



BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR REPORT

13 January 2019, ASRC Retreat Meeting

[see below for update from 12 January ASRC Retreat session on individual membership]

The following was shared with the ASRC BOD 12 November 2018 with a request for review and suggested amendments and there was no response. I have updated this right before the BOD meeting based on the session on individual membership Saturday at the Retreat; unlike the educational sessions, the individual membership discussion session was not recorded, to encourage people to speak freely.

David A. Carter, known to all as Dave Carter, was one of the ASRC members-at-large whose membership position was eliminated. He contacted Keith Conover in November 2018, asking why he hadn't received a bill for his membership. Apparently he was never informed that his membership was eliminated.

This prompted a discussion of whether to institute ASRC-level sustaining membership and to offer this to Dave. During this discussion, Chair Keith Conover, realizing the depth and breadth of Dave's contributions over the years, decided to nominate Dave for ASRC Fellowship, which neatly sidestepped the issue as far as Dave's membership.

However, the discussion resulted in a consensus of the Board of Directors as far as ASRC-level Sustaining Membership, which is permitted but not required by Article II, Section 5 of the 1/17 Bylaws, which state:

5.0 Other Membership types

5.1 Other Membership types may be offered by Certified Groups or by the ASRC to those organizations and individuals who wish to contribute monetary, material or moral support to the ASRC or to one of the Groups.

5.2 These types of members shall have no voting rights in the ASRC.

By its nature, the ASRC is more selective of who can call themselves ASRC members and represent the ASRC to others than, say, a public radio station. Therefore, the Board felt that it was inappropriate to offer Sustaining Membership, even to past members, for simply paying dues.

[addendum after the 12 January Retreat session on individual membership]

The case of individual active ASRC membership (not Active in the sense of the Bylaws but active in the sense of participation in training and search and rescue activities) is not so easily disposed of. Do we want full-fledged, field-responding individual membership?

Trying to read the room, although always a bit chancy, the discussion at the Retreat acknowledged comments that were sent in by those strongly opposed to individual membership, but also some were strongly in favor of individual membership; there was no consensus, but there was also no move towards implementing individual membership at this time.

When I said that, there seemed to be a consensus that ASRC members, at least at this point, had to be members of a Group or a Corps, there was no objection.

I must provide a caveat that Brian from SAR-Ohio, who is giving the talk about individual membership at the Retreat, has said in informal discussions that he thinks that maybe individual membership might work for things like a dog-handler team who act as a single resource.

One set of discussion points about ASRC membership is worth putting down for posterity. According to our governing documents, ASRC members are selected by the ASRC Board of Directors. Traditionally, a Group Training Officer appointed by each Group acts as the executive agent of the Board of Directors in granting ASRC membership to those who apply to become members.

When people want to join the ASRC, the Group determines who becomes a Certified member and thus can vote in ASRC elections at the ASRC General Membership Meeting. Since most of our members go down the track of becoming credentialed as CQ and then up the ladder to FTM and maybe FTL and beyond, the membership process for that track (as opposed to a Group sustaining member) generally involves the following steps, not necessarily in sequential order:

- Vote by Group membership to assure the applicant doesn't "have two heads" (is a reasonable human being)
- Background check
- Pack check
- Online CQ/Field IV test

Note that the "check for two heads" might be an issue with individual membership: who checks for this?

There were two other somewhat-related issues brought up during the session:

- Do we want to do ASRC credentialing for people who aren't members?
- Do we want some sort auxiliary membership?

There was no consensus on these issues.