

Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference  
PO Box 400440  
Charlottesville, VA 22904  
www.asrc.net



ASRC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2015  
The Barn, Bear Run Nature Reserve – Mill Run, PA  
(with teleconference connection)

Documented Board Representatives		BoD Reps Present
Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group 1. Ben McCandless ( <i>proxy to Don Scelza</i> ) 2. Don Scelza	AMRG	2
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group 1. Laura Dodson ( <i>connected via TC</i> ) 2. Aaron Bentley	BRMRG	1
DELMARVA Search and Rescue Group 1. Jim Jackson ( <i>proxy to Mike Hansen</i> ) 2. Robert Peterson ( <i>connected via TC at 1141</i> )	DMVSAR	2
Maryland Search and Rescue 1. Gregg Wavle	MSAR	0
Mountaineer Area Rescue Group 1. John Barnett ( <i>proxy to Don Ferguson</i> ) 2. Don Ferguson	MARG	2
Northwest Pennsylvania K-9 Search and Rescue 1. Adam Gatti ( <i>LuAnn Gatti present</i> )	NWPAK9SAR	1 (non-voting)
Potomac Valley Rescue Group 1. Alan Holmes 2. Scott Glazer	PVRG	0
Search and Rescue Ohio 1. Brian Maier	SAR-Ohio	1
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group 1. Andrew Hower 2. Padraic Hughes ( <i>connected via TC</i> )	SMRG	1

**I. Call to Order**

The Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting of the ASRC was called to order by Don Scelza, Chairman, at 1048 on Sunday, May 17, 2015. The meeting was conducted in The Barn at Bear Run Nature Reserve – Mill Run, PA.

## **II. Participant Role Call**

Don Scelza opened the meeting with a team/BoD Representative Roll Call. (Seven ASRC Teams were represented as documented in the chart above.)

During the meeting there were six voting ASRC BoD Representatives present and three voting BoD Representative proxies conveyed to the Secretary by 1900 on 5/14/15, representing nine of fourteen voting members present (10 of 15 total representatives). 57% of the ASRC Board of Directors was represented during the roll call, constituting a quorum. 64% of the ASRC Board of Directors was represented later during the meeting.

Also in attendance were members from several Groups, Victoria Airey (ASRC Treasurer) and Beth Huhn (ASRC Secretary).

## **III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion to accept the January 11, 2015, BoD Meeting Minutes (as disseminated with the May 17, 2015, BoD Meeting Agenda) was made by Brian Maier (SAR-Ohio), seconded by Don Ferguson (MARG). No abstentions, no nays, all BoD in favor. **Motion passed.**

## **IV. Discussion of ASRC Direction (Chair)**

General consensus that all participants enjoyed the AGM weekend events. During the AGM Meeting, had discussions regarding the ASRC direction – Group focus and Training & Credentialing system.

Will be posting documents for review on asrc.net.

Will distribute email address to which comments should be sent about the documents posted. Group comments are requested by mid-late June 2015.

Goal is to have the documents finalized by the October 2015 Board of Directors Meeting.

## **V. Unfinished Business**

Brian Maier (SAR-Ohio) provided an update regarding SAR-Ohio's number of certified members.

- 7 FTM's and 1 FTL currently
- Plan in place to continue current training regimen, progress has been made since last meeting
- Several members in pipeline that are close to FTM certification

- Question from floor whether conference can lend additional support. Maier responded not at this time.

Chair proposed that SAR-Ohio's member certification numbers are revisited at the next ASRC Board Meeting scheduled for August 15, 2015.

A motion to re-evaluate the total number of SAR-Ohio members and the number and type of certified members at the next Board of Directors Meeting, currently scheduled for August 15, 2015, was made by Don Ferguson (MARG), seconded by Michael Hansen (DMVSAR). One abstention, no nays, all others in favor. **Motion passed.**

## VI. New Business

### Treasurer (Victoria Airey, Treasurer)

- A hard-copy financial update was distributed to all attendees present. Electronic copy provided as supplement to these minutes (*2015-05-17-TreasurerReport.pdf*).
- A check was provided to the Bruderhof for the AGM lunch on May 16, 2015, in the amount of \$200.00.
- PVRG Certified Group status (A or B) is unknown. They have not provided an updated roster since 2012. Their 2015 invoice was developed based upon the 2014 invoice. Invoice remains unpaid.
- Contact made by DMVSAR's Treasurer regarding corrupt invoice file. ASRC Treasurer sent replacement electronic file and expects payment soon.
- Chair requested Treasurer to send electronic financial statement to all Board members.

### Operations (Michael Hansen, Conference Operations Officer)

- A verbal operations report was made. Electronic copy provided as supplement to these minutes (*2015-05-17-OpsOfficerReport.pdf*).
- Three missions logged on ASRC dispatch site. Many searches seem to be recovery focused recently.
- Updated Operational Guidance Manual promised by October Board of Directors Meeting.
- Conference Operations Calls will be conducted on 6/25, 9/17 and 12/17. Conference Operations Officer will send schedule and topics to all Group Operations Officers. Expect calls to be 1 – 1 ½ hours in length.
- Question from D. Ferguson: How should the conference begin to formalize remote support – formally operationalize remote support?
  - How do Groups request the service?
  - How does the conference provide access to skilled individuals?
  - Conf Ops O would like to discuss in further detail with Don Ferguson off-line. Initially, Groups can contact Don Ferguson or Michael Hansen for support.
  - Encouragement provided for others in each Group to become involved.

- Needs to be included in new Conference Operations documentation
- Don Ferguson and Michael Hansen to discuss further.

**Training** (Don Scelza, Chairman, currently serving as CTO while position is vacant)

- **Search Manager packages:** Since the previous BOD Meeting, two Search Manager application packages were submitted for Board consideration and approval.

**Dan Patterson (MARG)** submitted a package for SM-III; Scelza reviewed package, found the application meets the approved standards and recommends Board approval. Not currently on Search Manager roster; propose consecutively voting for SM-IV & SM-III.

A motion was made to accept Dan Patterson's promotion to SM-IV by Brian Maier (SAR-Ohio), seconded by Don Scelza (AMRG). 2 abstentions, no nays, all others in favor. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made to accept Dan Patterson's promotion to SM-III by Brian Maier (SAR-Ohio), seconded by Don Ferguson (MARG). 2 abstentions, no nays, all others in favor. **Motion passed.**

**Steve Weiss (SMRG)** submitted a package for SM-IV; Scelza reviewed package, found the application meets the approved standards and recommends Board approval.

A motion was made to accept Steve Weiss' promotion to SM-IV by Padraic Hughes (SMRG), seconded by Don Ferguson (MARG). No abstentions, no nays, all in favor. **Motion passed.**

**Tracking Standards** (Padraic Hughes, SMRG)

- Prior to the Board Meeting, Padraic disseminated Tracking standards documents adopted/published by Virginia that can be used broadly by many areas.
- Recommends ASRC come up with tracking standards (much like K9, etc.)
- Proposal going forward:
  - Review existing standards
  - See what ASRC wants to adopt and/or modify
  - Move forward with a new/modified version for ASRC
- Padraic happy to take a lead role on the project
- Discussion:
  - As a Search Manager, see the need for tracking standards and think there is a need for ASRC to move forward with developing/adopting standards.
  - AMRG just completed K9 trailing standards, Conover offered those standards to use as an example.

- Chair suggests a committee to start the process
- Chair asked Padraic to chair a committee to work with SARTI and ASRC Groups to develop standards, the roll into PTB process. Committee to also think about who can sign-off on PTB competencies for tracking.
- Virginia currently working on examiner/evaluator roles for tracking standards.
- End goal will be for ASRC to issue tracking certifications.
- Good for search community as a whole, as ASRC members can train independently and as a Group without having to join other external entities to serve as a Tracker during a search.
- Work on uniformity in credentialing
- Chair asked Padraic to keep him informed about progress.

### **VII. Good of the Order**

- Don Ferguson asked the ASRC to consider other types of specialties for credentialing (i.e. GIS Specialist). Can the ASRC have additional discussions about developing certifications for other specialties? Possibly something that does not have standards associated with it, but recognition of additional specialized skill sets.
  - Will need trusted source to assess skills
  - How do we encourage people to learn additional skills without having to go through Search Manager
  - Chair recommends Board think about proposal

### **VIII. Adjourn**

The Chair thanked all who participated in the meeting and the AGM weekend.

With no additional formal business noted, a motion to adjourn was made by Don Ferguson (MARG), seconded by Brian Maier (SAR-Ohio). No objections.

The meeting was adjourned at 1158.

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The foregoing minutes are reported to the best of my knowledge.

Beth A. Huhn, ASRC Secretary