Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
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Charlottesville, VA 22904
www.asrc.net

ASRC Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2015
The Barn, Bear Run Nature Reserve – Mill Run, PA

Group Member Participation	Present	Proxies
Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group	9	1
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group	0	0
DELMARVA Search and Rescue Group	0	0
Maryland Search and Rescue	3	0
Mountaineer Area Rescue Group	7	7
Northwest Pennsylvania K9 Search and Rescue	6	0
Potomac Valley Rescue Group	0	0
Search and Rescue Ohio	4	0
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group	1	0
At-Large	0	0

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The 2015 AGM Meeting of the ASRC was opened with a welcome to all by Don Scelza, Chairman, at 0917 on Sunday, May 17, 2015, in The Barn at Bear Run Nature Reserve in Mill Run, PA. Chair Scelza recognized all members of AMRG and MARG that served on the 2015 AGM Planning Committee. Chair thanked each Planning Committee member for all of their efforts in planning the event and coordinating on-site logistics for

the scheduled events. All present at the AGM indicated the SAR Olympics Stations were fun and that the Bruderhof did an excellent job with lunch.

Chair Scelza introduced the Group Board Representatives in attendance.
- MARG – Don Ferguson
- NWPAK9SAR – LuAnn Gatti
- SAR-Ohio – Brian Maier
- AMRG – Don Scelza

Chair Scelza introduced the Board Officers in attendance.
- Don Scelza, Chair
- Don Ferguson, Vice Chair
- Beth Huhn, Secretary
- Victoria Airey, Treasurer

II. Recognition Celebration

A. Chairman Scelza formally recognized the following Group Members by awarding each a certificate for their length of service and dedication to the lost person. Members recognized for 5 years of service were also awarded an ASRC lapel pin.

TEAM	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	Recognized LoS
AMRG	Rogowski	John	5
MSAR	Airey	Victoria	5
MSAR	Swearingen	Dan	5
SAR-Ohio	Badgeley	Joseph	5
SAR-Ohio	Maier	Brian	5
AMRG	Ruch	Chris	15
MSAR	Ross	Art	20
AMRG	Conover	Keith	30
AMRG	Randall	Bru	30

B. Chairman Scelza formally recognized the following Group Member by awarding a certificate for their special contributions and service.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

ALEX SEHMAN - MSAR
Alex has dedicated over 16 years in supporting Maryland Search & Rescue, Explorer Search and Rescue Post 616 and the "Lost Person". As a youth in ESAR616, he served as Historian, VP of Training, and President.   He has responded to countless "2am" searches, and attended many.   He continued to take on roles such as: Senior Adviser, MSAR President, and serving on MSAR's Training Team. When he was out of state, he

continued to find ways to support MSAR as webmaster, social media manager, and online contact / spokesperson.   He is always ready to share his knowledge and expertise with other team members and always rises to the occasion to help motivate those around him with his energetic personality and his genuine smile.

Chair stressed that Group Members make up this organization and provide for the lost person. Chair extended a Thank You to all for their service.

III. Chair's Report

Over the last several years, work has been underway to slowly change the organization. ASRC is moving from an operational entity to a group of Groups. This is being done to meet the needs of ASRC's customers. The world is changing, as are the groups within the organization.   States have started looking at and responding to missing person searches differently. In order for the ASRC to remain viable, the organization must also make some changes.

ASRC Retreats are being held every year. The next Retreat will be held at Bears Den Lodge January 15 – 17, 2016. During the Retreat, participants talk about goals, the direction of the organization with additional talks of innovation and strategic planning regarding 5-10-15 year strategies. Dates for all meetings are posted to the asrc.net site (Training, Meetings & Events tab).

With ASRC's move from person centric to Group centric, work is underway to change the Bylaws. Two big changes are underway:

1. Groups are the operational entity. ASRC does not get called. Groups are contacted first; they then call other ASRC Groups for assistance, as needed.

2. Addressing outside concerns. There are outside entity concerns about Group "self-certification". There is no question about ability.

The ASRC will become the certifying entity for FTM and FTL certifications.
- Position Task Books (PTB) (*check-off list*) will be utilized, single check-off forms consistent across all Groups. Initially will be a manual process with work toward digitizing. Will contain standards with a place for an evaluator to check off.
- Behind the scenes, changes are being made to the ASRC governance documents to support the organizational changes. Bylaws will be written so any member of a Group is also a member of ASRC to ensure there are no concerns with insurance.

Chair reviewed the Proposed ASRC Credentialing System document (*2015-05-07-Credentialing-Overview.pdf*) and Project Schedule document *(2015-05-07-Timeline-for-Policy-Work.pdf)*.
- Please review and share with your Group.
- Document will be posted to the members-only tab on asrc.net
- Please provide feedback

- Goal is to have finalized and ready to be voted upon at the 2016 AGM
- Prototype PTB will be made available for review
- GTO's will remain involved in the credentialing process
- Reconnects credentials to the ASRC Board and adds a last level of review to the process

Open Discussion:
- Will there be both an Evaluator and GTO on each team?
  - Across the ASRC = Evaluators, Examiners, Credentialing Board
  - GTO may serve in these role(s), but does not mean each Group must appoint two separate individuals

- Will there be a cost (i.e. travel)?
  - Conference would like to support Examiner travel

- Policy change is concerning – allowing others to check-off (i.e. – FTM's signing off as Evaluator)
  - GTO is a qualified Evaluator
  - GTO will sign-off that the PTB and all elements checked-off are valid and current
  - Would help if the PTB denoted which skills have to/can be signed-off by GTO, FTL or FTM

- Can own team sign own PTB's?
  - Goal is to balance reality – most check-offs will be internal to a Group
  - Examiners will be "external" – leaning toward examination teams across multiple Groups

- What level of detail is in each PTB? Will it include detailed expectations to ensure consistency across the conference?
  - Taking current standards and creating PTB
  - Comparing it to ASTM standards
  - May need more specificity
  - Seems likely that will need to develop an Evaluator Guide
  - Currently 9 teams and 9 testing standards

- Has this been run through MD and other states that have credentialing concerns – will this meet their requirements or will it be rejected?
  - Basing new credentialing system on national "best practices" for credentialing

- Has any consideration been given to looking at cross-walking through other recognized standards like NFPA?
  - Work has been completed to cross-walk to ASTM
  - Participant outlined sample of other organization's credentialing system (of which they are a member)

- What is the role of an Examiner?
    - Detail not yet defined. In principle: 1) audit of GTO review; 2) Will provide a skills test of some sort (sampling)

- Will credential be issued by the GTO?
    - Provisional from GTO
    - Final from the Credentialing Board
    - Recommend that a timeline is interjected to ensure timeline between provisional and final certification is not delayed extensively (i.e. – within one year; AGM annually serving as the most opportune time)

- What about opening up credentialing to others outside the ASRC?
    - Zero value to credentialing others
    - Need to get process in place to support ASRC Groups

- See problem with scheduling for exams.

- How does Examiner maintain status?
    - Need to **add this to other yet to define**
    - Examiner will do a sampling of skills as a final exam
    - Exam will most likely be facilitated with internal and external Examiners [own Group and other Group(s)]

- How will the Credentialing Board be comprised?
    - Need to **add this to other yet to define**
    - Possibly a group of Examiners

- Timing of implementation?
    - Members will not have to recertify immediately
    - Current certifications will remain valid until they naturally expire

- Tradition for the following to be included as the first **Q&A** on any written ASRC test (request same on any standard examinations developed):
    a) Don't get separated from your pack
    b) Don't get separated from your pack
    c) Don't get separated from your pack
    d) All of the above

- Re-certifications?
    - Possibly have re-certifications shorter but harder
    - Recommend no external exam on re-cert (much discussion, general consensus that external exams are needed on re-cert)

Chair proclaimed need to get more people involved in this process.
- PTB's need developed
- Testing sets need developed
- If interested in helping, please get involved

Chair would prefer to have compiled comments from Groups. An ASRC email account will be established to collect Group comments and to serve as focal point for offers of help – credentialing@asrc.net. **Groups are strongly encouraged to review the proposed documents, send in comments timely and offer to help**.

IV. Good of the Order

Concern voiced about FTM certification requirements and the expanded CQ requirements of some groups.
- Need to discuss standards for certified Groups and the requirements for each certification level.
- Next step could be to re-define ASRC certification levels.
- Need to maintain Group involvement to ensure Group needs are met, but wide disparity in some levels across the conference.

Raffle for REI Hydration Pack (donation received for AGM weekend). Raffle winner Chris Ruch. Proceeds from raffle totaled $36.00 in ticket purchases. $18.00 given (each) to MARG and AMRG.

V. Thank You / Adjourn

Chair Scelza extended a Thank You to all participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 1043.

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The foregoing minutes are reported to the best of my knowledge.
Beth A. Huhn, ASRC Secretary