



**MARAC, Inc.**

**49<sup>th</sup> National Convention**

**September 25, 2017**

**Colorado Springs, Colorado**

**Annual Report**

# MARAC Board of Directors

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## President's Report Annual Convention – 2017

On behalf of the officers and directors of MARAC, welcome to the 49th annual National Convention in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Thanks to Barry, N0KV and Pat, N0DXE for putting on this convention. It is a lot of work and they have done a great job for us! I hope you enjoy all that Colorado has to offer!

## Changes:

As you are probably aware there were a number of resignations recently. AA8R resigned as President and W8TAX resigned as Awards Secretary. NM1G stepped down as Vice President and KW1DX stepped down from his Webmaster/Technology position. I would like to thank you all for volunteering to help the club. We lost a great deal of talent with this group and you will be missed. AA8R will be staying on as Past President.

The board appointed Me, W0MU, Mike as your President until the July 2018 election and K8ZZ, Ed as Vice President until the July 2018 election. Both Ed and I are here to do our best and continue to lead the club into the future with the help of our great volunteers.

Barry, N0KV will remain the SE District Director and Mike, NF0N will remain the North Central Director. Both will serve until 2020. They ran unopposed. Thanks to you both for your continued service to the club.

I would like to thank all the Officers, Board Members and Volunteers for their continued service this year and look forward to working with everyone in the next year. Special thanks to N5MLP, Ron as Awards Manager and Net Control Manger and KU4YM, Dave for his fine work with the Roadrunner. I am sure Dave will be prodding me constantly for my column! HI!

## Volunteers:

I would like to remind everyone in each position within MARAC is a volunteer, and as such should be treated with the utmost respect at all times. There is never a case where any of our volunteers should ever receive harassing or nasty telephone calls or emails from the membership. If you have a specific issue with anyone involved with the organization, I would ask you to discuss these issues first with your District Director. If you are uncomfortable doing that you may always contact K8ZZ or myself directly. Continued bad behavior towards our volunteers will not be tolerated. Please be assured that everyone is doing their best and many of our volunteers may have jobs and other commitments.

## Awards Secretary:

We are still looking for a dedicated person to assume the role of Awards Secretary. This is a very, very important position in the club, probably the most important as this person is in charge of tracking and issuing all our awards. I don't want to scare anyone off but requires a lot of time and dedication. If you are interested please contact N5MLP. We hope to get this position filled ASAP. Please be patient as we move this process along.

Technology goals for the year:

Implement a technology plan for Logger/Logger II, Spotting network, Database conversions and spotting phone app.

We were well on our way with Logger II thanks to K4PBX, KW1DX and others. Much work has been done but that all came to halt when KW1DX was mailed a letter that was detailed in the Roadrunner. This letter threatened legal action because a specific members information was missing from the Database. This was during a period where the database stopped working because it is antiquated and needs to be brought to 2017 technologies. As a work around the old database was converted to a new completely different database and there were some issues that affected a number of people included the member in question and up to 10 others. This issue was resolved. The threat of being sued over a volunteer position was the last straw and we lost KW1DX thus stopping everything. Not only did we lost any update work, work on Logger II, Spotme has been taken down. A great tool that many people used that worked very well.

The threat of legal action against the club and our volunteers made it necessary for the club to obtain an insurance policy to protect the Board, Officers and all volunteers of the club at an expense of \$666.00. In fact, we could not get anyone to volunteer to help until this policy was in effect and has made it difficult to find people that want to get involved.

Moving forward, I have asked for help from K4PBX and K8EMS to take a look at where we are at today and how do we move our technologies forward. This is going to be a huge process. KD9ZP, WQ7A, W0NAC and many others will also be involved with this and I want to thank all these folks for their continued work with Logger and the database and keeping the awards process moving.

The website needs to be moved to a provider that is much more reliable. The problem is that we must use a web server that is ASP based. ASP appears to be on the way out and, so far, finding another host has been unsuccessful. The actual website is in need of some serious upgrades as it is nearly identical to what it was when I created it many years ago. Web technologies such as Word Press will allow us to update the web much easier via a web browser instead of having to use a program such Dreamweaver to maintain the site.

I have made some inquiries to see if anyone is interested in writing a program for Apple and Android phones that would be similar to Spotme and tied possibly into the spotting network that K4PBX built that is currently on hold.

## Future Conventions:

We held a straw poll to gauge your opinion on holding conventions every year or possibly every two years. The majority of responses indicated that every two years was preferred.

To address this, we will be working to rewrite the bylaws to reflect that view and those changes will require a vote of the membership. The changes will allow the board to decide when a convention will be held. When sunspots come back we usually have more activity and people might be more interested in traveling so we would like the option to hold them based on participation. We will also need to address some other housekeeping issues where the convention is mentioned and address how the annual meeting will be held and scheduled etc.

## Net Activity:

Net activity on the MARAC sponsored net frequencies are improving. Thank you all for running here! We could use more help here but we cannot rely on just a few. If we want to make this better for the mobiles, we need more helpers. We can always use dedicated net controls if you would like to help. Any amount of time is helpful. Please remember the MARAC 20 meter frequency is 14.324. Contact N5MLP for net control information.

There seems to be some confusion on 14.336. This is not a MARAC sponsored net. When that frequency is not being used we will still be found on 14.324.

Unfortunately, many mobiles refuse to run on 14.324 as they have been informed that they will no longer be welcomed on the other net in the future by running on 14.324. For many of us we just refuse to use 14.336 as it just enables the continued bad, bad behavior we have seen for years by certain folks, like insulting new chasers and running off potential new members which MARAC could really use. You are free to do as you wish, just understand that your personal goals are literally destroying it for others and are contrary to what we are trying to do in MARAC.

## New members needed:

We can always use new chasers, mobiles and hunters. How to get new blood into the club has always been a tough challenge. If you have any ideas please contact me or your director and pass on your thoughts.

## On to 2018:

Once again thanks to all who make this club go. If you would like to help with any of

the projects above or have other ideas I am eager to hear them. We have really great people in the club with unique and valuable talents. I hope to hear from many of you in the next year. It looks like we might actually have a better solar cycle than previously predicted. The digital modes especially FT8 has really taken off. The Parks on the Air Program is also giving us more activity and many of our members are quite active in county hunting and with the POTA WWFF programs. I hope to be more active both from the home station and mobile, so see you on the bands and in the log! Thanks again to N0KV and N0DXE for hosting a great convention!

Mike Fatchett-W0MU  
President

**Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club  
Secretary's Annual Report Sept 27, 2017**

Membership – June 1, 2016	387
New Members	23
Renewed expired membership	67
Membership September 17, 2017	375

Respectfully,  
Terry Dummler  
WQ7A

# Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

## Annual Treasurer's Report

April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017

<u>Funds Balance</u>	<u>April 1, 2016</u>	<u>April 1, 2017</u>
<b>Income:</b>		
Membership	\$ 2,937.92	\$ 2,869.50
Awards	1,387.00	353.00
Money Market Interest	23.61	16.00
<b>Donations</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Logger	<u>460.00</u>	<u>205.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 4,833.53	\$ 3,443.50
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Awards	\$ 5,433.01	\$ 6,974.40
Bank Charges	30.00	22.00
Conventions	5,812.55	905.12 Note 1
Administration	32.05	100.00 Note 2
Postage/Office	16.99	251.91
Sunshine Expenses	0.00	76.43
Insurance	396.00	396.00
Computer hardware/SW	122.40	59.90
Internet Server Host	97.27	155.40
Spotting Site Fixed Expenses	0.00	0.00
Spotting Site Recurring Expenses	529.87	494.87
Logger II Fixed Expenses	0.00	0.00
Logger II Recurring Expenses	0.00	0.00

MARAC Booth @ Dayton Hamvention	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Simply Voting	N/A	<b>1,168.40</b> Note 3
Miscellaneous	<u><b>140.96</b></u>	<u><b>471.12</b></u>
Total Expenses	<b>\$ 13,345.30</b>	<b>\$ 11,075.55</b>
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<u><b>\$ (8,511.77)</b></u>	<u><b>(\$ 7,632.05)</b></u>
<b>Checking Account</b>	<b>\$ 2,861.33</b>	<b>\$ 2,923.98</b>
<b>Money Market Account</b>	<u><b>27,101.71</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 23,114.79</b></u>
<b>Total Account Balances</b>	<u><b>\$ 29,963.04</b></u> Note 4	<u><b>\$ 26,038.77</b></u> Note 4

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Manager's Funds	\$1,500.00
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**Note 1** – Amount is the sum of 2017 seed monies for the National Convention (\$6,000), 2017 Michigan Mini (\$600) and the return of \$5,694.88 from 2016 National Convention (which is treated as a negative expense).

**Note 2** – State of Kansas incorporation fees both past due and current.

**Note 3** – Total of calendar 2016 initial activation (\$734.20) and calendar 2017 renewal fees (\$434.20).

**Note 4** – From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of this fiscal year should be discounted by **\$6,237.15**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$19,801.62**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Mansfield (W7OLY)

MARAC Treasurer



Below please find the financial reports submitted to the MARAC Treasurer for the MARAC 2016 National Conventions. We hope that this will answer any questions concerning the actual costs of the 2016 National Conventions.

## 2016 MARAC Convention Summary

### By Kerry W4SIG

Here is a summary of the results of the 2016 MARAC National Convention held in Memphis, TN on Aug 1-4, 2016. I can provide more details, receipts, or more documentation if needed, but here is a summary.

We had just under 100 attendees at the convention. The tour was attended by 40. The BBQ dinner Tuesday night was attended by 77. A total of 83 were at the final evening's banquet and award dinner. Our only expense for the banquet was the food, the room was no charge!

The hotel was very accommodating and we had nothing but great reports from attendees on their rooms and service by the staff. MARAC members reserved about 45 rooms. The hotel did not charge for the usage of the hospitality room for the four days of our event.

For drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and snacks we spent \$613. Joyce, WB9NUL, did an outstanding job of managing this area of the convention. We charged for the drinks, but not the snacks. We received a total of \$363 in the kitty. This results in a \$250 loss in this area. I am told by Joyce that this is always a loss, however I believe it is reasonable.

Prizes cost \$2,450. I received \$2,000 from MARAC for their purchase and \$1,231 was received in ticket sales.

One area that I would like to leave open for the next convention coordinator is that of badges. They cost around \$8 each for a total of \$802 we spent on making them. Although we charge for the badges, not many folks wear them. Maybe this should be an optional item that one can order when registering in the future. Just a suggestion.

Overall, I received \$4,000 in seed money from MARAC and the \$2,000 for prizes. I have \$5,613.19 in the bank account that I will return to the treasurer when closing out the bank account for the annual. **This results in the convention costing the club \$386.81.** In my opinion, a great outcome for such a large group!

For next year I have touched base with AF3X and K8ZZ. Both are considering hosting next year's annual. Let's put out a request for volunteers in the next Roadrunner and stay in touch with Jeff and Ed on their findings.

73! Kerry W4SIG