



ASRC CHAIR REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP

3 October 2020

Article XI, Section B of the ASRC Articles of Incorporation states:

At each Membership meeting, the Chair of the Board shall report to the Membership all principal actions taken by the Board since the last Membership meeting. This report may be in written form.

This bullet point list lists the main actions taken by the Board of Directors since the last ASRC General

Membership Meeting, and for good measure a listing of the BOD actions since the ASRC General Membership Meeting prior to that, in reverse chronological order (most recent first). Sections that might have an ongoing effect on ASRC members and officers are **in bold**.

Detailed minutes of the BOD meetings are available at:

<http://archive.asrc.net/#IDASRC-Admin-ASRC-BOD-Membership-Minutes-etc->

ASRC BOD and Credentialing Board Actions 2019-2020

- Over the past two years, the ASRC Credentialing Board:
 - During the past year, the ASRC Credentialing Board has awarded one Level I certification and seven Level III certifications.
 - We have shifted our identification of member-certifications following Credentialing Board guidance:
 - FTL > Field Level I
 - FTM > Field Level II (unless a GTO has reservations about this slight increase in expected performance)
 - CQ > Field Level IV
 - We now have PTBs (Position Task Books; “checkoffs”) for each field level.
 - We also have written tests for each level, administered through an on-line service.
 - We have created field assessment tests (“practical tests”) for Field Levels I, II, III.
- ASRC officers have received enquiries about membership from four teams, none of whom had submitted a formal application yet:
 - **Elkland SAR**, north-central PA
 - A new team forming at **Virginia Military Institute** in Lexington, VA, working closely with Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
 - **East Penn SAR**, in the Pocono Mountains of eastern Pennsylvania
 - A new team forming in the area just south of Richmond, Virginia: **Dinwiddie SAR**.
- The Board of Directors appointed **Ken Chiacchia (MARG) as the chair of the new Training Committee**, separate from the Conference Training Officer, which remains with John Rogowski (AMRG). The Training Committee is primarily working on the next version of the Training Standards (likely numbered 8.2 if just updates to the Field standards, or 9.0 if updates to the Search Manager sections as well).
- After lots of work by Michael Hansen (MSAR) with help from many others, the BOD approved a new version of the **Operational Guidance Manual**, at:
<http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Operations/ASRC-Operations-Manual/2020-07-18-ASRC-Operational-Guidance-Manual.1.3.pdf>
- After lots of work by John Rogowski (AMRG), Carl Wertz (MARG), Keith Conover (AMRG) and many others, the BOD approved an incremental but significant update to the **Training Standards**, at:
<http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Training/ASRC-Training-Guide-Standards/2020-07-18-ASRC-Training-Standards-8.1.pdf>
- The publications committee undertook a project, headed by Michael Hansen, to prepare a **Covid-19 One-Pager** (Michael Hansen) that has been approved and is linked on the website.
<http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Training/One-Pagers/2020-06-00-SAR-Operations-during-Disease-Outbreaks.pdf>
- Due to the Covid-19 virus situation, the ASRC Credentialing Board **extended all Field certifications due by the end of 2020 by a**

year. The Credentialing Board has also completed PTBs (Position Task Books, “checkoffs”) for all the Field Levels, IV, III, II and I, as well as the written tests for all these levels.

- Search Manager (SM) certifications are currently under the purview of the ASRC BOD and not the Credentialing Board. Due to Covid-19, **SM certifications due for recertification December 2020 will be extended until January 2022** (review and voting will take place at the retreat January of 2022).
- Thanks to Dan Brizuela (MSAR) and Ken Chiacchia (MARG), approved a **new version of the ASRC Branding Guide** with a **new section on intellectual property, regarding copyright and Creative Commons licenses**, at: <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-Branding/2020-04-11-ASRC-Branding-Guide-1.3.pdf>
- Approved **version 5.5 of the Admin Manual**, which includes **changing the requirement to be a Group Training Officer from Field I (old FTL) to Field II (old FTM)**, (although it still needs to be changed in the Bylaws at a Membership Meeting) and added a section on the **Search Manager Cadre and the new role of Search Manager Cadre Leader**, at: <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-Admin-Manual/2020-04-11-ASRC-Admin-Manual-5.5.pdf>
- Reviewed a Group membership application from **Austere Medical Professionals**, and after discussion as noted in the January 2020 Board of Directors minutes at <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-BOD-Membership-Minutes-etc/2020-01-19-ASRC-BOD-Minutes.pdf>, voted unanimously to not accept their application.
- Passed the following policy for the use of the Remote Support Corps, reflected in the subsequent update to the *Operational Guidance Manual*: <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Operations/ASRC-Operations-Manual/2020-07-18-ASRC-Operational-Guidance-Manual.1.3.pdf>:
 - **Any ASRC Group may request Remote Support, even if responding outside of “our” states.**
 - **Any AHJ in “our” states may request Remote Support.**
 - **Any ASRC Remote Corps member, if deployed with a non-ASRC Group, may request Remote Support, even if not in one of “our” states.**
- Updated the *Admin Manual* to require all Groups to have members sign the **new Release** and store at the Group level, as found in the current version 5.5 at:

<http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-Admin-Manual/2020-04-11-ASRC-Admin-Manual-5.5.pdf>

- After years of hard work by many people, especially John Rogowski (AMRG), Carl Werntz (MARG), and Steve Weiss, passed a **major update to the Field portions of the ASRC Training Standards, changing from CQ and FTM and FTL to Field IV (old CQ), Field III (first part of old FTM), Field II (second part of old FTM) and Field I (old FTL)**. This included not only restructuring but many, many changes to update and refine the standards, “right-sizing” them. This was version 8.0, which now has been superseded by the incremental update at: <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Training/ASRC-Training-Guide-Standards/2020-07-18-ASRC-Training-Standards-8.1.pdf>
- After months of hard work by the ASRC Publications Committee, the ASRC Board of Directors, approved the **ASRC Training Guide 1.0** and placed it under the purview of the ASRC Publications committee for all future revisions. We expect the training curricula in the Training Guide to evolve and to feed back into changes in the *Training Standards*, and for changes in the Training Standards to drive changes in the *Training Guide*. The *Training Guide* also includes an overview of the ASRC’s training and credentialing systems, which is currently actively being worked on and revised. The Training Guide 1.0 is at: <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Training/ASRC-Training-Guide-Standards/2019-10-05-ASRC-Training-Guide-1.0.pdf> and a draft of version 1.1 is posted for comment at: ###
- Approved the following changes to the Admin Manual:
 - Allow retired physicians to be Medical Advisory Committee members.
 - Electronic Voting: minor changes
 - Insurance: Discussed some of the questions raised at the last BOD meeting, the Admin Manual draft now has a section for the management of the Application and Release, requiring it for all on the rosters sent to the Secretary, and making the Training Release recommended but not required.
 - If team members signed the original release they are grandfathered. Keith added this to the release form.
- Information Technology Officer Michael Hansen (MSAR) and Deputy Information Technology Officer Don Scelza (AMRG/MARG) are actively working to consolidate our mix of DropBox, Google, and the like, and **move our IT infrastructure to Microsoft**. The only exception is the website which will remain in WordPress.

ASRC BOD and Credentialing Board Actions 2018-2019

- Established that ASRC members who are **members of more than one ASRC Group/Corps must indicate which is their primary Group/Corps.**
 - This affects ASRC dues: **members of multiple Groups/Corps only pay (have their Group or Corps pay) ASRC dues once**, through the primary Group/Corps
 - As far as the Credentialing Board and practical exams required to have participation of evaluators from outside the member's Group:
 - As far as the Credentialing Board's requirement that there be evaluators not from the candidate's Group: **an evaluator or member is "from" his or her Primary Group**
 - **Members cannot flip back and forth as far as Primary Group to use an evaluator as an "outside" evaluator**
 - **Group rosters must indicate joint members, and which Group/Corps is primary**
- The Credentialing Board authorized a \$50 yearly budget for expenses.
- Don Scelza, Steve Weiss, Dave Carter, Michael Hansen and Gene Harrison elected as ASRC Fellows (3/31/2019).
- Role of BOD Delegates/Representatives/Reps (1/13/19):
 - The BOD confirmed that **Groups may appoint alternates for their ASRC BOD representatives, and whatever method by which the Group chooses an alternate is acceptable.**
 - While Groups may elect standing alternates, it is more common for **an ASRC BOD delegate or Group officer to appoint an alternate on an as-needed basis. A text or email to the Secretary by one of the Group's BOD is acceptable as notification of the alternate's name.**
 - The BOD also confirmed that **BOD representatives are expected to participate in discussion of issues at the BOD meeting and vote their conscience**, as they may be persuaded by discussion and changes in motions to vote differently than their first inclinations or recommendations from their Groups; this is an essential component of any representative democracy, as not all arguments can be considered prior to an in-person Board of Directors meeting. While they need to keep the recommendations of their Group in mind, they are not solely expected to represent the views of the Group but also have a responsibility to consider the welfare of the ASRC as a whole. As with any representative democracy, if a Group is dissatisfied with an ASRC BOD representative's performance, then the Group may replace that representative.
- Updated the ASRC Admin Manual to 5.2
 - **Changes in the insurance portions**, in response to a request from the AMRG Board of Directors.
 - Changes to support the new Remote Support Corps (RSC)
- **Approved the new Remote Support Corps (RSC) Charter**, with Patty Lindsay as the first Remote Support Operations Officer (head of the RSC). The Charter is at: <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-Remote-Support-Corps/2019-01-29-ASRC-Remote-Support-Corps-Charter.pdf>
- **Determined that RSC members must pay annual ASRC dues, but will only pay dues once, through their primary Group or Corps.**
- There was a discussion of individual membership during the Retreat by Brian Maier, addressing several comments sent in by email prior to the Retreat. However, there were no motions proposed as far as individual or sustaining membership at the ASRC level. Therefore, **individual membership in the ASRC does not currently exist and there was no request to put it on the agenda for a future Board of Directors meeting.**
- **Established the new Publications Committee**
 - Publications Committee **responsible for the content of those things we put out there for others to consume that have a Creative Commons license, except for our governing documents.**
 - Examples include *Essentials for Search and Rescue* and the One-Pagers.
 - The decisions of the Publications Committee to publish or revise are official but may be reviewed or revoked by the Board of Directors. One of our

goals with this is to foster innovations in training and credentialing.

- The Publications Committee may have an unlimited number of members, appointed by the Committee Chair who is appointed by the ASRC Chair, but only three have a vote (small number to speed decisions, odd number to prevent

ties). These are the Committee Chair and two other members of the ASRC Board of Directors, not from the same Group. Non-voting Ex-Officio Members: Conference Training Officer, Risk Management Officer, Credentialing Board Chair, Information Technology Officer.