

Keith Conover, M.D., FACEP

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September 20, 2017

Kathy Yocum-Lamb,
Secretary,
Appalachian Search and Rescue
Conference

Dear Ms. Yocum-Lamb:

Fellowship Nomination

I am writing to propose Donald A. Scelza for Fellow status under the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference Fellowship program.

Mr. Scelza more than meets all of the requirements for Fellowship in the Administrative Manual.

Mr. Scelza has had a major impact on southwestern Pennsylvania and nearby regions, states and even other countries, in many different ways. His undergraduate degree from Carnegie-Mellon was in mathematics, and he helped found a local company that grew to Fortune 500 status and eventually was bought out by a large multinational corporation. But this, and obtaining a graduate degree in management, was not enough to keep him entertained.

He started as an EMT, and quickly became a paramedic, serving both in volunteer and paid positions, and even started his own EMS service in the North Hills. Along the way he became a team paramedic for an Urban Search and Rescue team. But given his interest in the outdoors, he became particularly interested in *wilderness* EMS. Not content with helping to teach Wilderness EMT courses in a variety of foreign countries, he started his own company that teaches wilderness first aid and wilderness EMS.

More recently he has helped mold the Wilderness EMS training for the University of Pittsburgh's postdoctoral/post-residency EMS Fellows, as well as being one of a small group working with the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council developing Pennsylvania's Wilderness EMT program.

As far as ASRC and related organizations, he has served in leadership positions since soon after he joined in the mid-1990s. He served as President of the Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council for a number of years, and more recently as Chair and President of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference.

He continues to be active in field search and rescue and search management, both as a Search Manager and in the field. He has taught search management classes such as Managing Search Operations for many years. He continues to advise the ASRC's officers in important ways.

For all of these reasons, and others I have left out to keep this letter from going on for many pages, I strongly believe that Donald A. Scelza is richly deserving of being a Fellow of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference.

Thank you.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Conover', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Keith Conover, M.D., FACEP

cc: ASRC BOD

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