

INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Update to IOs on the organizational happenings within the NSS

July 2020



The New IO Newsletter

This new newsletter format is aimed at helping the leadership of the internal organizations to know and share what the NSS is working on at the national level. Hopefully providing you with the ability to brief your membership on what the NSS is doing for them, and keeping you in the know.

A Change is Coming: Beginning with the September issue of the IO Newsletter we will be sending all future newsletters out using member services from the NSS. Please continue to forward these future newsletters onto your local grotto members!

Cave Laws: All federal acts and state statutes on cave protection are now up-to-date on the NSS Website. These are great reference tools available to all of our members and friends! Kudos to the extensive 2020 research and formatting efforts by long-time NSS Conservation Team contributor, Thomas Lera.

View these at: www.caves.org/conservation/laws.shtml

Congress of Grottoes (COG): This year the Congress of Grottoes chose not to hold its annual meeting at the virtual convention. So, we thought it would be a great idea to remind everyone of its role in the society. The Congress of Grottoes is the voice of the IOs to the NSS Board of Governors. If your grotto has a great idea, or an issue to bring before the larger society, this is the place to make your voice heard! The call for agenda items for next year's COG is open until March 15, 2021. Contact them at COG@caves.org

Membership Manuals: Print membership manuals will be coming out this year for members who have selected to receive them. Look for one in a mailbox near you!

Directed Volunteer Requests: The Executive Search Committee, Education Division, and the IO Committee are looking for some excited and motivated volunteers! They can be contacted at execsearch@caves.org, EducationChief@caves.org, and iocommittee@caves.org respectively.

Electronic Publications Manager - this new volunteer position will work closely with the EVP to develop electronic content for existing and new book publications and to establish web-based distribution methods. This is one of our top needs in the society and will help us branch into new publishing avenues. For more information about this position please email Scott at EVP@caves.org.



Photo of Schoharie Cave from Caves.org

What can the NSS do for you?

Grants:

Did you know that the NSS offers grants to support a number of different aspects of caving? If you are passionate about a great project, its worth seeing if the organization will support your efforts. For more information look under "grants" at caves.org. Or, <https://caves.org/grants/index.shtml>

Current I/O Committee

- Paul Winter (co-chair)
- Nick Anderson (co-chair)
- Adam Weaver
- Savannah Sawyer
- Keith Wheeland

iocommittee@caves.org

Personnel Changes and Updates

The NSS recently had director elections and the Board of Directors met during the 2020 virtual convention to appoint new committee chairs, and hold some officer elections. Here are some of the changes and results:

New Directors in 2020

Ben Tobin, Nick Anderson, Riley Drake, Sonia Meyer, and Pete Johnson
Will Urbanski - Voted in by the Board to serve a 1 year term

Officers and Committee Chairs approved at the summer board meeting:

Executive Vice President - Scott Engel evp@caves.org

Operations Vice President - Maureen Handler - ovp@caves.org

Administrative Vice President - Adam Weaver - Adam@caves.org

Chair of the Directorate - Nick Anderson - cod@caves.org

Financial Review Committee - Cindy Wu - Cindy@caves.org

Caves.org Steering Committee - Pete Johnson - website@caves.org

Executive Search Committee - Carol Tiderman - execsearch@caves.org

Internal Organization Committee - Nick Anderson - iocommittee@caves.org

Junior Speleological Society - Thor Steinke - JSS@caves.org

Karst Information Portal Liaison - Jason Boczar - kipliaison@caves.org

NSS Government Liaison - Ray Keeler - govtliasion@caves.org

NSS Preserve—Spotlight— The Schoharie Caverns Nature Preserve

Schoharie Cave and the surrounding property was donated by Mary and Jennifer Gage in 1994. This location, in Schoharie County, NY, has been a central base for caving since the late 1970's.

Schoharie Cave is over 4,000 feet long, with half of that length beyond a scuba-diver sump. A total of five sumps have been penetrated. The part of the cave enterable without scuba equipment is primarily a single vadose canyon, consisting of 2000 feet of walking passage, with ceiling heights from 10 to 80 feet. Entry does require getting wet. The 45 degree temperature adds to the difficulty.

Caves are Closed during the winter !!! Visitation to the caves on this property is **temporarily suspended** from October 1st until May 1st every year (dates may change), due to the *White-Nose Syndrome* in bat colonies. For more information on WNS, see the main Preserves Page. Please contact the preserve manager for the official closing/opening dates. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.

Update: The cabin is closed until Schoharie County goes into Phase IV of reopening. The preserve received five inquiries in the last quarter and permitted three to visit the cave. NY currently allows outside gatherings of 10 or less with social distancing. There are plans with the local grotto and to find a weekend cleanup this summer. This could now change depending on COVID-19

For access and more information contact the Preserve Manager,
Christa Hay at schohariemanager@caves.org

Need Help?

The secondary impetus for this newsletter is to open a constant lifeline to all of the Internal Organizations.

We are here to help you, and to connect knowledge and experts from within the organizations to one another. With over 250 I/Os the chance is good that others have had the same issues.

In this effort, the I/O committee has been working to assemble a team of volunteer leaders from Grottos around the nation to help field these questions.

Bottom line, if your Grotto needs help, and you can't find someone with ideas or answers. Send an email and we will do our best to help you with your project or problem.

Adam@caves.org



www.caves.org