



Mid-Appalachian Region of the NSS
PO Box 685
State College, PA 16804

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

February 24, 2024

[Held via Hybrid Zoom and In-Person Meeting]

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 1:48 pm.

Rick Smith is running the meeting as Chairman. He welcomed all attendees both in person and on Zoom.

Rick called for a moment of silence for Elizabeth "Bette" White.

Katie Schmid is acting secretary for this meeting.

Paul Winter is the new treasurer. He was elected at a special meeting held on 12/11/2023.

Minutes from the Past Meetings:

Bert Ashbrook moved to accept minutes from the 12/11/2023 meeting.

Carol Tiderman seconded.

Motion passed.

Bert Ashbrook moved to accept minutes from last year's annual business meeting held on 2/25/2023.

Carol Tiderman seconded.

Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Statement of Financial Position, 2024-02-23

Gross Assets

Checking	\$ 127.47	Northwest Bank
Savings	\$ 8,118.44	Northwest Bank
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 11,520.93	Northwest Bank
Petty Cash	\$ 10.00	
Total	\$ 19,776.84	

Previous Statement of Financial Position, 2023-01-11

Gross Assets

Checking	\$ 459.44	Northwest Bank
Savings	\$ 6,642.57	Northwest Bank
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 10,000.00	Reliance Bank
Total	\$ 17,102.01	
Net Change	\$ 2,674.83	

Notes – Cave Law Signs Balance \$690.39

INCOME

MAR Fiscal Year Report 2023 (1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023)

Banking

Savings Account Interest	\$ 0.74	Northwest Bank
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 57.40	Reliance Bank, Account Closed on 2023-02-28
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 383.43	Northwest Bank

MAR Field Meets

Fall 2022, Out of Bounds Grotto		
MAR Income (64 persons @\$1.00)	\$64.00	
25% of Field Meet Profit	\$316.10	
Spring 2023, Franklin County Grotto		
MAR Income (206 persons @\$1.00)	\$206.00	
25% of Field Meet Profit	\$673.05	
Fall 2023, n/a		No Fall 2023 MAR

MAR Bulletin Sales

Bulletin Income	\$ 135.50	<i>See bulletin sale report</i> Includes postage paid
-----------------	-----------	--

Donation

Income	\$ 10.00
--------	----------

Gross Income **\$ 1,846.27**

EXPENSES

Banking

Fees & Administrative Expenses	\$ (67.25)
--------------------------------	------------

Administrative

Annual Meeting Site Rental	\$ (50.00)
Annual Meeting Site Coffee/Tea/Cider	\$ (57.77)
PO Box Rental	\$ (83.00)

Donations

n/a

Gross Expenses **\$ (268.12)**

Net Income 2023 **\$ 1,578.15**

Updates:

MAR Breakdown:

Gretchen "Red" Schock states that MAR breakdown is going well. Contact Red if you want to be added to the email list.

Listserv, MailChimp, MAR Website:

Christopher Catherman reported that everything is moving forward with no issues. He notes that the website does have a limited number of downloads and that he always gets warnings of this in the couple of weeks before the meeting.

Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC):

Tom Metzgar reports that everything is going fine. Tom is the new chairman of MAKC.

MAR Bulletins:

Paul Winter reports that the bulletins were packed up by the Whites, moved by the Banges, and are now in his possession. Bulletins should be ordered from Olivia McAllister. A lot of bulletins are dated (old directions, old landowner contact information. etc) and we need a new pass with updated cave access information.

Bert Ashbrook mentions the possibility of a MAR bulletin dedicated to Sarah Furnace. He has paper copies of the report for the Explorer's Club at the meeting for people to view.

There has been some discussion of updates to bulletins in Centre, Mifflin, Snyder, and Franklin counties within Pennsylvania.

Unfinished Business:

Authorize New Users on MAR Bank Accounts:

Carol motions that Rick Smith and Paul Winter shall be authorized signers on the Mid-Appalachian Region's back accounts at Northwest Bank: Checking Account: xxxxx0504, Savings Account: xxxxx0006, and Certificate of Deposit: xxxxxx3554, and on any other bank or brokerage accounts belonging to the Mid-Appalachian Region (MAR).

Mark Walter seconds.

Motion passes.

New Business

2024 Field Meets:

2024 Spring Field Meet:

The spring meet will be held in McClure, Pennsylvania on the weekend of May 17-19, 2024, and hosted by the Bald Eagle Grotto.

2024 Fall Field Meet:

Currently we do not have anyone interesting in hosting the 2024 Fall MAR field meet.

Motion to Require Insurance for Ropework held at MAR Field Meets

Bert Ashbrook motions that we do not allow rope work at MAR events unless the people running the rope work have insurance that is acceptable to the MAR.

February 24, 2024

Carol seconds.

With 4 objections, the motion passes by majority vote.

MAR conservation project:

Bald Eagle Grotto is planning a cleanup in Mifflin County at Mount Rock. This is a gated cave in a quarry with lots of trash. The plan is to clean trash out of the quarry. Because the cave is gated, there is no trash in the cave.

MAR Conservation Budget Established:

Carol Tiderman motions that \$1000 be put into the annual budget line item for conservation projects. With this motion, MAR officers would have the authority to authorize payment.

Randy seconds the motion.

The motion passes.

Congress of Grottoes:

Bert Ashbrook volunteers to be the MAR representative to the COG. Carol Tiderman mentions that there are people who want to make wild cave locations public and that she told these people that they should bring this suggestion to the COG. Carol says that every grotto should send representatives.

Randy motions to have Bert represent MAR and Carol seconds.

The motion passes.

Update on Peiper Cave

Ed Kehs says that Peiper Cave is subdivided now, which could enable a future purchase or sale to a cave conservation organization.

Motion to Transition to Virtual MAR Business Meeting

Talia Sepiol motions that the MAR transition to having virtual meetings and that the next meeting be fully virtual held on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 1900 (7:00 PM).

Amos seconds this motion.

With 3 ayes, the majority opposes this motion. Motion fails.

Motions Regarding Hybrid Meeting Technology

Rick Smith suggests that we continue to have hybrid meetings and that we work on getting better technology.

Mark Walters motions that he make a committee to research better technology for hybrid meetings. Carol seconds.

Motion passes.

It was mentioned that there are companies that rent equipment for such events.

Amos Mincin motions that up to \$1000 be set aside for electronics for hosting hybrid meetings.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passes.

Information Request about Hosting a MAR

Talia Sepiol mentions the difficulty in finding information to help with planning a MAR event. The webmaster, Christopher Catherman reported that this information is currently on the MAR website (mar.caves.org > Field Meets > Hosting)

Motion to Allow Grottos to Select Non-profit Organization(s) to Receive Profits from a MAR Field Meet

Talia Sepiol motions to allow the MAR Field Meet hosting grotto to select a cave related 501c3 non-profit organization in the MAR Region to receive the required 25% portion of the profits currently allocated to the MAR. Grottos are not able to receive this, even if they have 501c3 status (Note: MAR could still be selected by the host grotto). The \$1 per person fee would still go to the MAR.

Amos seconds.

With 4 ayes, the majority opposes this motion. Motion fails.

Election results:

Rick Smith re-elected. Dennis Melco and Ryan Mason were also elected.

Next Meeting:

The 2025 MAR Business Meeting will be on February 22, 2025.

Adjournment:

Kim Metzger motions to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Rick seconds.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Schmid, *Acting Secretary of the Mid-Appalachian Region of the NSS*

Representatives at the MAR meeting

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Bucks County Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Huntingdon County Cave Hunters
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- MAKC (Conservancy)
- Nittany Grotto
- Out of Bounds Grotto
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Pittsburgh Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- York Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Commander Cody Caving Club
- Central New Jersey Grotto
- Northern New Jersey Grotto
- Sligo Grotto