



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto  
January 2025 Business Meeting  
Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.**

Meeting held at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center,  
a Missouri Department of Conservation facility at 4750 Troost, Kansas City, and via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by grotto president Bill Gee. The following members and guests were also present: Dillon Bond, Jim Cooley, Corey Ellis, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Kohl Mitchell, Nathan Tylor, Kristen Vogel, and Steve Wallen.

**Officer Reports:**

**President:** Bill Gee started the meeting off by jumping right into the officer reports followed by progressing through the organizational updates/trip reports. Later on, he brought up donating funds to MCKC to help them reach their \$25,000 goal to build a copula gate for Pleasant Valley Cave, located in St. Louis, MO. See “New Business”

**Vice President:** Dustin Schmidt had no updates to provide.

**Treasurer:** Jim Cooley informed everyone that the total balance across all accounts is \$3,960.99. The balances for each account type are as follows. Bank account has \$3,321.71, PayPal has \$425.26, and Petty Cash is \$214.00. He also stated that since we are now in 2025, that Grotto dues are to be paid.

**Secretary:** Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates to provide during the meeting.

**Quartermaster:** Nathan Taylor had no updates to provide. He can be contacted about borrowing any equipment.

**Novice Trips:** Kristen Vogel has no upcoming novice trips planned.

**Presentations:** Please contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) if you are interested in giving a meeting presentation or have a topic idea. For online meetings, presentations should be in the half-hour range rather than an hour long. For in-person meetings up to an hour are available.

**The Guano:** KCAG does not currently publish a newsletter. When we did, it was called *The Guano*. Back issues can be viewed on our website. If someone would like to resurrect this effort, please contact Bill Gee or Jim Cooley for details.

**White Nose Syndrome:** See <https://caves.org/WNS/> for the most current map of the spread of WNS.

## **Organization Updates:**

**MSS/MCKC:** Jim Cooley stated that there will be a meeting near Round Spring Cave. They will also be monitoring some caves located in the Mark Twain National Forest during the first weekend of April.

**Cloud 9 Ranch:** Jim Cooley had no major updates, normally this time of year there is a Bat Census trip in February, but nothing has been planned to his knowledge.

**Stark Caverns:** Bill Gee had no new updates to provide.

**Devil's Icebox:** No updates were discussed.

**Geronimo Cave:** Bill Gee was able to obtain all the survey data from Seth Colston. Bill has all the centerlines and passage perimeters entered into the mapping software. He will be aligning everything and adding additional later this season. The total cave length came out to be a little over 3,000 ft.

## **Trip Reports and Other News:**

**Carroll Cave Work Weekend:** Rick Hines mentioned there will be an upcoming work weekend in the spring to help finish a few of the remaining items at the shelter. As well as to help remove some of the unutilized material from the premises.

**LaFarge Mine Survey:** Bill Gee and Jim Cooley talked about the perimeter survey assessment and surface opening survey work that was done at LaFarge Mine (which is owned by Kansas City). There may be more work coming in late April / early May.

**Neongwah Bear Cave:** Bill Gee showed some pictures of the recently completed bat friendly cave gate at Neogwah Bear Cave, which is located on the same property as Bridal Cave. This cave is to be used in some conservation outreach programs.

**Carroll Cave Survey Trip:** Kohl Mitchell talked about the recent three-day survey trip at Carroll Cave. There were nine people in attendance. They camped at Jerry's Cairn. Kohl's focus was a side passage off of the Lake Room. It went about 190 feet before the passage was just muddy silt. Kohl and his team also removed some random bits of camp trash which had been in the cave since 2008. In total they were underground for 40 hours continuously during this trip.

**Novice/Scout Trips:** No trips discussed.

**New Business:** A motion was made to donate \$500 to MCKC to support their efforts to build the cupola gate at Pleasant Valley Cave. Two months ago they had raised around \$11,000. The motion passed.

**Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business. The meeting was adjourned.

## Upcoming Trips and Events

Check with the trip leader before you set out to attend any of these events.

**2025 April 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>:** MCKC and MSS meetings on Sunday Apr 6. Three days of caving before that. Camping at the Winona Field Houses. Contact Dan Lamping for more information. [danieljlamping@gmail.com](mailto:danieljlamping@gmail.com)

**2025 April 25<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>:** MVOR at Shriner's Camp near Waynesville, MO.

**2025 May 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>:** SERA Cave Carnival in Tennessee. <https://sera2025.subworks.com/>

**2025 May 23<sup>rd</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>:** Ennis Cave Blowout. Northern Arkansas. Contact Randy Rose for more information. [randalrose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:randalrose@sbcglobal.net)

**2025 June 21<sup>st</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>:** NSS Convention in Cobleskill, New York. More information is available on the NSS Convention website. "<https://caves.org/convention/2025-nss-convention/>"

**2025 October 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>:** National Cave and Karst Management Symposium in Ely, Nevada. <https://ely2025.nckms.org/>

**2026 July 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>:** NSS Convention in Corydon, Indiana.