

2021 Congress of Grottos Report to NSS Board of Governors

The 2021 Congress of Grottos convened on July 29, 2021 via Zoom with Chair Bill Stringfellow presiding. Twenty-One Internal Organizations were represented.

Special Guests:

NSS President - Geary Schindel
NSS AVP - Adam Weaver
NSS Secretary/Treasurer - Kristine Ebrey
NSS Directors - Meredith Weberg, Carol Tiderman
IO Committee Chair - Paul Winter

Old Business:

NSS President Geary Schindel reported on the status of the Society and on increasing use of the facility by outside groups but did not present the written financial report of NSS Headquarters operations as requested by the 2017 Congress of Grottos.

New Business:

a. Baltimore Grotto Moved:

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>

Motion PASSED by unanimous consent.

b. Baltimore Grotto Moved:

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.

Motion PASSED by unanimous consent.

c. Virginia Region (VAR) Moved:

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.

Motion PASSED by unanimous consent.

d. Central Arizona Grotto Moved:

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.

Motion PASSED by unanimous consent.

e. Grottos of the NSS Western Region Moved:

M) The Congress of Grottos remind 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.

After clarification of what defines a meeting the motion FAILED in a roll call vote.

f. NSS Code of Conduct - While already adopted by the BOG updates are needed per the NSS President who will ask that any updates be passed on to the Congress of Grottos.

Discussions from the floor:

Topics covered include removal of abusive people from the NSS Facebook page, Fellow status when membership dropped for non-payment of dues, and photos and journals from non-members.

Elections of Officers:

Having served four consecutive terms as COG Chair Bill Stringfellow was not eligible to run for an additional term as COG Chair. After no one stepped up to be 2022 COG Chair, Carol Tiderman proposed the following change to Appendix Q - Rules of Procedure for the Congress of Grottos:

Modify VII (C) From:

A Chair may not serve more than four terms in succession.

To:

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

Following passage of this change to Appendix Q by unanimous consent election of the 2022 COG Officers proceeded with the following results:

Chair: Bill Stringfellow, elected by acclamation.

Vice-Chair: Barbara Moss, elected by acclamation.

NOTE: This change to Appendix Q must be approved by the Board of Governors.

With no other business requiring attention the 2021 COG Virtual Meeting was adjourned until next regular meeting of the COG by Chair Bill Stringfellow.

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