

# 2011 Congress of Grottos Agenda

Glenwood Springs, CO

July 20, 2011

- Welcome.
- Please sign in and get Grotto Placards.
- Call to Order:
- Report from the Chair, NSS Board of Governors:  
Discuss: [The NSS and Public Outreach](#)
- Remarks from the NSS Membership Chair:
- Issues:
  - 1) Meramec Grotto moves:
    - a. 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>;
    - b. 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;
    - c. 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>;
    - d. Whereas, the Congress of Grottos is merely an advisory body;
    - e. Whereas, the Cave Diving Section decides the outcome of almost all votes; in 2010 it had 93 votes.
    - f. Whereas, convention organizers must provide sufficient space to accommodate significant participation despite the lack of such for many years;
    - g. 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;
    - h. 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;
    - i. Whereas, the Congress of Grottos has fulfilled its purpose and is no longer serving a useful function;
    - j. It is resolved that the Congress of Grottos is dissolved.

Footnotes:

- 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/nss-business/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.
- 2) Permian Basin Speleological Society Presents Item for Discussion  
Regarding copies of newsletters to the NSS:
  - a. 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, 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.
  - b. All Permian Basin Speleological Society publications-"Splyunk" 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. Phrased as a motion to the NSS Board of Governors, we plan to present the following:

The Permian Basin moves 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.
- 3) South Carolina Grotto moves that: 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.

- Discussions from the Floor:
- Elections:
- Adjournment: