

**2019 SERA WINTER BUSINESS MEETING
MEETING NOTES, SUMMARY, TO-DO LIST**

(A digital recording of the meeting (partial) is available in the SERA Archives)

20190209 Chattanooga Grotto hosts meeting at Reflection Arboretum and Nature Center, Chattanooga, Tennessee

1030hrs Chair Jay Manneschmidt opens meeting
Vice Chair Bill DeVan present
Secretary/Treasurer John Hoffelt present
SKTF Chair Maureen Handler present

Rebecca McNabb welcomes on behalf of Chattanooga Grotto.

Salon Introductions

Fine Art, Don Hunter – 11 photo submittals; no art; New (2019) and back issues of the Southeastern Caver are available. Judges for salon: Chuck Sutherland, Jerry Wallace, Kyle Lassiter. Best of Show = Jim Fox for Tilted Well. Photo Salon report attached.

Map, Brent Aulenbach – 25th Annual Map Salon, 12 submittals. Judges for salon: Brent Aulenbach, Kyle Lassiter, Rebecca McNabb, Natalie Pheasant, Chuck Sutherland, and Jon Zetterberg. Best of Show = Zeke McKee for Widowmaker Cave. Map Salon report attached.

Executive Reports

Chairman, Jay Manneschmidt – chair and help organize the WBM

Vice Chairman, Bill DeVan – assisting with the WBM

Secretary/Treasurer, John Hoffelt – Treasury for 2018 started with \$401.90 added \$1,022.64 income and \$616.57 expenses for end balance of \$807.97
New Grotto = RAT Grotto and Team Poseidon (again)
Gone = Mountain Empire Grotto (again); FL Cave Survey did not file report but status unknown. NSS web service went to new server, SERA followed and no change is noted.
MS caver correspondence, no additional contact.
Advertising solicited for NSS Members Manual, executive decision not to advertise (too expensive). Also discussed SERA Award Procedures, will include that discussion under New Business.

SKTF, Maureen Handler – Brought WNS Decon to Cave Carnival and TAG Fall Cave-In

SERA Activities

2018 Cave Carnival – Alan Cook reported attendance was 330; profit ~\$5K. Report provided for SERA archive. Hosted by Birmingham Grotto.

2019 Cave Carnival – Mark Ostrander reported on preparations at Lazy G Wedding Chapel near Union Grove, Alabama, May 2-5, 2019. Hosted by Huntsville Grotto.

2020 Cave Carnival – Calla Goins reported that the carnival will be held at the Rock Island Boy Scout Ranch. Hosted by Upper Cumberland Grotto.

2020 Winter Business Meeting – Jon Zetterberg reported that Dogwood City Grotto would host the meeting in Atlanta.

2021 Winter Business Meeting – Jay Manneschmidt reported that East Tennessee Grotto would host the meeting probably in Oak Ridge.

Old Business

2018 WBM Notes – John Hoffelt read the minutes from the 2018 WBM; the minutes are amended to note the Map Salon Report in *The Southeastern Caver*, Vol. 24, February, 2019.

SERA Cave Carnival Toolbox Web Development – Jay Manneschmidt discussed the Toolbox; it did not develop as original concept, but he is available to assist in local IO development of management tools.

2019 NSS Convention – Maureen Handler showed the 2019 Convention Video and discussed plans for the convention.

New Business Identification

Jay Manneschmidt identified SERA Award nomination and evaluation procedure issues for discussion, including the 30-day nomination cut-off deadline and the 3-year consecutive evaluation time for committee members.

1245hrs Break for Lunch

1400hrs Meeting Reconvenes

Roll Call and IO Reports

14 IOs present (see Sign-In Sheet in Archives)

Athens Speleological Society declines hosting the 2021 Summer Cave Carnival

New Business Resolution

SERA Executive Committee (Jay Manneschmidt) moves and the Governing Committee (Unanimous Acclamation) seconds the following SERA Act:

To revise the guidelines for selection of SERA Award winners as established by SERA Act dated February 18, 2006. The new procedure removes the requirement to notify the award committee of the nominations two (2) weeks prior to the Winter Business Meeting. Nominations may be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair) up to the opening of the Winter Business Meeting. Continuity of award committee members will be maintained as possible by meeting attendance.

Motion passes unanimously (11-0).

SERA Awards

Francis Mckinney Award – awarded to Alan Cressler

Judges: Kathie Ferrari, Warren Wyatt, Jon Zetterberg

Richard Schreiber Award – awarded to Jon Zetterberg

Judges: Zeke McKee, Kyle Lassiter, Jeff Patton

Alexis Harris Conservation Award – No Nominees

Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award – awarded to Mike Friday

Judges: Michael Gilbert, Dave Hughes, Chuck Sutherland

Avis Moni Hospitality Award – awarded to Warren Wyatt

Judges: Calla Goins, Natalie Pheasant, Rebecca McNabb

Meritorious Service:

Warren Wyatt (nominated by Chuck Sutherland (TCS) for outstanding service as an ambassador to new cavers and to the Upper Cumberland Grotto.

Thomas Whitehurst (nominated by Dave Hughes) for outstanding public education and interaction as Property Manager at Stephens Gap Callahan Cave Preserve.

Election

Vice Chairman = Jon Zetterberg
Sec/Treas = John Hoffelt

New Business: Georgia Speleological Survey (Brent Aulenbach) opens discussion on SERA webpage management. Dogwood City Grotto (Jon Zetterberg) moves and Spencer Grotto (Calla Goins) seconds the following SERA Act:

To require the SERA Webmaster to be an active NSS Member.

Motion passes unanimously (13-0).

Bill Stringfellow invites SERA to provide a delegate to the Congress of Grottos at the NSS Convention. (Bill DeVan to attend or provide delegate) Mr. Stringfellow also reminds people to join or renew their dues for membership in the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.

1530hrs Chair Jay Manneschmidt closes meeting and award committees meet

1730hrs Banquet Meet and Greet

1900hrs Jay Manneschmidt reopens business meeting for Executive Committee proposal to donate \$150.00 to the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. Governing Committee approves by unanimous acclamation.

1915hrs Awards Presentation by Jay Manneschmidt (as noted above), Don Hunter, Brent Aulenbach
Photo Salon Best of Show = Jim Fox, Tilted Well
Map Salon Best of Show = Zeke McKee, Widowmaker Cave

1930hrs Banquet speaker: Amber Lehmann: Acquisition of Johnson's Crook by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.