

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
1987 CONVENTION

CONGRESS OF GROTTOS

COG 101 - Received by the Issues Chair. 19/12/86  
ITEM 1

I S S U E S

Sponsor: CASCADE GROTTO, Seattle, Washington  
Submitted by Mark Wilson for Bob Brown

Co-Sponsor: NORTHWEST CAVING ASSOCIATION, Elbe, Washington  
Bob Brown, chairman

BACKGROUND

For more than forty-five years the NSS Board of Governors has had complete power to conduct and supervise all business of the NSS. All members, officers, internal organizations, and committees are held accountable for their actions to the BOG. The only accountability that the BOG is held to is the election of NSS Directors. Now that the NSS has grown into a national organization of several thousand members, it is time that the BOG is held more accountable to the membership for its actions. The membership needs to have the power to recall NSS Directors and Officers, to override actions of the BOG, to pass directives if we, the members, feel the BOG has failed to implement the will of the membership. It is important that these types of actions only be allowed in the most severe cases, where the vast majority of the membership feels that action must be taken.

Therefore be it resolved by the 1987 Congress of Grottos that the Board of Governors of the NSS place the following proposed constitutional amendments to a mailed vote of all regular or higher members of the NSS prior to November 15, 1987 as per Article VIII of the NSS Constitution.

AMENDMENT #1.

Regular or higher members of the Society shall have the right to recall any NSS Director or any Officer of the Society. If 5% of the regular or higher members of the NSS sign a petition which gives the reason for the recall the BOG will be required to mail a ballot to every regular or higher member of the NSS. This Ballot shall state the reason for the recall and allow for a yes or no vote on the recall. If 60% of the ballots returned within sixty days of the mailing have a yes vote, then the persons listed on the recall ballot shall be removed from the BOG and may not serve again as a BOG member for a period of four years from the date of recall.

AMENDMENT #2.

Any action of the BOG may be overridden by a 75% yes vote of those regular or higher members of the NSS which return an override ballot. If 5% of the regular or higher members of the NSS sign a petition asking for an override ballot on a BOG action, the BOG will be required to mail an override ballot to all regular or higher members of the NSS. Such an override ballot shall clearly state the BOG action and provide for a yes or no vote. If 75% of the override ballots returned after sixty days of the mailing have a yes vote, then the BOG action will be overridden.

AMENDMENT #3.

The membership shall have the right to mandate a directive to the BOG, NSS Officer(s), or NSS committees. If 10% of the regular or higher members of the NSS sign a petition clearly outlining a directive to the BOG, any NSS Officer(s), or NSS committee, the BOG will be required to mail a ballot to all regular or higher members of the Society clearly stating the directive and allowing for a yes or no vote. If 75% of the ballots returned after sixty days of the mailing have a yes vote, then the BOG, Nss Officer(s), or NSS committee must implement the required directive.

AMENDMENT #4.

The Congress of Grottos (as defined by BOG directives and the NSS by-laws in effect prior to November 19, 1986) will have the power to direct the BOG to place any matter to a vote of the regular or higher members of the Society, if the matter voted on at the Congress of Grottos was on their agenda sixty days prior to the meeting of the Congress and was available to the Society's members and internal organizations, and 60% of the representatives present at the Congress meeting vote yes and to place the matter before the membership. For approval any such matter put to a vote of the Society's membership must receive an 80% yes vote from regular or higher members of the Society returning their ballots within sixty days of the Congress meeting were such a directive approved.

(NOTE: Congress is asked to vote separately on each amendment.)

ITEM 2

Sponsor: CASCADE GROTTO, Seattle, Washington  
Submitted by Mark Wilson for Bob Brown

Co-Sponsor: NORTHWEST CAVING ASSOCIATION, Elbe, Washington  
Bob Brown, chairman

BACKGROUND

The NSS BOG having a voting membership of fifteen members is too large to properly manage the real property of the Society. Real Estate properties should be managed by committees of a reasonable size appointed by the appropriate Society Officer and approved by the BOG. Such Committees will manage these properties in the best interest of the Society in cooperation with the appropriate Society Officer and subject to their removal by the BOG.

Therefore be it resolved by the 1987 Congress of Grottos that the Board of Sovernors of the NSS place the following proposed Constitutional Amendment to a mailed Vote of all regular or higher members of the NSS prior to November 15, 1987 as per Article VIII of the NSS Constitution.

AMENDMENT

All real property of the Society with a value greater than \$10,000.00 and all real estate will be managed by special committees of not less than three or more than five persons. Such committees will be appointed by the NSS president, NSS executive Vice President or the Administrative Vice President, where appropriate, and must be confirmed by the NSS Directors. These committees will manage said properties in the best interest of the NSS, in cooperation with the appropriate NSS Officer and may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the NSS Directors at any BOG meeting. No NSS Officer, or Director may serve on such a committee and membership on such a committee is limited to members of the Society.

ITEM 3

Sponsor: CASCADE GROTTO, Seattle, Washington  
Submitted by Mark Wilson for Bob Brown

Co-Sponsor: NORTHWEST CAVING ASSOCIATION, Elbe, Washington  
Bob Brown, chairman

BACKGROUND

It is not in the best interest of the NSS that a few persons control the Society, and that many of these persons have several positions of authority. We are a national organization of several thousand members and we need to provide more opportunities for our membership to get involved in the operation of the Society.

Therefore be it resolved by the 1987 NSS Congress of Grottos that the Board of Governors of the NSS place the following proposed Constitutional Amendments to a mailed vote of all regular or higher members of the NSS prior to November 15, 1987 as per Article VIII of the NSS Constitution.

AMENDMENT #1

No NSS Officer or NSS Director shall serve as a committee chairman on any NSS committee that manages property of the Society with a value of \$10,000.00 or greater, real estate property, or has an annual operating budget greater than \$2,000.00.

AMENDMENT #2

No NSS Director shall serve more than seven years as a NSS Director without a one full year break in service before serving as a Director or member of the Board of Governors.

(NOTE: Congress is asked to vote separately on each amendment.)

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These are the issues received as of January 31, 1987. If you or your Grotto wish to have another issue(s) brought before the 1987 Congress of Grottos, there is still time to be certain that it will be heard. Write it up and R U S H it to me:

Thomas J. Pollock  
'87 Vice-Chairman COG  
21 Kingsley Way  
Freehold  
New Jersey 07726

Issues placed on the docket before convention will definitely be heard. Floor issues (brought forward at the COG Meeting are subject to time available. If the time is running short, the Chairman may rule to carry them over to next year without a hearing in 1987. Warm up those pens ... Time's awasting!

12 - February 1987 - NSS Administrative Memo