



The NSS is something of which to be proud, something that ties us all together, and serves to organize and educate, and to conserve and protect caves. It gives us a voice nationally, to communicate with land management agencies, and internationally, to interact with other members of the UIS.

The NSS we all love is in the middle of a great challenge, a generational change, and the result is dramatically shrinking membership occurring at the same time that we are working toward modernizing the society.

Everyone talks about declining membership, but we don't yet have a clear enough understanding of where and how membership is changing. Solutions always start with a better understanding of the challenge.

My first caving experience was while studying abroad in France in 2005. I was fortunate enough to be living in Grenoble. I returned to the US and immediately became involved in several projects in Kentucky. I went on to become the Chairperson of the Detroit Urban Grotto (a 15-year term); medical officer for PESH; and member of the ad hoc Membership Committee. I've participated in projects and expeditions including: 14 expeditions in China, 2 to Omega (VA), Lechuguilla (NM), PESH (MEX), FRCS (KY), Raspberry Rising and Bisaro Anima (BC). I taught myself to draw [cave maps](#) and won top prizes in the US and world. I've been an NSS member for over 13 years.

I believe that the BOG needs serious cavers who are also reasonable people, people who are technologically savvy but also care for mentoring new cavers! Mentoring new cavers and offering learning opportunities are essential to a viable NSS. I taught courses for several years at Montana Cave Camp, a wild success, in large part, because of the workshops offered.

I've lived two lives professionally: that of a [mountain guide](#) and wilderness medicine instructor, and that of an engineer and businessman. I have degrees in Materials Science and Engineering, and French Literature. I've often walked the line between research and business. This has led me to handling two startups and one turnaround in the engineering world. I've had to manage teams of diverse backgrounds, ages, and educations in multiple countries; meeting and presenting in English, French, and Mandarin. I have a proven skill in characterizing a challenge, conceptualizing a functional approach, and working with a team to solve it – especially when there are entrenched personal interests and bruised egos. I am a proud Eagle Scout and Mensan.

If elected you can count on me to passionately pursue:

- Continuing the drive to make NSS leadership independent of age and financial means, which started with allowing remote participation in BOG meetings;
- Creating a better culture of mentorship and openness, to create caving opportunities, and opportunities to teach and learn;
- Data gathering and management to show the [where and whom](#) of our membership decline – this is the first step to addressing the problem;
- Stopping irrational spending and creating more transparency in the BOG;
- Look at pragmatic approaches to the future of the NSS HQ

Thank you for your consideration!