

Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2022

[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 1:42 PM, February 26, 2022 on Zoom (online).

Introductory Remarks: Paul Winter welcomed all meeting attendees and thanked them for their attendance at the MAR Business Meeting.

Vice Chairman Report: Nothing to report.

Reading of the Minutes: The minutes from the previous business meeting, held on February 27th, 2021, were shared via Zoom screen by Chairman Paul Winter and read by Secretary Hope Brooks. Rick Smith moved and Randy Hurst seconded the minutes, and the minutes were accepted with minor grammatical changes.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was read by MAR Treasurer, Elizabeth "Bette" White. There was \$820.89 in expenses and \$96.64 in income for the year.

Hope Brooks moves that we combine the Cave Law Signs account with the MAR's main banking account. Carol Tideman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MAR Breakdown: Gretchen "Red" Schock reported that the MAR Breakdowns have been published on schedule, and they are available on the MAR Website. If you are not receiving MAR Breakdown via email, please contact one of the MAR officers.

Internet:

MAR Listserv (Google Groups): Some members who weren't on the listserv were added by Paul during the voting.

MAR Listserv (Non-Google Group): Going well.

MAR Website: NSS hosting of IO and website has been going smoothly.

MAR Bulletins: No new MAR Bulletins published. Paul Winter and Harrison Cassidy are working on publishing a new MAR Bulletin 11: Caves of Centre County with 40+ caves to add, newly created maps, some updated descriptions, updates on caves/features which no longer exist, and they plan to attempt contact for most caves to update access. Bette White still has foldout maps of Hosterman's Pit for the next publication of the Caves of Centre County Bulletin. Paul and Harrison are interested in keeping both old and new maps in the publication for comparison and study. If anyone is interested in helping work on the new Caves of Centre County or has new bulletins they are interested in publishing, contact Will White.

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC): Greg Turner and Mike Scafani have been assisting Dr. Aaron Katz of the US Army Corps of Engineers with a research project searching for the Heller Cave Springtail in Heller Cave and other caves.

Garret Czmoor was in contact with Greg Turner and Mike Scafani. Beginning March 3rd, 2022, the Game Commission plans to conduct bat counts and assist in Dr. Katz's springtail research in Hall Cave, Tytoona Cave (all research must be approved by the NSS Research Commission), Indian Caverns, Sewray Cave, and a few others.

Amber Noder from the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Rick Smith visited Mt. Rock for a bat count and found 32 bats without White Nose Syndrome (WNS). Rick and Amber did not visit the entirety of the cave.

MAKC: The MAKC is strengthening its scientific project proposal system. If you plan to conduct any studies or surveys in MAKC caves, please contact the individual cave managers to officially apply to conduct studies.

In honor of the MAKC paying off the Bear Cave Preserve mortgage, MAKC preserve managers are scheduling open houses for all the MAKC's preserves. On July 4th, 2022 Kim and Tom Metzgar are planning on having a "Mortgage Burning Party"

celebrating paying off the Bear Cave mortgage open to MAKC members and friends.

The MAKC is working with the Pennsylvania State Parks on securing legal access to a deep cave in Ohio State Park formed in the Wymps Gap.

Billy Clay and Rodgers Belmont are both back under MAKC lease.

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

Talia Sepiol noted that the Out of Bounds Grotto counted 246 bats in a Tioga County mine. This is approximately 75 more bats than counted in 2020.

Derek Flaig reported that before WNS there were approximately 2,000 bats in Seawra cave. A few years ago, the Pennsylvania Game Commission counted approximately 30 bats found in the cave. Derek also noted that bats banded in Canoe Creek in Pennsylvania traveled to Hellhole Cave in West Virginia.

New Business:

2022 Field Meets:

2022 Spring MAR/VAR Field Meet: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto are co-hosting a MAR/VAR at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA on May 20-22, 2022. Registration will be online shortly.

2022 Fall Field Meet: Out of Bounds Grotto plans to host a vaccinated-only Fall Field Meet located in Pennsylvania. Date and location, TBD.

Mummau Cave: John Rosenfeld is looking for a landowner contact role for Mummau Cave in northwest Lancaster County. John would like to have a meet and greet with the landowner and to show the new landowner contact the cave. Steve Warnek and his son, David Briggs, and others have expressed interest in being landowner contacts.

Comments from Online Elections:

“Thanks to the Board for all they do.”

“No comments, thanks.”

“Like online meetings.”

“Make all future MAR meetings virtual and change time/date to Sunday at 7 pm. With the advent of Zoom removing necessity for folks to spend an entire day traveling half a state, each way, just to attend an in-person meeting, the MAR and PCC might be able to recruit more active

cavers into attending both meetings and actively serving in roles.”

Caver Alert Information Sheet: The National Cave Rescue Commission has made a sign out form for cave trips with lots of useful information for cavers and call outs. The form can be found here: https://ncrc-er.caves.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Caver_Information_Sheet.pdf.

Officers for 2022 Term: Elections were conducted online, and at the 2022 Fall MAR Field Meet there will be another election. The three officers elected are: Paul Winter, Rick Smith, Hope Brooks (Secretary). Bette White continues to serve as MAR Treasurer.

Laurel Caverns: Ryan Maurer reports that on October 10th, 2021 there was a rescue at Laurel Caverns. The patient was a Boy Scout leader taking his son's troop on a wild cave tour and suffered a massive aneurysm in the wild cave. He was transported via life flight to Ruby Memorial Hospital in West Virginia. The patient died on October 12th, 2021 in the presence of his family. The rescue took 1 hour 55 minutes with the assistance of Laurel Caverns staff, local volunteer fire departments, and members of the NCRC.

Next Meeting: The next MAR Business Meeting will be on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 1:30 pm in person and via Zoom.

Adjourned: MAR Business Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm on February 26, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hope Brooks, *MAR Secretary*

Representatives at the MAR meeting:

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Bucks County Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Huntingdon County Cave Hunters
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- MAKC
- Nittany Grotto
- NJ Tri-State Speleological Society
- Out of Bounds Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- Sligo Grotto
- York Grotto

MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT: February 1, 2022

Form 990-N accepted by IRS 01/31/2022

Gross Assets: February 1, 2022

Checking:		143.66
Savings: 6,142.00 - 690.39 =		5,451.61
[in savings: Cave Signs 690.39]		690.39
[\$10,000.00 CD at Reliance Bank]		10,000.00
Total	16,285.66	

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
Total	17,106.55	

Net Income (Gain/Loss) for 2021 **820.89**

ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET
INTEREST	Savings	0.64 0.64

MAR FIELD MEETS ALL CANCELLED

Spring ` 2021 xxxxxxxxxxx Grotto

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

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

Spring MAR income:

Fall 2021 xxxxxxxxxxx Grotto

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

[Regis-Expen = \$xxx.xx.

Fall MAR income: \$

Annual Meeting Site Rental 0.00

Annual Meeting coffee/tea/cider 0.00

Rental P.O. Box* (\$53.) 53.00

Field Meets/Web: Net **-53.00**

MAR Bulletin sales

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

\$4,748.14 short of recovering cost

Bulletin sales: **96.00**

ULINE packaging **114.53**

MAKC donation **750.00**

MAR Bulletin Sales: Net **768.53**

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]

Totals..... 96.64 -917.53..... -820.89

Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer

* Post office annual fee shared half with Nittany Grotto

Of Further Interest

Bulletin Sales Feb 2021 – Feb 2022

Bulletin #	Number Sold	Price/Bulletin	Bulletin Income	Bulletins + postage
1-4		\$ 7.00		
5	1	\$ 8.00	\$8.00	
6		\$17.00		
7		\$ 5.00		
8	1	\$ 7.00	\$7.00	
9		\$10.00		
10		\$ 6.00		
11		\$10.00		
12		\$10.00		
13		\$ 10.00		
14	1	\$ 5.00	\$5.00	
15	2	\$ 6.00	\$12.00	
16	1	\$ 6.00	\$6.00	
17		\$ 5.00		
18	1	\$10.00	\$10.00	
19	1	\$ 7.00	\$7.00	
20	1	\$29.50	\$29.50	
21		\$27.50		
22		\$16.00		
Totals	9		\$84.50	\$96.00