

# Keith Conover, M.D., FACEP

55 Sigrid Drive

Carnegie, PA 15106-3062



(412) 276-1980 (H)  
kconover@pitt.edu  
www.conovers.org

September 2, 2015

Matthew Benson,  
Executive Director,  
Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group

Dear Mr. Benson:

*Fellowship Nomination*

I am writing to propose Donald A. Scelza for Fellow status under the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group Fellowship program.

Mr. Scelza has had a major impact on southwestern Pennsylvania and nearby regions, states and even other countries, in many different ways. His undergraduate degree from Carnegie-Mellon was in mathematics, and he helped found a local company that grew to Fortune 500 status and eventually was bought out by a large multinational corporation. But this, and obtaining a graduate degree in management, was not enough to keep him entertained.

He started as an EMT, and quickly became a paramedic, serving both in volunteer and paid positions, and even started his own EMS service in the North Hills. Along the way he became a team paramedic for a Urban Search and Rescue team. But given his interest in the outdoors, he became particularly interested in *wilderness* EMS. Not content with helping to teach Wilderness EMT courses in a variety of foreign countries, he started his own company that teaches wilderness first aid and wilderness EMS.

As far as AMRG and related organizations, he has served in leadership positions since soon after he joined in the mid-1990s. He served as President of the Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council for a number of years, and more recently as Chair and President of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, a position from which the membership has been increasingly and vocally reluctant to release him.

For all of these reasons, and others I have left out to keep this letter from going on for many pages, I strongly believe that Donald A. Scelza is richly deserving of being a Fellow of the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group.

Thank you.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Conover', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Keith Conover, M.D., FACEP

cc: AMRG BOD

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Nomination.docx