



## 2020 ASRC Annual General Meeting Summary

The ASRC AGM was held virtually on October 3, 2020, starting at 0905 hrs.

*Chair's Remarks (Keith Conover, with builds from Gene Harrison and Steven Weiss) included comments related to:*

- some events that led to the founding of the ASRC in the early 1970's (For more information related to the founding of the Conference, see <http://archive.asrc.net/2016-11-04-ASRC-Early-History-draft-0.4.pdf>)
- the cohesive nature of teams and members across the Conference, particularly as compared to other organizations like MRA, NASAR
- founding members built on experiences from MRA and Cave Rescue Communications Network (CRCN, forerunner of the NCRC=National Cave Rescue Commission)
- the recognition of ASRC's experience and expertise in leading the very largest searches in our response areas
- the development and implementation of training standards
- the recent development and implementation of team-independent third-party credentialing of members
- a review of the new field credentialed levels (Field IV to I)
- the recognition of individuals within the Conference who have achieved world-class excellence, including:
  - Victoria Airey in cave rescue
  - Ken Chiacchia in the interface of search theory and practice
  - Lee Fuell in leadership and rigging/technical rescue
  - Gene Harrison in vertical rope techniques, communications, and cave rescue
  - Heather Houlahan in canine search
  - Bob Koester lost person behavior and search management
  - Patty Lindsay in applying her IT expertise to remote support for searches
  - Bru Randall in cave rescue
  - Chris Ruch in technical and mountain rescue
  - Don Scelza in search management
  - Steve Weiss in knot topology, search management and the Incident Command System
  - Carl Werntz in radio communications and public health/risk management for SAR
  - Andrew Hower – Deputy Chief of NPS for Emergency Services, cave rescue
- Outstanding mentors, including:
  - Dan Patterson of MARG mentors in a host of field techniques including teaching technically complex rigging, knots, navigation, map reading and survival skills
  - Rebecca Hosetter
  - John Rogowski of AMRG mentors the entire gamut of SAR skills, leveraging his expertise as a firefighter and paramedic
  - Matt Benson and Chris Ruch of AMRG mentor the entire gamut of SAR skills including high-angle rescue and winter snow and ice rescue
  - Greg Wavle – 2020 ASRC Outstanding Achievement Award
  - LuAnn Gatti – multiple contributions to ASRC social events and Credentialing Board

*Outstanding Achievement Award*

Gregg Wavle (MSAR) was recognized with the Outstanding Achievement Award from the ASRC. He has been a valued member of Maryland Search & Rescue for over 9 years and during his tenure he became a Field Team Leader. In addition, he currently is chair of the MSAR board as well as being active on various workgroups, including the grants workgroup and governance workgroup. Gregg became the board chair during a difficult time for MSAR but with a calming leadership and a lot of hard work, the team is now heading in the right direction.

### *Years of Service Awards*

#### **20 years**

Michelle Myers	ARMG
Chris Ruch	AMRG
Carl Solomon	MARG

#### **10 years**

John Rogowski	AMRG
Bill Rose	MARG
Brian Maier	SAROH
Robert Gettleman	BRMRG

#### **5 years**

David Barton	AMRG
Mellow (Canine: Lucy Klimko)	AMRG
Allison Hetrick	MARG
Mary Jo Hull	MARG
Mark McRobbie	MARG
Alisa Cummins	MSAR
Kyle Rhoderick	MSAR
Phil Smithhisler	MSAR
Jeff Stallard	SAROH
John Shaw	SAROH
Mary Hall	BRMRG
Ray Hall	BRMRG
Kevin Seitter	BRMRG

### *Servant Leadership*

Chair Conover noted that many who serve in ASRC positions do so as “servant leaders”: Servant leadership is the idea that leaders *serve the needs of their subordinates*. For more about it, see <http://www.conovers.org/ftp/AppSAR/AppSAR-4-Leadership.pdf>.

Two individuals were recognized for exemplifying servant leadership over the past several years:

- Victoria Airey, ASRC Treasurer
- Kathy Lamb, ASRC secretary

### *Democracy*

Pulitzer Prize Winner Anne Applebaum’s summer 2020 book, *Twilight of Democracy: The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism* was recommended. Here is a quote from her book directly applicable to the ASRC: *Democracy itself has always been loud and raucous, but when its rules are followed, it eventually creates consensus.*

Lastly, the Chair's report to the membership can be found at <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-BOD-Membership-Minutes-etc/2020-10-03-ASRC-Chair-Report.pdf>

### *Changes to ASRC's Bylaws*

Several administrative changes to the Bylaws were developed by the Board of Directors during the 2019 Retreat and the April 2020 BoD meeting and widely circulated within the Membership for awareness and comment. In anticipation of a motion of acceptance of changes from the Membership and subsequent at-large vote, proxy votes were solicited and collected in accordance with ASRC Administrative Manual (section II.A.3). Carol Pasquerell (AMRG) made the motion to vote on proposed changes; Andrew Hower (SMRG) seconded the motion. No substantive discussion followed.

From team rosters, the ASRC has 303 voting members. Either physically present on the call or by proxy, there were 139 members represented and thus constituting a quorum of the membership. A roll call vote was held; 137 votes were cast in favor of accepting the Bylaw's changes with 2 members abstaining. The changes were accepted and can be found at: <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-Articles-and-Bylaws/2020-10-03-ASRC-Bylaws.pdf>

### *Other business from the Membership:*

Steven Weiss made the following motion: Whereas Keith Conover has shown exemplary leadership within the ASRC for many years and noting how hard is push the ASRC to greater operational capability and the board to improve our policies especially the training standards even if often to challenging governance moments when digesting political turbulence, we recognize that he has left the ASRC and the ASRC board stronger than ever. Therefore, the ASRC membership recognizes this exemplary service since his founding of the ASRC and especially thanks him for his four years of service as ASRC chair.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

### *Technical Program*

Several technical presentations were made by members of the Conference. The program can be found at <http://archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Admin/ASRC-BOD-Membership-Minutes-etc/2020-10-03-AGM-Program.pdf>