

Accompanying Note to Articles Amendment

“It was resolved that it be recorded that the Board had examined the proposed revised Articles of Incorporation and recommended that the membership accept and adopt the revision as being in the best interests of the ASRC”

This is a copy of the minute taken at the Board’s meeting on 10th January 2004.

Enclosed is copy of the new Articles which you will be asked to approve at the General Meeting on 27 March 2004. There is also a ‘working’ copy so that you can see the changes proposed more clearly. A clean copy is enclosed and there will be one at the meeting and one will be posted on the ASRC web page.

Changes. These are the main changes. There are some ‘tidying up’ changes and some spelling corrections.

Article II These changes reflect our changing times. They widen the role, and the area of the ASRC. There is no intention to remove the emphasis on mountain rescue but the ASRC already conducts evidence searches and who can tell where the pressure from Homeland Security could lead the organization.

Article III. Acknowledgement of the American Disability Act.

Article V. This makes it clear that discussions about, say, Workers Compensation would not constitute lobbying as defined by the IRS.

Article IX The Board feels that the intentions of the original categories of membership were never met. Therefore from now on there will be a simpler framework. In the new by-laws large groups will have the right to two voting members on the board and small, but certified as competent groups will have one voting member.

Article X. This would allow the Board to take on a voting member who may not be an active searcher. This would only be done with the general membership’s consent. For instance, a very wealthy philanthropist may make a financial offer, and have some past SAR experience of value but feels the need to be on the BOD to protect the investment. There are no such people on the horizon but this makes such an appointment possible. Remember it can only be done with the members consent. The Chair can already appoint an oversight board or such other board without voting rights.

The requirement for the Chair to report has been moved further into the document.

Quorates for meetings have been introduced to make it clear what is permissible.

Article XI. The use of email voting is introduced to speed up decision making. However, the safeguard of requiring 75% of ALL members (not just those responding) is mandated.

The current rules for membership postal votes are in practice impossible as 100% of all members are required to vote. One person on holiday - and the motion sinks!

PP