

2010 NSS-CDS Election Platform Statements

Jared Hires

Fellow NSS-CDS members I would like to introduce myself.

My name is Jared Hires and I have been an NSS-CDS member since birth (#35316). I have been Scuba diving since the age of 7 and cave diving since the age of 15 under the supervision of Instructors and my Father Lamar. I frequently dive the caves of North Florida but have also had the opportunity to dive cave systems in both Mexico and Russia. I am excited about the opportunity to represent you all as a member of the Board of Directors for the organization.

Living in North Florida all of my life I am familiar and concerned about many issues that we face including landowner relations, new site access, and growth of membership. I believe I will bring new perspectives and fresh ideas as a member of the next generation of divers and will be a positive voice that will help unify and expand the reach of the NSS-CDS.

Wayne Kinard

As owner of a busy dive shop in North Florida Cave Country, I see divers from all over the world. This gives me the opportunity to speak with and hear the concerns of a wide variety of NSS-CDS members. As an elected board member, I am in a unique position to be a voice of representation for those members.

If elected I will *Dive Right In!*

Gene Melton

Being on the Board of Directors of any non-profit organization is a thankless task. I've been there and wonder my motivation as to I would want to do it again. Perhaps the fact that I question myself it why I should be a BoD member again. The NSS-CDS was formed to be a members organization which also offered training to foster the conservation, enjoyment and safety of exploring and studying underwater karst environments. We as NSS-CDS members must not forget that charter. The main task of the Board of Directors is to provide organizational management for the membership per the Constitution, By-Laws and Corporate regulations of the State of Florida. My goal as a Director for the NSS-CDS will be to help provide the best business and policy management practices that I can to the direction of the organization. There is an endless supply of improvements that each of us can contribute towards the cave diving endeavor which we love. I use the term improvement knowing that not all ideas are beneficial to the organization. Over the next two years, I will strive to help maintain the NSS-CDS as the foremost cave diver membership organization and the largest special interest group in the NSS.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Frank Ohidy

It has been nearly two years since I wrote my first platform statement for the 2008 elections. Being on the Board of Directors during this time has been what I can only call an adventure. One of the most important lessons I have learned in this time is that the NSS-CDS is made up of a very diverse group of members that agree and differ at times on almost all subjects relevant to cave diving and the part that the CDS plays in this. At the outset, I had only a few goals for myself as a Board member. One was to serve on the NSS-CDS Board of Directors with an independent view of the issues and act upon them with the interests of the membership in mind and act within the guidelines of the NSS-CDS Constitution and Bylaws at all times. This has been easier said than done at times, but I feel that I have done my best to act within these ideals. In addition, I made it a priority early

on as Program Director to better manage the properties and dive sites that the Section owns and manages. As program director, I have worked hard to maintain safe and ready access to our properties by the membership by taking an active role in the management of CDS properties. By serving another term, my hope is that I can help motivate others to help me develop better policies for the properties that we own and gain some ground for access to other properties and dive sites. Last but not least, I would like to continue to serve on the Board as a representative of the membership at large. I have always maintained an open door policy to all CDS members, whether we agree on something or not. I will continue this policy in the future. The CDS is and should be an internationally recognized organization that in all ways furthers the ideals of conservation, exploration, education and safety in cave diving. I feel it is my responsibility is to further those goals as a Board member. In closing, I would like to thank one and all for considering me for another term on the CDS Board of Directors and the opportunity to represent you, the members of the NSS-CDS

Rick Robinson

My name is Rick Robinson and I am running for a position on the NSS-CDS Board of Directors. I have been a diver since 1960 and a cave diver since 1999. I have been attending cave diving seminars yearly since 1988. I am a "non-partisan" supporter of cave diving. I am 60 years old and am retired from a family business. I live in Bell, Florida enabling me to dive weekly. I am married to Leslie, who is also a cave diver. I am a volunteer with the Gilchrist County Sheriffs Department, Neighborhood Watch Program and Hart Springs. I am active in the ongoing clean up of Hart Springs. I was also a volunteer for 10 years at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa.

I feel that diver safety is of utmost importance, including appropriate training and education. Conservation and preservation of the cave environment is also my concern, as more people are diving in caves around the world. Accessibility to dive sites and the fostering of good landowner relationships is another area all cave divers should be aware of.

I am an active diver, living in "cave-country", concerned with safe, accessible, yet environmentally respectful cave diving. I feel I would be a good representative of all NSS-CDS cave divers.

Bill Rotella

I have been actively cave diving in Florida and Mexico since 2001. Those of you who know me understand my love for the exploration, preservation and study of our underground aquifer. This sport to me is a way of life, and I cherish my friendships that I have developed over the years, and I feel privileged to be a part of the cave diving community.

I am a prior board member and have acted as your treasurer, Chairman of the 2008 NSS-CDS Workshop, and Treasurer for the 2008 NSS Convention. I would like to see the NSS-CDS Board strive to work harder on their original purpose as a non-profit organization and to limit the number of instructor's on the board that have a financial interest and that high training standards are followed and adhered to. Bottom line is that I believe in accountability and transparency with all individuals and organizations that have a stakeholder interest in the CDS.

I have been a member of the NSS-CDS, the NACD, the Cave Diver's Forum (as a moderator and social chairman), and the Cambrian Foundation. To me, all organizations and certifying agencies should work together for the preservation and study of the aquifer, continually improving our training, and our standards in keeping up with the evolution of technology as it pertains with our sport and profession. My philosophy has always been to treat people the way that you would like to be treated.

I appreciate your consideration and time so that I can represent you the members and the cave diving community in the NSS-CDS BOD.

