

2015 Congress of Grottos Report to NSS Board of Governors

The 2015 Congress of Grottos meeting convened on July 15th in Waynesville, Missouri with Chairman Bill Stringfellow, presiding. Vice-Chair Blake Jordan was also present.

Old Business:

NSS President Wm Shrewsbury clarified actions taken by the BOG relating to the COG in Article V (B) (2) of the Bylaws regarding when/who should consider resolutions passed by the Congress.

New Business:

Greater Allentown Grotto Moved:

In an effort to move forward on the issue of placing NSS publications on the Karst Information Portal (KIP), the Greater Allentown Grotto proposes ten specific motions [to the BOG] which we believe will resolve many of the issues. The general purpose of these motions is to protect valuable member publications, respect the intent and copyright of the original authors, and to increase the NSS outreach and exposure through distribution of targeted information on the Karst Information Portal. In our review of the current NSS acts, we also discovered that the NSS does not have current acts allowing for the posting of certain publications on the web that the NSS should be sharing with the general public.

Further, the NSS has posted electronic copies of several issues of Speleo Digest in the NSS member's area, when the NSS Bookstore still has print copies for sale. We think the NSS should post electronic copies only after all the in stock hard copies have been sold. Otherwise, the NSS may end up with publications that will not sell. The NSS should not undermine its own printing investment, plus the electronic copies devalue the printed copies.

The way our motions are worded, there is no required delay in posting the NEWS, JCKS, ACA, etc to the NSS member's area, or delay in posting TOCs and Abstracts of the JCKS and Guidebooks to the KIP. We believe this information should be made available to members as soon as possible, and the TOC and abstracts available to the public as soon as possible. We were surprised to find no existing act authorizing the posting of any part of the JCKS on the KIP.

The attached motions seek to accomplish the above goals through the following:

- Add an act allowing for the placement of Convention Guidebooks on the member's area of the NSS website.
- Add an act allowing for the placement of the Table of Contents for Convention Guidebook on the Karst Information Portal. Note we already have an act allowing for the placement of abstracts for conventions, Act 56-827.
- Amend two acts to keep sales of Convention Guidebooks to members only.
- Replace the act for Policy on Placing the NSS NEWS on the Web with an Act for Policy on Placing the NSS NEWS on the NSS Web Site. An editorial note is provided to remove unnecessary cross reference to 41-788 Karst Information Portal.

- Add an act allowing for the placement of the JCKS on the member's area of the NSS website. (Note, I couldn't find an act authorizing the placement of the JCKS on either the NSS web site or the KIP.)
- Add an act allowing for the placement of The Table of Contents and Full Abstracts for issues of the JCKS on the Karst Information Portal.
- Replace the act for Speleo Digest on the Karst Information Portal with an Act for Policy on Placing Speleo Digest on the NSS Web Site. An editorial note is provided to remove unnecessary cross reference to 41-788 Karst Information Portal.
- Add an act allowing for the placement of AMERICAN CAVING ACIDENTS on the member's area of the NSS website. (Note, I couldn't find an act allowing for ACA to be posted on the NSS web site or the KIP.)
- Add an act allowing for Policy on Placing PUBLICATIONS SPECIFICALLY CREATED FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC on the Web. Note that this allows for "Publications specifically created for the general public that are not a benefit of NSS membership shall be posted on both the NSS web site members' area and the Karst Information Portal." An editorial note is provided to add a cross reference to 41-788 Karst Information Portal.
- Have the office of the EVP bring the NSS publications on the NSS web site and the KIP into compliance with the current NSS Acts.

After an extended discussion the motion was PASSED by majority vote of the IOs present.

General Discussion:

None

Elections of Officers:

Chairman: Blake Jordan, elected by acclamation.

Vice-Chairman: Bill Stringfellow, elected by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned until next regular meeting of the COG by Chairman Bill Stringfellow.

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