



## ASRC BOD MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2020

Bears Den

1009 - 1315

### I. Call to Order

Called to order at 1009 by President Keith Conover.

### II. Participant Roll Call

Chair recognizes membership present, determined we have a quorum. Refer to attached roster of attendees.

### III. Approval of Minutes

By unanimous consent, the minutes from the previous ASRC BOD Meeting held October 5, 2019 as posted in the Archive (<http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-BOD-Membership-Minutes-etc/ASRC-BOD-Minutes-pdf>), were approved.

### IV. Officer Reports

#### a. Chair/Vice Chair: Keith Conover

**Discussion for 2020 AGM;** Tentative date is July 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. The recreation center will be under renovations during this time at New Germany State Park. An alternative location is Big Run State Park, which is close by. There are 25 campsites available @ \$10/night, picnic shelter with power, no potable water so we need to supply our own. Area large enough for simulation or testing. Bathroom facilities are also available at Monroe Run Shelter. Also, hotels or other offsite accommodations used in the past can still be utilized due to Big Run Park's close proximity to New Germany State Park. If something changes with the recreation center we will move back to that location but at this time Keith will reserve Big Run for the proposed weekend. Note if this weekend is not available due to other activities with some teams it is requested that the month of September & October be avoided as event alternatives.

**\*\*Unless something changes and we do move back to New Germany State Park Katy will not be cooking, you will need to supply your own food for the entire weekend.**

#### b. Dan Brizuela no report

c. **Secretary:** Kathy Yocum-Lamb, no report

d. **Treasurer:** Victoria Airey

- Refer to Treasurer Report attached for October 2019 – January 2020.
- Invoices were handed to teams for membership dues to be paid ASAP.
- The monies collected so far are very close to covering the food for this weekend.

e. **Credentialing Board Chair:** Steve Weiss

Version 8 PTB's

- Version 8 PTBs
- Field Level IIII – complete and ready to distribute
- Field Level III – nearly complete
- Field Level II – Preparing standards
- Field Level I – Preparing Standards

Working to get these up to the website ASAP. We are now operation under the new PTB's. Will give consideration of the old PTB's which may be grandfathered in for those who are ready to complete requirements for the respective level.

Discussion: publishing the PTB's outside the conference? PTB's developed by the ASRC could be taken by other organizations to be used in their own SAR organizations. By putting our standards, training guide & other supportive materials out we are providing a superstructure for other organizations to adapt as their own. Do we rather decide to use our PTB task book in-house use only? Does this make us potentially responsible for what they do or how they choose to use these and credentialing their groups/members? This basically is credentialing in our name but they are not actually part of the ASRC, do we want to set this up that allows them to do this? Point brought in that as publisher one cannot be held responsible or accountable and it will hold up in court if one choses to attempt. The thought is we should be in favor of posting all information as it is great advertising and show we are a high-quality organization. After much discussion about potential liability we decided members of the board (Keith, Steve with input from Keith's sister) will develop a disclaimer which will be added to the PTB's.

Clarification: Can an exam rep from other team do 100% of evaluation? Yes.

BOD input desired: converting from the Training Standards to PTB's places were found where standards crept into the PTB's. The credentialing board does not want to be involved in standards creating. Is board ok with how this is moving? Carl Wentz: yes, i.e., Training Standards say "demonstrate" – we want instead to reserve "demonstrate" for the credentialing board's testing. Want to change "to be able to demonstrate" in the Training Standards that the person is capable of performing the act, not "demonstrating" it. Keith: will do a search-and-change for the next draft of Version 8.1 of the training standards (this change will not be highlighted in yellow.) For example, they can navigate over the land, not that they can demonstrate it. Shift of language is necessary here and BOD consensus that we need to make this change.

**Conference Training (no report)**

f. **Conference Operations (no report)**

g. **Information Technology Officer: Mike Hansen (no report)**

h. **Other;** Chris Thompson (AMRG) has agreed to take over the ASRC Secretarial position, already working with Kathy to assure smooth transition, officially at the AGM BOD meeting if approved by the BOD.

## V. **New Business/Unfinished Business**

a. **Search Manager Recerts** Executive session convened to discuss each of the requests for SM recertification's.

### 1. **Review of paperwork received**

- Chris Ruch, SM I; no PTB's signed off, discussion occurred.
- D. Moore, SM II: all requirements completed, discussion occurred.
- C. Werntz, SM III; all requirements completed, discussion occurred.
- D. Patterson, SM III; all requirements completed, discussion occurred.
- D. Brasilia, SM IV; all requirements completed, discussion occurred.

### 2. **Vote on Recertification**

- CR: 2 abstentions, 9 yes, approved
- DM: 1 abstention, 10 yes, approved
- CW: 2 abstentions, 9 yes, approved
- DP: 1 abstention, 10 yes, approved
- DB: 2 abstentions, 9 yes, approved

b. **Training Standards**

c. Voting on version 8.1 will occur at the AGM BOD meeting. Review version 8.1 before the next meeting in the spring (April teleconference call). Any changes should be available 45 days before the spring meeting so as to allow time for consideration.

d. Levels 4, 3 & 2 are solid and stay as written with minor editing changes.

e. **Administrative Manual**

- **ASRC Governance Policy RE; Member Transfer Policy History**

A few days prior to the Retreat, the AMRG Board of Directors sent in a proposal for communication about member transfers between ASRC Groups. See <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-BOD-Membership-Minutes-etc/2020-01-19-AMRG-Member-Transfer-Proposal.pdf>. There was much discussion about the background for this proposal. Highlights:

Leadership of AMRG brought disciplinary action hearings against multiple AMRG members, these members eventually left the group and joined MARG. The transfer between teams occurred with these actions still pending. Due to internal issues between these two groups discussion regarding the transferring members never occurred which intensified the AMRG-MARG dissension. Demands and ultimatums crept into the issue as well. Those issues were never resolved within AMRG as those involved were no longer AMRG members.

There were also some concerns voiced by multiple AMRG members present that AMRG governance has been taken over by a small clique.

A call was made recently by AMRG's Commander to check the status of a member who was requesting transfer from their former team to AMRG and this was one of the prompts for this policy proposal. AMRG also had someone start training with the Group who had been ejected from other non-ASRC Groups and in training was found to not be appropriate for membership and the AMRG Board of Directors decided to not accept that person's application for membership.

Discussion centered around whether this should be a formal policy in the Admin Manual or a best practice for Groups. The consensus was that this proposal should be developed further as a best practice for Groups and not a governance issue for the Admin Manual at the ASRC level. The best practice should apply whether the "transfer" is between ASRC Groups or, for example, a member of a Mountain Rescue Association team from California who wants to "transfer" (join) an ASRC Group.

Consensus of those present is that it is in the best interest of all parties to request a reference of good standing, credentials as presented and performance review during their tenure with the transferring/sending group.

One issue we discussed, particularly as regards the members who left AMRG for MARG, is when a member has a personality conflict with the official who provides the member's reference to the receiving team they could give a poor report tying the member for eternity to that team even though the person would be a good addition to the receiving team; hard to tell but receiving team should do due diligence in seeking and receiving this information.

The consensus is that it is in the best interest of all Groups to adopt as a best practice: the group the member wants to join should reach out independently to the previous team to request information regarding credentials and performance within that group, and it is a best practice for ASRC Groups to respond to such requests appropriately. It is up to the receiving Group to make the ultimate decision to accept the requested transfer for that member.

There were some concerns about liability issues if a negative report is given to the receiving Group. Keith will be asking the AMRG BOD, particularly including Matt Benson whose day job is in HR, and AMRG's Janna Baker Rogers whose husband is a lawyer with HR experience, and in consultation with his lawyer sister, to create a new set of recommended best practices.

Vote on the following motion; accept the transfer policy as written and presented by AMRG. All in favor show by raising of hands; 0, all opposed 11, abstained 0. Keith will report this back to AMRG.

- **Mutual Aid Issue**

Concern with AMRG reportedly disallowing a member to join another ASRC Group, stating that there was no mutual aid agreement between the two Groups, though this may have been misunderstood. Regardless, we will place in the Operational Guidance Manual that the ASRC governing documents constitute a mutual agreement among the ASRC membership teams.

#### **f. Membership Request**

- Carl Solomon gave a presentation regarding his new team, Austere Medical Professionals (AMP) with their request to join the ASRC. MARG was identified as the sponsoring team. See the attached document: <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-BOD-Membership-Minutes-etc/2020-01-19-AMP-Flyer.pdf>. Carl also presented a list of members of AMP with their ASRC certifications; there was discussion related to this, as some of those listed had expired certifications or ones that were no longer valid as those listed were no longer ASRC members.
- Motion made (Ken 1<sup>st</sup>, Brian 2<sup>nd</sup>) to accept AMP as a probationary team.
- Discussion included
  - Overview of AMP's recent missions (standby missions for outdoor activities).
  - Members of ASRC Groups that AMP members had left voicing concern about AMP members' conduct.
  - Concerns by AMP's sponsoring Group (MARG) that they were not aware that a member of AMP had a lawyer's restraining letter against at least one member of MSAR.
  - Concerns related to the need for the services that this team is going to provide compared with current ASRC capabilities.
  - How accepting AMP as a probationary Group will affect the conference as a whole.
- One item of discussion was whether to reconsider this group as a Corps not as a Team requesting a probationary status with the ASRC; no resolution on this as do not have a formal proposal for this on the table.
- The first motion was to table this request for 3 months. Steve Weiss moved, Dan Brizuela (MARG) seconded. Vote was Aye 5, Nay 4, Abstain 2. Passed.
- After more informal discussion along the lines of the bullet points above, a motion was made and seconded to reconsider the motion to table the question for 3 months. Votes were Aye 10, Nay none, Abstain 1.
- Vote was there for taken on the original motion to give probationary ASRC Group status to AMP. The vote was Aye 0, Nay 9, Abstain 2. Motion denied and AMP was not be granted probationary status.

#### **g. Spring BOD Meeting**

- April 11<sup>th</sup> 10 am conference call.

#### **h. AGM**

- July 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> at Big Run State Park, MD

### **VI. Good of the Order**

### **VII. Adjourn @ 1315.**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 19, 2020

### ATTENDANCE

See also: <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-BOD-Membership-Minutes-etc/2020-01-19-ASRC-BOD-Signin.pdf>.

NAME	GROUP	
Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group 1. Keith Conover (Chair, rep) 2. Don Scelza (alternate rep)	AMRG	<b>1</b>
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (none)	BRMG	
Maryland Search and Rescue 1. Daniel Brizuela (V. Chair, rep) 2. Victoria Airey (treasurer) 3. Jocelyn King (rep)	MSAR	<b>3</b>
Mountaineer Area Rescue Group 1. Patty Lindsay (RSCOO) 2. Ken Chiacchia (rep) 3. Carl Werntz (rep)	MARG	<b>2</b>
Northwest Pennsylvania K9 Search & Rescue 1. Kathy Yocum-Lamb (Secretary, rep) 2. LuAnn Gatti (rep)	NWPAK9SAR	<b>2</b>
Search and Rescue Ohio 1. Brian Maier (rep)	SAR-OH	<b>1</b>
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group 1. Steve Weiss (Credentialing C./Alt rep) 2. Katy Hart (rep)	SMRG	<b>2</b>
Michael Hansen (non-voting BOD Member)		
Voting BOD members Present		<b>11</b>
Non voting		<b>2</b>