

## **Minutes - 2012 Congress of Grottos**

COG 2012 meeting, convened on Wednesday 27 July at 1412 by Bill Stringfellow Chairman, presiding and Vice-Chair Blake N. Jordan, present.

46 organizations were in attendance.

Welcomes to all attendees were made by the Chairman, a number of the Board of Governors who were present, as well as the NSS President, Wm Shrewsbury.

Bill Stringfellow, COG Chairman gave the Chairman's Report.

Old Business: NSS President Report by Wm Shrewsbury of two motions for Electronic System Archive from 2011 COG meeting.

NSS Operations Vice President Dave Luckins discussed revamping the NSS pages, possible completion in second quarter of 2013.

New Business:

Motion by the Southeastern Regional Association (SERA) of the NSS:

All publications that are scanned and made available online shall only be for NSS members and made available for printing – This motion was withdrawn by request and was dropped from the agenda.

Motion by Baltimore Grotto:

"Newsletters shall be stored on an archival storage system", seconded by Cave Diving Section, discussion ensued.

The motion was amended to read "Newsletters in the NSS possession shall be stored on a digital archival storage system" by Cheryl Jones. It was seconded and passed.

Motion by the Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society (BATS) Grotto:

The NSS shall institute a grotto development program as described below (see Agenda).

The motion was amended to "The NSS shall institute a grotto development program." "As described below" was removed. Many IOs were against a rating system. The amended motion was seconded and passed with 2 oppositions; Cleveland Grotto and Cowtown Grotto.

Presentation by Public Relations Division Chair Dean Wiseman on creating a quality Grotto, improving public relations, and recruiting and retaining new members. Having good public relations improves Grotto Outreach: Engage, Educate, and Energize. What are your needs? Email Dean Wiseman at [pr@caves.org](mailto:pr@caves.org). How do we implement and execute a plan?

Discussion Item:

Make sure minutes get sent out as soon as possible after the Congress of Grottos meeting. Get a feedback from the Internal Organizations on the COG's progress and NSS to Internal Organizations that the Congress of Grottos is being effective. This will be due by the end of July.

Election of Officers:

Chairperson: Bill Stringfellow, Rass from Dog City Grotto moved, elected by acclamation

Vice-Chairman: Blake Jordan, San Francisco moved, elected by acclamation

Open Discussion:

- Cheryl Jones - how to get more Internal Organizations to participate in the COG.
- Arizona Grotto - Make sure that issues get out early enough for review prior to the next convention.
- Central Indiana - more information and communication the lifeblood of this organization.
- South Carolina - address Cheryl Jones question on representation of COG members is that there are conflicts in the scheduling at convention, Chairman to work with a non-conflicting schedule to possibly achieve more participation.
- Peri Frantz - commented on Feedback. Baltimore – nothing ugly to talk about.
- Rass - likes Bylaws in the agenda package.

Shameless promotions and fundraising solicitations presented.

Meeting adjourned until next regular meeting by Chairman Bill Stringfellow.

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