark, who left the meeting at this time.

**32) Reconvene**

President Shrewsbury reconvened the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**33) Report of the Closed Session of the Board**

President Shrewsbury reported that the maximum purchase price allowed for negotiation for the new NSS headquarters was discussed.

**34) Headquarters Commission Member Approval**

Shrewsbury moved: Dave Haun (NSS #24672) is confirmed as a member of the Headquarters Commission.

Luckins seconded.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor

PASSED

Ted Kayes, chairman of the directorate, made the following statement to the audience:

“To clarify certain matters: There have been certain misunderstandings regarding the HQ Commission and its leadership. At this point:

- Dave Luckins has replaced William Shrewsbury on the commission.
- Bill Putnam has replaced Bert Ashbrook, who has resigned. Bert has just taken on some new responsibilities.
- John Scheltens continues as chairman of the commission.

The Board deeply regrets certain misunderstandings it made regarding the HQ Commission and its leadership.”

**35) Open Discussion Period**

Shrewsbury moved: An open discussion is held for a period of time not to exceed 15 minutes.

Devine seconded.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Bill Liebman thanked Board members for their decision and passion on the headquarters issue.
2. Ernie Coffman took a survey of members about the NSS and the Board. Lots of good comments, but some issues about the Board and its members. Hope that at the next Board meeting there will be a discussion on the drop in membership and the possible causes.
3. Dean Wiseman has extreme high hopes now that the Board is past the issue of the HQ. Membership is not just an NSS issue; it is also affecting other organizations. But there should still be cause for concern.
4. Bill Putnam echoed Wiseman's comments. During the break, we received first headquarters pledge of \$10,000 from a single donor and \$1,000 from three other donors.
- 5.

### **36) Appreciation**

Shrewsbury moved: The Board of Governors expresses its appreciation to the NSS 2011 Convention Committee for hosting our meeting and providing excellent meeting arrangements.

Bush seconded.

Agreed by unanimous consent.

Paylor moved: Appreciation is shown to President Wm Shrewsbury for his leadership through this meeting.

Liebman seconded.

Agreed by unanimous consent.

### **37) Adjournment**

Kayes moved: The meeting is adjourned.

Bush seconded.

Agreed by unanimous consent.

President Shrewsbury declared the meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m..

## Attachment A

### 2011 Congress of Grottos Report

Glenwood Springs, CO

July 20, 2011

**Call to Order: by Carol S. Jackson, Chair 2011 Congress of Grottos**

**Report from the Past Chair, NSS Board of Governors: Gordon Berkhimer ([See Attached](#))**

#### Issues:

##### 1. Meramec Valley Grotto moves: (Second by Glacier Grotto)

Whereas, the Congress of Grottos has little participation at its meetings in the last decade or more and that lack of participation is by choice<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, the Congress of Grottos seldom has business placed before it in the form of a motion, especially ones that have been circulated among the grottos before the Congress meets;

Whereas, when such motions are passed by the Congress of Grottos they are generally not given due consideration by the Board of Governors<sup>2,3</sup>,

Whereas, the Congress of Grottos is merely an advisory body;

Whereas, the Cave Diving Section decides the outcome of almost all votes; in 2010 it had 93 votes.

Whereas, convention organizers must provide sufficient space to accommodate significant participation despite the lack of such for many years;

Whereas the NSS membership is much more mobile than when the Congress was established and has many more ways to communicate among themselves and with the BOG not least of which is the Internet;

Whereas, the members of the NSS now have the power to modify both the Bylaws<sup>4</sup> of the NSS and to change the Acts<sup>5</sup> of the NSS through binding referenda;

Whereas, the Congress of Grottos has fulfilled its purpose and is no longer serving a useful function;

It is resolved that the Congress of Grottos is dissolved.

#### Notes:

1. Only 40 internal organizations participated and there were no motions made prior to the meeting (per Alica Lewis, 2010 Chair, Congress of Grottos). There were over 250 eligible internal organizations ([http://www.caves.org/committee/i-o/All\\_IOs.shtml](http://www.caves.org/committee/i-o/All_IOs.shtml)) and they don't have to present to bring business before the

Congress or to vote (<http://caves.org/nss-business/bog/Append-Q.pdf>, VIII A, IV D)

2. <http://www.caves.org/nss-business/congress.shtml> Item 2 and 3. followed by <http://www.caves.org/nssbusiness/minutes/nov05bog.html> Item 18 a through c. Steve Ormeroid (AVP at the time) thought that no motion actually had to appear on the BOG agenda as a result of the Congress of Grottos resolution. He argued that he and a couple of other officers had discussed it, rejected it and that met the consideration criteria. Ted Kayes (Secretary-Treasurer at the time and current Director) told Philip Moss (Director at the time) that it was unfortunate that Philip had improved the motion enough that it might pass. For more information on the resistance from the BOG to this resolution from the COG, contact Ray Keeler with Central Arizona Grotto.
3. <http://caves.org/nss-business/bog/Append-Q.pdf> VIII A – The BOG does not submit resolutions to the Congress for consideration.
4. <http://www.caves.org/nss-business/bog/Bylaws.pdf> Bylaw XII. A. (3)
5. <http://www.caves.org/nss-business/bog/Bylaws.pdf> Bylaw IV. M.

***Motion Failed*** by show of placards.

## **2. The Permian Basin moves:** (Second by Dogwood City Grotto)

that the National Speleological Society convert to an electronic archiving system and allow any grotto that publishes electronically to submit these publications to the NSS in their electronic form.

Discussion: Regarding copies of newsletters to the NSS:

Would the NSS reconsider electronic archiving of newsletters as an alternative to sending hard copies? Although this is a redundant proposal, electronic archiving is so much more sophisticated and safe than it had been previously, so we believe the topic should be revisited. Many grotto newsletters are electronic publications only. Unless archived materials have been printed with high quality ink on high quality rag content paper, "archived" publications are not long-lived. Electronic archive services are becoming more economical and are redundant.

All Permian Basin Speleological Society publications-"Spylunk" then "Hole News"-are available on line as Adobe Portable Document Files (.pdfs). If preferred, we would be happy to provide the NSS library with a compact disc of our newsletters.

***Motion Passed*** by show of placards, none opposed, no abstentions.

## **3. South Carolina Grotto moves:** (Second by Nittany Grotto)

The NSS should provide the option of paper or electronic copies of the NSS News to its members.



Passage of this motion will reduce the printing and postage costs associated with the publication, and prevent a storage issue for the members who tend to collect issues.

*Motion Passed* by show of placards, none opposed, no abstentions.

#### **Discussions from the Floor:**

#### **4. San Francisco Bay Chapter moves: (Second by VAR)**

The NSS will raise significant donations and pledges before incurring major debt for a new headquarters.

*Motion Failed* by obvious show of placards; 12 for, some abstentions.

#### **5. General Discussion from the Floor** initiated by Alicea of Meramec valley Grotto re encouraging attendance at COG

Points raised include:

- How to encourage representative attendance at COG.
- Reason for attending personal contact.
- Hear other people's points of view. Issue disenfranchisement some groups feel.
- Posting of motions at least one month ahead of time for discussion at grotto meetings.
- Encourage grotto members to join NSS to increase vote count.
- Authorization to represent organization; should there be a limit.
- IRS deduction for attendance as delegate. NOTE: individual should be on record as having been appointed as delegate in case of IRS audit.
- Encourage young people participation.
- Open forum encourage younger participants to attend.
- Article in NSS news promoting reasons for attending.
- Delegates should be authorized by home organization.
- Conflict with other sessions.

#### **6. VAR moves: (Second by RASS)**

That the Congress give vote of appreciation to Gordon Birkhimer for activity regarding cave access relating to WNS and CBD in general and during convention.

*Motion Passed* by show of placards without discussion; none opposed, DCG abstains.

#### **7. Stonewall Grotto moves: (Second by Greater Allentown Grotto)**

That the Congress give vote of appreciation to Bert Ashbrook for representation in CBD WNS lawsuit.

*Motion Passed* by show of placards, none opposed, no abstentions.

## **Election of 2012 Officers**

**Chairperson:** Bill Stringfellow, Dogwood City Grotto; motion to accept by acclamation SFB, Second Meramec

*Motion Passed*

**Vice Chair:** Blake Jordan volunteered, Sandia Grotto; Motion to accept by acclamation Permian Basin, Second Meramec.

*Motion Passed*

**Meeting Adjourned** until next regular meeting by Chairperson Carol S. Jackson.

**Future COG issues to be directed to:**

**Bill Stringfellow**, 204 Lake Court, Woodstock, GA 30188-3212, 678-576-0509,  
[COG@ropeguy.us](mailto:COG@ropeguy.us)

**Blake N. Jordan**, 6109 Concordia Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111, 505-362-0101,  
[blandevoid@comcast.net](mailto:blandevoid@comcast.net)