

Renee S. Power
NSS CDS Board of Directors Nominee

My name is Renee Power. I believe in the NSS-CDS, its mission, its members and its legacy. I have volunteered with CDS projects over the years and served as Volunteer Coordinator for our International Cave Diving Conference twice. I have served on the Board for the past two years and as Chairman of the Board for the last year. I am an active cave diver and an NSS-CDS Cave instructor in our community. I am honored to be nominated for the NSS-CDS Board of Directors to continue to work for you.

Accomplishments during my NSS-CDS board tenure include:

- Blueprint for Survival available in Spanish
- NSS-CDS and CDS renewal more streamlined
- Check-in for Cow Springs more user friendly
- New training standards approved for NSS-CDS instructor team
- New NSS-CDS logo
- User friendly restructure of the NSS-CDS training section on our website
- NSS-CDS Bylaws updated and prepared for membership voting
- Navigating this difficult and unusual year
- Work to make more dive sites accessible to the community

Conservation is key and who better to be the eyes and voice of the caves than the cave divers? We are the advocates for the caves and have a responsibility to protect them through education and practical practices that could be as simple as picking up trash at our parks and dive sites and minimizing our impact in the caves. This can begin in the classroom. I am for distinctive training through the NSS-CDS that has the highest standard of all. Although agencies have different philosophies, I support efforts that strive for us to work together for the good of our communities and the aquatic environments that we enjoy and depend on.

Since its inception in 1973, the CDS has been the voice of cave diving and yet, today that voice is muted. While the NSS-CDS once held the distinction of being one of the first cave diver training organizations, we now see many divers encouraged to pursue their training solely through other training agencies. I believe we are losing our identity as the leaders in our field and this is heartbreaking.

With new faces and new ideas I want to help put the NSS-CDS back on top with priorities of practical conservation, community support and quality training.

Below are a few key focus points that encapsulate my philosophies as I consider this position and our organization.

- Help make the NSS-CDS an organization that is sought after for cave divers and local environmentally concerned citizens
- Strengthen the established NSS-CDS outreach platforms i.e. website, social media, UWS
- Emphasize more strongly conservation in cave diving education and to the non diving community, to include young people, that begins with human impact on the surface
- Educational global outreach to promote ownership and stewardship of aquatic environments giving value and practical ways to make a positive difference
- I wish to serve with a cohesive team
- I do support the NSS-CDS cave diver training program
- I strive to keep the legacy of cave diving alive