The Department of the President consists of one division and 19 permanent committees, as shown below:

**Department of the President**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Kristine Ebrey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@caves.org">president@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Report Com.</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:annualreport@caves.org">annualreport@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Committee</td>
<td>Bill Steele</td>
<td><a href="mailto:awards@caves.org">awards@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Arrangements Com.</td>
<td>Mike Hood</td>
<td><a href="mailto:arrangement@caves.org">arrangement@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Development</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:businessdevelopment@caves.org">businessdevelopment@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bylaws Committee</td>
<td>Mike Hood</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bylaws@caves.org">bylaws@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress of Grottos</td>
<td>Craig Hindman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cog@caves.org">cog@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising Comm.</td>
<td>Miki Manning</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fundraising@caves.org">fundraising@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Liaison</td>
<td>Adam Weaver and Lee-Grey Boze</td>
<td><a href="mailto:govtliaison@caves.org">govtliaison@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Secretary</td>
<td>John Moses</td>
<td><a href="mailto:intlsecretary@caves.org">intlsecretary@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karst Inf. Portal Liaison</td>
<td>Carol Ann Davis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kipliaison@caves.org">kipliaison@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KWI Liaison</td>
<td>Dave Decker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kwiliaison@caves.org">kwiliaison@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Committee</td>
<td>Jay Clark</td>
<td><a href="mailto:legal@caves.org">legal@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Trust of North Alabama Liaison</td>
<td>Julie Schenck-Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ltnaliaison@caves.org">ltnaliaison@caves.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
President’s Report Highlights

The following is a synopsis of the activities in the President’s department.

Committee Highlights:

- We are finalizing an MPA with the National Forest Service
- We are creating a new committee under the president, ‘Executive Director Search committee’
- The Government Liaison Committee is under new leadership that is currently changing the structure of the committee
- Potential new directors have already been contacted and the process of the nominating committee has begun
- The awards committee is currently receiving nominations to review
- The vertical tower fundraising campaign is over $15,000 and Miki has launched a sustaining donor campaign on email and social media

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Ebrey
President
National Speleological Society
423-991-3034 cell
President@caves.org

Annual Report
Vacant
pr@caves.org
Awards Committee:
Bill Steele, Chair (8072RE) FE LB CM AL awards@caves.org (speleosteele@aol.com)

NSS Awards Committee members
Bert Ashbrook (25104RE) FE;
Mike Backe (18670RL) FE;
Hazel Barton, Ph.D. (38664RE) FE;
John Benton (106890 FE PH
Bill Bussey (21820RE) FE;
Tony Canike (44230RE) FE;
Val Hildreth-Werker (28963CL) FE;
Roy Jameson (14123RE) FE;
Nina Martin (41664RL) FE;
Marian McConnell (37358) FE AL;
Gary Moss (10046RL) FE;
Don Paquette (8545RL) FE SH CM;
Rene Ohms (45868RE) FE LB;
Savannah Sawyer (63912) FE
Geary M. Schindel (15827RL) FE;
Dave Socky (16334RL) FE AL;
Linda Starr (11384 RE) FE;
Bill Steele (8072RE) FE LB CM AL;
Carol Tiderman (10604RL) OS;
Todd Warren (22176RE)

Progress
Since the NSS convention in Elkins, WV, two new members of the Awards Committee have been recruited. Arts and Letters sub-chair Linda Starr asked to no longer chair this award and be a committee member-at-large instead. Marian McConnell has joined the committee as sub-chair for the Arts and Letters Award. In addition, Savannah Sawyer has joined the committee as a member-at-large.

Detailed information about the nominating process for NSS awards was posted on the NSS Community Facebook page in early September along with a request for grottos to repost it. The same information is included in the Society News section of the October NSS News.

Nominations have begun to be received.

Plans

All is humming along nicely at this point in time.
Issues to Consider

None at this time.

**Board Arrangements Secretary**

BOARD ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE
Mike Hood, Chairman (24166 RL, FE, OS)
4668 Airway Road
Riverside, OH 45431-1368
arrangements@caves.org

**Business Development**

Vacant- Chair
businessdevelopment@caves.org

**Plans:** No report.

**Progress:**

**Problems:** This position has been inactive for some time.

**Bylaws Committee**

Mike Hood, Chairman (24166 RL, FE, OS)
4668 Airway Road
Riverside, OH 45431-1368
bylaws@caves.org

Stephen Gladieux (57013 RE)
714 NE Sandstone Court
Prineville, OR 97754
sgladieux.director@caves.org

None given

**Congress of Grottos**

None Given
Fundraising Committee
Miki Manning (70570)
863-602-0869
defundraising@caves.org

Committee members: Carol Tiderman, Dennis Melko and William Jackson.

Progress: The t-shirt campaign for Vertical Bill’s Tower was finally launched with Green Pea Press via email and social media. We sold 161 items and netted $871.51 for the tower! We also had several $100+ donations to the tower from generous members at Convention and post Convention.

As of this writing, the Vertical Tower fund has $14,836 in it, adding to that the money from the t-shirt fundraiser, it sits at $15,707.51. We are still over $9000 from reaching our match goal.

A sustaining donor campaign was emailed to the membership and posted on our Facebook page on October 13th. We are hopeful this will encourage members to enroll in our automatic monthly donation program, therefore increasing cash flow to the unrestricted fund.

Plans: I was inspired by the SCCi booth at the recent TAG Fall Cave-In. They had a massive raffle and a buy-a-cup keg. I think the NSS should have something like this at every major caving event in addition to the bookstore. Instead of beer, perhaps we could invest in a couple of frozen margarita machines and charge more per cup.

Vertical Bill’s Tower needs its own web page, so that is a priority. As is getting a couple of auction items offered by Dave Hughes, for the benefit of the tower, on the page.

Problems: The most pressing issue is that no plans have been drawn up for Vertical Bill’s Tower. We have authorization from the board to move forward with this, and no progress has been made. If we are to have a webpage and inspire more donations, we need preliminary plans.

Government Liaison
Adam Weaver and Lee-Grey Boze - Chair
govtliaison@caves.org

Committee Members: Rich Bohman (AZ), Pat Kambesis (KY), Neil Marchington (OR), Jo Schaper (MO), Ben Tobin (KY)
The Government Liaison committee is currently restructuring under the leadership of the new chairs. The final review of the FS\NSS MPA has been sent for review. A meeting will be held on 10/25, hopefully the MPA will be available to the BOG for approval.

**International Secretary**

John Moses, Secretary (7009 CR)(FE), 915-539-6047, johnmosesgsb@gmail.com; intlssecretary@caves.org

Committee Members: David Larson (13906RL)(FE), Santa Barbara, CA; Tom Lera (14821RL)(CO,PH,F)E, Orlando, FL

Progress:

A small NSS grant was made to Deep23, the joint Lebanese-International expedition to Lebanon’s deepest cave, from the International Participation Fund. The project was reportedly concluded successfully in September, 2023, and American participants spoke highly of Lebanese hospitality (unlike the US State Department which has the country at level 3, “reconsider travel”). A written report on the expedition is anticipated.

Plans:

The 19th ICS will be held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, July 20 - 27, 2025. Brazilians attending the 18th ICS asked that the NSS bring its exhibit and virtual reality cave tour to Brazil for the next Congress. The Brazilian promotional video is on YouTube:

https://youtu.be/gwjhHEKEDUQ

Some grant monies may be available to assist with international speleological participation and research projects. Visit the NSS web site for proposal criteria.

Problems:

None to speak of…

**Karst Information Portal Liaison**

Carol Ann Davis
Kipliaison@caves.org
borchert@usf.edu

The person responsible for this position has changed and I’m working on reestablising contact.

**Karst Waters Institute Liaison**

Dave Decker (3111RL, FE) - Representative
5117 Fairfax Dr. NW
Legal Committee
Jay Clark (3896RE, CM, FE) - General Counsel
W) 205 397 2900
legal@caves.org

**Progress:** This committee has been reviewing various contracts in support of the President and OVP and also serving as an ex officio member of the ad hoc anti-harassment initiative.

**Plans:** Continue to support the society in legal matters. The Legal Committee is working with the National Speleological Foundation to review and update contracts between the two organizations.

**Problems:** None at this time.

Land Trust of North Alabama (LTNA) Liaison
Julie Schenck-Brown (30493RL, FE) - Representative
256-599-2211
ltnaliaison@caves.org

Pending

Membership Committee
Vacant
Membership@caves.org

The committee chair recently moved and is unable to continue this position. I have started the search to find a new chair.

National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) Liaison
George Veni
nckriliaison@caves.org

Nominating Committee
Anna Pearce – Chair
nominating@caves.org
540-315-2643
Committee Members: *Nathan Farrar 59222 (CM FE), Alex Sproul 8086RL (FE) and Mike Hood 24166RL (FE)

Progress: The campaign for new directors has begun
Plans: Find and vent potential new directors
Problems: None

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Liaison
Vacant
tncliaison@caves.org

Public Relations Division
Amanda Willis 36144RE - Chair
pr@caves.org

Philosophy: The Public Relations Division is undertaking a long-term effort which could be described as “The Three E’s: Engage, Educate, and Energize.” We will continue to promulgate this philosophy across the entire NSS Community.

No report given yet.

Recording Secretary
Rebecca McNabb
recording@caves.org

Progress: Finalizing all minutes up to November.
Plans: None
Problems: None

Secretary to the Board
Vince Kappler (7274CL, FE)
973-579-2116
boardsec@caves.org

Progress: The draft minutes from the March 25, May 10, June 9, and June 26 meetings have not been circulated. Consent agenda items, verified as approved by the President or Recording Secretary, that resulted in manual edits have been made and posted to the website.
I have contacted several committee chairs and discussed moving manual non-policy files to individual committee website pages. The response has been very positive. I have sent current files to designated individuals to ensure the committees’ have the most complete info as they prepare to update their pages on the website. I expect to remove over 50 pages from the manual as committees take over the maintenance and posting of the non-policy manual pages.

**Plans:** I will attempt to provide a timely respond to questions regarding the manual or its content.

**Problems:** None at this.