



The NSS is something of which to be proud, something that ties us 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. For me, it is the family of like-minded people I never knew I had growing up, and I take great pleasure in sharing experiences and stories within our tight-knit community. The NSS we all love is in the middle of a great challenge, a generational change, and the result is dramatically shrinking membership. I am willing to dedicate my energy to reversing this trend.

My first caving experience was while studying abroad in Grenoble, France in 2005. I went on to become the Chairperson of the Detroit Urban Grotto (a 15-year term); medical officer for PESH; and member of the NSS ad hoc Membership Committee. I've participated in large projects and expeditions including: 14 expeditions in China, Omega (WV), Lechuguilla (NM), PESH (MEX), FRCS (KY), and Raspberry Rising (BC). I've won top prizes in the US and world for maps. I've been an NSS member for over 12 years, and am a member of the Northern Rocky Mountain Grotto in addition to DUG.

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, and above all, people who get out and cave! Mentoring new cavers and offering learning opportunities are essential to a viable NSS. The Montana Cave Camps have been extremely successful, in large part, because of the workshops offered – I've supported them by teaching works shops every year.

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. I've been a leader in the Order of the Arrow, and I am a proud Eagle Scout.

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.

Thank you for your consideration!