



Why me?

I have **20 years' experience managing events, operations, people, and organizations:** a state-mandated cave advisory board; NSS region meetings, committees, and projects; my grotto and its activities; and other caver-related activities. In my professional life, I have organized and run agency-wide working groups and held many leadership positions.

The NSS has been facing challenging times. I would like to **use my leadership skills, experience, and knowledge of the NSS** to focus on ensuring the long-term vitality of the Society. I would encourage the Board to commit to strategies to evaluate and improve how effectively the NSS pursues its goals, manages its business, and serves cavers and caves.

As my friends will attest, **I'm not afraid to question why and to speak up**, and will not be a seat-warmer. Retiring this spring, I will have adequate time for the responsibilities of a director outside of meetings. My large network of caver friends around the country will provide an outstanding source of ideas, input, and feedback.

Concerns

The **NSS website** is antiquated and does not serve the Society nor its members well. Improvements have been in the works for years. Information on some web pages needs updating. As the public face of the Society and a service to members, a modern, well-performing website is critical. Even if it takes paying for the expertise, I would encourage the Board to place the highest priority on completing an upgraded website as soon as possible.

Our **membership** has dwindled from over 12,000 yet we don't appear to have an active and effective membership plan, strategy, goals, and effort. As our membership declines, so does our ability as an organization to influence cave conservation, education, and access. I would like the Board to take ownership of a membership plan.

The **NSS's finances**, and perhaps our donors, are stretched very thin, and this concerns me. I am interested in exploring ways to improve our financial situation.

Do we have a **vision**? Do we need to **re-think** the way we conduct our operations? Are we following our **strategic plan**? Which of our **committees are effective**? How do we **attract members**? Do we need to **streamline**? How do we **attract top quality officers**? Could some work of officers or committees be done by an **executive director or other professional staff**? Are there **funding opportunities** we're not pursuing? These are some of questions I would like to help the Board answer and address. I would like members to be able to **attend Board meetings virtually**, and for the Board to prepare a report to members detailing its accomplishments.

Leadership positions include 11 years on the Virginia Cave Board with 4 as chairman; president of BATS Grotto for 4 years and other officer positions; vice president of RASS; organized four Virginia Region meetings; serve as chairman of the VAR Conservation Committee and organize annual *Spring Restoration at Grand Caverns*; editor of several grotto newsletters over the years, as well as the Cave Board's *Virginia Cave Owners' Newsletter*; member of organization-management team for *Journey into Amazing Caves* Washington D.C. Premier event, responsible for obtaining and managing caver volunteers and producing the event's program; taught numerous New Caver Orientations for BATS; and I regularly lead cave trips for the grotto.

Volunteering includes editing 6 *NSS Members Manuals* and proofreading three; editing 4 NSS Convention Guidebooks; editing *A Guide to Responsible Caving* and other NSS brochures; proofread 6 caver-written books, including a few NSS-published books; co-edited the 2003 *NSS Speleo Digest*; co-edited and did the layout for *A History of the Virginia Region Part. II: 1971-2000*; and organizing and helping with many cave and sinkhole cleanups.

Awards include NSS Fellow, VAR Outstanding Service, and The Robertson Association Fellow.

Vote for me!

I have served the NSS over the years with my leadership skills and other experience, and am eager to put them to work serving the NSS as your director.