



2021 Congress of Grottos

Weed, CA (Virtual COG)

July 29, 2021

Draft Minutes

1. Virtual COG called to order by COG Chair Bill Stringfellow at 11:15 AM ET.
2. Roll Call/Sign-in
3. Welcome and recognition of NSS special guests:
 - President Geary Schindel
 - Treasurer Kristine Ebrey
 - AVP Adam Weaver
 - Director Carol Tideman
 - Director Meredith Hall Weberg
4. COG Chair Report - Has more stuff to put on the COG website
5. COG Vice-Chair Report - Nothing to report
6. Old Business
 - Approval of 2019 minutes - Nittany Grotto moved, Dayton Underground Grotto seconded

APPROVED by unanimous consent

- NSS President's Report - Geary Schindel
 - a. Retired Headquarters mortgage August 2021
 - b. Ad-Hoc Committee formed to create an Executive Director position
 - c. Ad-Hoc Committee for Vertical Training Commission
 - d. Headquarters building used for weddings, council meetings, and reunions

7. New Business

a. Baltimore Grotto Moved, Blue Ridge Grotto seconded:

- M)** The NSS shall provide server space for grottos and regions to post pictures and/or stories about cavers who have passed on. Collecting and submitting the material for posting would be the responsibility of the I/O's.

Several regions are already maintaining a list of fallen cavers. Given the NSS is a national organization we should be providing a space where all members have access to this Hall of Fame.

Example: <http://sivtac.org/valhalla/valhalla.php>

PASSED by unanimous consent

b. Baltimore Grotto Moved, Bexar Grotto seconded:

- M)** The NSS already maintains a list of all award winners. We propose the file would also include a picture and a short summary of why they got the award. It might not be possible to retrieve past information, but the awards committee should be able to provide summaries henceforth.

PASSED by unanimous consent

c. Virginia Region (VAR) moved, Blue Ridge Grotto seconded:

- M)** NSS continues to provide web hosting and to keep the security software up to date. The NSS providing web hosting is a benefit to the I/O's, their members and prospective members.

PASSED by unanimous consent

d. Central Arizona Grotto moved, Blue Ridge Grotto seconded:

- M)** The NSS publish a digital version (PDF) of the NSS Members Manual to be available **to those NSS members who request a digital copy** of the publication.

There is an increasing need for contacting NSS members when away from the printed NSS Members Manual. Having a digital version that can be placed on our laptops, tablets and phones will greatly increase communications on active projects and events.

PASSED by unanimous consent

e. Grottos of the Western Region moved, Dogwood City Grotto seconded:

M) The Congress of Grottos reminds the NSS Board of Governors to follow society Bylaw 5, Item C, which reads; "Special meetings of the Society may be called at such time and places as approved by the Board of Governors. The entire membership shall be sent notices as to the date, place, and purpose of any such meetings at least two weeks in advance thereof.

Grottos in support of this motion: Cascade Grotto, Desert Dog Troglodytes, Diablo Grotto, Mother Lode Grotto, Northern Nevada Grotto, Oregon Grotto, Oregon High Desert Grotto, Redwood Grotto, San Diego Grotto, San Francisco Bay Chapter, San Joaquin Valley Grotto, Southern California Grotto, Southern Nevada Grotto, Stanislaus Speleological Society, Willamette Valley Grotto, and the Western Region of the NSS.

Clarification:

We interpret this to include digital/online meetings and discussions that are currently being held secretly every month by the board with no notification to the membership whatsoever. The board sidesteps their own bylaws by calling these meetings "teleconferences", yet, business is being discussed and meetings are being recorded that should be open to observation by the membership.

M) San Francisco Bay Chapter moved to amend, ~~Elizabeth Truchan~~ who ?? seconded to remove the Clarification.

Clarification REMOVED by unanimous consent

ROLL CALL VOTE on amended motion:

36 YES, 67 NO - Motion FAILS

f. NSS Code of Conduct (attached) This was already passed by the Board of Governors. Should be tweaked, but hasn't been brought back up to the BOG.

President Schindel will ask the committee to pass any updates on to the Congress of Grottos.

8. Discussions from the floor

- NSS Community FB page has 900 people on it - Abusers are removed
- Awards for Fellows: Are you removed if you drop your membership?
- Photos of non-members
- Journals from non-members

9. Elections

- a) As Bill Stringfellow has reached the term limit for COG Chair and no one stepped up to run to be COG chair for 2022, Tri-State Grotto moved, Baltimore Grotto seconded:

M) NSS BOG Manual Appendix Q VII (C) is amended as shown below:

A Chair may not serve more than four terms in succession <<unless no one else is willing to serve as COG Chair>>.

PASSED by unanimous consent

- b) Bill Stringfellow re-elected as COG Chair by acclamation.
204 Lake Court, Woodstock, Georgia 30188-3212, 678.676.0509,
beak@ropeguy.us
- c) Barbara Moss re-elected as Vice Chair with no interest in being elected COG Chair in 2022.
11401 Macpherson Court, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22407-2062, 703.573.1068,
rettech1068@gmail.com

10) Other Business NONE

11) Adjournment

Front Royal Grotto moved, seconded by Dogwood City Grotto:

M) The 2021 Virtual COG is adjourned.

PASSED by unanimous consent

COG Chair Bill Stringfellow declared the 2021 Virtual COG adjourned at 12:23 PM ET.