

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

February 24, 2018

Officers Present:

Paul Winter, Chairman
JD Lewis, Vice-Chairman

The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter, February 24, 2018, at the Mount Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Introductory Remarks:

Paul Winter thanked the organizers for their work setting up the meeting space at the Mount Laurel Church of God and those who travelled to attend the meeting.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's Report was read by MAR Vice President JD Lewis. The minutes were accepted with minor changes.



*Bette White giving the MAR treasurer's report
(Photo by Karen Bange)*

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 \$805.98, with \$226.40 in expenditures. Net income for the year was \$579.58.

Vice Chairman's Report:

The Vice Chairman, JD Lewis, informed those present that he wished the secretary, Hope Brooks, was present.

Chairman's Report:

Paul Winter reported the results of the officer elections. Of the five nominees, three accepted nomination: Hope Brooks, JD Lewis, and Paul Winter were elected to serve another term. The next election will be held at the Fall MAR Field Meet.

MAR Breakdown:

Gretchen "Red" Schock gave the MAR Breakdown report. The MAR Breakdown was published and distributed electronically. If you have an article for the publication, or are experiencing any issues receiving the Breakdown, please contact Red directly.

2017 Spring Field Meet:

No report from the MAR-NRO field event.

MAR Web Site and Listserv:

George Bange reported that he intends to cease managing the MAR email service (via Mail Chimp) in 2018. A new volunteer is needed to keep the list up to date and send out official MAR messages using Mail Chimp. If interested, please contact George Bange or the MAR officers.

MAR Bulletins:

Will White reported that he is not working on any MAR Bulletins. There is coverage of most counties with Will White questioned if any MAR Bulletins are currently being produced or if anyone has plans to update any of the old bulletins. At this time, most of the known cave bearing counties have a bulletin, though many are now out of date. Paul Winter is working on an update to the Centre County Bulletin (#11). No other bulletins are currently forthcoming to Will's knowledge.

There is resistance to creating new bulletins if they can be used to facilitate cave closure, such as government agencies using them as "gating manuals." Will White indicated that it is quite simple to not update the bulletins, as it takes no work whatsoever.

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):

Karen Bange On December 27th, 2017, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy announced that it has acquired 13 acres of land containing Indian Caverns. The property will be conveyed to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission after an access bridge is replaced. The cave will be gated and closed for use as bat habitat. The property was purchased with support from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Richard King Mellon Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC):

The MAKC has its upcoming member's event with a new cave preserve announcement in the works. The event is on August 10-12, 2018 and is free for members. Simply pay your dues and you're welcome to go. Hesston Cave is no longer under lease agreement. MAKC has a solid history of leasing and purchasing caves to conserve the cave and access to the caves.

WNS and Bat Health:

WNS has now been detected in 33 states. Bat populations are increasing in some caves.

2018 Spring Field Meet:

Loyalhanna Grotto is hosting the Spring MAR at the MAKC Hillside Preserve on June 22-24, 2018.

2018 Fall Field Meet:

Nittany Grotto is hosting the Fall MAR field meet at Rupert Cave Preserve on September 28-30-2018.

NSS Endowment:

Dean Snyder motioned to donate \$500 to the NSS Permanent Endowment Fund. Keith Wheelend motioned to amend the amount to \$1000. The amendment passed unanimously.

The motion to donate \$1000 to the NSS Permanent Endowment passed.

NCRC OCR Class in Central PA – 6/22/2018:

Pat Minnick gave a brief report on a recent rescue at Wind Cave, in Lancaster County. He also announced an NCRC Orientation to Cave Rescue. This is a weekend class about cave rescue culminating in a mock rescue. Check the NCRC webpage for more information.



*Taking a break between meetings
(Photo by Karen Bange)*



*Catching up with fellow covers
(Photo by Karen Bange)*

Representatives at the MAR meeting:

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Commander Cody Caving Club
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- MAKC
- Nittany Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- Western Maryland Grotto
- York Grotto

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Winter, *Chairman of the MAR*