

SERA's 2023 Winter Business Meeting on 2023/02/18 was a great success and a good chance to catch up with some cavers I have not seen in a good long while. Scott Shaw's presentation on cave archaeology was a truly wonderful one that taught me a few more things to look out for while caving.

The SKTF is still in need of a director. Please contact the officers if you are interested in this position.

Alan Hatcher was reelected Secretary/Treasurer for the 2023-2024 year
Chrissy Richards moved from Vice Chair to Chair for the 2023 year
Shari Lydy was elected Vice Chair for the 2023 year

The annual Sera awards were distributed as follows;

Richard Schreiber Award: Dane Garreau

Dane Garreau-a holdout nomination from previous years-was nominated due to the fact that he "...has made himself available as a resource to new cavers and taught them safe caving practices. Similar to Richard Shreiber, Dane Garreau is a natural and enthusiastic teacher, as well as project leader and mapper, who encouraged many to take a more active role in our community." Additionally, he has given many presentations to grottos all throughout SERA and assisted with many projects throughout the TAG region.

Francis McKinney Award: N/A

Alexis Harris Conservation Award: N/A

Larry Adams Landowner Award: Gary Bradley

Gary Bradley was nominated due to the way that he-as the Blue Lake Cave landowner-went above and beyond in his kindness to the caving community. His nomination form highlights the fact that he "...assisted with finding the cave and digging it open. He welcomed any caver that arrived to help, providing food and drink. Helped pay for the gate and helped construct it." The form also highlights the fact that he did all this in order to prevent another fatal accident at the cave-as the death of a child was what had caused the cave to be closed in the first place-while still being able to welcome visitors to the cave.

Avis Moni Hospitality Award: Becky Williams

Becky Williams was nominated due to the fact that she does an "...exceptional job welcoming new people and visitors to meetings-making each of these folks feel welcome and appreciated." Her nomination form lists several examples of how she has served one of the prominent members of Huntsville Grotto's welcoming committee and,

according to the nomination form, helped Huntsville Grotto expand their membership to 190 members.

Sera Meritorious Service Award: Sewanee Mountain Grotto and Scott Shaw

I'd like to encourage people to make nominations throughout the year for the above awards. These award nominations are a great chance to call out cavers/landowners within your local community that have been outstanding members of the community, examples that you and others have looked up to, and may not always get the kudos that they deserve. People are the lifeblood of the community and these awards really highlight that fact in an impactful way.

Award nominations can be submitted all year round to the SERA Executive Committee Members. Please speak to Chrissy Richards, Shari Lydy, or Alan Hatcher to make a nomination or utilize the form [found here](#).