

Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference General Meeting April 2004

Briefing Notes on By-law Revision

Highlights

This has been a major revision of the by-laws. The main points can be summarized as follows:

Only three classes of group can be members of the ASRC. Probationary, Class A Certified, Class B Certified. This will not prevent links, agreements, exchange of letters etc with other groups such as dog handling groups but it means that to be inside the ASRC, with voting rights, a group has to meet the core training standards of the ASRC. Small groups get one vote on the Board, the larger groups get two.

All qualified members are to be known as Certified Members. They have full voting rights. Although not apparent in the by-laws, the intention is to allow non search members (such as 'full-time' Dispatch Officers) who play a full part within the ASRC to become Certified Members with a vote. This concept will be defined in the Training Standards and Admin Manual.

The status of Sustaining Member is redefined. It is a non dues paying non voting supporter of the Group or of the ASRC in general who may give aid in money or in kind.

The Board can ask the Membership to elect non search people to the Board if it is in the best interests of the ASRC.

Mention is made of the use of emails, web sites etc.

The GTO is no longer an agent of the Board. The effect is to give more freedom to Groups in their day to day running. The big check on standards is the 36 month review and thought will be given to any revision needed in this process.

Times for publishing notices, reports and minutes are tightened. This is the electronic age. More emphasis is put on groups maintaining an accurate roster. This is a major management tool.

Following an examination of liability issues, the by-laws reflect, and other manuals will cover in more detail, the fact that no Certified Group can ever act outside of the ASRC. A Group may stand down from operational status to attend a private function but it would still be part of the ASRC, covered by its insurance etc. Gone are the days of having to swap shirts because a group is not acting within the ASRC.

The forthcoming revisions of the Operations Manual will look at this issue in depth. The role of the ACA, group MOUs and operational control of the ASRC will need to be examined. It might lead to a revision of uniform requirements in that Group members will have their group insignia somewhere on their ASRC shirts.

Any specific questions or observations may be made to me at kernow01@att.net prior to the General Meeting

Peter Pennington
Secretary