

# **ASRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes**

January 14, 2024 0900 - 1200

Bears Den, Bluemont, VA

(link for remote participation distributed via email)

## **I. Call to Order: 09:07**

## **II. Participant Roll Call**

In Person:

- AMRG
  - Keith Conover, Rep
  - John Rogowski, Rep, Online
  - Don Scelza
- BRMRG
- MARG
  - Carl Werntz, Rep
  - Anne Russell, Rep
  - Ken Chiacchia
  - Nina Wolf, Online
- MSAR
  - Daniel Brizuela, Rep
  - Jocelyn King, Rep
  - Theodora Martin
- NWPAK9
  - LuAnn Gatti, Rep
  - Kathy Yocum-Lamb, Rep
- SAROhio
  - Brian Maier, Rep
- SMRG
  - Andrew R Hower, Rep
  - Seth McElligott, Rep
- RSC
  - Talon Bevan
  - Ben McCandless, Online
- ASRC
  - Gene Harrison
- Credentialing Board
  - Steve Weiss

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

No minutes to approve, will try to reach out to Olivia

## **IV. Officer Reports**

### **a. Chair/Vice-Chair**

- Need rosters no responses, asks groups to get the back soon.

## **b. Secretary**

- Motion: Nomination of Anne Russell for Secretary -Luann
- Second-Keith
- Pass: by verbal agreement, no nays or abstentions
- No rosters collected yet

## **b. Treasurer**

- Treasurers report sent out
- Still need past dues from a few groups
- Waiting on rosters to send out bill for this year
- See treasurer's report for details

## **c. Credentialing Board Chair**

- 8 certifications, mostly at Field III
- Another group joined credentialing MSAR
- 52 certs issues over the last 5 years
- 53 written tests this year
- Discussion of the level of burden of the credentialing process
- Credentialing Board offers to help groups with internally developed PTBs

## **d. Conference Training Officer**

- SM votes later
- Working to update SM certifications, discussion of burden of SM recerts, particularly AHJ signoffs
- Lack of PSO course, CTO asks for any SM certs groups have or know of
- Discussion of standards updating first, and the lack of SM mentorship currently

## **e. Conference Operations Officer**

- 2 or 3 teams reached out for help from other ASRC teams.
- Need contact information for each group, suggestion of having a contact for immediate and non-immediate callouts.

## **f. Communications Officer**

- Grant fully deployed; all equipment has been delivered to teams except BMRG.
- Willing to share comms talk to groups to help with training.
- Plan to make a communions group to communicate with groups comms people throughout the conference, reach out to Carl if interested
- Want to facilitate local updates to com plug.

## **g. Information Technology Officer**

## **h. Others**

## **i. Group Updates**

- AMRG: Lot of new members, last month 4-5 new prospective members voted, same again this month. Issues with attrition of experienced members, but getting better. MRA reaccreditation in March. Setting up standards and checklist of skills they are using for MRA recertification. Very high call volume, multiple missing kids in the same weekend. Thinking about fatigue in members with response. Top tier of response individuals gets their membership fees waived. Training with Racoon State Park staff coming up.
- BRMRG: Not present.

- MARG: A few callouts probably around 15, new sign-in method. PTB mill has been switched on, base PTBs, canine PTB, etc. About 70 members, a lot of different specialty groups being developed within MARG right now.
- MSAR: Shut down their EMS program, no longer an EMS agency in MD. Pipeline for new members on pause due to leadership challenge. New board incoming soon, then will re-start intake. 17 callouts and 5 standdowns. AHJs are starting to call earlier even if on standby. Getting called as ground resources vs called as flankers.
- NWPAK9: 19 callouts for the year, getting called quicker. Had 3 searches on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday last weekend. 1 new member in 2023/2024, but had several members leave, planning to be a rebuilding year.
- SAROhio: 2 callouts in the last 6 months. Too many SAR teams in Ohio, and not enough callouts. Very dog centric, often called to be flankers, particularly for Midwest k9 and buckeye. Last board meeting for Brian. He stepped down as CEO, will remain on board to oversee. Will send out contact information on new leadership in SAROhio.
- SMRG: A ton of callouts, last quarter 11 alerts, 4 responses. Inundated with calls, switched to a new response system. Switched to IAR, which has helped with communication amongst members. Working as a group to establish FirstNet services within group. Deployed Star link at searches recently. Unique consideration for where to position base. VDEM does their own blood pathogen program. Holiday party is 1/19, AGM to follow after. Changes in leadership anticipated including GTO. Working to develop succession plan for bringing in new leadership. Have awards to recognize achievements to encourage people to stay.
- RSC: Just had election, have new officers pending approval by the board. Planning annual virtual training event, last weekend of march. New committee for recruiting and onboarding. Had a few callouts this year. Working on a pre-plan for one the members in Iowa. They are happy to provide a services to other ASRC teams. Please call us out for your local missions.

## **V. New & Unfinished Business**

### **a. Approval of 2024 RSC Officers**

- Talon Bevan Executive Officer, Nina Wolf Operations Officer, Ben McCandless Training officer
- Keith-moved, Carl second, verbal approval, no nays or abstentions

### **b. SM Certifications**

- Nina Wolf, SM IV Initial:
- Carl Wertz, SM III Recert: Carl abstention
- Doug Moore, SM II Recert/Extension:
- Motion to accept as slate, Keith, second Jocelyn
  - LuAnn friendly amendment to vote separately.
- All pass with no abstentions or nays, excluding Carl's abstention.

### **c. The Emergency Communications Trust MOU**

#### **Background:**

The ASRC created a precedent for the whole region, following the original frequency that MRA got for its teams. The ASRC frequencies became the defacto SAR frequencies. The radio license for ASRC allowed all ASRC teams to use them. This helped other teams, even non ASRC teams that we cooperated with and created regional interoperability.

- Created by Gene Harrison as a way to keep more frequencies more available for public service organization
- MOU to share licenses both ways within FCC rules
- We gain license for aviation bands, which we let ours expire.
- Gain UHF frequencies, helpful for urban searches.
- ASRC licenses need renewed soon
- Discussion of line of succession, and other teams using it.
- Carl-motion to sign it, Keith-second
  - Pass, Jocelyn Abstain, Kathy and Brian absent

**d. Publications Committee voting member**

- Need another board member to serve on publications committee
- Shawn offered to join

**e. Proposed updates to Admin Manual**

- Allow fellows to be included in uniform section of the admin manual
- Keith-motion
- Shawn-second
- Pass, all Aye, Brian Absent

**Admin Manual**

- Discussion of enforcement mechanism for teams that don't follow the admin manual or pay dues
- MRA Patch discussion, Dan appointed Steve Weiss to investigate issue. All discussion limited at this meeting.

**VI. Good of the Order**

- Andrew Hower and Keith to write up what our current communications plan is (non-radio communications). Going to write up what is working or not working. Document how the tools are being used. Andrew Kapalado is willing to help with implementation.
- Steve Weiss requests CIO
- Talon Bevan and Seth Andrews interested in helping with IT

**50<sup>th</sup> Party**

- Officially incorporated in 1975 not 1974, discussion of changing date for 50<sup>th</sup> party.
- LuAnn and others checked out Shenandoah university student union as a possible location. Holds up to 300, 200 comfortably. Per Day \$805, breakout rooms \$100 per room per day. Staffing day for setup \$15 per hour for pre set up. Dining separate through sudexo, setup included. Fairly flexible with space, especially when students aren't there. Discussion of anti-discrimination clause.
- Need to set month and year of party to allow people to attend.
- Discussion of appropriate pricing for event.

Motion Carl, Keith Second: Up to \$3000 budget beyond income create a committee, selected with members by president to plan a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party. Come back to board with proposal.

Pass, all ayes, no abstentions, no nays

**Alternate sites/hosts:**

- EMI, Emmetsburg
- Federal Search and Rescue Council—if we can identify location, FSARC could host meeting with it.

**Next year's retreat:**

- MLK weekend bears den
- Discussion of AGM: standardization of weekend for AGM and retreat so it's the same every year and individuals can plan.
- For AGM, Camp Mountaineer happy to have back after summer camp

**VII. Adjourn 12:09, motion LuAnn, second-Keith**