

**Minutes of the Congress of Grottos
of the National Speleological Society
2011 Convention**

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

Report from the Past Chair, NSS Board of Governors: Gordon Berkheimer (See Attached)

Issues:

Mermec 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 choice¹;

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^{2,3},

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 Bylaws⁴ of the NSS and to change the Acts⁵ 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) 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 Omeroid (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

• **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, 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)

• **South Carolina Grotto moves:** (Second by Nittany Grotto)

The NSS should provide the option of paper or electronic copies of the NSS News to it's 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:

• **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.

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.

• **VAR moves:** (Second by RASS)

That the Congress give vote of appreciation to Gordon Birkheimer 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.

• **Stonewall Grotto moves:** (Second by Greater Allentown Grotto)

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

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

Election of 2012 Officers

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

Motion Passed

Vice Chair: Blake Jordan volunteered, Sandia Grotto; Motion to accept by acclimation 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

Blake N. Jordan, 6109 Concordia Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111, 505-362-0101, blandevoid@comcast.net

President's report on the resolution of COG Motions that Passed

From the Congress of Grottos Motions
4 August 2010 Meeting in
Essex Junction, Vermont

- UT Grotto moves to allow members to list up to 3 numbers in the Members Manual.

This issue has been addressed by Bob Hoke on the Members Manual Committee. "The Members Manual file I get from the NSS office (query #81 on the Mail Processing Menu) contains space for two phone numbers: a regular one and a cell phone. There is currently no provision for a third number. Adding an additional number is trivial from my end, but will require adding a field to the file I get from the NSS office and it's likely that it will require adding another field to the actual database. This is likely to be a non-trivial project. I guess the idea of adding a third number needs to go to Phil Winkler since he maintains the database software."

I also presented this idea to the Executive Committee and the Executive Vice President and the opinion was that the proposed action would increase the size and cost of the Members Manual while not significantly improving the overall product, so it will not be implemented at this time.

- Baltimore moves that the NSS should maintain a significant presence outside of our membership.

At the 216th Regular Meeting of the BOG in Grand Rapids, Michigan on November 7, 2010 the following motion passed:

28) Strategic Plan Focus One Approval

Tiderman moved: The Board of Governors approves Focus One of the strategic plan.
Devine seconded.

Shrewsbury moved to substitute: The Board of Governors approves Focus One of the strategic plan, as a set of goals and objectives to review, refine, prioritize, and begin implementation by the Spring 2011 meeting.

Wiseman seconded.

VOTE to substitute:

In Favor: Majority

Opposed: None

Abstain: Bird PASSED

VOTE on motion as substituted:

In Favor: Majority

Opposed: None

Abstain: Bird PASSED

As a result of that motion I assigned responsibility for each of the strategies for the NSS Strategic Plan Focus 1: Public Outreach as follows:

NSS Strategic Plan Focus 1: NSS Outreach

Goal:

The NSS will significantly increase public outreach. The organization will work to make its name and mission known among the conservation-minded public outside the caving community and encourage supporting memberships.

Strategy:

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. *Marketing and Advertising Committee, Information Technologies Committee – OVP and Membership Committee – President and Special Publications Committee - EVP*

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. *Education Committee, Conservation Committee – AVP and Marketing and Advertising Committee, Information Technologies Committee – OVP and Public Relations Committee - President*

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. *Membership Committee – President and Marketing and Advertising Committee – OVP*

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. *Membership Category ad hoc Committee, Bylaws Committee – President and Finance Committee - Secretary-Treasurer and EVP*

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. *Headquarters Commission, Planning Committee - President*

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. *Marketing and Advertising Committee - OVP*

By summer 2011 5% of the membership income for the NSS will be derived from the cave conservation supporter membership category. *Marketing and Advertising Committee – OVP and Membership Committee – President and Conservation Committee – AVP*

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. *Education Committee – AVP and Audio-Visual Library Committee – OVP*

By summer 2012 the NSS will develop a DVD and/or downloadable media for use as presentations at meetings such as university outdoor clubs, scout troops, hiking/rock climbing clubs, etc., at the NSS headquarters for visitors, and at conservation group meetings. *Education Committee – AVP and Audio-Visual Library Committee, Information Technologies Committee – OVP*

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. *Special Publications Committee – EVP and Conservation Committee – AVP*

By summer 2012 10% of the membership income for the NSS will be derived from the cave conservation supporter membership category. *Marketing and Advertising Committee – OVP and Conservation Committee – AVP*

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. *Marketing and Advertising Committee – OVP and Market Analysis Committee - EVP*

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 archeology, historical aspects of caves and caving, cave biology, prominent cavers, cave and karst geology, and the progressive development of caving technologies. *Archivist, Audio-Visual Library Committee, On-Line Library Committee, Photo Archives Committee, Cave Files Committee, Library Committee, Museum Committee – OVP and Headquarters Commission - President*

By summer 2016 the NSS will have a NSS traveling museum exhibit with trailer to be shown at science museums, universities, NSS regional and affiliate group events, and other venues. *Archivist, Audio-Visual Library Committee, On-Line Library Committee, Photo Archives Committee, Cave Files Committee, Library Committee, Museum Committee – OVP*

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. *Education Committee, Conservation Committee – AVP and Government Liaison Committee – President and Others...*

- Dogwood City moves that the NSS expand its membership to conservation minded non members.

AND

- VAR moves that the COG approves the solicitation of conservation members from like minded organizations...

There is a new Conservation Membership category established to expand membership to conservation minded non members.

At the 213th Regular Meeting of the BOG in Birmingham, Alabama on November 7, 2009 the following motion passed:

24) Membership Advertising

Birkhimer moved: An amount of up to \$5,000.00 will be expended to purchase advertising to promote Conservation Memberships and increase membership per Act 72-766.

Frantz seconded.

Keeler amended to insert, “from the operating fund.”

Liebman seconded.

For: Devine, Foote, Keeler, Liebman, Parvin, Tiderman, Wheeland

Against: Bush, Cole, Joop, Florea, Frantz, Kayes, Shrewsbury, and Young

Abstain: Paylor Amendment failed. No insertion.

Vote:

For: Paylor, Young, Devine, Keeler, Joop, Shrewsbury, Florea, Frantz, Cole, Bush, Kayes,

Wheeland, Tiderman, Parvin.

Against: Foote and Liebman Motion passed.

The disappointing thing is although there is a Board Act directing action; nothing has been accomplished to implement the advertising. There is an Advertising Committee created under the Operations Vice President’s Department and recently moved to the Executive Vice President Department.

- Baltimore moves that the COG support the establishment of regional libraries and education centers.

A motion to provide the guidelines regarding establishment and support of regional libraries and educational centers has been presented by Director Keith Wheeland (see below). I'm not aware of any current Education Centers, so it would be best to work on the Regional Library issues at this time with the intention of including Education Centers in the future. I propose to separate these efforts because the Education Division is in the Administrative Vice President's Department, while the Library Committee resides in the Operations Vice President's Department.

I am a supporter of regional libraries and was pleased when MAKC announced the opening of theirs in Blairsville, Pennsylvania. I wrote the following for the NSS News:

Presidents Message 101009 – MAKC Establishes New Library and Cave and Karst Education Center

On Thursday, March 26, 2009 John L. Long, Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC), executed a sales agreement for a house at 137 E. Campbell St., Blairsville, Pennsylvania. Blairsville is located in Indiana County, just over the Conemaugh River from Hillside, Westmoreland County, which is Western Pennsylvania's premiere cave and karst region. This property has been acquired to be used as a library and cave and karst education center for cavers in that region. At a sales price of less than \$30,000 the small three bedroom house will launch a project of the MAKC to "Conserve our Caving Heritage." Paul H. Damon, Sr., editor of the NSS 50-year history book, will serve as the archivist and librarian.

I want to congratulate MAKC on their endeavor to provide cavers regional access to books and educational facilities. I understand a protectionist philosophy is maintained by some NSS Members who feel other libraries may somehow diminish the NSS Library. I would like to point out the NSS is the "National" Speleological Society and MAKC is the "Mid-Atlantic" Karst Conservancy, which is regional to the Pennsylvania area. Many cavers in that region may never journey to the NSS Library, wherever that may be. I understand regional caver libraries and facilities are important to cavers and I would like to see more of them. If there is some good in protectionism, let the NSS Library promoters do everything in their power to ensure the NSS Library is the finest facility in our country, and in the world. In that way, we won't have to worry about the activity of the regions, and we can support them better.

This project will return the Mid-Atlantic Region to the days of the roots of the NSS, when once again a caving library will be available in that region. The NSS Library was originally started by members of the Pittsburgh Grotto and was housed in Pittsburgh, by its original keeper Julia Staniland. The MAKC has received numerous collections that can now be properly and securely stored. That includes the feature collection of NSS award-winning slides by the late Frank Mielcarek, of the Pittsburgh Grotto. Proper storage is a serious problem because it can be costly. Proper means climate controlled safe storage with the ability to securely maintain the items for posterity. The NSS has experienced the loss of archival caving books and caving items because of the lack of proper storage space. Members are wisely unwilling to donate their historical collections

when they understand they cannot be cared for properly. And, it is improper for an organization to promise to care for donated items when they really have no capability to do so. Several additional collections have been pledged to MAKC, but they had not yet been donated, because of lack of adequate space. The new MAKC facility should alleviate those problems now. And hopefully, with the forward progress of the new NSS Headquarters, adequate space will be planned to store our caving treasures properly.

The MAKC currently leases two of the longest caves in the county, Bear Cave, owned by Tom and Kim Metzgar; and Copperhead Cave, part of the Trout Run Woods Preserve, and one of the longest and deepest caves in the state. The Trout Run Woods Preserve is comprised of more than 5,000 acres on Chestnut Ridge, and contains more than three dozen smaller caves, which MAKC also leases and manages. Many of the more than 500 current NSS members from Pennsylvania have caved in this area. An equal amount of visitors come from Ohio. And countless other cavers, such as Chuck Hempel, Alan McCrady, Bob Dunn, and many old-time Pittsburgh Grotto members got started caving in the caves of the Hillside area.

Two ardent supporters of this project are Bob and Bev Danielson, longtime benefactors of many caving organizations, including the NSS. They recently issued a \$30,000 challenge grant to make this heritage project a reality. The MAKC is pleased to announce this project, especially in light of all the threats to cave access by the White Nose Syndrome (WNS) which is devastating our bat populations. Please see <http://www.caves.org/WNS/index.htm> for the NSS WNS website, which is probably the finest source of information available. While access to caves may be closed (I hope temporarily), many other important projects like "Conserving our Caving Heritage" can be undertaken up here above ground. And preserving our caving heritage is of the utmost importance.

Please support the MAKC to meet the Danielson Challenge, and help them preserve, not only the caves of today in their region for the cavers of tomorrow, but our caving heritage as well. Some of the leadership of MAKC that were involved in this endeavor are John L. Long, Chairman, Phil Gowaty, Vice Chairman, Sue Moore, Treasurer, Carl Pierce, Secretary, and Board members: Paul Damon, Jr., Andrea Gillis, Jeff Jahn, Mike Kern, Mark Lancaster, Mike Schirato, Kerry Speelman, and Tom and Kim Metzgar, founders and former board members. Contributions to "Conserving our Caving Heritage" can be sent to MAKC, P.O. Box 196, Murrysville, PA 15668. MAKC, founded in 1997, is a 501(c) 3 corporation. The website is www.karst.org for more MAKC information.

There has been concern that a regional library and facility like the kind MAKC has established will overshadow the NSS Library and facility. I feel just the opposite and believe regional efforts encourage local cavers to eventually become NSS Cavers at the national level. I would like to see regional cave libraries and cave and karst education centers in regions all across our land someday. It is my sincere hope that this is the beginning of a trend. People who live in various regions deserve to have access to those types of information and facilities. It's a big country out there. Let's support our fellow cavers whenever possible.

I also visited the facility in June 2011 and you can see photos at this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1052040417#!/media/set/?set=a.125941217488195.32851.100002169515541>

Additionally, at the 216th Regular Meeting of the BOG in Grand Rapids, Michigan on November 7, 2010 the following motion passed:

11) NSS Regional Library Affiliation – Act 68-846

Wheeland moved: An organization with a cave library may affiliate with the NSS as an NSS Regional Library by agreeing with the purposes of the NSS and applying in writing with the Library Committee.

Kayes seconded.

Wheeland accepted a friendly amendment by Frantz to add: The Library Committee will establish the standards for acceptance as a regional library.

VOTE:

Unanimously in favor. PASSED

- Baltimore moves that the cog support the production of standardized presentations introducing various groups to safe and conservation minded cave exploration prior to taking them on caving trips.

The best way to accomplish this would be to have the appropriate Education Division people (under the AVP Department) perform the task of creating a standardized course that outlines beginner caving training course for the novice caver. You could work with Carol Tiderman because she is with the Baltimore Grotto who had the idea.

- Baltimore moves that the NSS increase monetary rewards and work with law enforcement to prosecute acts of cave vandalism.

The Acts you're looking for are 18-411 & 50-395 Cave Vandalism Deterrence Reward and the associated Appendix W. They're quite lengthy, so I haven't copied them here, but the relevant phrase is "The National Speleological Society will pay a reward of from \$250 to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of any person (or persons) who: ..." . Both acts, and the appendix, contain redundant information, and will need to be changed in concert with each other, or better yet, reworked to make them easier to understand and modify.

Jay Jorden is the Chairman of the Vandalism Deterrence Reward Commission (note that this is a Commission, not a Committee), and should be consulted regarding appropriate awards. He may also have some ideas regarding how best to revise the acts and

appendix. Since he's in Geary's Department, I suggest they work together to develop a proposal for either the fall or spring BOG meeting.

As of June 30, the Vandalism Deterrence Reward Fund was at \$21,761. As far as I'm aware, we've never paid a Deterrence Award, but I'll have to spend some time combing back records to be sure. We could probably raise the maximum reward to \$2500, or maybe even more, without much financial risk.

The COG request has two parts. In addition to increasing the size of the award, we're also asked to "work with law enforcement..." Figuring out how (or even if we want to) to do that is going to take some serious contemplation.

Miscellaneous Items Accomplished

I also wrote the following for the NSS News:

Hello all Members of the Congress of Grottos,

It is my sincere hope this communication finds all our NSS Members happy and well in the New Year of 2011. I'm sure most of you heard "Auld Lang Syne," at the stroke of midnight and celebrated the first few minutes of this brand new year in the company of family and friends. Maybe you also brought in the New Year by eating certain customary food items on New Year's Day. Consuming black-eyed peas are considered "good luck" by many. Eating cabbage, which is representative of paper currency, is another good luck vegetable in many cultures. Another important custom around this time of year is the New Year's Resolution, which is a commitment that someone makes to a project, or the reforming of a habit, and often a lifestyle change that is generally interpreted as beneficial.

This 2011 New Year I'd like to propose a New Year's Resolution that will prove beneficial for our organization. I believe the NSS has gotten into a bad habit and we need to implement a lifestyle change to bring about a beneficial change. There has been a noticeable decrease in the participation of the individual Grottos of the Congress of Grottos in the last few years. The Congress is a mere shell of itself and not the influential, active, relevant, and respected body that it has been in years past. Considering current events like the devastating White Nose Syndrome (WNS), and the establishment of a new NSS Headquarters, it is crucial that we achieve more involvement from all our members and especially our Internal Organizations. I have described the problem that needs to be resolved, and I hope to offer a solution, and that will hopefully bring a desired outcome to fruition.

The solution to our dilemma is to turn apathy into activity. I propose we turn things around this 2011 New Year and make the effort to take more of an active part in our local NSS Internal Organizations. Let's energize our Grottos, Regions, Sections, and particularly the Congress of Grottos by getting involved this year at home, and at the national level. I would like to see the Congress in full swing and with maximum

participation in Colorado at Convention this year. You have an NSS President that has taken great interest in your work and has made the effort to attend your meetings and implement your proposed action items. The Board of Governors is listening to the Congress and has become accustomed over the past few years to addressing the issues presented by the Congress. And, I am working with your new Congress Chairman Carol Jackson to implement improvements we have both identified. With all the current cooperation going on, there has never been a better time to be involved than right now!

The outcome of our cooperative effort will be a strengthening and improvement of our NSS organization at this critical time. We are working on the Congress Webpage within the NSS Website to make valuable information more readily available to everyone. A "front and center" Webpage will help promote the COG, and will demonstrate the Society's position that the Congress is an important entity that provides precious feedback to the Board of Governors and the entire NSS. I have a motion that will align the Congress under my President's Department to better facilitate communication with the Internal Organizations by providing Congress agenda's, minutes, motions and Board responses in my President's Reports. This method of officially achieving the essential Congress documentation has never been available before. So, there are a lot of improvements being implemented that will promote better communication.

Better cooperation and improved communication presents an opportunity to encourage renewed participation and accelerate solving the WNS disaster through our continued research efforts. My New Year's Resolution of increased participation can foster more ideas and provide group support as we tackle the serious issues that we are facing. Our new NSS Strategic Plan goal is, "The NSS will significantly increase public outreach. The organization will work to make its name and mission known among the conservation-minded public outside the caving community and encourage supporting memberships." Implementing this goal is a huge change in direction for us and we need help. This new goal is fundamentally linked to the location of our new Headquarters. Please ensure your representatives attend the Congress of Grottos Meeting at Convention this year so we can benefit from full representation and participation. I am asking everyone to help in your own capacity and join together however possible to unify while we work through our current challenges.

And, at the 216th Regular Meeting of the BOG in Grand Rapids, Michigan on November 7, 2010 I presented the following motion that did not pass:

26) Congress of Grottos Organization

Birkhimer moved: The Congress of Grottos resides in the Department of the President to facilitate communication between Congress of Grottos (COG) and Internal Organizations (I/Os) and to maintain an archive through President's Reports of COG agendas, minutes, motions, and Board responses.

Tiderman seconded.

Kayes moved to postpone motion to Spring 2011 meeting.

Wiseman seconded.

Motion approved by unanimous consent.

My comment regarding this motion was “By aligning the COG under the President's Department an official written record will be included in the President's Reports. The COG recommendations and action taken by the President, and the Board, regarding recommended items completed, such as motions, and policies developed during the year can be reported. In this way, COG finances and minutes can also be officially reported. The COG will continue to operate outside the normal NSS officer/committee structure, and serve as a conduit between the membership and the Board.”

Thank you and respectfully submitted,

Gordon Birkhimer

President, NSS