



## Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc.

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<http://www.asrc.net>

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group • Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group • Delmarva Search and Rescue  
Mountaineer Area Rescue Group • Maryland Search and Rescue • Potomac Valley Rescue Group • Rapid Assistance to Community Emergencies  
Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group • Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

February 13, 2012

Fellow members of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference:

The last couple of years have been hard ones for the Conference. Rapid changes in leadership, financial problems, and communications issues have created a sense of concern in some and dissatisfaction in others. The leadership and the members of all of the teams of the Conference were invited to take part in a retreat over the weekend of February 3rd, 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> to address these issues.

It would have been easy for this group to dwell on the past; complaining about management failings, insurance problems, difficulty getting called and any of the other issues that currently face the conference. This was not the path taken. Instead the group focused on what it will take to keep the ASRC strong and to make it stronger.

Two major themes emerged during discussions at the retreat: a continued commitment to our fundamental mission on behalf of the lost person and a consensus to reinforce the value of the ASRC to the groups, to the members and to all of our partners.

A number of initiatives came out of the discussions. Details of those initiatives will be sent to the entire membership shortly. The primary initiative will be a renewed commitment to communications with the membership of the Conference. The ASRC web site is currently suffering from technical issues that are being addressed with the goal of making the web site one of the primary means of communications. Critical Conference communications will be sent by email to everyone who is on a team roster. Dates of Conference meetings, such as Board of Directors and General Membership, will be set a year in advance in order to allow members to manage their commitments. Agendas for these meetings will be distributed to the membership enough in advance so as to allow for the member teams to discuss the issues prior to meetings where your elected team leaders make decisions about your ASRC. Again, the increased commitment to communications is just one of the initiatives discussed, but it is a vitally important one.

We come out of the retreat with a renewed excitement and commitment to the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference. With your participation, we can keep the ASRC the premier SAR organization of the eastern United States.

Victoria Airey, ASRC FTM  
Ken Chiacchia, ASRC FTL  
William Dixon, ASRC  
Katy Hart, ASRC CQ  
Rebecca Hostetter, ASRC FTM  
Andrew Hower, ASRC FTL  
Evan Koepke, ASRC FTL / IS

Eric Menendez, ASRC FTM  
Larry Raskin, ASRC CQ  
Don Scelza, ASRC SM1  
Carl Solomon, ASRC FTM  
Steve Weiss, ASRC SM2  
Carl Werntz, ASRC SM3

“So that others might live”