

***Mid-Appalachian Region of  
the National Speleological Society***  
**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**February 25, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter, at 1:47 PM, February 25, 2017, at the Mount Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**Introductory Remarks:**

Paul Winter thanked the organizers for facilitating use of the meeting space at the Mount Laurel Church of God.

**Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary's Report was read by MAR secretary, Hope Brooks. The minutes were accepted without change.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report was read by MAR treasurer, Elizabeth "Bette" White. Printed copies were distributed. Total income of the year was \$1,823.65, with \$1,179.37 in expenditures. Net income gain for the year was \$644.28.

**Vice Chairman's Report:**

No report.

**Chairman's Report:**

Paul Winter stated that Gretchen "Red" Schock discovered the lock on McAlisterville Cave has vanished during a recent site visit. Please, if you visit McAlisterville Cave, note if anything has been disturbed and alert Karen and George Bange. There is a new lock as of February 20, 2017.

**MAR Breakdown:**

The MAR Breakdown report was given by Gretchen "Red" Schock. The MAR Breakdown was published and distributed on schedule electronically. If you are not receiving notice of MAR Breakdown publication or have material to include, please let Red know. If you have a new email address, contact Karen and George Bange to update your contact information.

**2016 Spring Field Meet:**

Pat Minnick reported that Franklin County Grotto hosted the Spring MAR Field Meet May 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Shade Gap. The field meet was successful.

**2016 Fall Field Meet:**

J.D. Lewis reported that Bald Eagle Grotto hosted the Fall MAR Field Meet September 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Woodward Cave. The field meet was successful.

**MAR Web Site and Listserv:**

The MAR webmaster, Christopher Catherman, reported that the MAR website and listserv remain functional. The website was updated with calendar events and such in January, and further updates will continue on schedule. Christopher has not received reviews of the current MAR web site via email from users of the website.

**MAR Bulletins:**

Will White reported that he is not working on any MAR Bulletins. There is coverage of most counties with caves, but it is likely that we have out of date information for certain counties, including: Westmoreland, Fayette, Fulton, Huntingdon, Centre, Franklin, Dauphin, Berks, etc. Will questioned whether we would like to continue a published record of caves. Amos Mincin said that he values up to date print and digital copies of MAR Bulletins. Pat Minnick noted that digital copies of the MAR Bulletin allows users to print on demand. Carol Tiderman suggested that additional material could be created as a supplement. Christopher Catherman noted that certain counties might need a complete overhaul but other counties, where little change has occurred, could have combined addendums. Dave Briggs volunteered to complete a Huntingdon County MAR Bulletin. He suggested creating an online cave database first, allowing us to compile data.

*MAR Bulletin #21: Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookan Cave, Huntingdon and Blair Counties and MAR Bulletin #22: Mid-Susquehanna Valley* were available for sale at the meeting.

**Pennsylvania Cave Database:**

An update on the Pennsylvania Cave Database will occur at the PCC meeting following the MAR Annual Business Meeting.

**Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):**

Karen Bange reported that she has been in contact with Mike Scafani. He says that there are no changes from February 2016 policy on cave closures. There will be a publication on the *Pennsylvania Academy of Science* journal on updates on bat conservation in Pennsylvania. Paul Winter reported that the PGC plans to purchase Indian Caverns.

**Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC):**

No report.

**Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC):**

Paul Winter reported that there will be a PCC meeting following the MAR Annual Business Meeting.

**WNS and Bat Health:**

NSS has not updated website since spring of 2016. WNS in 28 states, and the fungus has been confirmed in four more states. There may be more updates to WNS decontamination.

**2017 Spring Field Meet:**

Amos Mincin reported that June 2-4<sup>th</sup>, Central Connecticut Grotto is organizing the MAR-NRO in conjunction with the Philadelphia Grotto. The cost of the MAR-NRO field meet will be comparable to MAR field meets, but if attendees elect to have more catered food the cost of the field meet will be greater. The PCC will not be hosting a pancake breakfast. Caving options will be abundant and led by NRO members, and there is plenty of space for camping. There will also be two speakers.

**2017 Fall Field Meet:**

There is not a fall field meet. Amos Mincin suggested that the Philadelphia Grotto and Butler Cave Conservation Society collaborate to put on an impromptu field meet.

**2018 Fall Field Meet:**

Paul Winter reports that the Nittany Grotto is hosting a fall field meet at Rupert Cave Preserve in McVeytown, Pennsylvania.

**Banking Bylaw Amendment:**

Elizabeth "Bette" White reports that the MAR has over \$24,000 and that the MAR can earn higher interest if they move some of their savings to a three-year Certificate of Deposit (CD), a higher interest and low risk savings account.

Dean Snyder moves and Keith Wheeland seconded Addendum to Article 3.7 stating "The Regional Council gives the treasurer the authority to enter into any document, to sign contracts, or to bind the Mid-Appalachian Region with any bank. This may be done only with the written (electronic email) approval of the other three officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary). Accounts opened and held at the bank require one signature of the treasurer." The motion passed. The MAR will invest \$10,000 in a three-year CD.

**After Meeting Meeting (AMM):**

Mark Wolfe announced that he will host an AMM after the PCC meeting. Maps to the AMM are available for attendees.

**McAlisterville Cave Vandalism:**

Karen Bange reports that there is the Pennsylvania Cave Protection Act 1996. This should be kept in mind as we investigate the recent vandalism associated with the lock at McAlisterville Cave.

**Condolence Card:**

Ryan Ford's father, the owner of Penn Aqua cave, was killed in a logging accident. Karen has provided a condolences card for cavers to sign.

## *Upcoming Events*

Butler Cave Conservation Society (BCCS) Pancake Weekend! Highland County Maple Sugar Festival – Butler Homestead, Burnsville Cove Area, Virginia (Bath County) – March 17-19, 2017  
25<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Field Camp – Grottoes, VA (Augusta County) – April 14-16, 2017

2017 Spring VAR Field Meet – Thorn Springs Campground, Franklin, WV (Pendleton County) -April 28-30, 2017

2017 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Kentucky Speleofest Lone Star Preserve, Bonnieville, Kentucky (Hart County) – May 26-29, 2017

BCCS Memorial Day Project Weekend (BCCS) – Butler Homestead, Burnsville Cove Area, Virginia (Bath County) – May 26-29, 2017

2017 66<sup>th</sup> Annual SERA Cave Carnival Pigeon Mountain – Near LaFayette, GA (Walker County) – Early Spring 2017

2017 Spring Joint MAR/NRO Field Meet – Indian Lookout Country Club, Pattersonville, NY (Schoharie County) – June 2-4, 2017

76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary NSS Convention – Rio Rancho, New Mexico – June 19-23, 2017

68<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Timers Reunion (OTR) – OTR Site/Campgrounds Dailey, WV (Randolph County) – August 31-Sept. 4, 2017

2017 Fall VAR Field Meet – Mountain Institute Spruce Knob, WV (Pendleton County) – Sept. 22-24, 2017

BCCS Annual Membership Meeting – Butler Homestead, Burnsville Cove Area, Virginia (Bath County) – October 7, 2017

2017 40<sup>th</sup> Annual TAG Fall Cave-In – TAG Site (Little River), Lookout Mountain Near Trenton, GA (Walker County) – October 5-9, 2017

2017 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bridge Day – New River Gorge Bridge, Fayetteville, WV – October 21, 2017

MAR Annual Business Meeting – Mt. Laurel Church of God, 1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA – February 24, 2018

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope Brooks

*MAR Recording Secretary*

### **Representatives at the MAR meeting:**

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Huntingdon County Cave Hunters
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- Nittany Grotto
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- York Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Western Maryland Grotto
- Commander Cody Caving Club
- Central New Jersey Grotto