



## ASRC 2026 AGM

August 9, 2026

2026 AGM

[Teams Link](#)

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours.

### **II. Chair Remarks**

LuAnn thanked everyone who participated in this year's AGM. The Saturday exercises went very well and provided quality data for Ken's continued work on sweep width and associated subjects.

Ken reported that the exercise went well and verified that the different models used to generate POD are holding up very well. There will be a more detailed presentation at the Winter Retreat.

### **III. Years of Service Awards**

Keith presented Years of Service certificates. Thank you to Betty C. and Laural C. for their work in preparing the certificates.

### **2026 AGM Years of Service Awards**

#### **MARG**

##### **5 years:**

Ian Bird

Sean Corum

Marvin Cumberledge

Emylee Frazier

##### **10 years:**

Justin Cameron

#### **MSAR**

##### **5 years:**

Amanda Simonton

Lindsey VanDeMark

Buck Wiemers

Zachary Badger

Kevin Oelschlaeger

##### **10 years:**

Jim McPherson

#### **NWPAK9SAR**

##### **5 years:**

Kristen Tingley

Leslie Owens

Gary Owens

Meagan Sullivan

Mike Machinski

Tammy Knapp

Alan Austin

Katie Pyrdek

##### **10 years:**

Kathy Lamb

Steven McIntyre

Kacey Owens

The awards were given to a Group Rep to take back to their members.

#### **IV. For the Good of the Order**

For this event, Keith had a new set of challenge coins created. Thank you, Keith. The remaining coins will be presented to people who attend future AGMs and Winter Retreats. A person should be assigned responsibility for keeping and managing the coins.

In the past, ASRC presented members with a 5-Year pin when they reached that milestone of service to the Conference. There was discussion about restarting that practice, but with the

creation of new pins recognizing years of service in 5-year increments. Carl will investigate the cost.

We need to grow the Conference, so members are encouraged to invite potential teams and individuals to Winter Retreats and AGMs.

## **V. Adjournment**

Dan moved to adjourn. Keith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1015 hours.



## ASRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 9, 2026

2026 AGM

[Teams Link](#)

### I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1023hrs

### II. Participant Roll Call

#### Group Representatives

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| AMRG                | Keith Conover           |
| BRMRG               |                         |
| MARG                | Carl W, Ken C           |
| MSAR                | Dan                     |
| NWPAK9              | LuAnn Gatti, Kathy Lamb |
| SMRG                |                         |
| RSC                 |                         |
| Credentialing Board | Luann, Rebecca          |

### III. Approval of Minutes

Ken made a motion to approve the previous minutes. Kathy seconded. Unanimous.

### IV. Officer Reports

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Chair      | Nothing to report |
| Vice-Chair | N report          |
| Secretary  | Nothing to report |
| Treasurer  | No report         |

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CTO                 | <p>The CTO called for a vote on proposed Search Manager training that was submitted for approval on 7/9. See discussion below.</p> <p>Ken presented Search Managers for initial approval or renewal. All candidates had the correct paperwork in place.</p> <p><i>Heather Billings</i> – SM4 Ken made the motion. Keith seconded.<br/>Unanimous</p> <p><i>Nina Wolf</i> – SM3 Ken made the motion. Keith seconded. Unanimous</p> <p><i>Don Scelza</i> – SM 1. Presented the correct and valid paperwork pack in June 2025 but its presentation for approval was delayed. Ken made the motion. Keith seconded. Unanimous.</p> |
| Operations          | <p>Carl W has gracefully accepted to take on the position of Conference Operations Officer. Ken made the motion. Dan seconded.<br/>Unanimous</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Credentialing Board | <p>The Credentialling Board presented a proposal for changes in the credentialling process (attached below).</p> <p>Rebecca discussed the proposed changes in the operations of the credentialing board. The larges change it to move practical evaluation of candidates back to the GTOs</p> <p>Accept the proposal – Ken made the motion. Dan seconded.<br/>Unanimous</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## **V. SM Training Standards**

The new Search Manager training proposal was presented for a vote. Ken moved to accept the proposed standards. Keith seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** There was concern about the continued availability of Search Managers to serve as mentors and the general availability of trained Search Managers.

The group discussed a transition plan for current Search Managers and for those already working toward the next Search Manager level.

The original proposal called for current Search Managers to continue under the existing standards until their next renewal and then transition to the new standards.

This was amended to allow current Search Managers to choose either the existing or new standards for their next renewal. Members entering the Search Manager program may also use either the existing or new standards during the three-year transition period.

At the end of the three-year transition period, all Search Managers will be required to use the new standards. Until that time, either set of standards may be used for certification or recertification.

A friendly amendment was made to return the number of shifts required for recertification eligibility to the previous requirements.

**Transition Period:** A three-year phase-in period was established. That period will end at the 2029 AGM and BoD meeting.

**Vote:** The motion to accept the proposed Search Manager standards, as amended, passed unanimously.

Members were encouraged to work within their teams to progress qualified members toward SM3 and SM2.

## VI. Group Updates

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AMRG   | AMRG is approaching 100 members. They have become very active in the Allegheny County CART (Child Alert Reaction Team). The team has moved to six-month cohorts for new members. Formalized training has been put in place and will be used for each new cohort. There was a cave rescue training in July.                                                                                    |
| BRMRG  | No report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| MSAR   | MSAR recently had its first 2 call outs for the year. They welcomed a new cohort of about 12 members.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| MARG   | MARG continues to be called to searches around the state. Additionally, they performed one rope rescue. MARG has been designated as the rope rescue team for Mon County. The team is in a vehicle transition period. They have a new truck and will maintain the trailer as a backup. MARG has received a grant for a trailer to be used as a command post.                                   |
| NWPAK9 | The team has nothing major to report. They are getting as many callouts as they would expect. The team's largest fund raising event, a Golf tournament, will be in a couple of weeks.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| SMRG   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| RSC    | The RSC asks that you remind your Group that the RSC exists. They can help with getting the first operational period set up while Group is enroute. Recently, they worked with VDEM Remote support on a search. The yearly virtual SAREX will occur in early spring. If you want to teach or be involved, please contact them. Remote Support callouts are initiated at SARREMOTESUPPORT.COM. |

## **VII. Strategic Planning Process**

The was SWAT completed and distributed for comment. Since then, no additional work has been done. We have solid leadership in the team however; they have been in their positions for extended periods and need relief. We need to groom the next generation of leadership.

## **VIII. Officers**

Treasurer:

Rebecca nominated Tyler Grady (MARG) as Treasurer. He has a business background and will function well as Treasurer. Tyler accepted. Ken made the motion, Dan seconded.

Unanimous. Tyler will generate a transition plan and distribute to the Board.

Chair:

Dan made a motion to accept Emily as Chair under condition that she become a MARG rep. The current MARG reps see no issue in this happening. Emily accepted. Dan made the motion. Ken seconded. Unanimous.

Secretary:

Dan made the motion that Don remain as Secretary. Don accepted. Ken seconded.

Unanimous.

Vide Chair:

Dan motioned Shaw, not present at the time, take the position vice chair if he agrees. Ken seconded. Unanimous.

## **X. New & Unfinished Business**

Keith had sent a proposed set of changes to the Admin Manual centered around the ASRC uniform, Group uniforms, and Group branding. After discussion the consensus was that this was a Group issue. Keith agreed to withdraw the proposal.

## **XII. 2026 BoD meeting dates**

October 22<sup>nd</sup> 7 PM

January 17<sup>th</sup> – Bear's Den

### **XIII. Good of the Order**

The meeting was adjourned 1239hrs

## **Proposal for Advancement and Evaluator Approval Process for ASRC Field Credentials Purpose**

The purpose of this proposal is to establish a standardized process for advancing members to the next Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) Field Level and for approving practical evaluators. This process is intended to ensure consistency, fairness, and quality in credentialing assessments across all ASRC groups.

### **Advancement to the Next ASRC Field Level**

Candidates seeking advancement to the next ASRC Field Level must complete the following requirements:

#### **1. Completion of Training Requirements**

- Complete all requirements outlined in the ASRC Position Task Book (PTB).
- Complete all team-specific training goals and requirements.

#### **2. PTB Review and Submission**

- Upon completion of all requirements, the Group Training Officer (GTO) will review the PTB.
- The GTO will submit the completed PTB to the Credentialing Board for review.

#### **3. Written Examination**

- Candidates must successfully complete the online written examination administered through the Credentialing Board.

#### **4. Practical Evaluation**

Upon successful completion of the written examination, candidates will advance to the practical evaluation phase. Practical evaluations may be completed through one of the following methods:

##### **Option A**

- The candidate or GTO submits a request to the Credentialing Board to schedule a practical evaluation conducted by members of the Credentialing Committee.

##### **Option B**

- The GTO schedules a practical evaluation using approved evaluators from their team in accordance with Credentialing Board standards and protocols.

### **Approval Process for Practical Evaluators**

To ensure consistency and quality in field evaluations, evaluator candidates must complete the following approval process:

### **1. Application Submission**

- Evaluator candidates will submit a Search and Rescue (SAR) resume to their GTO.
- The resume should emphasize instructor, training, leadership, and evaluator experience relevant to the position.

### **2. Group Endorsement**

- Prior to submission to the Credentialing Board, the candidate must receive endorsement from their ASRC group.

### **3. Credentialing Board Review**

- The Credentialing Board will review the candidate's resume in consultation with the GTO during a credentialing meeting.
- Based on the candidate's qualifications and experience, the Credentialing Board will determine evaluator eligibility and status.

### **4. Practical Assessment**

- Candidates approved to continue in the process will complete a monitored practical assessment conducted by a current credentialed evaluator.

### **Evaluation Standards**

The Credentialing Board will develop and provide standardized practical evaluation protocols to all Group Training Officers. These protocols will be used to ensure consistency, objectivity, and reliability in practical evaluations conducted throughout the organization.

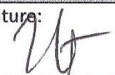
### **Expected Benefits**

Implementation of this process will:

- Establish a clear pathway for credential advancement.
- Increase consistency across ASRC groups.
- Expand the pool of qualified evaluators.
- Reduce scheduling delays for practical evaluations.
- Maintain high standards for field credentialing while allowing greater flexibility at the group level.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the ASRC adopt this advancement and evaluator approval process to support a standardized, efficient, and sustainable credentialing system for all field personnel.

|  <b>SAR UNIT PERSONNEL REGISTER</b><br>Page (see below)<br><b>MOUNTAINEER AREA RESCUE GROUP</b><br><b>FORM ICS 211A.SAR Rev.2016.1</b> |                           | 1. Incident Name:<br><b>ASRC AGM 2026</b>                                                         |                                   |                                         |                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 2. Operational Period (Date / Time)                                                                                                                                                                                     |                           | From: <b>09:00</b>                                                                                | To:                               |                                         |                                           |
| 3. SAR unit personnel register                                                                                                                                                                                          |                           |                                                                                                   |                                   |                                         |                                           |
| Name<br>(Last, First)                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Organization              | SAR<br>Qualifications                                                                             | Emergency Contact                 | Arrival<br>Time / Date<br>(24:00 - M/D) | Departure<br>Time / Date<br>(24:00 - M/D) |
| CHIACCHIA                                                                                                                                                                                                               | MARL                      | SM3                                                                                               | HOU LATHAN<br>412 352 6118        | 08:05                                   |                                           |
| POWELL,<br>KEITH                                                                                                                                                                                                        | AMRG                      | MRA<br>RESCUE                                                                                     | BETTY<br>412-607-4444             | 0800                                    |                                           |
| BRUNER, JANE                                                                                                                                                                                                            | MSAR                      | F1                                                                                                | JOCELYN<br>443 474 3348           | 0730                                    |                                           |
| RASKIN, LARRY                                                                                                                                                                                                           | MSAR                      | F2                                                                                                | JESSE<br>242-448-7635             | 07:30                                   |                                           |
| Austeller<br>Robyn                                                                                                                                                                                                      | MARG                      | SM4                                                                                               | MARG<br>304 374-8950              | 8:43                                    |                                           |
| Billings<br>Heather                                                                                                                                                                                                     | MARG                      | F2                                                                                                | Jerry<br>304-376-7873             | 0900                                    |                                           |
| SCIELZA,<br>Don                                                                                                                                                                                                         | AMRG                      | SM                                                                                                | DEB<br>724-316-5297               | 0900                                    |                                           |
| WERPTE,<br>CARL                                                                                                                                                                                                         | MARG                      | SM                                                                                                | Donna<br>304-291-5820             | 0900                                    |                                           |
| Saharkhiz<br>Parastoo                                                                                                                                                                                                   | MSAR                      | F4                                                                                                | AI<br>443 745 4697                | 8:00                                    |                                           |
| Gatti, L. Ann                                                                                                                                                                                                           | NWARGSAR                  | FL1                                                                                               | Adam Gatti<br>814-431-5654        | 930                                     |                                           |
| KAPALDO, Andrew                                                                                                                                                                                                         | MARG                      | F1                                                                                                | Jacklyn Kapaldo<br>304-692-5800   | 9:00                                    |                                           |
| Lamb, Kathy                                                                                                                                                                                                             | NWARGSAR                  | FL1                                                                                               | Bo lamb<br>919 302 2054           | 9PM                                     |                                           |
| 4. Page:                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                           | 5. Prepared by:                                                                                   |                                   |                                         |                                           |
| of                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Name:<br><b>CHIACCHIA</b> | Signature:<br> | Date/Time:<br><b>8/9/26 08:05</b> |                                         |                                           |

|               |      |    |      |      |
|---------------|------|----|------|------|
| WOLF, JEFF    | MARG | F1 | Emil | 900  |
| Coburn, Emily | MARG | F2 | Jeff | 9:00 |

| SAR UNIT PERSONNEL REGISTER<br>Page (see below)<br>MOUNTAINEER AREA RESCUE GROUP<br>FORM ICS 211A.SAR Rev.2016.1 |                |                                  | 1. Incident Name:<br>AJNL BOD Mtg 8/26 |                                         |                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 2. Operational Period (Date / Time)                                                                              |                | From: 10:00                      |                                        | To:                                     |                                           |
| 3. SAR unit personnel register<br>NO ANSWERS                                                                     |                |                                  |                                        |                                         |                                           |
| Name<br>(Last, First)                                                                                            | Organization   | <del>SAR</del><br>Qualifications | Emergency Contact                      | Arrival<br>Time / Date<br>(24:00 - M/D) | Departure<br>Time / Date<br>(24:00 - M/D) |
| CHIACCHIA                                                                                                        | MARG           | YES                              | HUNTAN<br>412 352 6118                 | 08:38                                   |                                           |
| WEINTE,<br>CARL                                                                                                  | MARG           | YES                              | DONNA<br>304-291-5820                  | 09:00                                   |                                           |
| Cath. LuAnn                                                                                                      | MARG/RSR       | yes                              |                                        | 10:15                                   |                                           |
| KAPALDO, Andrew                                                                                                  | MARG           | NO                               |                                        | 9:00                                    |                                           |
| Coburn, Emily                                                                                                    | MARG           | NO                               |                                        | 9:00                                    |                                           |
| Hart, H. Robert                                                                                                  | MARG           | NO                               |                                        | 9:06                                    |                                           |
| Wolfe, Jeff                                                                                                      | MARG           | NO                               |                                        | 10:17                                   |                                           |
| Billings, Heather                                                                                                | MARG/RSC       | NO                               |                                        | 10:18                                   |                                           |
| Lamb<br>Kathy                                                                                                    | NO PAK<br>95AK | YES                              | BO Lamb<br>919 302 2054                | 10:20                                   |                                           |
| BRIZUELA, DAVID                                                                                                  | UGAR           | YES                              | DOCELYN<br>443 474 3348                | 0730                                    |                                           |
| Tyler, Grady                                                                                                     | MORG           | NO                               |                                        | 11:00                                   |                                           |
| PODVOSEK,<br>KEITH                                                                                               | AMRG           | YES                              |                                        | 08:00                                   |                                           |
| 4. Page:                                                                                                         |                | 5. Prepared by:                  |                                        |                                         |                                           |
| 1                                                                                                                | of             | Name:<br>CHIACCHIA               | Signature:<br>W                        | Date/Time:<br>8/9/26 08:38              |                                           |