

# 1997 NSS Chapters' Assembly Meeting Minutes

(Please note that detailed minutes were not taken at all meetings; thus some of the following information may be in error. Meeting participants are more than welcome to submit corrections and additional information. Retractions will be published when requested.)

## Day 1 — Friday, May 23, 8 – 11 p.m.

### A. Administrative Duties (8:00 – 8:30 p.m.)

#### 1. Attendance

The following 16 NSS chapters were represented (but not necessarily present for all votes):

Austin Space Frontier Society (John Strickland)  
Boston NSS Chapter (Jeff Foust)  
Central Savannah River Area NSS (Henry Quinn)  
Chicago Space Frontier L5 Society (Larry Ahearn)  
Clear Lake Area Chapter of NSS (Cynthia Griffin)  
Heart of America Chapter NSS (Tom Huffman)  
Huntsville Alabama L5 Society (Ronnie Lajoie)  
Illinois North Shore NSS (Jeffrey Liss)  
Lunar Reclamation Society, Inc. (Peter Kokh)  
Metro Orlando Space Society (Michael Gilbrook)  
Middle Tennessee Space Society (Chuck Schlemm)  
NSS Northeast Georgia Chapter (Robert McBrayer)  
NSS of the Palm Beaches (Dusty McGee)  
NSS of North Texas (Carol René Johnson)  
Oklahoma Space Alliance NSS (Syd Henderson)  
Oregon L5 (Cheryl Lynn York and Bryce Walden)

In addition to the above, the following people were also present: Ronnie Lajoie (Chair, Chapters' Assembly), Bennett Rutledge (U.S. Chapters Coordinator), Nancy Bobbitt, Pat Jackson, Greg Rucker, Ed Strickland, and several visitors.

#### 2. Election of Meeting Officers

In the absence of a Secretary, the Chair took notes during the meeting. Bennett Rutledge volunteered to serve as a recorder of all 17 votes taken. Note: a vote of 5-4-3 means 5 yeas (for), 4 nays (against), and 3 abstains.

#### 3. Requests for Additions/Changes to Agenda

The Chair presented a top-level Agenda for the meeting and emphasized that the depth of certain Agenda items would vary depending on the outcome of the first Chapters' Assembly vote. He also presented an overview of other chapter-related meetings scheduled for the 1997 ISDC. Jeff Liss requested and was granted time to discuss the concerns of this and future ISDCs.

### B. Fate of the Chapters' Assembly I (8:30 – 9:30 p.m.)

Due to the critical nature of this topic, the Chair allowed much more discussion than the Agenda had allocated. It is clear that more time should have been allocated originally.

#### 1. Problems with the Chapters' Assembly

The Chair described the state of the Chapters' Assembly as weak. Leadership had been intermittent; the

Assembly lacked a Secretary, Treasurer, and many Administrative Councilors; and few chapters participated. The Chair apologized for the lack of strong leadership and pledged to do better if reelected (pending a bylaw change).

The Chair led a discussion of the possible causes of the current state of the Chapters' Assembly. One of the causes is that the CA mailings never reached some chapters. Someone complained that the chapter list in *Ad Astra* is 6 to 8 months out of date. Another added that it is not updated in a timely manner. The Chair stated that he used the Official Chapter List data from the Web, and received about 8 rejections, mostly from Australia.

**The Chair took the action to work with the editor of *Ad Astra* to correct the timeliness issue.**

Another cause is that the CA mailings never reached the key person in the chapter. Someone noted that the chapter contact listed in *Ad Astra* is not necessarily the chapter's Chapters' Assembly representative.

**The Chair took the action to create separate postal-mail and E-mail lists for the Assembly.**

Other causes mentioned include that the CA paperwork could be low on a chapter's priority list, that a chapter may not be a CA member (perhaps because of the dues requirement), or that a chapter may not be interested in the CA (perhaps because it perceives joining to be of little benefit). The group agreed that only a visibly strong and useful Chapters' Assembly will encourage other chapters to join.

#### 2. The Chapters' Assembly and *Inside NSS*

A discussion on the use of *Inside NSS* as the CA newsletter led to a comment that each chapter gets only one copy, unless it adopts it as the chapter's newsletter. Jeff Liss remarked that NSS national cannot afford to send *Inside NSS* to every NSS member or even to every chapter member. Bryce Walden suggested applying the chapter's \$10 CA dues to the subscription to *Inside NSS* for the CA representative. The Chair replied that part of those dues must cover the operating expenses of the CA.

**The Chair took the action to work with Jeff Liss on sending *Inside NSS* (for free or for a nominal fee) to each chapter's CA representative, if he or she is different from the chapter contact.**

#### 3. The Chapters' Assembly and Chapters Organizers

One of the reasons cited for keeping the Chapters' Assembly is that many regions lack Chapters Organizers. Cheryl York noted the overlap in the existing chapter support structure between Regional Councilors and Organizers. Larry Ahearn added that Regional Directors are really another part of that support structure, and asked why we do need three volunteers for the same job.

# 1997 NSS Chapters' Assembly Meeting Minutes

Pat Jackson suggested that having paid regional officers would help fill the vacant regional slots. Someone added that the Planetary Society has such paid regional staffers. Ron Lajoie offered to serve as Region 5 Chapters Organizer if he was not reelected Chair.

## 4. The Chapters' Assembly and the Purpose of Chapters

The Chair noted that many chapters are borderline inactive, due to a lack of officers, members, ideas, and/or resources. A strong chapter support structure can help to correct this. Together, chapters also have a better chance to shape NSS internal policies and NSS space policies. With the new millennium coming, chapters can help bring about the paradigm shift required for the public to really support a strong private space industry.

Bryce Walden said that Oregon L5 started out as a social club and that changing public opinion is beyond them. Their chapter is partly a "fan club for space, a meeting place for space enthusiasts." Chuck Schlemm replied that the Board of Directors is concerned about the view of chapters as social clubs, adding that the goal of NSS is to influence public opinion and chapters should help. Robert McBryer added that he joined NSS to help change public opinion. Bennett said that chapters are "keepers of the flame."

The group then discussed the methods used to influence public opinion, noting that our past direct "in your face" approach (which Bryce alluded to) does not always work. Ron Lajoie said that one of the goals of Project HALO is to show the public that cheap-access-to-space is possible. Cynthia Griffin reported that the Clear Lake chapter is focusing on public outreach. Cheryl York replied that there is a big difference between turning opinion and educated the space novices. (The latter can be compared to advertising while the former is a sales job.)

Peter Kokh said that networking is extremely important, and chapters need to share information more. He urged chapters to report details of their activities to *Inside NSS*. The Chair added that the Web-based Chapter Resource Library will be an on-line storehouse of such knowledge.

**The Chair took the action to get the Chapter Resource Library up and running ASAP.**

## C. Input to Conferences Comm. (9:30 – 9:55 p.m.)

At this time, Jeff Liss requested time to gather input from chapters for the NSS Conferences Committee. He said that the Committee meeting would be a closed session and this would be the only opportunity for chapter input. The Assembly voted to take about a half hour for discussion.

### 1. The Cost of ISDCs

Jeff Liss reported that hotel prices are going up and are requiring larger numbers for conferences and meal events. He asked for input on what can we do to increase attendance. Bryce said we have no reason to

hold ISDCs in fancy hotels. Cheryl added that ISDCs have become too big and too expensive for most members. There are too many choices and lots of conflicts, especially with meetings.

Jeff said that holding the ISDC during Memorial Day weekend provides an extra day that members do not have to take as vacation days, plus hotel rates are usually cheaper. In response to a suggestion about holding an ISDC in "lesser cities", Jeff replied that psychologically they are less attractive. And while hotel costs may be less, airfare is usually more.

## 2. ISDC Attendance, Roles and Responsibilities

Michael Gilbrook reported that the attendance thus far was much lower than expected, despite the attractions of Kennedy Space Center and Orlando. Ron Lajoie said that he observed less advertising for this ISDC than for the 1993 ISDC, partly due to the change in *Ad Astra* going bimonthly. He suggested that NSS national take the responsibility to handle the national advertising, since they have a vested interest in a getting a large turnout.

Michael Gilbrook said that NSS national should take more direct responsibility for the ISDC, going as far as suggesting that national plan and run the conference, and the "host chapter" help with the local work. (He later backed off on this extreme and suggested a Continuity Committee to handle functions common to all ISDCs.)

## D. Fate of Chapters' Assembly II (10:10 – 11:00 p.m.)

Following a short recess, the Assembly completed its general discussions, and got on with making the tough decisions. Voting began after Ed Strickland and Larry Ahearn gave a history of the Chapters' Assembly.

### 1. What should happen to the Chapters' Assembly?

The Chair presented 8 choices (plus an "Other"), from dissolving the organization to rebuilding it. The chapter representatives had trouble with some of the choices because the meaning was unclear or had sub-choices. The Chair agreed to an iterative process until the group reached agreement on the fate of the Chapters' Assembly.

The first round of voting resulted in a 50-50 split. 6 chapters (Strickland, Griffin, McGee, Quinn, Foust, and Schlemm) voted to make the CA a group that meets informally at each ISDC; 6 chapters (York, McBryer, Lajoie, Johnson, Kokh, and Henderson) voted to strengthen parts of the CA; and 1 chapter (Ahearn) voted for something in between.

John Strickland said he favored having the option to vote on suspending the CA as the need arose. Both Carol Johnson and Robert McBryer favored strengthening the CA, especially for sharing information between chapters.

To lessen the choices, the Chair was able to get chapters to agree not to dissolve or suspend the Chapters'

# 1997 NSS Chapters' Assembly Meeting Minutes

Assembly, nor to totally recommit themselves to a strong organization. In a sense, Larry's "something in between" won. At this point, the second round of voting began.

## 2. Motion to Eliminate the Dues Requirement

Peter Kokh suggested that we have a separate mailing list for CA representatives, drop the dues, and do as much as we can with Email. The final motion was stated as "To eliminate the dues requirement, and communicate with chapters mostly by Email, the Web, and *Inside NSS*. Chapters without Internet access can get postal mailings as remaining funds allow." By a vote of 9-3-1, the motion passed.

## 3. Motion to keep the Chapters' Assembly Formal

The Chair explained that making the CA informal would allow chapters only to discuss issues, but not to make resolutions to go before the Board of Directors. A motion was made to keep the Chapters' Assembly formal. By a vote of 12-1-0, the motion passed.

Two CA representatives had to leave, 11 remained. The Chair then switched to the viewgraph showing the four functions of the Chapters' Assembly from last year (Policy, Working Groups, Projects, Resource). At this point, the third round of voting began. Bryce Walden suggested that the Policy function be separated into a review of NSS internal policy and a review of NSS external space policy. The group concurred.

## 4. Motion to retain Chapter review of NSS Policy

Discussion included concerns of official chapter responsibilities (which are few) versus NSS national expectations of chapters (which is great). It was clear that the chapters need to work with national. A motion was made to retain Chapters' Assembly review of NSS internal policy. By a vote of 11-0-0, the motion passed.

## 5. Motion to offload Chapter review of Space Policy

Bryce Walden remarked that it is hard for a chapter to reach agreement on space policy issues. Cheryl York added that a split decision on a space policy issue could destroy a chapter. A motion was made to replace CA review of NSS space policy with CA sponsorship of space policy debates and forums. By a vote of 11-0-0, the motion passed.

## 6. Motion to appoint a Space Policy Forum Coordinator

A motion was made to create the position to coordinate CA sponsored space policy debates and forums. By a vote of 9-0-2, the motion passed. John Strickland was appointed the first Space Policy Forum Coordinator.

## 7. Motion to Recess the Meeting until the next day

Given the late hour, Dusty McGee made a motion to recess the Chapters' Assembly meeting until the next day (Saturday). By a vote of 2-8-1, the motion failed. The group vowed to complete the main business that night.

## 8. Motion to Suspend most Working Group activity

With most of the CA sponsored Working Group members not in attendance, a motion was made to suspend all prior activity, with the exception of the Chapter Organization Committee. By a vote of 11-0-0, the motion passed.

## 9. Motion to leave Chapters Projects to Foundry

Greg Allison, Chairman of the Foundry was not present to speak on chapter projects. A motion was made to leave the decision on CA-sponsored chapter projects to the Foundry. By a vote of 11-0-0, the motion passed.

## 10. Motion to make Chapter Resources primary function

With most of the discussion on this issue already said, a motion was quickly made to strengthen the CA sponsored Chapter Resource Library and to make information sharing among chapters our primary function. By a vote of 11-0-0, the motion passed.

## 11. Motion to retain the Chapters' Assembly Treasury

With the Chapters' Assembly neither dissolved, suspended, nor made informal, a motion was made not to distribute the remaining funds of the Chapters' Assembly. The money will be used sparingly to support those chapters lacking Email, and for occasional awards and mailings. By a vote of 11-0-0, the motion passed.

### Chapters' Assembly Fate Voting Summary

Ref	Vote Topic	Yeas	Nays	Abst	Result
D-2	Eliminate dues	9	3	1	Pass
D-3	Keep CA Formal	12	1	0	Pass
D-4	Review NSS policy	11	0	0	Pass
D-5	Offload space policy	11	0	0	Pass
D-6	Policy Coordinator	9	0	2	Pass
D-7	Recess meeting	2	8	1	Failed
D-8	Suspend workgroups	11	0	0	Pass
D-9	Projects to Foundry	11	0	0	Pass
D-10	Focus on resources	11	0	0	Pass
D-11	Keep CA Treasury	11	0	0	Pass

## E. Chapters' Assembly Business (11:00 – 11:30 p.m.)

With the fate of the Chapters' Assembly settled, the group, with an additional chapter represented, moved on to other outstanding business.

### 1. Proposed Bylaw Change 1, to provide more stability:

Bylaw IV - Chairman, paragraph 2.f. Replace sentence "No Chairman of the CA may serve consecutive terms." with: "The Chairman of the CA may serve up to two

# 1997 NSS Chapters' Assembly Meeting Minutes

consecutive terms." By a vote of 12-0-0, the change was approved.

## 2. Proposed Bylaw Change 2, to provide more stability:

Bylaw V - Executive Secretary, paragraph 2.f. Replace sentence "No Executive Secretary may serve consecutive terms." with: "The Executive Secretary may serve up to two consecutive terms." By a vote of 12-0-0, the change was approved.

## 3. Motion to eliminate the Administrative Council

The Chair said that the functions of the Administrative Council have been largely superseded by the Internet and its direct easy access to most CA representatives. A motion was made to eliminate the Administrative Council, pending a bylaw change. By a vote of 12-0-0, the motion passed. Cheryl York volunteered to make the necessary changes to the bylaws.

## 4. Election of Chair for 1997-1999 term

Ronnie Lajoie volunteered to serve again as Chair. No other nominations were made. By a vote of 11-0-1, he was elected.

## 5. Election of Secretary for 1997-1999 term

Cheryl York volunteered to serve as Secretary. No other nominations were made. By a vote of 11-0-1, she was elected.

## 6. Election of interim Administrative Councilors

Bryce Walden pointed out that until the bylaws were updated, the Chapters' Assembly would be required to have an Administrative Council. A motion was made to keep the existing Councilors in their positions. By a vote of 12-0-0, the motion passed. Bryce and Jeff Foust volunteered to serve their regions. Assignments follow:

- NSS Region 2 — Bryce Walden
- NSS Region 3 — John Strickland
- NSS Region 5 — Peter Ewing

NSS Region 6 — George Cooper

NSS Region 8 — Jeff Foust

NSS regions 1, 4, 7, and International remained vacant.

## 7. Selection of Outstanding Chapter Award recipient

Given the elimination of the dues requirement, the Chair asked for a motion not to give out awards this year. Carol Johnson opposed this and nominated the Huntsville chapter. No other nominations were made. By a vote of 12-0-0, HAL5 was selected.

## 8. Suspension of Outstanding Chapter Activist Award

Given no obvious choice, Carol Johnson made a motion not to give out an Outstanding Chapter Activist Award. By a vote of 11-0-1, the motion passed.

## 9. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

The Chair suggested that discussion of the Chapter Survey items be done during the Chapter Organization Committee meeting on Saturday. He then requested a motion to adjourn. By a vote of 12-0-0, the motion passed.

## Chapters' Assembly Business Voting Summary

Ref	Vote Topic	Yeas	Nays	Abst	Result
E-1	Two Chair terms	12	0	0	Pass
E-2	Two Secretary terms	12	0	0	Pass
E-3	Delete Adm. Council	12	0	0	Pass
E-4	Chair: Ronnie Lajoie	11	0	1	Pass
E-5	Secretary: C. York	11	0	1	Pass
E-6	Keep old Councilors	12	0	0	Pass
E-7	Best chapter: HAL5	12	0	0	Pass
E-8	No Activist Award	11	0	1	Pass

## Day 2 — Saturday, May 25, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

### A. Administrative Duties (2:00 – 2:20 p.m.)

#### 1. Registration and Attendance

The following 7 NSS chapters were represented (but not necessarily present for all votes):

- Ann Arbor Space Society (Tim Wright)
- Austin Space Frontier Society (John Strickland)
- NSS of North Texas (Carol Johnson)
- Silicon Valley Space Society (Allen Sherzer)

In addition to the above, the following people were also present: Chair Ronnie Lajoie, Shirley Smith, Karen Mermel, and Gregory Allison.

### B. Elections of Officers (2:20 – 2:30 p.m.)

No one present volunteered for either position of Secretary or Treasurer for the term 1996 through 1998. Each office

shall remain open until someone volunteers and is accepted by an E-mail vote.

### C. Elections of Council Members (2:30 – 2:40 p.m.)

The following individuals volunteered for 1-year service on the Chapters' Assembly Administrative Council:

### D. Reports of Working Committees (2:50 – 3:10 p.m.)

Allen Sherzer chaired this part of the Chapters' Assembly meeting.

### E. Changes to CA Bylaws (3:10 – 3:30 p.m.)

### F. Choosing 1995 NSS Outstanding Chapter

The Chair read the list of submitted nominees, which included the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society (HAL5) and the South Dakota Space Society. He described their 1995 activities. Accomplishments for HAL5 included making

# 1997 NSS Chapters' Assembly Meeting Minutes

significant progress on Project HALO's propulsion system and developing a first draft of its HALO educational program. The South Dakota chapter hosted a successful Return to the Moon space contest. Shirley Smith added some more good words for the South Dakota chapter, which formed only one year prior.

The Chair then requested nominations from the floor. Carol Johnson nominated her chapter, the NSS of North Texas, and described her chapter's many activities in 1995. These included holding monthly meetings, publishing a monthly newsletter, hosting events during SpaceWeek, distributing over 3000 Apollo 13 newsletters, and planning a regional space conference.

A vote was then taken, and the NSS of North Texas chapter received the most votes.

## G. Choosing 1995 NSS Outstanding Chapter Member

The Chair read the list of submitted nominees, which included Gregory Allison. He described his 1995 activities, which included presiding over the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society, managing its Project HALO rockoon program, developing its HALO Achievement educational program, and chairing the Foundry.

The Chair then requested nominations from the floor, but there were none. A vote was then taken, and Greg Allison won unanimously.

## H. Foundry for Chapter Projects (4:00 – 4:30 p.m.)

Greg Allison gave an oral presentation of the Foundry and how he intends to use it as a means for providing assistance for large projects by one or more chapters.

The Chair then requested a motion for the Chapters' Assembly to adopt the Foundry to assist in the development of chapter projects. The motion was made and seconded. By a vote of 6-0-0, the motion passed.

## I. Chapters Resource Library (4:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Ron Lajoie gave an oral presentation of a Chapters Resource Library (temporary name) and how he intends to use it as a means for providing for information exchange among NSS chapters via the World Wide Web and mail.

The Chair then requested a motion for the Chapters' Assembly to approve development of the Chapters Resource Library. The motion was made and seconded. By a vote of 6-0-0, the motion passed.

The Chair then requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and the meeting adjourned.

## J. Meet Your Chapters' Coordinators (5 – 6 p.m.)

NSS Chapters' Coordinators Craig Ward, Shirley Smith, and Kirby Ikin sat down with chapter-members Carol Johnson, Peter Ewing, Ronnie Lajoie, George Cooper, and possibly others. Kirby could not stay the entire time. Shirley said that no Organizers had attended the ISDC.

Craig officially introduced Shirley and Kirby and stated that they are responsible for dealing with NSS chapters, while Craig serves as an interface to NSS Headquarters and the Board of Directors.

The group discussed the lack of Chapter Organizers in many NSS regions. Shirley stated that she is looking for replacements, but would rather have no one in those positions than persons who would not do a good job. She said that chapters in those regions can contact her in the meantime.

Other topics were also discussed (but no minutes were recorded). The group agreed that such conversations are well worth while and that they should be done at regional conferences as well.

## Day 3 — Sunday, May 26

(The following minutes are from activities for which the Chairman of the NSS Chapters' Assembly was involved.)

### A. Board of Directors Presentation (4:00 – 4:15 p.m.)

#### 1. Overview of Revived Chapters' Assembly

The following is the text of the opening comments from the CA Chair to the NSS Board of Directors:

“Ladies and Gentlemen of the NSS Board of Directors, I am happy to report to you today, that the NSS Chapters' Assembly is alive, and . . . well . . . we do have a plan. As you know, in the past, the Chapters' Assembly has focused almost exclusively upon issues of NSS space and internal policy — many times for good reason. I believe that relations between chapters and the Board have improved sufficiently for the Chapters' Assembly to focus more upon other parts of the Chapters' Assembly charter.

The new, hopefully improved, Chapters' Assembly, now consists of four parts. The first, NSS/Space Policy, I believe, you know. The second, Working Groups, was begun by my predecessor David Anderman, and allows the Chapters' Assembly time to better prepare for resolutions and chapter projects.

The third, Chapter Projects, provides a means for chapters to develop and engage in large projects which can expedite our movement into outer space. Yesterday, the Chapters' Assembly voted to adopt and provide a home for the Foundry, which will be used as a project incubator for chapter projects.

The fourth, Resource Library, provides a means for chapters to quickly access the critical information (such as Shirley Smith's chapter training) and materials (such as Dr. Zubrin's space slides) they need to function at peak efficiency. Yesterday, the Chapters' Assembly

# 1997 NSS Chapters' Assembly Meeting Minutes

voted to approve the creation of a Chapters Resource Library and to begin the development process."

## 2. Review of NSS Chapters Needs Survey

The CA Chair passed out copies of a bar chart showing the results, thus far, of the Chapters Needs Survey. He explained that the results are preliminary and that trends cannot be extrapolated from only 13 of 80 responses. He promised to update the chart once more responses come in and resubmit it to the Board of Directors.

The CA Chair then briefly described the results, which shows that 4 of 13 chapters stated that their most critical need is officers; and that 6 listed (active) members as their top first or second need. The only chapter needing money as its top need was Huntsville, for its Project HALO. Many need ideas and guidance as well. The Chair added that he would not wait for more responses to come in before acting on the ones that have. He said he will work with the Chapters' Coordinators and Organizers to get help to chapters as soon as possible.

## 3. Summary of Top Three Chapters' Assembly Issues

The CA Chair described briefly to the Board how Chapters' Assembly resolutions would be processed. Space policy resolutions would not be presented to the Board; rather they would be passed on to the NSS Policy Committee. (He added that no such resolutions were passed.) Internal Chapters' Assembly resolutions would not be presented at all. Per agreement with Lori Garver, the top three resolutions dealing with NSS policy affecting chapters would be presented to the Board, where they could be discussed and hopefully resolved.

The CA Chair then described the first CA issue, pertaining to the notification to new NSS members of NSS chapters in their area, and read the text of the passed resolution. Discussion followed and the Board agreed to let Lori Garver and the CA Chair work together to revise the new member welcome letter so that it encourages them to contact their local chapter(s).

The CA Chair then described the second CA issue, pertaining to the notification to NSS chapters of new NSS members in their area. He told the Board that this issue has been sent to an internal committee.

The CA Chair then described the third CA issue, pertaining to the definition of NSS chapters and the organization of the NSS chapter system. He told the Board that this issue has been sent to a committee composed of members of the Chapters' Assembly and Chapters' Coordinators, and that they would have six months to draft and present a proposal to the chapters. He added that at least half of all NSS chapters would have to ratify such a proposal before it would be sent to the NSS Board of Directors for final approval. The Board asked that the draft proposal be presented at the Executive Committee meeting in December.

## 1. Brief Summary of Kick-off Meeting

The first meeting of the Chapters Future Committee met on Sunday, May 26, 1996. The following members were present: Craig Ward (chairman), Stephen Wolfe, Ronnie Lajoie, Shirley Smith, Kirby Ikin, Greg Allison, Pat Jackson, and David Brandt. Michael Gilbrook observed. Stephen volunteered to be the group's Secretary.

Craig suggested that we rename the committee to the Chapter Organization Committee, which was approved. Craig said he was pleased that this issue has been brought to the forefront. He said the committee needs to determine if the current system needs minor fixing or a major overhaul.

He asked committee members to research the chapter systems of the NSS and other chapter-based, activist organizations, and to decide if the current system is the best for the National Space Society. If not, the committee must suggest a new system and draft a proposal for its transformation.

Shirley Smith told the committee to expect any major transition in the chapter system to take years; and she added that the proposal must address those chapters who refuse to go along with it.

The group then agreed on a preliminary schedule. June and July would be spent researching this and other chapter-based organizations (and even a few non-chapter-based ones). August would be spent reviewing the findings and deciding on the best system for NSS chapters. September through November would be for the Committee to draft any proposal to be submitted to the NSS chapters for review at the end of November. (See the July issue of *Inside NSS* for more details.)

## C. NSS Awards Presentations (8:00 – 10:00 p.m.)

### 1. Presentation of the 1997 NSS Chapters' Assembly Outstanding Chapter Award

The following is the text of the CA Chair's introduction:

"Ladies and gentlemen of the NSS, I would like to report to you that the Chapters' Assembly has regrouped, and is now preparing to take every NSS Chapter into the next millennium. We have eliminated our dues requirement (among other things), and now welcome each and every NSS chapter to join for free. Our primary focus is on helping chapters to thrive -- to provide you with the information and resources you need to help get us all into space at a price we can afford!

I would like to recognize Cheryl York, who has agreed to serve as Secretary. I would now like to introduce Carol Johnson, President of NSS of North Texas, to present the award for Chapters' Assembly Outstanding Chapter."

The following is the text of the Carol Johnson presentation:

## B. Chapter Organization Committee (6:00 – 7:00 p.m.)

# 1997 NSS Chapters' Assembly Meeting Minutes

The first award I would like to present is for the Chapters' Assembly Outstanding Chapter of 1995. This award goes to the NSS chapter that best served in 1995 as a role model for all NSS chapters. This year, the award goes to the NSS of North Texas chapter.

Why? Let me tell you. In 1995, this chapter held 12 monthly meetings with more than half its membership in attendance, published 12 monthly newsletters, sponsored a joint dinner meeting with the AIAA, set up a space information table for Astronomy Day, distributed over 3000 Apollo 13 newspapers, ran a slate of speakers, held a children's space art contest, and set up a Space Station exhibit during Space Week 1995 — and began planning for an NSS regional space conference which was successfully held this past March. (Did I mention that they have only 16 members?) Please join me in a round of applause for president Carol Johnson and the other members of the NSS of North Texas chapter.”

## 2. Presentation of 1995 NSS Chapters' Assembly Outstanding Chapter Member Award

The following is the text of the CA Chair's presentation:

“The second award I would like to present is for the Chapters' Assembly Outstanding Chapter Member of 1995. This award goes to the NSS chapter member who has done the most for the NSS chapter system in 1995. This year, the award goes to Gregory H. Allison, president of the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society.

In addition to his role as president of a chapter which last year saw a record membership of 42, Greg also served as Program Manager of HAL5's Project HALO and as Chairman of the Foundry. As Program Manager for Project HALO, Greg assembled and led a team of dedicated volunteers in the development of the first amateur-built, space-capable, hybrid rocket propulsion system. He also led a team in the development of a space education program called HALO Achievement, designed to take space education into the classroom in the same manner as Junior Achievement does for business education. As Chairman of the Foundry, Greg led the development of a permanent advisory committee to serve as a project incubation team for NSS chapters.

- a. For his obvious dedication to the cause of the National Space Society and its chapter system, the NSS Chapters' Assembly is proud to name Greg Allison the 1995 Chapters' Assembly Outstanding Chapter Member. Please join me in a round of applause for Greg!”