

MARAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Oct 12 1PM EST

Call Meeting to order.

Time: __1 PM EST__

Board Members in attendance:

Officers: Pres, K8ZZ__x, Secretary, W4SIG __x__
Treasurer, K0DEQ __x__,

Directors: Great Lakes, Darl NA8W__x__, Northeast, Al N1API__x__, South
Central, Bary, N0KV__x__, North Central, Mike, NF0N__x__, Pacific, Paige,
W0FLZ__x__, Southeast, Dave, KE3VV__x__

Guests: The entire group of attendees at the MARAC National in Bridgeport, WV

1. Agenda Changes/Modifications

KE3VV had sent an amendment to the new proposed USACA Rules document

2. Motion to approve minutes of the BOD Meeting held on July 15, 2024. (see attachment)

Motion: __KE3VV__ 2nd __N1API

Discussion: Kerry will send a copy of these official minutes to KA9JAC for putting on the marac.org website.

Aye 8 Nay __0__ Abstain __0__

New Business:

3. Vice President Vacancy:

N0KV - Motion to appoint Mike Fatchett, W0MU, as MARAC VP to complete the current term ending in July 2026.

Motion __KE3VV__ 2nd ____NA8W__

Discussion: Thanks to Mike for stepping up to volunteer for this long-vacant position. We look forward to working with you!

Aye 8 Nay 0 Abstain

4. Club cost cutting change to eliminate plaque expenses for Annual awards.

N1API-Motion: Wooden plaques will not be provided free of charge to repeat winners of an Annual Award, but rather printed certificates will be issued, unless the recipient wishes to pay for the plaque. For first time winners of an annual award, a certificate or plaque will be provided to the winner at no cost if the recipient wishes to receive one.

Motion: **N1API** 2nd **KE3VV**

Discussion: It has come to the attention of the Board that the cost to the club for producing and shipping plaques for the 7 Annual Awards is approximately \$900. Many recipients are repeat winners. Some members prefer not to receive the plaques as they have no room to display them.

Aye 9 Nay 0 Abstain

5. Cancellation of club's Errors and Omission insurance.

NA8W-Motion: MARAC should cancel its Errors and Omissions insurance policy but retain its General Liability policy.

Motion: **KE3VV** 2nd **NA8W**

Discussion: The E&O insurance for the club is approximately \$1,000/year. This is as cheap as we can find it. It has been discussed by the Board and deemed unnecessary at this time. The General Liability policy is needed for convention purposes. KODEQ can call to cancel the policy. We last made an annual payment in August, so we should receive some level of a refund.

Aye 9 Nay 0 Abstain

6. USACA Award

W4SIG-Motion: MARAC will commence to offer the United States of America County Award with rules as stipulated in the enclosed attachment with ammendments. The first date for receiving applications will be Nov. 1, 2024.

Motion: **_W4SIG** 2nd **_NF0N_**

Discussion: This is a huge topic and the number one focus of the MARAC Board over the past year. As has been discussed extensively for 10 months, a void has been created with the demise of CQ Magazine. There currently is no organization sponsoring the USACA award. Brian, NX0X, the last USACA Award Custodian for CQ, has graciously continued to process any WBOW USACA Awards and offers to do so until he runs out of certificates for those who want to apply. No applications will be accepted for the lower endorsement levels.

This award is critical to bringing interest and new hams into county hunting. It is obvious to the MARAC Board that this void must be filled. After many months of planning and organizing, the Board feels now is the time for the move. We have communicated closely with both Brian, NX0X, and Don, K3IMC, our awards software creator. We have created our own updated MARAC version of the USACA Certificate, have cleared the process with Don, have written MARAC's version of the USACA Rules, and feel we are ready to officially proceed with adopting this award.

A special note of commendation should be mentioned to the entire MARAC Board for hundreds of hours planning for this move. Of special note is Ron, KF7ZN, Bill, K0DEQ, and Dave, KE3VV for creating the proposed official USACA rules. These have been reviewed by the Awards Committee with input being considered.

Thanks go to Paige, W0FLZ, for having the foresight to save a copy of the CQ Magazine award rules before they disappeared off the internet so that we could use them to craft our own version of the rules.

Also of special note is the creation of a county spreadsheet that was created by Barry, K2MF, to enable new county chasers to track and submit with their applications.

Thanks go out to Christopher Lott of Christopher Lott Studios for creating a beautiful certificate which has editable fields that can be used by Phil, the MARAC Awards Secretary, when processing these awards.

It is critical that ALL MARAC members help spread the word. We have no national publication, like CQ Magazine, for advertising. The Board plans to issue notices to contest groups, create an advertisement flier that can be sent via email to every LC-1 recipient, and to write an article for QST Magazine, with the hopes that they will agree to publish it, along with the history of our 50+ year old ham radio club.

Aye 9 Nay 0 Abstain _____

Discussion: It is to be noted that the main difference between our version of the award is the elimination of the need for “written confirmations”. This was the main roadblock for recruiting new county chasers for years due to the increased cost and the decreased participation of supplying written confirmations in today’s ham community. If someone is close to finishing them all “with confirmations”, they are still able to apply with Brian for the CW Magazine version of the award if they wish, and Brian still has blank certificates left in stock. Brian will be notified of the ratification of USACA by MARAC and we will ask for his latest award level numbers.

It is further noted that KE3VV will write a press release for publications. It will have a basic intro to the award, reference to the website, etc. W4SIG will draft an article suitable for QST publication which will be submitted. Don, W9DC, will contact his friend, N2ZZ, who is on the ARRL Board, to have him contact Kerry to discuss what should be included to make the article accepted into the magazine.

7. Change to the MARAC All SSB Award to align with the new USACA award.

KE3VV-Motion: The start date for the MARAC All SSB Award should be eliminated.

Motion: **_KE3VV** 2nd **_W0MU_**

Discussion: The MARAC All SSB award currently has a start date for contacts of Feb 5, 2015. This misaligns with the new MARAC USACA Award which has

no start date. This could cause confusion if someone earns the MARC USACA Award only using SSB, yet would not be eligible for the MARAC All SSB Award. K3IMC can make this change in Logger, but each member will have to do a recalculation on this award book to see their level.

Aye __9__ Nay __0__ Abstain _____

7. Changes are needed to the MARAC Rules Document to align with the new MARAC USACA award.

K0DEQ-Motion: The proposed changes to the wording of the existing MARAC Award rules supplied to the Board should take effect in order to align with the new MARAC USACA Award.

Motion: **K0DEQ** 2nd **KE3VV**

Discussion: With the approval of the new MARAC USACA Award, some modifications need to be made to the existing awards rules to clean up the wording. Bill, K0DEQ, has worked on this and provided to the Board a list of proposed changes which they have reviewed. These apply mainly to adding references to the MARAC USACA Award in the Rules document. Kerry will have to update the Rules document with these changes.

Aye __9__ Nay __0__ Abstain _____

8. Report by Don, K3IMC, on the status of the club's database update.

Discussion: Don states the new database will be operational in the next few months. This will require a 48 hour period when, while Logger will operate, no LC-1 awards will be able to be applied for. Don will announce in advance of these transition dates.

9. Motion to Adjourn

Motion: **KE3VV** 2nd **W0FLZ**

Aye 9 Nay 0 Abstain Time

Open discussion with membership

N4CD asked for a dedicated part of our website for new county hunters chasing the USACA Award. This is already in the plans.

N4CD asked to clarify the sequential numbers for the endorsement levels of the USACA award.

N4CD asked when NX0X will stop issuing awards. When he either runs out of blank certificates, or he desires to stop issuing the WBOW awards.

N4CD asked if MARAC would be offering a version of the USACA award for those getting all written confirmations. No, the Board doesn't have the resources or desire to do so.

Should the new USACA Certificate include the numbers for all prior endorsement levels (if there are any) on the actual certificate? K3IMC says every applicant will be automatically assigned the next sequential number for all lower levels of the award. The question is does MARAC want to print all those endorsement levels and numbers on each certificate. AB7RW does NOT want to do this. The latest level is usually all the recipient cares about. To discuss.....