

704 Preston Road  
Erdenheim, Pa. 19118-1327  
July 14, 1991

Keith Conover, MD  
36 Robinhood Rd.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15220-3014

Dear Keith,

I received a copy of your letter to the ASRC Board dated June 15 on July 8. The enclosures, a set of training standards and a proposed Constitution and Bylaws for the Eastern/Appalachian Region of the MRA, were not dated or versioned. My article by article comments on the Bylaws are attached. There is no way to tell if the training standards you mailed are later than those handed out at the PSARC meeting on June 29 as information by Peter McCabe. I suggest you adopt some configuration management policies to avoid confusion.

Most disturbing was the statement in the cover letter that the Appalachian Search and Rescue Council (ASRC) had adopted a policy of no independent action by member groups regarding the MRA or any other group. Your summarizing this policy statement as indicating that any group (AMRG, SMRG, ESAR616) must have approval of the ASRC Board of Directors before taking any action that may be operational or have an operational impact creates a very disconcerting impression.

When the Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council was formed the basis of the association was educational and cooperative. Umbrella groups were not allowed to join but individual SAR groups were encouraged to join. Where there was extensive direction from a central authority, such as with the CAP or the Bureau of Parks, the organization was deemed to be one unit with its headquarters being the member. Where each affiliate was independent, with its own officers, policies, treasury, and standards the affiliate was encouraged to join. The initial presentation by AMRG and SMRG was that they were independent self governing organizations. Maryland MRG/ESAR616 was admitted on the same premise. IT APPEARS THAT THESE GROUPS MISREPRESENTED THEMSELVES or at the very least failed to inform the Board and members of PSARC when ASRC took away their independence of action. Further, this lack of forthcoming has caused significant divisiveness within PSARC where several votes at the last meeting might have gone the other way if this ASRC Board policy was known.

If the ASRC concept is to have one centrally directed organization Peter McCabe's constant references to himself as the ASRC representative rather than the ESAR 616 representative are true and he was elected under a false flag. Also, as this election was also a tie and it probably was decided by an ASRC group vote there is now doubt as to the election process itself. Fortunately, this is not a national government and the nation will not fall into chaos if the election was doubtful in its integrity.

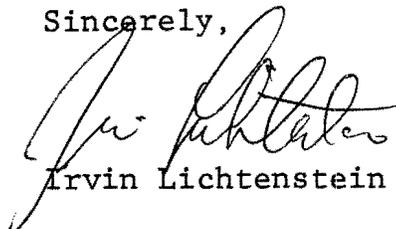
Keith Conover  
July 14, 1991  
Page 2

It is probable that this will be discussed at the Eastern Regional, at which time the nominees for the upcoming PSARC elections are to be announced and floor nominations accepted. I hope that the Secretary does publish the Nominating Committee's report before the the September meetings take place as the PSARC Bylaws require.

At the last statewide meeting, on June 29, the body by a vote of 4 in favor and 3 against, empowered the Communications Committee (Bruce Barton) to file for statewide licences and spend up to \$350. to do so. Under Part 90 of the FCC Rules, which neither Bruce or Peter seemed to understand, if PSARC obtains these licenses and then authorizes members to use them it can be in accordance with a contract, a contract that describes the actions to be performed by the authorized user for the licensee. ASRC affiliates cannot subscribe to such an agreement unless the ASRC Board also agrees according to your cover letter. If the ASRC is not a party to the contract ( and they would not be as the membership is currently by individual group) requiring their approval may be unlawful.

I suggest that this matter of the independence of ASRC affiliates be cleared up as soon as possible as the current state of PSARC hinges upon it.

Sincerely,



Irvin Lichtenstein

Comments of Proposed MRA Regional Bylaws Received July 8, 1991:

- I.2.5.F    The Secretary shall distribute the minutes of all meetings (Board, General, Executive Board, etc.) to the members by first class mail within 30 calendar days of adjournment or recess lasting more than 5 calendar days.
- II.2.2     "No power except" is a laundry list of meddling. Teams either adhere to the training standards and pass their certification or they fail and are suspended/ejected.
- II.2.8.a    second sentence is redundant with 2.8.c
- II.2.11    delete ASRC favoritism
- II.3.2     Why is the Secretary empowered to summarily "execute" a an affilliated team? Failure to provide due process for such a defamatory action and to provide for ratification of such actions by the region as a whole or the MRA as a whole will lead to legal action by any affilliate so dropped. The MRA will lose any such action taken in Pennsylvania based on current precedent.
- III.1.1    If teams are truely independent this article should be deleted.
- III.1.2    Violates Pennsylvania statutes concerning student records and probably the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 as ammended. Suggest this section be dropped.
- III.1.3    Providing a mailing address for each individual member of each affiliate may be reasonable if the Region is mailing direct to each member member. But who a member is is never explicitly defined in this document.
- IV.1.5     delete, I.2.5.f above
- IV.2.4     delete, I.2.5.f above
- IV.3       delete, ANY agreement between MRA and anybody to provide services makes everybody liable. This is an ASRC concept, not an MRA national policy and should not be incorporated in an interstate compact where some of the states do not have statewide search plans. Actually, only Virginia does in this area.
- IV.4.4     meddling again
- V.1        Establish dues by vote of the membership, delete rest of article
- V.2        These are the purposes of the association, national MRA Bylaws, article II cover this, delete section V.2, subsections v.2.3,V.2.4 could belong in I.2 of local/regional Bylaws.
- VI         This section is meaningless. Board can ammend Bylaws at any time by simple vote, probably legal only if the entire

Coments

Comments on Bylaws

July 14, 1991

Page 2

Board of Directors is at every meeting. I would suggest that a better definition of Board Member is needed and a better definition of member is needed.

General: This set of bylaws would make the ASRC proud, but then the ASRC Board instructed its members to sever all ties with the MRA and form a separate front region didn't they?

If an independent Mid-Atlantic Region is to be formed I suggest that the ASRC distance itself as far as possible from the new organization. PSARC would probably be able to tailor the MRA national standards to something testable in Pennsylvania and probably New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland or West Virginia where state standards do not yet exist. Let Virginia form a Tidewater region and use the Virginia state standards for regional standards.