

CONSTITUTION of the FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTA
of the
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- I. The name of this organization shall be the Franklin County Grotto of the National Speleological Society.
- II. The purpose of this Grotto shall be the same as those of the National Speleological Society, with the additional purpose of organizing NSS members in the Franklin County area to better promote the objectives of the National Speleological Society.
- III.
 - (1) Regular membership is limited to members of the National Speleological Society.
 - (2) Any member of the NSS shall be eligible for regular membership in this Grotto.
 - (3) Non-NSS members in Franklin County and the surrounding areas may be granted an associate membership.
- IV.
 - (1) The Grotto shall be governed by a six-member executive committee composed of the following:
 - A. Chairman
 - B. Vice-Chairman
 - C. Secretary
 - D. Treasurer
 - E. Two additional Members-at-Large
 - (See Bylaws III for duties and election procedures.)
 - (2) The Executive Committee shall have complete power to manage the business of the Grotto, to formulate Bylaws, to raise funds in any manner not inconsistent with the policies of the National Speleological Society, and to perform all other necessary functions.
 - (3) Decisions or actions of the Executive Committee may be over-ruled by a two-thirds majority vote of all Grotto members.
- V.
 - (1) Executive Committee and General Meetings shall be held at such time and place as are designated by the Committee.

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- (2) A petition signed by two-thirds of the Grotto membership shall be mandatory upon the Executive Committee to call a special meeting for the purpose stated in the petition.
- VI. The Constitution and Bylaws of the National Speleological Society shall be binding on this Grotto, and any action inconsistent therewith shall be null and void. This explicitly includes Act 28-944, Appendix BF, the NSS Anti-Harassment Policy.
- VII. Amendments to this Constitution shall be made by two-thirds favorable vote of those present at any meeting of the Grotto called by the Executive Committee especially for that purpose, or by written consent of one-half of the total Grotto membership.
- VIII. The Franklin County Grotto is a non-profit organization. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the article giving definition of purpose herein. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation except concerning legislation affecting cave and karst resources. The organization shall not participate in, intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- IX. In the event of dissolution, the assets of the organization shall be turned over to the National Speleological Society, However, if the named recipient is not then in existence or no longer a qualified distribute, or unwilling or unable to accept the distribution, the assets of this organization shall be distributed to a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated exclusively for the purposes specified in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Code).

NSS Act 28-944, Appendix BF, Adopted November 2018:

NSS Anti-Harassment Policy

This Anti-Harassment Policy applies to all events sanctioned by the National Speleological Society. Internal organizations within the Society are independent organizations and may create their own policies. To remain compliant with the NSS Charter, they must also have in place an Anti-Harassment Policy, or agree to implement the NSS policy, or risk loss of association with the NSS.

The National Speleological Society is dedicated to providing a safe and harassment-free environment for our members and attendees at our events, on social media, and within our organization. We will not tolerate harassment in any form. Any attendee that violates this policy will be told to leave the event and may be subject to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the NSS Board of Governors, pursuant to Bylaw XI. B. Discipline of Members.

Harassment includes but is not limited to inappropriate comments, inappropriate sexual behavior that warrants intervention, unwanted advances and touching, invasion of personal space in a sexual manner, deliberate intimidation, and unwelcomed sexual advances. In addition, harassment includes unwanted verbal, physical, cyber, or aggressive behavior. If an incident of harassment is reported, the event staff, volunteers, or NSS representatives will take corrective action against any offenders at the time of the incident, ranging from verbal warnings to expulsion from the area and/or event and a referral of the offender to the NSS Board of Governors for consideration of discipline from the Society.

We value all of our members and attendees that come to caving events and want to ensure that safety and well-being of all participants is a top priority. Any person being harassed or witnessing another person being harassed should contact a staff member immediately. We will make every effort to assist and provide protection for our members and attendees.

BY-LAWS of the FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTO
of the
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

I. MEMBERSHIP

A. All applications for membership shall be in writing, and be accompanied by pro-rated dues for the remainder of the calendar year.

B. Members are classified as follows:

Regular
Associate
Family
Life
Honorary

- (1) Regular members are individual NSS members who have all privileges of the Grotto, including the right to vote, hold office, serve as committee chairmen, receive copies of the currently issued regular publications, and have access to all Grotto records and data.
- (2) Associate members are individuals who have all the privileges of the Grotto except the right to hold office or serve as committee chairmen. Such members may receive copies of the currently issued regular publications and have the right to vote, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.
- (3) Family members are individuals in the immediate family of members in good standing. No Family member is entitled to receive copies of currently issued regular publications pursuant to membership privileges. However, a Family member may vote, and have access to all Grotto records and data.
- (4) Life members are individuals who have paid 20 times the annual membership fee in one lump sum and are thereafter exempt from paying yearly dues.
- (5) Honorary members are regular Grotto members to whom Honorary Membership is awarded by the Executive Committee for outstanding contributions to the Franklin County Grotto or to the field of Speleology. Honorary members shall be exempt from dues thereafter, and will retain all privileges of regular membership.

BY-LAWS of the FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTA (Cont'd.)

- C. A serial number shall be assigned to each member at the time of admission to the Grotto. A reinstated former member will have the original number reissued upon payment of pro-rated dues for the current year.
- D. Organizations having similar interests, purposes, or objectives may become affiliated with the Grotto on conditions approved by the Executive Committee.

II. DUES – ASSESSMENTS – GIFTS

- A. The membership dues of the Grotto shall be as follows:
 - (1) Annual dues shall be set by the Executive Committee
 - (2) No change in dues may be made by the Executive Committee at the same meeting that such a change is proposed. The meeting that passes or approves such a change must be held at least thirty days after the meeting at which such change was proposed.
- B. No special assessments may be made against members of the Grotto. Voluntary contributions may be solicited by the Executive Committee for specific purposes. A charge may be made for the Grotto's special publications. Fees may be collected for the use of Grotto property when approved by the Executive Committee.
- C. Gifts and bequests may be made to the Grotto in any amount and for any purpose compatible with the purposes of the Grotto.
- D. A charge may be made to non-members for:
 - (1) Attendance at Grotto sponsored activities and meetings.
 - (2) Use of Grotto equipment and library
 - (3) Copies of publications, maps, and other data.
 - (4) Inclusion of non-members on the Grotto mailing list.

BY-LAWS of the FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTA (Cont'd.)

III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following:

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Two Additional Members-at-Large

The Executive Committee shall be composed of NSS members elected by the Grotto membership at the annual election meeting.

B. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

CHAIRMAN: Preside at Grotto meetings and Executive Committee meetings.
Oversee and supervise all operations of the Grotto, and delegate responsibility.
Welcome new members and visitors.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Assist the Chairman and assume responsibilities during the Chairman's absence. Arrange for programs at Grotto meetings.

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Record minutes of all meetings. File the annual Internal Organizations (IO) Report to the NSS at end of term.

TREASURER: Receive and disburse all payments on behalf of the Grotto. Maintain financial records and membership files. Send renewals and other mailings, except for the Franklin County Grotto Newsletter. Present Treasury report at each regular meeting.

C. The officers of the Grotto (Executive Committee) shall be elected by the popular vote of the Grotto by the following procedure:

At the October meeting of each year, nominations for all positions shall be made by members in attendance. Members may nominate any Regular member for any position. Elections will be held during the regular November meeting. At this meeting, the general membership in attendance shall vote orally according to the slate of nominees

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to fill each office. If more than one person has been nominated for any office, written ballots shall be used. No ballots will be mailed unless the election meeting is not held.

- D. The term of the officers of the Franklin County Grotto shall commence January 1 and terminate December 31 of that year.
- E. An officer does not have the right to appoint a substitute for his office.
- F. A quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be considered a simple majority of voting members or their personally appointed proxies. A proxy cannot be given to another voting member.

IV. MEETINGS

- A. Special meetings of the Grotto may be called at such times and places as approved by the Executive Committee. The entire membership shall be sent notices as to the date, place, and purpose of any such meeting at least two weeks in advance.

V. PROPERTIES

- A. The Grotto may acquire real and personal property, including equipment, literature, and other materials for the use of and on behalf of the membership.

VI. PUBLICATIONS

- A. The Grotto will issue and distribute regular publications and is empowered to issue and distribute special publications subject to regulations governing the subject matter, publication dates, sales and distribution, as prescribed by the Executive Committee.

VII. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- A. Members may be dropped or expelled from the Grotto by a majority vote of the Executive Committee:
 - (1) Non-payment of dues.
 - (2) Willful misuse of Grotto property
 - (3) Willful disregard of their own safety or that of others on Grotto sponsored trips.
 - (4) Conduct detrimental to the Grotto.

BY-LAWS of the FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTA (Cont'd.)

- B. Any member subject to expulsion (except for non-payment of dues) shall receive written notice of such action from the Executive Committee. This member may demand and will be granted a hearing before the full Executive Committee.

VIII. AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS TO THE BY-LAWS

- A. These By-Laws may be amended only by:

- (1) Unanimous approval of those present at an Executive Committee meeting at which all of the officers or their personally appointed proxies are present; or:
- (2) Presenting the proposed amendments in writing to the Executive Committee at least one meeting prior to their consideration, or by mail to each member of the Executive Committee at least one month prior to their consideration and approval by all of the Executive Committee or their personally appointed proxies present at the next meeting. Under the above procedure, only minor changes of language may be allowed at the time of adoption; or:
- (3) By two-thirds vote of all Grotto members at a meeting called for the purpose of amending the By-Laws.