

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

February 22, 2025

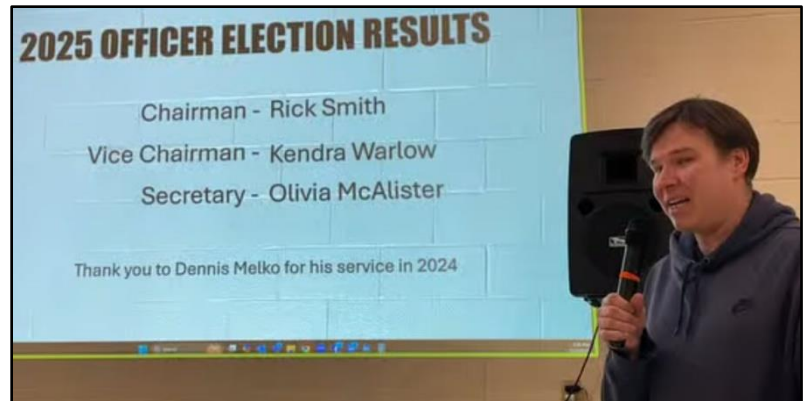
[Held at the Mt. Laurel Church of God in Harrisburg and via Zoom]

Officers Present:

Rick Smith, Chairman
Kendra Warlow, Vice-Chair
Olivia McAllister, Secretary
Paul Winter, Treasurer

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:33pm. A quorum of grotto representatives was established.



Chairman Rick Smith speaks at MAR Business Meeting (Photo by Amos Mincin)

Opening Remarks

Big thanks to Mark for getting all the tech set up for online meeting!!

Online: Dwight Kempf from GAG, and Kim Metzgar of MAKC.

Rick reviewed the basics of how the motion process works.

Welcome new 2025 officers: Olivia McAllister as secretary, Kendra Warlow as Vice-Chair, and Rick Smith as Chairperson. Thanks Dennis Melko and Ryan Mason for your service to the MAR previously!

Officer reports: nothing new to report, just excited!

Treasurer report: Paul winter reports a net increase of \$1,981.14 from last meeting with total assets of \$21,757.98 (specific amounts for checking, savings, etc. available in the MAR breakdown/Treasurer's Report)



Olivia and Kendra enjoying the meeting (Photo by Amos Mincin)

Committee Updates

MAR Breakdown

Red Schock reports that MAR breakdown has been going out on schedule. Let her know if you have any content that you would like included in the newsletter!

Website and Mailchimp

Christopher Catherman reported on website and email through Mailchimp. The website is there, no problems, up and running. He reported that there is a high volume of traffic at the end of the month, but is not sure where it is coming from. If you notice any issues with trying to download, please let him know. There are about 600 subscribers to Mailchimp with about 570 recipients. Only about 40-50% are actually opening emails about MAR Breakdowns and meeting reminders.

MAKC

Tom Metzgar gave a report for the MAKC:

Sarah furnace is now over 10 miles long! The coal mine surface reclamation project is going well: some equipment is being lined up and the project is supposed to be finished by August. The property should end up with a gravel entry to make the road a little better, plus a gate. MAKC will be getting a clean and green preferential tax assessment for the parcel. Thanks to everyone who has contributed!

MAR Bulletin update

Olivia McAllister reported on the MAR Bulletins:

98 bulletins sold over the past year.

Planning to reprint Bulletin 18.

NSS Tytoona Cave Preserve

Ann Dunlavy reporting:

There is lots of work that needs to be done. Talk with her if you would like to volunteer. For example: boundary markers need to be installed.

Ann reported Nittany Grotto has been actively using the new NSS permit system. New signs were put up one month ago.

Hope Brooks & Ryan Maurer reported on the resurvey of Tytoona. There have been issues with signs getting ripped off and destroyed. Over the summer, a woman was living in Tytoona for a few days, but she was contacted and asked to move along. There was also a small amount of footage filmed with permission in Tytoona for the troll movie Hall of the Mountain King.

Unfinished business

2024 Spring MAR

Rick gave a report from the 2024 Spring MAR at the McClure Bean Soup grounds: it was the first time hosting there, but it is located near many caves, including the MAKC McClure Cave Preserve. There was good food and Bert Ashbrook gave a nice presentation on Sarah Furnace. The profit was \$387.



George, Chris, Pat, and Ed catching up (Photo by Amos Mincin)

2024 MAR Conservation Project

There was a successful clean up at Mt. Rock cave. Just under a ton of garbage was removed! Glass, tvs, mattresses, etc. Free pizza was donated by Joe's OIP, MAKC paid for some drinks, and it was a nice and productive time!

New Business

Nittany Grotto is hosting Fall MAR 2025 in September.

There is currently no host for a Spring 2025 MAR.

Bald Eagle Grotto is planning to host a MAR Field meet in 2026.

2025 Conservation Projects

Rick motioned for a MAR spring clean-up at Alexander Caverns with a \$500 budget.

Motion seconded

Red mentioned that PCC could offer assistance as well.

Motion passed unanimously.

[Note, if there are any other conservation projects, MAR has an annual budget of \$1000 to support conservation projects in the Region. Contact the MAR officers with your conservation projects]

Congress of Grottos

Bert Ashbrook reported on a proposal to print the NSS Members Manual which did not pass as people were concerned about privacy. The NSS will be letting people opt-in to being part of Members Manual.

Another proposal was to distribute printed copies of the Journal of Cave and Karst studies to life members who ask for it, which passed, but Bert was not sure if the board has acted to consider that proposal yet. Carol Tiderman reported that this will be discussed at the next NSS Board meeting.

The last motion concerned enhanced punishment for those who violate the NSS code of conduct concerning harassment, which passed, but he is again not aware of action being taken yet by the NSS board.



Paul reviews the MAR Treasurer's report (Photo by Amos Mincin)



Eli and Rick share caving stories (Photo by Amos Mincin)

MAR Bulletin 23

Bert Ashbrook moved that the MAR publish MAR Bulletin 23, Sarah Furnace Cave, in printed hardcopy only, 8-1/2"x11", color, perfect bound, with folded map sheets (two 24"x36" and one 18"x24"), and that the copyright on printed copies be jointly held by the MAR and me, and that the copyright on other formats (including electronic) be held by me alone, and that I be in charge of arranging for printing up to 500 copies with an initial budget of up to \$6000. Will White seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

MAR Bulletin 23, and then determine how many to print and at what price to be sold. Motion seconded

Tom Metzgar motioned that MAR investigate the price rates for different quantities of proposed

Carol Tiderman motioned to amend and insert that the final determination on quantity and pricing be made by the executive committee. Red Schock seconds. Amendment passed unanimously. Amended Motion passed unanimously.

Randy Hurst motions that MAR sell bulletins to MAKC at cost of printing. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

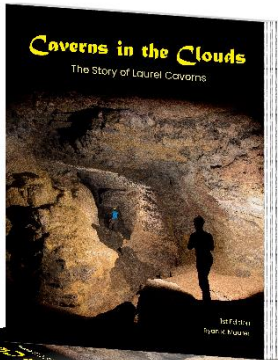
Kendra Warlow motioned to create a \$2000 annual budget for grants for regional projects. A committee will be formed that can authorize grants for projects from grottos and cavers of the region. Anyone awarded a project grant must write an article for the MAR Breakdown concerning the project. Carol Tiderman seconds. The motion passes.

Update on Laurel Caverns

Ryan Maurer shared that Laurel Caverns is currently proposed to be PA's 125th state park. He is publishing a book showcasing the cave: Cavern in the Clouds. Everything heard so far indicates that the cave will remain open.

Caverns in the Clouds

The Story of Laurel Caverns



"Every page represents hours of research... His intensive research has pulled truth from the swamp of myth."

- David L. Cale,
owner of Laurel Caverns Geological Park

Special Edition PRE-ORDER NOW!

February 14 to April 1
Delivery by Memorial Day

Update on Woodward Cave

Ann Dunlavy shared that Chris Sanders[caver and environmental scientist] has purchased Woodward Cave, which has the largest reported colony of bats in PA! The property is planned to continue to be a campground and show cave.

Annual Budget for MAR Bulletin Expenses

Amos Mincin motioned to budget \$2000 annually for printing and shipping MAR bulletins. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Carol Tiderman motions to adjourn the meeting. Amos Mincin seconds. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,
Olivia McAllister
MAR Secretary 2025

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Bucks County Grotto
- Central New Jersey Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Huntingdon County Cave Hunters
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- MAKC (Conservancy)
- Nittany Grotto
- Philadelphia Grotto
- Pittsburgh Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- Sligo Grotto
- York Grotto

2025-02-21

Checking:	\$	1,044.48	Northwest Savings Bank
Savings:	\$	8,074.27	Northwest Savings Bank
Certificate of Deposit	\$	12,075.71	Northwest Savings Bank
Petty Cash	\$	73.00	
Pending Payments	\$	490.52	
Total	\$	21,757.98	

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

Cave Law Signs Balance	\$	690.39
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MAR Fiscal Year Report 2024 (1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024)

Income

Banking

Savings Account Interest	\$	0.83
Certificate of Deposit	\$	552.14

MAR Field Meets

Spring 2024, Bald Eagle Grotto

MAR Income (126 persons @ \$1.00)	\$	126.00	Note: Payment made in 2025 fiscal year
25% of Field Meet Profit	\$	91.80	Note: Payment made in 2025 fiscal year

MAR Bulletin Sales

Bulletin Income	\$	1,728.00
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Donation Income	\$	-
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Gross Income	\$	2,280.97	Does not include Spring MAR income
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Expenses

Banking

Fees & Administrative expenses	\$	(100.00)
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Administrative

Annual Meeting Site Rental	\$	(50.00)
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MAR Bulletin Sales

Supplies/Postage	\$	(202.99)
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Conservation Activities

Mt.Rock Cave Cleanup	\$	(227.28)
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Donations Made	\$	-
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Gross Expenses	\$	(580.27)
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Net Income	\$	1,700.70
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