

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

February 27, 2021

[Held via Zoom video conference due to the global COVID-19 pandemic]

**Officers Present:**

Paul Winter, Chairman  
JD Lewis, Vice-Chairman  
Bette White, Treasurer  
Hope Brooks, Secretary

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter, at 1:46 PM, February 27, 2021 on Zoom (online).

**Introductory Remarks:**

Paul Winter thanked all meeting attendees for attending the MAR's first online meeting via Zoom.

**Vice Chairman Report:**

Nothing to report.

**Reading of the Minutes:**

The minutes from the previous business meeting, held on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, were shared via Zoom screen by Chairman Paul Winter. 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 \$434.63, with \$290.76 in expenses. Net gain for the year was \$143.87.

**MAR Breakdown:**

Gretchen "Red" Schock reported that no August MAR Breakdown went out, as there were no field meets in 2020. If you are not receiving MAR Breakdown via email, please contact one of the MAR officers.

**Internet:**

**MAR Listserv (Google Groups):**

Christopher Catherman reported that has created a new MAR Group Listersev in Google Groups, with the help of Chairman Paul Winter, for general announcements by members of the MAR. Go to the MAR Website for instructions on how to register for the Google Groups listserv.

**MAR Listserv (Mail Chimp):**

Christopher Catherman reported that Mail Chimp is working well for MAR Breakdown distributions and announcements by MAR board members. In 2020, on average, messages went out to 370-380 recipients. Approximately 41% of those recipients opened the sent messages. Of the recipients that opened the sent messages, 15% clicked on the links to open-up a MAR Breakdown or to vote during the officers' election. In 2021, 32% of the recipients are opening the sent messages, and 12% of recipients are clicking on links. Overall, this means that less than half of our MAR Listserv Mail Chimp recipients open emails they receive.

**MAR Website:**

Christopher Catherman reported that the NSS has continued implementing hosting of IO and grotto websites on their new server at no cost. The MAR website was uploaded onto the new NSS server at the end of December 2020 in anticipation of the transition. As a result of the transitioning, the new URL is mar.caves.org. Until the old URL becomes non-functioning, there is an automatic redirect in place that will redirect viewers from the old URL to the new URL. In the future, search for the MAR using mar.caves.org.

**MAR Past Field Meets:**

All field meets in 2020 were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**MAR Bulletins:**

Will White reported that MAR Bulletin purchases were down in 2020. Bert Ashbrook reported that he is looking to publish the map of Sarah Furnace and asked if this would fit under the purview of a MAR Bulletin. In addition, Don Arrowood asked whether Will White has talked to Jack Speece about current updates to the Franklin County Bulletin. Bette White offered to be compiling information from Bert Ashbrook and Jack Speece on Sarah Furnace and Franklin County, respectively.

**Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):**

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has not done any bat counts in 2020 due to COVID-19.

**Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC):****MAKC Fundraising for Penn Aqua:**

Kim Metzger reported that MAKC has received \$22,500 in donations for Penn Aqua. Penn Aqua costs \$30,000, has \$5,000 of expenses, and needs a driveway. The cave's total cost is \$38,000. MAKC has nearly completed paying off its loan and should be able to reach its fundraising goal of \$38,000.

**Sarah Furnace Celebration:**

In the future, as survey continues, Sarah Furnace will become the longest cave in Pennsylvania. There is discussion on whether to have a day-long celebration in honor of Sarah Furnace becoming the longest cave in Pennsylvania.

**White Nose Syndrome:**

Paul Winter reported that White Nose Syndrome is currently expanding into western caving regions.

***New Business*****2022 Field Meets:****2022 Spring Field Meet:**

A MAR\_VAR will be hosted by Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA. Dates are to be determined until arrangements are made with Grand Caverns.

**2022 Fall Field Meet:**

No report.

**Penn Aqua Cave Preserve:****Update on Status of Fundraising:**

See the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC) report above. The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) has received \$2,265 worth of donations on Go Fund Me website. The PCC will match donations on Go Fund Me up to \$3,000, and the Go Fund Me will remain open after the \$3,000 matching has expired. The MAR has donated \$10,000 to Sarah Furnace.

**MAR Donation to Penn Aqua Cave Preserve:**

Eric Pelkey moved that the MAR directly donate \$750 towards the purchase of Penn Aqua Cave. Eric Pelkey's motion to directly donate \$750 towards the purchase of Penn Aqua Cave passes. In the discussion, Bette White raised her concerns about donating additional money to Penn Aqua Cave until after COVID-19 has subsided. She also noted that publishing MAR Bulletins costs approximately \$2,000. We will have a \$10,000 CD maturing in three years, and our fixed annual expenses are currently about \$250/year.

**Bakers Caverns:**

Don Arrowood noted that Bakers Cavern has been sold. The sale date was September 15, 2020. On July 12, 2020, Don met the sister of the Bakers Cavern owner, but he has made no further contact. After its purchase, other caverns—presumably not associated with organized caving groups—have accessed the cave. There will be an open house at Bakers Cavern, and the cavern will be open to visit. There is no further information on when the open house will occur.

**Fantasy Cave:**

Fantasy Cave is owned by Todd Hancock. 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.

**Smelter's Cave:**

Smelter's Cave is owned by Todd Hancock, and he has renamed it Fern Cave. There are three promising leads in Fern Cave.

**Ken Jones' Caves:** Ken Jones' Caves are being relocated by Franklin County Grotto members. There are two caves which have not been relocated, and a third cave is located on a hunting camp with limited access to the cave.

**Next Meeting:**

The 2022 MAR Business Meeting will be on February 26, 2022.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The MAR Business meeting was adjourned at 2:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hope Brooks, *MAR Secretary*

**Representatives at the MAR meeting**

- Baltimore Grotto
- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Huntingdon County Cave Hunters
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- MAKC
- Nittany Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- York Grotto

**Form 990-N was submitted to IRS**

**MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT: February 12, 2021**

Gross Assets: February 12, 2021

Checking:	470.19	
Savings: 6,636.36 - 690.39 =	5,945.97	
[in savings: Cave Signs 690.39]	690.39	
[\$10,000.00 CD at Reliance Bank]	10,000.00	
<b>Total</b>		17,106.55

Gross Assets: February 29, 2020

Checking:	727.45	
Savings: 6,235.23 - 690.39 =	5,544.84	
[in savings: Cave Signs 690.39]	690.39	
[\$10,000.00 CD at Reliance Bank]	10,000.00	
<b>Total</b>		16,962.68

**Net Income (Gain/Loss) for 2020**

..... **143.87**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>NET</b>
<b>INTEREST Savings</b>	<b>1.13</b>		<b>1.13-</b>

**MAR FIELD MEETS ALL CANCELLED**

**Spring ` 2020 xxxxxxxxxx Grotto**

MAR Income: xx persons @ \$1.00 = xx.00

25% [Reg-Exp = \$xxxxx - xxxxx - xxxxx] = xxx.xx

Spring MAR income: ~~\$85,301.78~~ = ~~3xxxx.xx~~

**Fall 2020 xxxxxxxxxx Grotto**

MAR Income: xx persons @ \$1.00 = xxx.00

[Regis-Expen = \$xxx.xx.

Fall MAR income: \$

IRS 990-N Fee: .....	49.99
Annual Meeting Site Rental .....	50.00
Annual Meeting coffee/tea/cider .....	57.77
Rental P.O. Box* (\$53.) .....	53.00
<b>Field Meets/Web: Net</b>	<b>-210.76</b>

**MAR Bulletin sales**

MAR 20:: \$5,161.64 - (sold 1 @ 29.50)

\$4,777.64 short of recovering cost

Bulletin sales: .....	<b>433.50</b>	
Stamps		80.00
<b>MAR Bulletin Sales: Net</b>		<b>313.50</b>

MAR BREAKDOWN NOTE: Breakdown account closed]

[Breakdown balance: = as of Feb 2020: balance in MAR Breakdown account: 0.00

**CAVE LAW SIGNS** (previous balance 690.39)

[Cave sign balance = \$690.39]

<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>434.63</b>	<b>-290.76</b>	<b>143.87</b>
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Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer

- Post office annual fee shared half with Nittany Grotto

Of Further Interest

Bulletin Sales Feb 2020 – Feb 2021

<b>Bulletin #</b>	<b>Number Sold</b>	<b>Price/Bulletin</b>	<b>Bulletin Income</b>	<b>Bulletins + postage</b>
<b>1-4</b>	1	\$ 7.00	7.00	
<b>5</b>	2	\$ 8.00	16.00	
<b>6</b>	4	\$17.00	68.00	
<b>7</b>	2	\$ 5.00	10.00	
<b>8</b>	2	\$ 7.00	14.00	
<b>9</b>	5	\$10.00	50.00	
<b>10</b>	1	\$ 6.00	6.00	
<b>11</b>	2	\$10.00	20.00	
<b>12</b>	2	\$10.00	20.00	
<b>13</b>	2	\$ 10.00	20.00	
<b>14</b>	1	\$ 5.00	5.00	
<b>15</b>	1	\$ 6.00	6.00	
<b>16</b>	1	\$ 6.00	6.00	
<b>17</b>	1	\$ 5.00	5.00	
<b>18</b>	1	\$10.00	10.00	
<b>19</b>	2	\$ 7.00	14.00	
<b>20</b>	1	\$29.50	29.50	
<b>21</b>	2	\$27.50	55.00	
<b>22</b>	2	16.00	32.00	
<b>Totals</b>	35		<b>393.50</b>	<b>433.50</b>