

2015 Congress of Grottos  
Meeting Minutes  
July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Meeting called to Order at 3:44pm. Welcome was presented by the Chairman. Information about the Sign-in and Placards were presented. Recognition of VIPs: Wm Shrewsbury (NSS President), Keith Wheeland (I/O Committee Chairman), Gary Barnes (NSS Secretary/Treasurer), Peri Franz (NSS Director), and Bill Jackson (NSS Director) had a discussion on Keith's duties.

COG Chairman Report – It was a slow year with one business item. A bad link was corrected on the website. There are links to recent COG meeting documents on the NSS website. From 1974 to 2000 no archives on the website, but are needed and a request for those was made.

Old Business – Approval of previous meeting's minutes. Reflected changes in last year's minutes. RASS made a motion, Virginia Region seconds, Motion passes. 2013 minutes OVP, Minutes approval as directed.

President's Report – Discussion of Bylaw change Bv2. The motions passed by COG go to the BOG for recommendations, the active portion to go over the COG resolutions.

New Business – Greater Allentown, Mike Spencer discussed the history of the KIP (Karst Information Portal) information, which is located in the Agenda. Pennsylvania Side is Sensitive, retracted information for cave information and data, electronic copyright and written copyright. Most of the content is NSS SpeleoDigest and Grotto Publications. NSS members would have access to the database and not to the public. It is a valued membership publication. Suggested to keep it under the access point of the NSS Website. Protect NSS from liability issues. Motions – put on the NSS Website and keep information out of KIP. Allow abstracts from articles. Possibly implement a fee for an article and or a \$35 membership. It may drive people to NSS for membership. Aaron Atz discussed as in steps of land owner. Wm Shrewsbury discussed an overview of items on Friday for the BOG Agenda on cave locations. Allentown fully supports the BOG. Smoky Mountain from Knoxville Tennessee said that cave locations are out there. Cave Diving Section made a motion to table discussion. Virginia Region seconds. Wm opposes to table discussion. 6 for tabling discussion, the majority opposed, motion to table fails. Richmond calls and is seconded for the approval of section Q 8E. ARA follows Wm, Sligo follows Wm and ARA. The majority votes to approve, opposed are (41) and abstentions (8). COG lengthy discussed motion for KIP and passed.

Nomination for Chair – Blake N. Jordan won unopposed.

Nomination for Vice Chair – Bill Stringfellow won unopposed.

Wm Shrewsbury discussed that membership numbers have dropped 20%. He will go back to old NSS Members and educate them and renew dues. This will help bring membership up again. The team 404 members should announce the fund-raising plan at Grotto Meetings. Possibly to have Grotto members pass the hat in a meeting to gather \$25 per month. San Francisco – suggested that the grotto make an official greeter at the grotto's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18pm