

## **Minutes - 2017 Congress of Grottos**

June 21, 2017

The 2017 congress of Grottos was called to order at 2:06 pm by Chair Bill Stringfellow.

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

### **Dignitary Introductions**

- Geary Schindel - NSS President
- Bill Jackson - Director
- Kim Fleischmann - Director
- Paul Winter - I/O Committee chair

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

- Continued to look for historic COG records to upload to the COG website.

### **COG Vice-Chair Report** - Barbara Moss - No report

### **Old Business**

- a. Approval of 2016 minutes

RASS moved to accept the minutes as printed, Baltimore Grotto seconded - MOTION PASSED

- b. NSS President Report for last year's Congress

- New president was not prepared to speak; will respond in a few weeks.
- Did mention the following topics: proposing AdHoc committees for increasing membership; deposits and accounting; 90% done with paying for office.
- New initiatives: bathroom remodel, education and/or rescue training in rooms at the office.

### **New Business**

- a. Dogwood City Grotto moved and Cave Diving Section seconded:

**The NSS should undertake a redesign effort to change the format of its website to be 'responsive' so it is easily read on all computers and mobile devices without the need to scroll left and right.**

**In addition, new NSS produced publications placed on the NSS website should be in a responsive format. Where possible any NSS publication currently listed on the NSS website should be re-published in a responsive format.**

Huntsville Grotto moved to amend, RASS seconded to change 'all' to 'most'.  
Amendment PASSED

Baltimore Grotto moved to amend, Virginia Region seconded to add a new paragraph:

This transition should be completed by the 2020 NSS Convention.  
Amendment PASSED

Final Motion:

**The NSS should undertake a redesign effort to change the format of its website to be 'responsive' so it is easily read on most computers and mobile devices without the need to scroll left and right.**

**In addition, new NSS produced publications placed on the NSS website should be in a responsive format. Where possible any NSS publication currently listed on the NSS website should be re-published in a responsive format.**

**This transition should be completed by the 2020 NSS Convention.**

Vote on entire motion, MOTION PASSED as amended.

- b. San Joaquin Valley Grotto moved, and Tri-State Grotto seconded:

**That in consideration of continued declining NSS membership that the NSS Board develop a plan to increase membership and publish it widely.**

Tri-State moved, and Baltimore Grotto seconded to adjourn to 'Committee of the Whole' for 20 minutes.

MOTION PASSED

The committee brainstormed the following ideas/topics to send to the NSS Board should the main motion pass:

What is meant by 'widely'

Could lose membership in Cave Diving Section if they change their rule to not require NSS membership to join the section

Facebook is reaching cavers, but not new people

Try "Meetup.com" as they seem to attract new people to cave related events

Looking for new members or new cavers

Look conservation and preservation minded groups, also scientists, hydrologists

Recruit/encourage leaders of groups that go caving: church, scouts, outdoor clubs

Place signs at the 'sacrifice caves' the groups use to encourage them to join the NSS.

After discussion, MOTION PASSED, with the topics to be sent to the NSS Board.

- c. Dogwood City Grotto moved, and Baltimore seconded:

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CONGRESS OF GROTTOS (Appendix Q) is amended to use gender neutral language.**

Copy of revised Appendix Q attached to these minutes.

MOTION PASSED

#### **Discussion from the floor**

- a. Human Sciences moved, and San Francisco Bay Chapter seconded:

**The NSS Board consider encouraging members to consider legacy plans for their data and resources, and give them a means to do so.**

MOTION PASSED

Note: Bernice Gottschalk representing the Human Science Section agreed to submit an item to the NSS News on this issue.

- b. Virginia Region moved and FUN Grotto seconded:

**The COG requests a complete financial report of expenses for the operations of the NSS Headquarters, which includes cost analysis for rental, income and expenses, and long-term viability.**

MOTION PASSED

#### **Elections of Officers**

Chair: Bill Stringfellow, re-elected by acclamation.

Vice-Chair: Barbara Moss, re-elected by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned until next regular meeting of the COG by Vice-Chair Bill Stringfellow.

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Respectfully submitted Vice-Chair Barbara Moss