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I ran for Director in 2016 at the same time I retired after 34 years of working for the Army. I was honored to be appointed to fill the remaining two years for someone who had to resign. I attended all six in-person Board of Governors (BOG) meetings and one of our two teleconferences. I was unable to participate in the other teleconference because I was overseas. If elected, I have every intention of attending all meetings during the three-year term. Traveling to the meetings is not a problem for me.

I support efforts to conduct meetings via videoconference or teleconference because it may allow more members to run for Director. That said, I prefer face-to-face meetings because we are not distracted by electronic connection difficulties and because we converse and socialize with each other and local NSS members before and after the meeting. These informal conversations often lead to ideas for solving specific Society problems. BOG members also communicate regularly by email. In the last two years, I have amassed over 2,500 messages in my "NSS Director" email folder. Frequent communication throughout the year makes our meetings more efficient because we discuss issues, share information, and hone the wording of motions before arriving at the table.

My stated goal when I ran for Director two years ago was "to understand the inner workings of the Society and to suggest improvements for efficiency and financial growth while making sure the concerns of members are addressed." I certainly understand more of how the NSS functions from a bureaucratic standpoint, and have supported motions to simplify and streamline the Society's very complicated financial management system. The resulting changes to our accounting system will allow us to expand our fundraising efforts to include the Combined Federal Campaign and to qualify for grants. At my first BOG meeting, I was recruited to join the Fundraising Committee (everyone's favorite job, right?). We teleconference every month or so to discuss how to bring in additional funding for all the exciting projects that cavers across the country support. There's no question that we need to retain our current members and encourage new people to join the NSS, so I encourage you to recruit a new caver to join the Society or to bring a former member back. We rely on our talented and seemingly tireless volunteers who spend many hours working on committees to meet our goal of exploring, studying, and protecting caves. If you are passionate about a particular issue, please consider joining or heading up one of the many committees that are the heart and soul of the Society.

I am an active recreational caver, and I take Scouts underground several times a year. I started caving and working for the Army in 1982. If you are curious about my past caving or work experience, please refer to my [2016 Director platform](#).