

ISSUES FOR THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CONGRESS OF GROTTOS JUNE 27, 1983, AT
THE NSS CONVENTION IN ELKINS WV AND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS
PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF NSS.

Rules for representation appear in the April Administrative Memo. This includes proxy voting and absentee voting. Those unable to be present in person or by proxy are encouraged to send their statement in writing on the issues by mail not later than June 15, 1983, to the COG Issues Chairman,

Gregory J. Valent
2809 W. Logan Blvd., Garden Apt.
Chicago IL 60647

I. Vandalizing cave gates

(Waldo Brothers Grotto)

During the last several years, there have been multiple reports of NSS members violating cave gates. At least one of these incidents is well documented. The failure of the NSS to take any punitive action has and will continue to cause great harm to the image of the NSS and its members.

It is hereby moved that NSS members who violate or bypass any cave gate for any reason other than in an emergency situation or with the owner's/administrator's permission shall be removed from the NSS membership roll and will be permanently barred from NSS membership.

VOTE: IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

II. Public education

(Greater Cincinnati Grotto)

In keeping with its new high-profile policies, the NSS can expect more public inquiries into caves and caving. The local and regional Internal Organizations (I/O's) will most probably be called on to satisfy these inquiries in their areas. To assist the I/O's and to avoid misinformation being disseminated, the NSS should develop and circulate a consistent, basic set of information for presenting such programs. This information should be presented as guidelines, not as restrictions.

To maintain a consistent Cave Education policy nationally, the BOG should form an Ad Hoc Committee to publish guidelines for public classes by I/O's. The guidelines would include philosophy, curricula, and conservation topics to aid I/O's in developing appropriate cave education classes, lectures, or public information series. The guidelines would be complete enough for a brief talk or for a whole series of classes. They would be informative, not compulsory, guidelines.

VOTE: IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

III. NSS Bulletin

(San Francisco Bay Chapter)

Be it resolved that the NSS Bulletin should receive increased funding even if it requires reducing or eliminating colored covers and photographs from the NSS News.

VOTE: IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

IV. Convention impact on caves

(Sandia Grotto)

Many cavers attend NSS conventions to view and experience caves and caving under different conditions and locality. Because of the traffic impact by large numbers of cavers in such a short period of time (2-3 weeks), trips to caves should be held at a minimum and with a view towards conserving the area's cave resources rather than abusing them. Example: The bid for a convention in New Mexico was voted against largely because access to caves is tightly controlled and limited. We felt the votes of many BOG members did not consider conservation of the cave resource as heavily as sport caving during the convention by large numbers of cavers at one time.

We recommend that more consideration be given to lessening impact on area caves when planning and selecting NSS convention sites through limited, guided trips to the area caves.

VOTE: YES NO

V. Geographical Representation on BOG

(Western and Rocky Mountain Regions)

Approximately 20% of the membership of the NSS reside from the Rocky Mountains to the West Coast. Yet another 12% of the membership live between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River. While the concerns and issues facing the cavers in these geographic sections vary from those facing cavers in the East, the geographic distribution of BOG directors seldom reflects the geographic distribution of major segments of the NSS membership.

Whereas: The geographical regions of the United States vary significantly in numbers and types of caves, in caver population, in distances between caving areas, and in land ownership patterns; and

Whereas: These regional differences can lead to differences in access to caves, in land owner relations, and in caver attitudes and positions on national issues; and

Whereas: It is in the best interest of the National Speleological Society and of the growth of NSS membership that all geographical regions be represented on the Board of Governors; and

Whereas: The present system of electing BOG members does not ensure representation from all geographical regions of the country:

Therefore be it resolved: That the present system of electing BOG members be changed so that the same number of BOG members are elected as at present but that a member of the BOG be elected by the NSS members resident in each of the four geographical regions of the United States, with all remaining BOG members being elected at large by all NSS members, and that the four geographical regions be divided by lines drawn along the Rocky Mountains, the Mississippi River and the Appalachian Mountains, but not so as to divide current NSS regions.

VOTE: YES NO

VI. NSS Interpretation to Members

(Southwest Texas)

We have trouble convincing prospective NSS members--especially university students with limited budgets--that joining NSS is worthwhile, because they don't see what their dues accomplish within the organization. All they see is that their dues purchase a publication (a good one). Only after joining NSS does a person see the many different ways the money is spent.

The NSS should look into producing a slide show that could be sent from grotto to grotto showing the specific uses to which dues money is put.

VOTE: YES NO

VII. Mitigating caver proliferation problems

(Sligo Grotto)

Cave exploitation by outdoor groups would be impossible to stop in a free enterprise system such as ours. We as the NSS have no right to prevent such activities. There is already a Youth Groups Liaison Committee. There should be an equivalent committee to deal with problems caused by commercial operators.

The NSS should form a committee as liaison with commercial, outdoor educational groups to ease safety and conservation problems inherent in such activities.

VOTE: YES NO

VIII. Closed Board Meetings

(Sligo Grotto)

In keeping with democratic traditions of the United States, we feel it is unseemly that the Board of Governors of the NSS feels it has reason to hide anything from the membership. Granted most members could care less about attending BOG meetings. But the right to should be ours. Secret meetings should be forbidden except as detailed in the motion.

There shall be no secret, closed, or limited access meetings of the Board of Governors except for the purposes of (1) discussing awards to be given and (2) discussing disciplinary proceedings against a member of the NSS. All other meetings must be open to NSS members.

VOTE: YES NO

IX. Voting records of incumbent BOG candidates Etc.

(Baltimore Grotto)

Board members are generally elected on the basis of name recognition. The electorate has little opportunity to determine to what degree a candidate who has served is representing them.

When platforms and ballots are mailed out, a copy of the voting record where applicable should be presented to the general membership for them to assess if this candidate is truly representing them on the Board.

VOTE: YES NO

BALLOT

1983 CONGRESS OF GROTTOS

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION: _____

NUMBER OF VOTES TO WHICH YOU ARE ENTITLED: _____

DELEGATES:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

AGENDA ITEMS:

Topic

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> In favor | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose | Vandalizing cave gates |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> In favor | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose | Public education |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> In favor | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose | NSS Bulletin |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | Convention impact on caves |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | Geographical representation on BOG |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | NSS interpretation to members |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | Mitigating caver proliferation |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | Closed BOG meetings |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | Voting records of incumbent BOG candidates |

FLOOR MOTIONS:

- | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> a) | <input type="checkbox"/> b) | <input type="checkbox"/> c) | <input type="checkbox"/> d) | <input type="checkbox"/> e) | <input type="checkbox"/> f) |
| 11. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> a) | <input type="checkbox"/> b) | <input type="checkbox"/> c) | <input type="checkbox"/> d) | <input type="checkbox"/> e) | <input type="checkbox"/> f) |
| 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> a) | <input type="checkbox"/> b) | <input type="checkbox"/> c) | <input type="checkbox"/> d) | <input type="checkbox"/> e) | <input type="checkbox"/> f) |
| 13. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> a) | <input type="checkbox"/> b) | <input type="checkbox"/> c) | <input type="checkbox"/> d) | <input type="checkbox"/> e) | <input type="checkbox"/> f) |
| 14. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> a) | <input type="checkbox"/> b) | <input type="checkbox"/> c) | <input type="checkbox"/> d) | <input type="checkbox"/> e) | <input type="checkbox"/> f) |
| 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> a) | <input type="checkbox"/> b) | <input type="checkbox"/> c) | <input type="checkbox"/> d) | <input type="checkbox"/> e) | <input type="checkbox"/> f) |
| 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> a) | <input type="checkbox"/> b) | <input type="checkbox"/> c) | <input type="checkbox"/> d) | <input type="checkbox"/> e) | <input type="checkbox"/> f) |

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1984 CONGRESS OF GROTTOS:

Chairman

Vice-chairman

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____