

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

February 29, 2020

Officers Present:

Paul Winter, Chairman
JD Lewis, Vice-Chairman
Bette White, Treasurer

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter, at 1:46 PM, February 29, 2020, 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 and for those attending.

Reading of the Minutes:

The minutes from the previous business meeting, held on February 23rd, 2019, were read by Vice President JD Lewis. The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was read by MAR treasurer, Elizabeth "Bette" White. Total income of the year was \$2,628.04, with 10,381.14 in expenses. Net loss for the year was \$7,753.10.

MAR Breakdown:

Report by Gretchen "Red" Schock: the MAR Breakdown was published and distributed electronically. If you are not receiving notice of MAR Breakdown publications or have material to include, please let Red know.

Internet:

MAR Yahoo Group Listserv:

Report by Christopher Catherman: there has been extremely little utilization of the Yahoo Group listserv: it will probably go away in the future.

MAR Listserv (Mail Chimp):

Report by Christopher Catherman: Mail Chimp is working well for distributions and now has increased security.

MAR Website:

Report by Christopher Catherman: No change to the MAR website with all systems performing normally. When information from the NSS comes regarding changing the website, it can be changed to adapt. It was noted that the NSS Calendar did not list any of the MAR events and is a resource that could be better utilized in the future to spread awareness about upcoming MAR events.

NSS Regions List Update:

The NSS website does not clearly list the (MAR) Region information anymore. The NSS IO Committee will be informed.

MAR Past Field Meets:

2019 Spring Field Meet:

Hosted by Bald Eagle Grotto with 87 registrants.

2019 Fall Field Meet:

Hosted by York Grotto with 104 registrants.

MAR Bulletins:

Report by Will White: There is no current work being done to update MAR Bulletins. The process of updating a bulletin is a simple workflow: Compile new information on known such as extensions or additional scientific research, new caves discovered, caves lost, photos, maps, etc., then convert the old MAR bulletin to new digital format by retyping. The final step is to compile a new bulletin with all this information. Contact Will if you'd like to undertake a MAR bulletin update.

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):

There was discussion for if there is a way to approach the PGC Commissioners or Legislature for sensible access to gated caves.

Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC):

MAKC was able to raise the funds to create the Barbara Schomer Preserve. The MAR contributed \$10,000 at the 2019 business meeting for this cause.

Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation:

It was moved to amend the MAR Articles of Incorporation, section 3, to strike the words "District of Columbia." Motion passed unanimously. An update should be filed with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Amendment to the Bylaws:

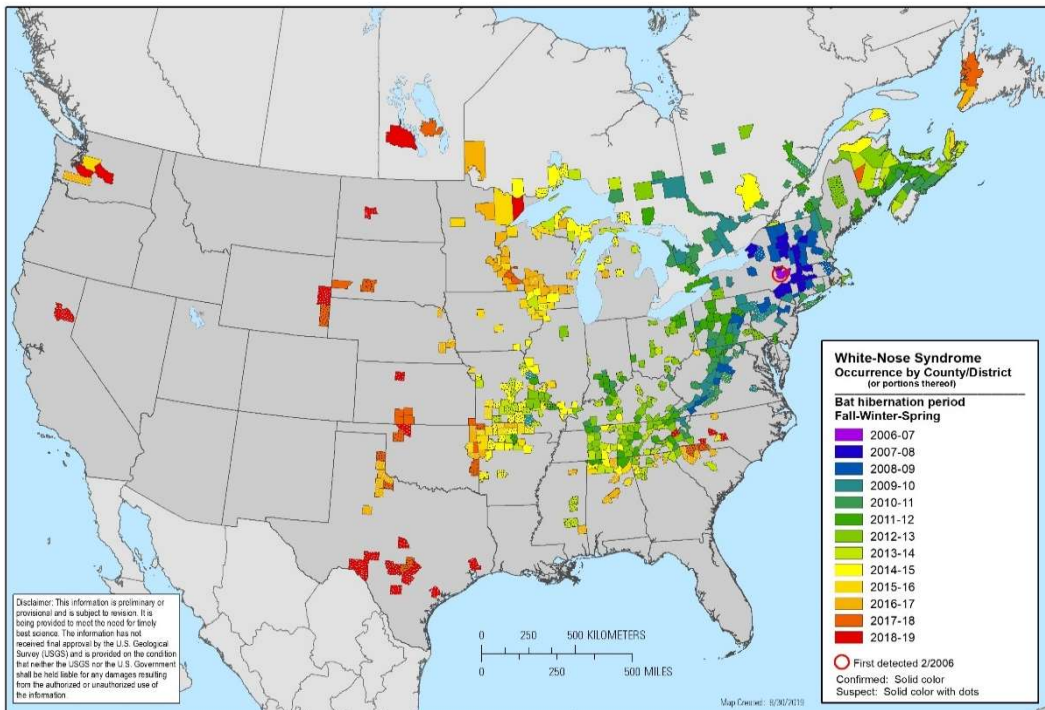
It was moved to amend the bylaws to insert

"Article 7. Anti-Harassment Policy

The NSS Anti-Harassment policy shall be binding."

Motion passed

WNS and Bat Health:



Citation: White-nose syndrome occurrence map - by year (2019). Data Last Updated: 8/30/2019. Available at: <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/static-page/wns-spread-maps>.

2019 Spring Field Meet:

MAR Upcoming Field Meets:

2020 Spring Field Meet:

The Spring MAR is scheduled to be held at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA in conjunction with the Spring VAR. Preregistration is due April 15th.

2020 Fall Field Meet:

No fall meet is currently planned. MAKC is having a member's event at Lincoln Caverns on August 14-16. MAR event components, such as a catered meal etc. would need to be developed.

Spring 2021 Field Meet:

There was preliminary interest by Franklin County Grotto to host a spring field meet at the Shade Gap site.

Bakers Caverns:

Former commercial cave, Bakers Cavern, will be for sale in the spring (2020).

Fantasy Cave:

It was reported that Todd Hancock now owns Fantasy Cave in Huntingdon County, PA. Those interested in the cave, including the survey effort, should contact Todd about access. Fantasy is a known to be a tough cave, but with remarkable features and length, especially for PA.

Penn Aqua Cave:

Penn Aqua cave is for sale on a parcel containing a house. There is some consideration to form an LLC to purchase the property and transfer the cave to a conservancy.

Outstanding Landowner Awards:

The NSS Landowner Relations Network Committee needs nominations for landowners to receive a LRNC certificate of merit. If you know a landowner who supports education, exploration, conservation, or access to caves, please consider nominating them. Contact LRNC@caves.org for more information.

Presentation on Sarah Furnace Cave Map Project:

Bert Ashbrook gave an overview of the Sarah Furnace mapping effort and explained some of its features and exciting potential.

Next Meeting:

The 2021 MAR Business Meeting will be on February 27, 2021.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Winter, *MAR Chairman*

Representatives at the MAR meeting

- Baltimore Grotto
- Central New Jersey Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- MAKC
- Nittany Grotto
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Pittsburgh Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- Western Maryland Grotto
- York Grotto