

National Speleological Society, Inc.
Board of Governors Meeting
Minutes of the 211th Regular Meeting, Colorado Springs, Colorado
April 4, 2009
FINAL

The 211th regular meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Regional Building Department, Colorado Springs, Colorado. These minutes, when accompanied by corrections submitted by the Board, constitute the official record of the meeting.

President Birkhimer called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Paul Mihalak was present as Recording Secretary.

Roll Call

Officers

Gordon Birkhimer, President (Pres)
Ray Keeler, Administrative Vice President (AVP)
Tom Rea, Executive Vice President (EVP)
Wm Shrewsbury, Operations Vice President (OVP)
Peri Frantz, Secretary-Treasurer (S-T)

Directors

Gary Bush	Ted Kayes
Jay Clark	Bill Liebman
John LaMar Cole	Scott Parvin
Linda Devine	Randy Paylor
Lee Florea	Debra Young
Mark Joop	Jennifer Foote

1) Approval of the November 8, 2008, Board of Governors Meeting Minutes.

Birkhimer moved.

Kayes seconded.

Vote: Unanimous ACCEPTED

2) Officer Reports:

- A. President – [Attachment A](#)
- B. Executive Vice President – [Attachment B](#)
- C. Administrative Vice President – [Attachment C](#)
- D. Operations Vice President – [Attachment D](#)
- E. Secretary-Treasurer – [Attachment E](#)

Electronic and paper copies of each report are available on file with the NSS.

3) Committee Reports:

(Electronic and paper copies of each report are available on file with the NSS.)

- A. Jay Clark gave proposal for NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama.
- B. Gary Bush proposed 2010 Spring Board of Governors Meeting Cincinnati, Ohio.
- C. Dave Lester and Marty Morey gave status of 2011 NSS Convention, Colorado.
- D. Peter Youngbaer provided White Nose Syndrome status.
- E. Peter Youngbaer gave status of 2010 Convention, Vermont.
- F. Don Paquette gave proposal for NSS Headquarters in Bloomington, Indiana.

- G. Mike Cicherski provided International Congress of Speleology 2009 status.
- H. Hazel Medville reported on the NSS-specific events taking place during the ICS.
- I. Amber Yuellig reported on the NSS Museum collection cataloging status.

OLD BUSINESS

None

4) Recess

President Birkhimer declared a 15-minute recess for lunch at 12:35 PM.

5) Reconvene

The meeting was reconvened by President Birkhimer at 12:55 PM as a working lunch.

NEW BUSINESS

6) Report of the Closed Session of the Board

The NSS award recipients were selected by the Board. White Nose Syndrome was discussed.

7) Report of the Closed Session of the Directorate

Chairman Ted Kayes reported that President Gordon Birkhimer had been re-elected president. His second term will begin at the summer Board meeting.

8) The Nature Conservancy Liaison Appointment

Birkhimer moved: Cory Holliday (NSS 50057RE), 2021 21st Avenue, South Ste. C400, Nashville, TN 37212, cholliday@tnc.org (615-383-9909) is approved as Liaison to The Nature Conservancy.

Liebman seconded.

Vote: Unanimous PASSED

9) Planning Committee Appointment

Birkhimer moved: Randall Paylor (NSS 24524RE) (FE), 291 Woodfield Circle, Shelbyville, KY, 40065 rpcaver@gmail.com 859-420-5541 is approved as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Cole seconded.

Vote: Unanimous PASSED

10) 2010 Spring Board of Governors Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio

Birkhimer moved: The bid by the Greater Cincinnati Grotto (GCG) to host the Spring 2010 NSS Board of Governors on Saturday, April 17, 2010 or earlier is accepted.

Kayes seconded.

Vote: Unanimous PASSED

11) FY 2009-2010 NSS Operating and Capital Budgets

Frantz moved: The FY 2009-2010 NSS Operating and Capital Budgets, as distributed to the Board April 4 in the file "09-10 Budget Proposed V3.4.xls," are approved.

Shrewsbury seconded.

Vote: Unanimous

PASSED

12) Amendment to Appendix I of the Board Manual

Birkhimer moved: Appendix I of the Board Manual is amended as follows:

APPENDIX I

October 29, 1983

Amended 08-07-06:17, 07-16-04, 10-18-03

(Refer to Act 19-431)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FUND POLICY

The International Cooperation Fund

The surplus from the Eighth International Congress of Speleology, and additions to that, hereafter called the International Cooperation Fund, will be used to (1) Establish a program of grants to support International Speleological Partnerships and (2) to support International Speleological Participation, according to the following policies, and within the terms of agreement between the National Speleological Society and the National Speleological Foundation for the management of the International Cooperation Fund. The principal of the fund shall be held and invested by the National Speleological Foundation. <<Annually, the NSS may withdraw up to 5.5% of the total value of the fund for the grants described below.>> <, and the net income from the fund can revert to the NSS treasury titled the International Cooperation Fund and designed for the purposes stated in this fund policy. Grant money is drawn from the NSS Treasury by the chairman of each fund.> Principal may be used to support NSS sponsorship of International meetings and the bidding process for such meetings.

Grants to Support International Speleological Partnerships

Grants will be made to support the International Speleological Partnerships to encourage speleological research that involves cooperative international endeavor. The grants will be administered by the <chairman of the Research Advisory Committee> <<International Secretary>><The funds for the grants will consist of approximately 40% of the annual earnings from the international Cooperation Fund or as agreed between the two chairmen of the International Cooperation Fund Grants.> It is the responsibility of the <chairman><<International Secretary >> to announce the availability of the grants (available only to National Speleological Society Members), to develop application procedures which include a written application form, and to announce grant recipients and projects in the NSS News. Review of written applications shall be made by the <chairman of the Research Advisory Committee><<International Secretary>> in conjunction with <the International Secretary and> the President of the National Speleological Society.

Grant recipients shall agree to write a report giving results of the research in publications of the National Speleological Society and/or the International Union of Speleology, with copies to the NSS Library.

The selection criteria for the International Speleological Partnerships grants will include:

1. Joint Planning-the degree to which the project would be jointly planned and implemented by American and foreign speleologists.
2. Mutual Benefits-the ways in which the project would benefit simultaneously American and foreign speleology through expansion of future research opportunities and publications.
3. Continued Support-the probability of continued support for the project from both American and foreign sources.
4. Durable Linkages-the potential for creating durable linkages for speleological research between the Partnership participants.
5. Speleological Merit-the speleological merits of the project will be used in judging the application.

A report on the results of the research must be published in an NSS and /or and International Congress publication, and copies deposited with the NSS Library.

Applicants must be members of the National Speleological Society.

Announcement of the availability and amount of the grant, application procedures, deadlines, reviewing of grant applications, and the announcement of grant recipients and projects in the NSS News will be the responsibility of the <Research advisory Committee><<International Secretary.>>

Grants to Support International Speleological Participation.

Grants will be made in support of international speleological participation, administered by the International Secretary. <The funds for the grants will consist of approximately 40% of the annual earnings from the International Cooperation Fund or as agreed between the two chairman of the International Cooperation Fund Grants.> It is the responsibility of the <chairman><<International Secretary>> to announce the availability of the grants, to develop application procedures which include a written application form, and to announce grant recipients in the NSS News. Review of written applications shall be made by the International Secretary <in conjunction with the chairman of the Research Advisory Committee> and the President of the National Speleological Society. Grant recipients shall agree to write a report of their activities under the grant for publication in the NSS News.

The selection criteria for the International Speleological Participation grants will include:

1. Mutual Benefits-the degree to which the project would be beneficial to both NSS and foreign speleology.
2. Durable Linkages-the potential creation of durable linkages for the exchange of speleological information and techniques between the NSS and speleology in the participant's country.
3. Speleological Merit-The speleological merit and value of the foreign participation will be evaluated.

A report on the results of the International participation must be published in and NSS and/or International Congress publication and copies deposited in the NSS Library.

Announcement of the availability of grants will be made in the NSS NEWS and will be the responsibility of the International Secretary.

Discussion: These grants have been made available since 1983, but have seldom, if ever been used. The primary reason appears to be that a long string of RAC Chairmen have not had the band width to publicize and administer them in addition to the numerous other grants for which they are responsible. This proposal shifts responsibility for these grants to the International Secretary, who had expressed an interest in providing new energy. The proposal also changes the formula for using money from the Fund to be consistent with how other Funds are handled. This change will result in more even funding from year to year, with little impact on the overall status of the fund.

Keeler seconded.

Vote: Unanimous

PASSED

13) Amendment to Act 26-796 NSS Office, Library, and Museum Complex

Birkhimer moved: Act 26-796 is amended as follows:

26-796 NSS Office, Library, and Museum <Complex><<Headquarters>> 11-08-08:7, 03-15-08:10

The NSS will construct or purchase a building to house the NSS Office, Library, and Museum on a site to be selected before the close of the <July 24, 2009 NSS Board of Governors meeting during the International Congress of Speleology in Kerrville, Texas><<November 7, 2009 NSS Board of Governors meeting in Birmingham, AL.>>

The NSS Office, Library, and Museum <Complex> <<Headquarters>> proposal submission period will end <noon April 4, 2009 at the NSS Board of Governors meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado> << before the close of the July 24, 2009 NSS Board of Governors meeting during the International Congress of Speleology in Kerrville, Texas.>>

Frantz seconded.

Shrewsbury moved to amend the motion by rewording the second paragraph so that it would not change the original date for the end of the submission period as follows:

Vote: Majority
Abstaining: Liebman

PASSED

18) Electronic Publishing of the Members Manual [Act 84-817](#)

Frantz moved: The *Members Manual* shall not be published electronically.

Kayes seconded.

Vote in favor: Bush, Clark, Cole, Devine, Frantz, Kayes, Keeler, Liebman, Parvin, Shrewsbury, and Young.

Vote against: Florea, Foote, Joop, and Paylor.

Abstaining: Rea

PASSED

19) Rescind Board Acts 18-581 Contemporary Cave Use Study Restricted Fund and 88-493 Contemporary Cave Use Study, Amend 26-466 Cave Registers

Frantz moved: Act 18-581 Contemporary Cave Use Study Restricted Fund is rescinded, and that Board Act 26-466 Cave Registers is amended as follows. Any money currently in the Contemporary Cave Use Study Fund, and any future donations to the Fund, will be transferred to the Nature Preserve Fund.

18-581 Contemporary Cave Use Study Restricted Fund

The purpose of the Contemporary Cave Use Study restricted fund is to support the study of cave visitation. The Fund was established by donors. These funds may be spent by the Chairman of the Contemporary Cave Use Study Committee with the approval of the Administrative Vice President.

88-493 Contemporary Cave Use Study

The Contemporary Cave Use Study is established as a permanent committee in the department of the Administrative Vice President. The committee shall have the following mission and responsibilities:

To gather information by using cave registers and other means to advance the knowledge and understanding of cave use in North America. The committee shall provide leadership, advice, and cave register devices to NSS committees, NSS internal organizations, NSS members, and researchers in order to facilitate cave management, cave conservation, cave safety, and the management of the Society.

Act 26-466 Cave Registers

The Administrative Vice President shall monitor the use of NSS owned caves by using cave registers **<supplied by the Contemporary Cave Use Study or>** and other appropriate means.

Keeler seconded.

Keeler moved to amend to remove all references to act 88-493 from the motion.

Cole seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor of amendment and motion. BOTH PASSED

20) Rescind Act 18-528 John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve Restricted Fund

Frantz moved: Act 18-528 John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve Restricted Fund is rescinded. Future expenses for the maintenance of the John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve will be drawn from the Nature Preserves Fund in accordance with Act 18-713. Future donations to the John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve Restricted Fund will be placed in the Nature Preserves Fund and will be separately tracked.

18-528 John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve Restricted Fund

The purpose of the John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve restricted fund is to provide funds in support of NSS operation and maintenance of the John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve property in Pendleton County, West Virginia. The Fund was established by donors. These funds may be spent by the John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve Committee chairman subject to the Administrative Vice President's approval.

18-713 Nature Preserve Fund

The purpose of the Nature Preserve Fund is to serve as a source of funds to the Society sufficient to provide for the expenses of ownership of real estate, or any interest in real estate, which has been designed by the Board of Governors of the Society as a Nature Preserve of the National Speleological Society. The Fund was established by donations and transfers of unrestricted funds and is being managed as if it consists of all donations. Each fiscal year an amount up to 5.5% of the total fund value is used for this purpose. In addition to the amounts available annually, the NSS by 2/3 vote of the Board of Governors of the society, may transfer to the Society any part of the Nature Preserve Fund needed for extraordinary expenses of the preserves. (See Attachment G of Appendix C in the Board of Governors Manual).

Devine seconded.

Vote: Unanimous PASSED

21) Convention Budget [Act 56-818](#)

Frantz moved: Convention budgets should include the provision for a modest surplus, in the 5% range.

Kayes seconded.

Vote in favor: Clark, Cole, Frantz, Joop, Kayes, Keeler, Parvin, Paylor, Rea, Shrewsbury, and Young.

Opposed: Bush, Devine, Florea, Foote

Abstain: Liebman PASSED

22) Modification of Dues Structure for Basic Membership

Young moved: Act 28-289 Dues Structure for Basic Membership is modified as follows:

- # of Years Paid Basic
- 1<\$24.00><<\$20>>
- 2<\$48.00><<\$39>>
- 3<\$72.00> <<\$58>>

Clark seconded.

Vote in favor: Clark, Devine, Keeler, and Young.

Opposed: Bush, Cole, Florea, Foote, Frantz, Joop, Kayes, Liebman, Parvin, Paylor, Rea, and Shrewsbury.

FAILED

23) Elimination of Basic Membership Voting Privileges

Liebman moved: That Bylaw 1 B (14) is revised as follows: “(14) Basic members are at least seventeen years of age. These members do not receive publications except as stated; but otherwise have all the privileges of Regular members <<except the right to vote>>. Section 1 B (14) is repealed.”

Cole seconded.

Florea moved to postpone.

Liebman seconded.

Vote: Unanimous POSTPONED

24) Open Discussion Period

Birkhimer moved: An open discussion will be held for a period of time not to exceed 10 minutes.

Kayes seconded.

Vote: Majority

Opposed: Florea

PASSED

Discussion: Bill Frantz suggested there be articles in the *NSS News* about the upcoming headquarters decision and the choices. We all should take this info back to our grottos, sections, and regions.

Thanks to Rob Kolstad for printing our reports for this meeting at a big savings to us.

25) Appreciation

Birkhimer moved: The Board of Governors expresses its appreciation to the Cave of the Winds, the Williams Canyon Project, and the Southern Colorado Mountain Grotto in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for hosting our meeting and providing excellent meeting arrangements.

Vote: Unanimous

PASSED

26) Adjournment

Kayes moved: The meeting will be adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Keeler seconded.

Vote: Unanimous

PASSED

President Birkhimer declared the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mihalak, Recording Secretary