



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

27 October 2022

Virtual at Meeting Link

I. Call to Order.

Called to order at 1903 hrs. by Dan Brizuela.

II. Participants.

Voting members in **bold**.

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG)	Keith Conover Mike Griffin
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG)	Deborah Rutter
Maryland Search and Rescue (MSAR)	Dan Brizuela Jocelyn King Adam Berlier
Mountaineer Area Rescue Group (MARG)	Carl Wertz Anne Russell
Northwest Pennsylvania K9 Search and Rescue (NWPAK9SAR)	LuAnn Gatti Oliva Wojcicehowski
Remote Support Corps (RSC)	Ben McCandless
Search and Rescue -Ohio (SAROH)	Brian Maier Eric Sanderson Stephen Mcclanahan
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG)	Steve Weiss

III. Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the Minutes of the July 17 2022 will be pushed back until the January 15 2023 Board of Directors meeting.

IV. Officer Reports

a. Chair/Vice-Chair (Dan Brizuela/LuAnn Gatti)

Dan Brizuela (Chair) reports that there have been interesting Open Working Group bi-monthly online meetings taking place this quarter. They have included discussing insurance, a meeting directory, as well as various other engaging topics.

LuAnn Gatti (Vice-Chair) reports that the 2023 Winter Retreat registration has been sent out, and reminds representatives to share this information with their teams. We are in need of talking points and presentations for the weekend. She is working with Katie on food and activities.

b. Secretary (Olivia Wojcicehowski)

Nothing to report.

c. Treasurer (Victoria Avery)

Nothing to report.

d. Credentialing Board Chair (Steve Weiss)

We plan to adopt a recertification policy consistent with the following principles and distribute associated Position Task Books to administer this recertification policy.

- Primary administration via GTO: In looking at other recertification regimes in SAR, and considering that we do not observe a widespread problem with unqualified members recertifying, the Credentialing Board plans to play a somewhat limited role in recertification. We will publish requirements via policy and PTBs and leave primary evaluation and oversight of PTB completion with the GTOs. The system will allow us to observe whether we need to update our policies and install greater oversight.
- A mix of service/experience: Achieved through mission service and training, but flexibly so. The policies will require at least 3 instances of mission service, 2 of which may be full-scale exercises; and 5 instances of mission or training service, which collectively cover 4 different domains in the standards (e.g., Land Navigation, Comms, Rescue, Leadership, etc.). In other words, a training-centric completion could include one mission, two FSEs, and 5 training events which collectively span 4 training domains. A mission-centric completion would entail 8 missions, with the GTO further able to affirm that these missions included experience across 4 training domains. More typically a recertification candidate would have a mix—and probably be well over the required minimums.
- Demonstration of a certification skill: Within one of four chosen domains in the standards, the candidate will be evaluated for demonstrated performance consistent with the manner in which the skill was demonstrated for certification.
- Administration through the Credentialing Board: The PTBs will provide for Credentialing Board oversight of recertification through administrative review of the completed recertification PTBs and issuance of updated credentials.
- Grace Period: Submission of a recertification PTB within six months of expiration of the original certification will be accepted by the Credentialing Board. GTOs may petition for extensions under extraordinary circumstances.

- Grandfathering: Recertification PTBs will be accepted for current certifications from adoption of recertification policies through 18 months hence, to recover the backlog of recertifications, certification extensions, etc., that have occurred due to adoption of new certification systems and the pandemic.

Summary of statistics for members attaining certification through the ASRC Certification Process:

Group	Total	Unique Candidates
MARG	16	12
SAROH	11	9
NWPAK9SAR	10	8
SMRG	2	2
Field Level	Total	
Field III	27	
Field II	9	
Field I	2	
Certification Year	Total	
2018	1	
2020	8	
2021	17	
2022	13	

e. Conference Training Officer (Ken Chiacchia)

Ken was not present but provided an overview of main points. We need to step up our efforts to restart the recertification of our existing members. A small packet of Search Manager recertifications has been put together. The board may feel it necessary to recognize a Search Manager Task that would have counted for recertification from 2020 through present, and allowing for a grace period. Additionally, final revisions are being made to the WFA curriculum.

A motion is made by Carl Werntz to approve the packet of Search Manager recertifications from 2020-present. LuAnn Gatti seconds this. Approved unanimously.

f. Information Technology Officer (Michael Hansen)

Michael Hansen is not present, but would like to pass along that he is looking to reconvene the ASRC 50th Anniversary committee mid-November.

g. Group Updates

MSAR (Jocelyn King): MSAR has opened up applications to potential new members. The designed application process takes approximately three months. The vetting process allows for the applicants to weed themselves out. The team is intent to bring on ten new people by this coming January. MSAR has had a deployment to Shenandoah National Park under the SMRG umbrella, which is a positive example of the ASRC teams working together.

AMRG (Mike Griffin): The team is working with Stat Med doing outreach around the state. They are also working with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and participated in an annual event with them demonstrating search techniques. The feedback received was positive, and the commission found the training to be helpful. AMRG also participated in cave rescue training at Sarah Furnace Cave in Clarion County. Additionally, Wilderness EMS Day went well, with a mock search taking place at the end. There were approximately forty people involved this year.

MARG (Carl Werntz): MARG has formalized an association with their local EMS agency. This has been approved by the county commission. Last summer, they had 3 joint extractions which prompted this relationship. They have also secured a grant for \$14,000 to purchase rescue equipment.

NWPAK9SAR (LuAnn Gatti): NWPAK9SAR reports that one person might join this quarter. Last quarter. They also had their annual golf tournament, netting a profit of \$8,000. The team is looking to expand to an 18 hole course for next year. They hosted a k9 trailing seminar in September, with all four of their trailing dogs and handlers all certifying through Ipwda. The team has experienced a lot of despondent calls this past quarter. It has been difficult for team members from a mental health standpoint. Lost person behavior has been very accurate in search strategy for these callouts.. The team is in the process of working with three community foundations for a grant to update GPS units for their command vehicle. It has been nice to see community foundations looking to support the team.

SAROH (Eric Sanderson): While SAROH did not have anyone ready to certify at the AGM, they have now had 16 team members certified this past quarter. The team wants to thank LuAnn Gatti for her help with certifications. The team also reached out to EMA Directors in Ohio. They were given 30 minutes to present to eight EMA Directors, over an hour, which went well. SAROH also reached out to the State Fire Marshall and had a 30 minute meeting with him and his deputy. It was a very productive meeting. They will continue to network and spread the word about their team. From these endeavors, they were able to garner information on upcoming conferences and organizations to reach out to. SAROH was called out on 2 searches this quarter, both taking place on the same day. It has been a good few months.

SMRG (Steve Weiss): There are no reps present at this BOD meeting. Steve reports that there has been a steady stream of state-wide callouts.

BRMRG: BRMRG reports that this quarter has been a regular training cycle. Their team has now been trained in dispensing Narcan. They have been going out on searches.

REMOTE SUPPORT CORPS (Ben): The Remote Support Corps reports that it has been pretty quiet. There have been no callouts in the last month. They were much busier 2 months prior. They have been working on training materials. A segmentation lecture was also given and received positive feedback.

V. New Business

a. Communication Fund

Carl Werntz discusses the \$10000 communication grant, and how the budget will be approximately \$1140 per team, not including AMRG. Radios will all be dualband, and will be given initial programming to meet local needs. Endorsement for the basic plan will have Keith Conover using his credit card to make a direct purchase. This will be counted as a donation in kind for the ASRC books. Carl Werntz will be the point of contact. He will be reaching out shortly to each of the teams, and spreadsheets will follow allowing for teams to write what their specific needs are. Mid-December is when the order will be placed, and turned over to teams at the Winter Retreat.

A motion is made by Carl Werntz to approve the plan to expand the communications grant. Keith Conover seconds this. Approved unanimously.

b. Event Planning

2022 -2023 Dates

- Tuesday, 15 November 2022 - Webinar Series - TBD @ 1900
- 13-14 January 2023 - Winter Retreat, Bears Den Lodge, format to be decided
- Sunday, 15 January 2023 - BOD meeting, format to be decided
- Saturday, 15 April 2023 - BOD meeting, virtual @ 1400
- AGM 2023 - TBD
- Saturday, 14 October 2023 - BOD meeting, virtual @ 1400

VI. Good of the Order

Nothing offered.

VII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 0852 hrs.

Respectively submitted,
Olivia Wojcicehowski
ASRC Secretary