



Caves and architecture have collided throughout much of my adult life. From caving, I learned leadership – how to convince friends to undertake long hikes to check shadows in rocky canyons. From architecture, I learned to define problems, resolve complex problems and create unique solutions that meet a communities' needs.

What are my credentials for a leadership position with a national caving organization?

- I am a professional with proven leadership skills to understand define a problem, listen to others, consider organizational goals from a fresh perspective and then offer a sound opinion.
- My ability to practice what I preach was proven during my 6-year tenure on the Board of the Texas Cave Management Association, with 4 years as president. I was the president of the Texas Speleological Society for 4 years. I have recently rejoined the TCMA BOD and look forward to another term. During 40 years of caving, I have held leadership positions in numerous grottos around Texas and Oklahoma.

The NSS faces numerous challenges from changing demographics, membership, managing and paying for facilities. Our community of cavers face challenges from accessing caves, strains on environmental resources, and the encroachment of urban areas into sensitive karst environments. The caves, unique biology, and groundwater are threatened by pollution from industry, urbanization, and the recreational demands of a growing population. This is what I believe:

- The NSS should consider the impacts of urbanization on fragile karst and use our expertise to offer solutions for meaningful changes.
- The NSS, as a National organization, unites diverse communities of cavers, and its leadership should reflect the diversity of its membership.
- The NSS faces challenges that require leadership capable of understanding today's challenges with a vision to steer the organization toward an uncertain future.
- The NSS must remain relevant and speak to younger cavers that will be future members.
- In the future, cave access will depend on cavers organizing to own, lease, and manage caves. The NSS is playing a role in helping conserve caves, but should look to strategic alliances with conservancies to increase the bandwidth to affect meaningful change. The organization should implement planning for the long-term financial challenges of acquiring and managing significant resources.
- The NSS should stand with other environmental organizations to oppose partisan political efforts to dispose of and remove protections for public lands.
- Non-profit organizations need to make fiscally conservative decisions about facilities. I work with many organizations on long term capital improvement plans; the ability of organizations to succeed is dependent on a conservative approach to facility and capital expenditures.
- I believe the NSS should support cave exploration and research in the USA and support international and interplanetary efforts.

I ask for your vote and support in this election.