

# ***Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society***

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**February 25, 2023**

**[Held at the Mt. Laurel Church of God in Harrisburg and via Zoom]**

### **Officers Present:**

Paul Winter, Chairman  
Rick Smith, Vice-Chairman  
Bette White, Treasurer  
Hope Brooks, Secretary

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter, at 2:00 PM, February 25, 2023.

**Introductory Remarks:** Paul Winter welcomed all meeting attendees and thanked them for their attendance at the first ever hybrid Zoom and in-person MAR Business Meeting.

**Vice Chairman Report:** Nothing to report.

**Reading of the Minutes:** The minutes from the previous business meeting, held on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, were shared by Chairman Paul Winter and read by Secretary Hope Brooks. Carol Tiderman moved and Gretchen "Red" Schock 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 \$13.11 in expenses and \$829.52 in income for the year (*see report in January 2023 MAR Breakdown issue*).

**MAR Breakdown:** Gretchen "Red" Schock reported that the MAR Breakdown has been published on schedule, and it is available on the MAR Website. If you are not receiving MAR Breakdown via email, please contact one of the MAR officers. Any additional items needed for the April MAR Breakdown issue can be sent to Red by March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Internet:** Christopher Catherman reported that we have an active Google listserv that we use, and if you are not on the listserv sign up via the MAR website. We are still maintaining our MailChimp listserv. The website is functioning well. If there is any new information to be published on the MAR website or via our listservs, let Christopher know.

The NSS regions, sections, and surveys will be added to the new NSS website in the future. Paul Winter will gently approach.

**MAR Bulletins:** Many MAR Bulletins were published in the 1960's and 1970's (*see additional article on page 10*). These bulletins have not been updated with new maps, discoveries, and science. Additionally, some caves have been filled in and/or access has been lost. If there are sensitive caves which should not be published publicly, data can be entered into the Pennsylvania Cave Database and flagged for privacy. If anyone is interested in working on updating bulletins, let Will White know. Paul Winter can provide guidance on how to digitally compile bulletins for easier editing in the future.

Paul Winter reports that the Centre County Bulletin #23 is being updated. There are 128 cave entries currently. New GPS locations of caves are being collected and access information updated. The bulletin will be updated with new entrance photos, updated geology, and maps. Karst features may possibly be entered into an appendix of the Centre County Bulletin.

**Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC):** Mike Scafani reports that Aitken Cave had an increase in bats (from 222 bats in 2022 to 462 bats this winter). Canoe Creek Mine No. 2, a manipulated bat hibernaculum, is now up to 336 bats. In 2015, the PGC opened a second entrance to cool internal temperatures, at which time it only had 7 bats. Woodward Cave is now on par with Canoe Creek (Hartman) Mine as the top hibernaculum in the state, with both having just under 1,000 bats. The PGC continues to treat a few sites with PEG-8000 with very positive results in Sabula Tunnel and Woodward Cave. Some work was done at the Dunbar Mines in Fayette County. The sinkhole entrance to Mine #2 was mostly plugged, and a new cupola gate and concrete vertical entrance was installed. Surveys in Ruth Cave yielded 152 bats, which is much better than last survey. There is a draft Heller springtail report written by Dr. Aaron Katz with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The

Heller springtail was absent both from physical surveys and eDNA surveys. However, a springtail was potentially found at one of the Ganister caves, which would mean it is likely not totally endemic to single site.

**MAKC:** Ryan Maurer reported that the MAKC has changed its scientific permitting protocol. There is a new permit process in the works, and updates on permitting requirements will be shared with the caving community shortly. Rogers Belmont is nearly ready for caver access pending the completion of the entrance culvert. The MAKC has created a Conservation Committee focused on cave restoration and other cave conservation projects. Stay tuned for details on upcoming cave restoration projects.

**White Nose Syndrome:** White Nose Syndrome continues to spread. Though, bat counts in the Mid-Appalachian Region appear to be rebounding slightly.

### New Business:

#### **2022 Field Meets:**

**2022 Spring MAR/VAR Field Meet:** Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto co-hosted a successful MAR/VAR at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA on May 20-22, 2022.

**2022 Fall Field Meet:** Out of Bounds Grotto hosted a Fall Field Meet at Lincoln Caverns, PA on September 16-18, 2022.

#### **2023 Field Meets:**

**2023 Spring MAR Field Meet:** Franklin County Grotto is hosting at Shade Gap, PA May 5-7, 2023.

**2023 Fall Field Meet:** Still looking for a host!

**Tytoona Cave:** Ann Dunlavy, owner of Lincoln Caverns, is now the NSS Preserve Manager of Tytoona Cave in Huntingdon County, PA.

**Congress of Grottos:** Craig Hindman reported that the Congress of Grottos is calling for all issues that they would like to bring up to the Congress of Grottos at their meeting on Wednesday of the 2023 NSS Convention. This is a direct way of getting grotto or regional issues brought up to the NSS Board.

**Fantasy Cave Survey:** Ryan Maurer reported that Todd and Linda Hancock wanted to report that the

previous survey was 3800 feet long. To date, the survey is 3,000 feet long within a fifth of the previous survey's footprint with many going leads. If anyone is interested in visiting the cave for recreational trips, reach out to Todd and Linda. If anyone is interested in seeing parts of the cave off the tourist trail, surveying is the way to see more of the cave.

**Sarah Furnace Cave Survey:** Bert Ashbrook reported that there have been 118 trips in four years involving 135 individuals. Approximately 100 surveyors were taught to survey in the cave. 6700 survey shots were shot. The cave is 8.6 miles long, and the end of the cave is in sight. There are 100 going leads remaining in the cave. Bert reports that the survey still needs folks to help survey the cave.

**Officers for 2023 Term:** Elections were conducted online and were well received. The four officers elected are: Paul Winter, Rick Smith, John Boswell, Bette White (Treasurer). Due to their success, online elections will be held again for the upcoming 2024 Term.

**Next Meeting:** The next MAR Business Meeting will be on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 1:30 pm in person and via Zoom.

**Adjourned:** MAR Business Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm on February 25, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hope Brooks,

*Secretary of the Mid-Appalachian Region of the NSS*

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

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Bucks County Grotto
- Central New Jersey Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- MAKC
- Nittany Grotto
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Pittsburgh Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- York Grotto

# NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

Effective October 2018

## MID-APPALACHIAN REGION BULLETINS (including reprinted Bulletins)

1-4	Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4	<b>REPRINT</b>		<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
5	Caves of Western PA:	<b>REPRINT</b>	29 caves, 19 maps	<b>8.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
6	Caves of S. Cumberland Valley	<b>REPRINT</b>	93 caves 69 maps+6 large maps	<b>17.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
7	Caves of Fulton Co, PA	<u>Revised/Corrected</u>	4 caves, 4 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
8	Caves of Blair Co., PA	<b>REPRINT</b>	89 caves, 40 maps	<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	<b>REPRINT</b>	94 caves, 36 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA		20 caves, 14 maps	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA		71 caves, 56 maps+1 large map	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA		47 caves, 31 maps+5 large maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA		13 caves, 6 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
14	Caves of Bucks Co., PA	<b>REPRINT</b>	24 caves, 6 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA	<b>REPRINT</b>	25 caves, 13 maps	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA		24 caves, 13 maps+1 large map	<b>6.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA		20 caves, 10 maps	<b>5.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA		64 caves, 32 maps	<b>10.00</b> + postage <b>B</b>
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA		54 caves, 33 maps	<b>7.00</b> + postage <b>A</b>
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA		337 caves, 187 maps/10 large maps	<b>29.50</b> + postage <b>C</b>
21	Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookon Cave Huntingdon and Blair Counties		103 pages with <b>color photos</b> , 4 fold-out maps, 2 large maps	<b>27.50</b> + postage <b>B</b>
22	Caves of Middle Susquehanna Valley		140 pages with <b>color photos</b>	<b>16.00</b> + postage <b>D</b>

U.S. Postage:

**A** \$2.00 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address.

**B** \$2.50 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address.

**C** \$3.00 postage for each bulletin #20.

**D** \$3.50 postage for each bulletin #22

**MAR Bulletin Orders:** Please make checks payable to MAR

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**NOTE:** All checks must be payable in U.S. dollars on U.S. bank or U.S. money order

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Order from: **Bette White**

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