

## **Minutes – 2016 Congress of Grottos**

July 20, 2016

The 2016 Congress of Grottos was called to order at 2:25 pm by Vice-Chair Bill Stringfellow due to the absence of Chair Bake Jordan who was tied up by other NSS related business. The delay in start time of the Congress allowed NSS President Wm Shrewsbury to return from a JSS caving trip.

Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded I/O representatives to sign-in and pick-up placards.

Carol Tiderman kindly volunteered to take minutes.

### **Dignitary Introductions**

- Wm Shrewsbury - NSS President
- Kat Crispin (delegate) - AVP
- Bill Jackson (delegate) - Director
- Carol Tiderman (delegate) - Convention Division Chair

COG Chair Report - Blake Jordan - No report

### **COG Vice-Chair Report - Bill Stringfellow**

- Trip to Huntsville to retrieve past COG data
- Uploaded historic COG data to the COG website
- Requested past COG officers and secretaries search for past COG meeting documents

### **Old Business**

- Approval of minutes

San Francisco Bay Grotto - Moved to accept minutes from 2015 COG as printed - RASS seconded -  
MOTION PASSED

- NSS President Report for last year's Congress
  - Journal of Cave and Karst Science issues are posted on KIP
  - Convention Guidebooks, NSS News, and Speleo Digests have been pulled from KIP

### **New Business**

- President's report
  - Presented highlights from NSS Office project meeting earlier in the week
    - Step by Step rehab/development of new HQ since purchase
    - Approximately one million dollars in donations have been received
    - We have never missed a payment
    - Have paid for all the renovations

- Headquarters Mortgage
  - Balloon mortgage is due in December
  - \$ 1.575 million was borrowed \$ 1.3 million is owed in December
  - Plan for payment
    - A member, who passed, left the NSS property, storage units, stocks, bonds and cash valued at approximately \$ 500K. This leaves an \$ 800K balance.
    - \$ 97.5 K from the endowment fund and donations at convention equate to about \$ 100K leaving a \$ 700K balance.
    - Donation of \$ 400K has been promised. Leaving a \$ 300K balance.
    - Can take 20% from other funds but this can hurt the Society.
    - Can borrow the \$ 300K from the Life Membership Fund - approximately 15.5%. Have borrowed from the Life Member Fund in the past and repaid it in record time with interest.
    - We will repay the fund at a 5.5% rate over 7 years - about \$ 4K monthly.
    - Team 404 brings in \$ 6K per month and can pay 1 1/2 times the monthly payment.
  - Would like to burn the mortgage at the next convention.
  - Active matching fund challenges
    - Two 10K challenges from directors through convention week.
    - 20K from other donors - through the end of the year.
- Baltimore Grotto Moves

The COG strongly opposes the use of any money from any restricted fund, including the Life Member Fund, to pay the mortgage of the NSS headquarters.

Fairfax Underground Network (FUN) seconded.

Discussion determined this motion was based on old information.

Abstain 1 - For 0 - Against rest - MOTION FAILED

#### Elections

Chair	Bill Stringfellow - Elected by acclamation
Vice-Chair	Barb Moss - Elected by acclamation

San Francisco Bay Grotto moved to close the meeting. RASS seconded – MOTION PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm

Respectfully submitted Carol Tideman - substitute minute taker

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