

National Speleological Society, Inc.
Board of Governors Meeting
Minutes of the 212th Regular Meeting, Kerrville, Texas
July 20 and 24, 2009
DRAFT

The 212th regular meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Mountaineer Center. Kerrville, Texas. 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	Carol Tideman
Keith Wheeland	Bill Liebman
John LaMar Cole	Scott Parvin
Linda Devine	Randy Paylor
Mark Joop	Debra Young
Ted Kayes	Jennifer Foote

1) Approval of the April 4, 2009, Colorado Springs, Colorado Board of Governors Meeting Minutes.

Birkhimer moved to approve the minutes.

Bush seconded.

VOTE

For: 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:

- A. ICS/NSS Convention Report, Texas – George Veni, ICS Chairman
- B. NSS 2010 Convention Report, Vermont – Ken Moore and Rick Pingree, Co-Chairmen
- C. NSS 2011 Convention Report, Colorado – Dave Lester and Marty Morey, co-chairmen
- D. NSS 2012 Convention Report, West Virginia – John Pearson and Jeff Bray, co-chairmen
- E. NSS Nominating Committee – Oral Report by chairman Bill Steele - The full written report is included in the President's Report

Old Business

4) Elimination of Basic Membership Voting Privileges

Liebman moved: Bylaw 1 B (14) be 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 Section 1 B (14) b is repealed.

No second.

MOTION DIED

New Business

5) Contemporary Cave Study Committee Appointment

Keeler moved: Lisa Hall is confirmed Chairman of the Contemporary Cave Study Committee in the Cave Management Division.

Lisa Hall (24916AS); 110 Elmur Dr. Apt. 211, Greensburg PA 15601, caverlisa@hotmail.com

Bush seconded.

VOTE

For: Unanimous

APPROVED

6) Mill Creek Nature Preserve

Keeler moved: Robert Anderson is confirmed as the preserve manager for the Mill Creek Nature Preserve.

Robert Anderson (22022RG); PO Box 249, High Springs FL 32655, 386-454-3143, randerson007@windstream.net

Parvin seconded.

VOTE

For: Unanimous

APPROVED

7) NSS Official Email Ballot for Purchase of Lot 87, Huntsville, AL [Act 26-819]

An e-mail vote was requested by Scott Parvin, Jennifer Foote, Wm Shrewsbury, and John LaMar Cole. The e-mail vote was concluded on June 17, 2009

Frantz moves: The AVP is authorized to negotiate the purchase of Lot 87, at the corner of Pulaski Pike and Link Ave. for the sum not to exceed \$12,700. Funds to cover this purchase will be taken from the Endowment Fund. In the event that, prior to 12/31/09, the NSS decides to remain in Huntsville, the Endowment Fund will be reimbursed from the Headquarters Fund. Otherwise the NSS will engage in a fund raising campaign to reimburse the Endowment Fund.

VOTE

For: Majority

Abstaining: Lee Florea

PASSED

8) Communications with Basic Members [Act 80-820]

Foote moved: The Newsletter editor will send the Society News column <<and the President’s Message>> column of the *NSS News* to the NSS office at the time of publication. <The office staff will compile a list of current Basic members with email addresses.> The office staff will send out the information using whatever method they determine is the most appropriate.

Kayes seconded.

Keeler moved to amend the motion by eliminating the second sentence “The office staff will compile a list of current Basic members with email addresses.”

Cole seconded.

VOTE

For: Majority
Against: Kayes

AMENDMENT PASSED

Frantz moved to amend the motion by adding “and the President’s Messages” to the first sentence.

Paylor seconded.

VOTE

For: Majority
Abstaining: Liebman

AMENDMENT PASSED

VOTE

For: Majority
Abstaining: Liebman

AMENDED MOTION PASSED

9) Official Mission Statement – POSTPONED until Friday

Paylor moved: The following text is adopted as the official Mission Statement of the NSS, “The National Speleological Society (NSS) is a nonprofit membership and service organization that promotes and advances the study and science of speleology, the protection and responsible exploration of caves and their natural contents, and fellowship among those interested therein. The NSS is dedicated to a leadership role in improving the understanding, conservation, and enjoyment of caves and conveying their importance to the public.”

Keeler Seconded.

Liebman moved to postpone until Friday.

VOTE

For: Unanimous

PASSED\

10) Elections [Act 02-821]

Liebman moved: Once ballots are mailed in a Board of Directors election, any official statements or announcements by the NSS regarding candidates or the election shall be communicated to the membership only by the <<President.>> <Nominating Committee via a medium of their choice, and not by any BOG members.>

Cole seconded.

Rea moved to amend by striking the end of the last sentence and substituting the word “President.”

Kayes seconded.

VOTE

For: Majority
Against: Joop, Liebman
Abstaining: Parvin, Paylor

AMENDMENT PASSED

VOTE

For: Keeler
Against: Majority
Abstaining: Liebman

AMENDED MOTION FAILED

11) Headquarters Funding Report

Liebman moved: The Secretary-Treasurer will present a report to the Board at the fall 2009 meeting that describes in detail the options available to the NSS for funding the cost of each new headquarters proposal, and recommended funding plans. The S-T shall distribute the report to the Board two weeks prior to the meeting.

Shrewsbury seconded.

VOTE

For: Keeler, Liebman

Against: Majority

FAILED

12) Headquarters Financing

Liebman moved: The Board shall approve a plan to finance a new headquarters before accepting any proposal.

No second.

MOTION DIED.

13) Victor A. Schmidt Conservation Award

Birkhimer moved: Act 43-116 of the Board Manual is amended as follows:

43-116	Victor A. Schmidt Conservation Award	07-08-05, 11-04-00, 03-18-95, 04-17-93, 11-07-92, 03-15-80, 06-23-75, 02-23-63
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The Victor A. Schmidt Conservation Award is <established to> <<given>> annually <<to>> recognize <one NSS member who, over time, has demonstrated> outstanding dedication to <<cave conservation.>> <the conservation of caves.> <<The award may be given to one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together.>> Names of candidates <will be> <<are>> solicited by the Awards Committee, and <<all candidates must have been members of the NSS for the two years prior to their nomination. Recipients are>> <the recipient will be> approved by the Board of Governors <upon> <<on the>> recommendation of the Awards Committee <.> <<,>> <The recipient must have been a member in good standing of the Society for at least two years immediately prior to his name being submitted as a candidate. The Awards Committee shall> <<which will>> give preference to candidates who have not received the Outstanding Service Award or Honorary Membership

AMENDED ACT:

43-116 Victor A. Schmidt Conservation Award

The Victor A. Schmidt Conservation Award is given annually to recognize outstanding dedication to cave conservation. The award may be given to one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together. Names of candidates are solicited by the Awards Committee, and all candidates must have been members of the NSS for the two years prior to their nomination. Recipients are approved by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Awards Committee, which will give preference to candidates who have not received Honorary Membership or the Outstanding Service Award.

Parvin seconded.

Shrewsbury made a motion to accept items 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 as a group.

Parvin seconded

VOTE

Unanimous to accept as a group

PASSED

VOTE

For: Unanimous

PASSED

14) Lew Bicking Award

Birkhimer moved: Act 43-374 of the Board Manual is amended as follows:

43-374	Lew Bicking Award	10-18-03, 11-4-00, 10-20-84, 06-29-84, 02-25-84, 03-15-80
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<<The>> <A> Lew Bicking Award <<is given annually>> <has been established> to recognize <a> <<outstanding>> dedication to the <thorough> exploration <and mapping> of a cave or group of caves. The award

may be given to <<one NSS member>> <an individual,> or to a pair of <<members who>> <cavers who, through specific joint actions,> qualify equally for the award based on <<work>> <the exploration> they have done together. <One such award may be made each year.> Names of candidates <<are>> <will be> solicited <from NSS members and Internal Organizations> by the Awards Committee, and <the recipient(s) will be approved by the Board of Governors upon recommendation of the Committee. The recipient or recipients> <<all candidates>> must have been <a member or> members <<of the NSS for the two years prior to their nomination. Recipients are approved by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Awards Committee, which will>> <in good standing of the Society for at least two years immediately prior to his/her/their name(s) being submitted as a candidate or candidates. The Awards Committee shall> give preference to candidates who have not received the Outstanding Service Award or Honorary Membership. <<The award includes money from the Lew Bicking Fund. (See Acts 43-375 and 18-715.)>> <The name(s) of the recipient(s) shall be announced at the annual convention and the recipient will receive an appropriate certificate signed by the President. The Chairman of the Awards Committee shall notify the recipient(s) in writing of the award and shall enclose a check in the amount of the award.>

AMENDED ACT:

43-374 Lew Bicking Award

The Lew Bicking Award is given annually to recognize outstanding dedication to the exploration of a cave or group of caves. The award may be given to one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together. Names of candidates are solicited by the Awards Committee, and all candidates must have been members of the NSS for the two years prior to their nomination. Recipients are approved by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Awards Committee, which will give preference to candidates who have not received Honorary Membership or the Outstanding Service Award. The award includes money from the Lew Bicking Fund. (See Acts 43-375 and 18-715.)

15) Science Award

Birkhimer moved: Act 43-507 of the Board Manual is amended as follows:

43-507 Science Award

11-04-00, 04-17-93

<<The>> <A> Science Award is <<given>> <established to> annually <<to>> recognize <one NSS member who, over time, has demonstrated> outstanding dedication to the scientific study of caves. <<The award may be given to one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together.>> Names of candidates <<are>> <will be> solicited by the Awards Committee, and <<all candidates must have been members of the NSS for the two years prior to their nomination. Recipients are>> <The recipient will be> approved by the Board of Governors <<on the >> <upon> recommendation of the Awards Committee<<, >> <. The recipient must have been a member in good standing of the Society for at least two years immediately prior to his name being submitted as a candidate. The Awards Committee shall> <<which will>> give preference to candidates who have not received the Outstanding Service Award or Honorary Membership.

AMENDED ACT:

43-507 Science Award

The Science Award is given annually to recognize outstanding dedication to the scientific study of caves. The award may be given to one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together. Names of candidates are solicited by the Awards Committee, and all candidates must have been members of the NSS for the two years prior to their nomination. Recipients are approved by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Awards Committee, which will give preference to candidates who have not received Honorary Membership or the Outstanding Service Award.

16) Spelean Arts and Letters Award

Birkhimer moved: Act 43-508 of the Board Manual is amended as follows:

43-508 Spelean Arts and Letters Award

11-04-00, 04-17-93

<<The>> <A> Spelean Arts and Letters Award is <<given>> <established to> annually <<to>> recognize <<contributions to>> <one NSS member who, over time, has advanced> spelean arts and letters <<through>> <by significant> artistic expression, management, or criticism. <<The award may be given to one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together.>> Names of candidates <<are>> <will be> solicited by the Awards Committee, and <<all candidates must have been members of the NSS

for the two years prior to their nomination. Recipients are approved by the Board of Governors upon recommendation of the Awards Committee. The recipient must have been a member in good standing of the Society for at least two years immediately prior to his name being submitted as a candidate. The Awards Committee shall give preference to candidates who have not received the Outstanding Service Award or Honorary Membership.

AMENDED ACT:

43-508 Spelean Arts and Letters Award

The Spelean Arts and Letters Award is given annually to recognize contributions to spelean arts and letters through artistic expression, management, or criticism. The award may be given to one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together. Names of candidates are solicited by the Awards Committee, and all candidates must have been members of the NSS for the two years prior to their nomination. Recipients are approved by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Awards Committee, which will give preference to candidates who have not received Honorary Membership or the Outstanding Service Award.

17) Lew Bicking Fund

Birkhimer moved: Act 18-715 of the Board Manual is amended as follows:

18-715 Lew Bicking Fund

3-23-02

The purpose of the Lew Bicking Fund is to provide income to be used as a cash part of the award known as the Lew Bicking Award. The Lew Bicking Award was established in 1965 to recognize an individual Society member who, through specific actions, has demonstrated a dedication to the thorough exploration of a cave or group of caves. Selection is made by the Awards Committee. The Fund was established by donors. The fund is managed as a temporarily restricted quasi-endowment fund. Annually the NSS withdraws 5.5% of the total fund's value. (See Attachment E of Appendix C in the Board of Governors Manual)

AMENDED ACT:

18-715 Lew Bicking Fund

The Lew Bicking Fund is to provide income to be used as the cash part of the Lew Bicking Award. The fund was established by donors. The fund is managed as a temporarily restricted quasi-endowment fund. Annually the NSS withdraws 5.5% of the fund's total value. (See attachment E of Appendix C.)

18) Membership Categories

Liebman Moved: The S.T. will review the 16 membership categories the NSS currently has and make recommendations as to how this number can be reduced and the bookkeeping work on these reduced. The goal will be to simplify the membership system by phasing out many of the existing different types of membership. This report shall be presented to the NSS BOG at the Spring 2010 Board meeting.

Kayes seconded.

VOTE

For: Unanimous

PASSED

19) Recess

President Birkhimer declared a recess for lunch and the closed meeting of the Board and Directorate at 12:15 p.m. on Monday July 20, 2009.

20) Reconvene

The 212th regular meeting of the NSS Board of Governors reconvened on Friday July 24, 2009, at the NSS Convention in Kerrville, Texas. President Birkhimer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Paul Mihalak was present as the Recording Secretary.

Roll Call

Officers

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

Directors

Gary Bush	Carol Tideman
Keith Wheeland	Bill Liebman
John LaMar Cole	Scott Parvin
Linda Devine	Randy Paylor
Mark Joop	Debra Young
Ted Kayes	Jennifer Foote

21) Committee Reports

- A. International Congress of Speleology – George Veni, Chairman
- B. Journal of Cave and Karst Science – Scott Engel, Production Editor.

22) Report of the Closed Session of the Directorate

The Chairman of the Directorate, Ted Kayes, reported on the closed session. The following officers were elected:

Ray Keeler (23245RE), Administrative Vice President (AVP)
Lee Florea (37909RL), Executive Vice President (EVP)
Wm Shrewsbury (22677RL), Operations Vice President (OVP)
Ted Kayes (6122RL), Chairman of the Directorate
Gary Moss (10046RL), President Pro Tem

23) NSS Nominating Committee Confirmation

Birkhimer moved: William Steele is confirmed as NSS Nominating Committee Chairman and Don Broussard and John Wilson are confirmed as members of the Nominating Committee.

C. William Steele (8072RE), 500 Kingston Drive, Irving TX 75061, 214-770-4712, speleosteele@tx.rr.com
Donald L. Broussard (9514RL), 7881 FM 3237, Driftwood TX, 78619-9420, 512-847-3705, don.broussard@att.net
John M. Wilson (NSS 13112RL), 9504 Lakewater Ct., Richmond VA, 23229-6010, 804-740-0339, wilsonjml@msn.com

Cole seconded.

VOTE

For: Unanimous

PASSED

24) Congress of Grottos Report

The written Congress of Grottos Report was presented by Vice Chairman Clifton Colwell. A copy is [attached](#) to these minutes:

2008 Congress Resolutions: NSS President Birkhimer discussed action or progress.

- Long term planning committee Motion proposes housing all NSS assets in a new central facility.
*Board of Governors is in alignment with COG
- Richmond Area Speleological Society moves: If a new facility be built, the Bloomington IN site is strongly considered.
*Board of Governors is in alignment with COG
- Long Term Planning Committee moves: The new facility is open to the public.
*Board of Governors is in alignment with COG

- Long Term Planning Committee moves: The new facility should include facilities for public outreach and education.
*Board of Governors is in alignment with COG

25) NCRC Position Confirmations

Keeler moved the following NCRC nominations be confirmed:
 Michael Huseman (49821RE) michael.huseman@yahoo.com: Central Region Coordinator (new appointment).
 John Panches (39211RE): Pacific Northwest Coordinator (continuing appointment)
 Jeff Good (28120RE): Eastern Region Coordinator (continuing appointment)
 Stephen Mosberg (20444RE): Medical Coordinator (continuing appointment)

Parvin seconded

VOTE
 For: Unanimous PASSED

26) Funding for APA National Conference Participation

Keeler moved: The NSS will again participate in the American Planning Association's (APA) National Conference in New Orleans April 10-13, 2010, by hosting a session and setting up a karst outreach booth. The Conservation Committee Co-chairmen are authorized to withdraw up to \$2,500 from the Save the Caves Fund to cover the cost of exhibit booth space and associated expenses.

Kayes seconded.

VOTE
 For: Unanimous PASSED

27) NSS Preserves Coordinator

Keeler moved: Gary Moss is confirmed as the NSS Preserves Committee Chairman.
 Gary Moss (10046RL), 7713 Shreve Road, Falls Church VA 22043-3315, 703-573-1068, kd4itj@amsat.org,

Devine seconded.

VOTE
 For: Unanimous PASSED

28) Official Mission Statement – POSTPONED from Monday

Paylor moved: The Official Mission Statement adoption will be postponed until the Fall BOG Meeting on November 7, 2009.

Devine Seconded.

VOTE
 For: Unanimous PASSED

29) Open Discussion Period

Birkhimer moved: An open discussion is held for a period of time not to exceed 20 minutes.

Bush seconded.

VOTE

For: Unanimous

30) Appreciation

Birkhimer moved The Board of Governors expresses its appreciation to the 15th International Congress of Speleology and NSS Convention Committee for hosting our meeting and providing excellent meeting arrangements. Bush seconded.

VOTE

For: Unanimous

PASSED

31) Adjournment

Frantz moved: The meeting is adjourned.

Shrewsbury seconded.

VOTE

For: Unanimous

PASSED

President Birkhimer adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mihalak
Recording Secretary

Attachment 1

**Congress of Grottos
Meeting Report
Kerrville, TX
July 21, 2009**

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Clifton Colwell

2008 Congress Resolutions: NSS President Birkhimer discussed action or progress.

- Long term planning committee Motion proposes housing all NSS assets in a new central facility.
- Richmond Area Speleological Society moves: If a new facility be built, the Bloomington IN site is strongly considered.
- Long Term Planning Committee moves: The new facility is open to the public.
- Long Term Planning Committee moves: The new facility should include facilities for public outreach and education.

No motions from the floor.

Peter Michaud nominated for COG chairman.
Election is unanimous.

Alicia Lewis nominated Vice Chair and Clifton Colwell nominated Vice Chair.
Alicia Lewis of Meramec Valley Grotto elected Vice Chairman.

Meeting adjourned at 1430.

No motions from the floor.