MARAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES (unofficial)

9PM EST September 19, 2026

Call Meeting to order. Time: __4PM EST__

Board Members in attendance:

Officers: Pres, Mary AB7NK__x_, VP, Mike W0MU __x__, Secretary, Kerry W4SIG__x__, Treasurer, Bill K0DEQ__x_
Directors: Great Lakes, Darl NA8W__x_ , Northeast, Al N1API__x__, South Central, Barry, N0KV__x_, Southeast, Karl K4YT ___, North Central, Bill NU0Q__x_ , Pacific, Paige W0FLZ_x__, Past President, Ed K8ZZ ___x__
Guests:

1.Agenda Changes/Modifications none

Old Business:

2. NU0Q I move to approve the minutes of the BOD Meeting held in August, 2026. (see attachment)

Motion 2nd: _N0KV__

Discussion:

Aye _9 Nay __0__ Abstain____0_

Kerry will send the official minutes to the webmaster for posting on the website.

New Business:

3. W0MU I move that MARAC agree to host the email list service needs for N4CD's monthly County Hunters News newsletter.

Motion 2nd: _W4SIG__

DRAFT

Discussion:

Aye 9_ Nay __0__ Abstain__0__

4. N0KV Motion to award Boni Dummler with a MARAC Special Achievement Award. Justification has been distributed.

Motion 2nd : NA8W

Discussion: Justification had been distributed a week prior to this meeting.

Aye _9 Nay __0__ Abstain__0__

A special plaque will be hand delivered to Boni by AB7NK next week.

5. AB7NK Sharon, KJ8F, has been appointed to be the new MARAC Sunshine Coordinator.

6. AB7NK Motion that the Board approves $37 for cards and stamps for the Sunshine Coordinator who has submitted receipts.

Motion 2nd : N0KV

Discussion: There currently is nothing in the By-Laws that specifies what amount of expenses must be approved by a Board vote. This should be addressed.

Aye _9 Nay _0___ Abstain___0_

6. K0DEQ Motion to approve $643 in funds for prizes at the 2026 National Convention.

Motion 2nd N1API

Discussion:

DRAFT

Aye 9_ Nay __0__ Abstain__0__

7. W4SIG Motion to award Ron Wilcox KF7ZN with a MARAC Lightning Leo Outstanding Service Award for his work in coordinating the 2026 MARAC National.

Motion 2nd :N0KV

Discussion:

Aye 9_ Nay __0__ Abstain__0__

8. AB7NK Motion to accept the proposal from the MARAC Awards Manager to update the Award Rules as follows: (For sake of brevity, these have been distributed in advance to Boad members and general membership)

Proposed Changes to MARAC Awards Rules

Reference Awards Rules Revised: 08/07/2026

The Awards Committee respectfully submits the following changes to the Award Rules

at the Board of Directors meeting to be held on September 19th, 2026:

Change Awards Manager TO Awards Secretary in the following places:

Page 4 - Award Application Process - change Awards Manager to Awards Secretary in six places on this page.
Page 10 - Log - change Awards Manager to Awards Secretary in one place in the third paragraph.
Page 14 – Add the following section right after “Valid Contacts”

Valid County Identity

An Award applicant may assume that the QTH of a fixed station is as stated on qrz.com for that call sign unless the applicant has reason to believe the QTH may be different, in which case the applicant should directly contact the other station to ascertain the QTH for the QSO.

In the case of contacts with a mobile or portable station, the applicant may (unless there is reason to believe otherwise) use the county indicated for that station at time of the QSO as reported on the https://ch.w6rk.com website or on similar websites used for spotting stations for county hunters.

In the case of contacts with a station active in the Parks on the Air (POTA) program, the

DRAFT

county in which the specified park is located may be used by the applicant; however, if the specified park is located in more than one county, the applicant should directly contact the other station to ascertain the correct county for the QSO.

Page 24 - Last County in a State Award - change Awards Manager to Awards Secretary in one place in the fourth paragraph.

Page 25 - Master Gold Award - change Awards Manager to Awards Secretary in one place in the fourth paragraph.

Page 35 - Native American Counties Award - change Awards Manager to Awards Secretary in paragraph two.

Page 37 - Roadrunner Award - change Awards Manager to Awards Secretary in one place in the seventh paragraph.

Page 41 - USA - QRP Award - change Awards Manager to Awards Secretary in the first sentence at the top of the page.

Page 42 - USA-SSB Award - Change Awards Manager to Awards Secretary in the second paragraph.

Page 42 - U.S. Presidents Award - Change Awards Manager to Awards Secretary in the second paragraph.

Corrections to Rules:

Page 6 - Confirmations of Contacts - Delete the last sentence which states: this is different from the CQ Magazine USA County Award which requires confirmation of contacts.

Page 7 - DX Contact - Delete: the words 'or any CQ'

Page 41 - USA - Single Band Award – change wording to: USA-CA Award from CQ Magazine **OR** the MARAC United States of America County Award

Motion 2nd : NA8W

Discussion: Thanks were given to the Awards Committee and Awards Manager W8OP for working on this.

Aye 9_ Nay __0__ Abstain__0__

Alan, W8OP has been tasked with making these changes in the official copy of the awards rules.

9. AB7NK For the purposes of updating the current By-Laws, I propose the following changes: (For sake of brevity, these have been distributed in advance to Boad members and general membership)

DRAFT

I propose we delete from Article I Section 1.1 (b) the phrase which reads **and in a MARAC Policy Manual that shall be published in the manner determined by the Board**

I propose we delete from Article II Section 2.7 (c) the phrase which reads **including membership dues received by the Secretary**

I propose we delete from Article III Section 3.4 (a) the phrase **or separate ballot envelopes**

I propose we change Article IV Section 4.1 (c) to read as follows:
(c) Honorary Members: The Board of Directors may bestow an honorary membership on any person who has made a significant contribution to county hunting or mobile amateur radio operations. Honorary Members do not pay dues, may attend MARAC functions, retain full membership and voting privileges, may hold office, and receive the newsletter.

I propose we change the third sentence of Article V Section 5.1 (a) to read as follows:
The President shall also appoint an Awards Secretary and Assistant Awards Secretary from among the regular members of MARAC.

I propose we delete the following two words from Article V Section 5.1 (b):
collecting funds

I propose we replace Article V Section 5.1 (c) with the following:
The Assistant Awards Secretary shall administer MARAC Awards in accordance with the policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors, and shall assist the Awards Secretary as needed. The Assistant Awards Secretary will report to the Awards Secretary.

I propose we replace Article V Section 5.1 (d) 4 with the following:

The applicant may assume that the QTH of a fixed station is as stated on qrz.com for that callsign unless the applicant has reason to believe the QTH may be different, in which case the applicant should directly contact the other station to ascertain the QTH for the QSO.

DRAFT

I propose we replace the following word in Article V Section 5.1 (d) 8 (b) that to **than**

I propose we correct the spelling of a word in Article V Section 5.1 (d) 8 (c) **discreditation**

I propose we delete Article V Section 5.1 (d) 8 (d)

I propose we add the following abbreviation to Article V Section 5.5 (h) after United States of America County Award: **(USA-CA)**

I propose we delete the following from Article VI Section 6.5 (a) **newsletter subscriptions**

Motion 2nd : W0MU

Discussion: It is noted that upon approval by the Board, any change to the By-Laws will have to be voted upon by club membership before they are final.

Aye 9_ Nay ___0_ Abstain__0__

10. Motion to adjourn.

Motion 2nd : N1API

Aye _9__ Nay __0__ Abstain_0__ Time__4:14 pm EST_

Open discussion with membership

KA9JAC made a presentation on his work for the new looking website for ma-rac. Questions answered.

DRAFT

Thanks were given to KF7ZN for his work on the convention.

K2MF stated his liking of the new looking website and commended the Board for its work on the awards rules and by-laws.

N2MH and K2MF suggested a possible rebranding of county hunting as “COTA”. The group used the term "rebranding" loosely this weekend. We were brainstorming to see how we can make county hunting grow. Everyone agreed that we are envious of the POTA program and how it has captured the attention of so many activators and chasers. POTA, IOTA, and SOTA have become very popular, and well understood, terms in ham radio. So, the thought of "rebranding" was for us to piggyback onto the commonly understood "OTA" by creating the term COTA (Counties on the air). It would bring instant understanding by hams of what we were about- activating and making contacts with Counties, vs Parks, Islands, or Summits. When mobiles run, they could use "CQ COTA". It was suggested that COTA is managed by MARAC. Therefore we could reference COTA on our marac webpage and create an easy way for folks to find us by simply using Google to search "COTA ham radio" or something of that nature to find our marac.org page. We need to discuss this further to see how we can turn this into a winning scenario.

We mentioned that trademarking is a tricky topic. When you trademark a name, you must specify the actual industry that you are in. If there is no conflict within the same industry, you "should" be okay. So, unless some other ham organization wants to use marac, we should be fine.

DRAFT