



Meeting Minutes PSARC General Meeting 05/03/08 SAREX

General Meeting:

Don Scelza called the meeting to order at 18:30 hours.

Board Members Present:

Don Scelza, LouAnn Pomposelli, Roger Tobias, Brian Winterstein, Chris Rudolph, Alan Houck & John Miller.

Minutes:

The minutes from the past meeting were not available due to computer issues with the scribe for that meeting.

Presidents Opening Remarks:

Don Scelza thanked everyone for coming to SAREX and making the event such a success. There was a good turnout for SAREX. He mentioned that things are moving and progressing with PSARC.

During this time of the meeting we recognized our SAR compadres who are no longer with us. Northeast SAR lost Sultan...Kay Bellesfield was the handler. STRIKE K-9 lost Rusty...Kilmer Setzer was the handler and also Sam...Vicki Coup was the handler. AMRG lost Mel and Roz...Barb Butler was the handler. Heather Houlahan was the handler of Mel. There was a moment of silence to recognize our lost brothers and sisters.

Vice Presidents Report:

No report!

Treasury Report:

LouAnn mentioned that a change needed to be done to the PSARC By-laws stating that our fiscal year of business will run from January 1 – December 31 for tax purposes.

The 501 (c)(3) progress is in the hands of the accountant.

She mentioned that to date 27 teams have paid their dues. The Insurance premium of \$945.00 has been paid. Current invoices for \$35.34 for postage to mail dues notices. She will in the very near future have an Accountant fee to pay for the 501 (c)(3). She will also have the 501 (c)(3) application fee of \$300.00 to pay. She also mentioned that OneCall Now will also be up for payment in October. Our current balance is \$1,589.80!

A motion was made by Roger Tobias during the treasury report to authorize the President and Treasurer to sign a Power of Attorney (POA) and Declaration of Representation papers and send them to Moody & Associates for the 501 (C)(3). Motion was seconded by Chris Rudolph. All were in favor...motion carries!

Membership Committee:

No Report.

Operations Committee:

An Operations Committee was held at SAREX hours before the General Meeting. Pepper Broad mentioned that only (9) teams have Liability Insurance and only (4) teams have workers compensation coverage.

He mentioned that the following teams are up for Team Level Re-evaluation:

East Penn Technical SAR (EPTSAR)
Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG)
Blue Mountain SAR (BMSAR)
Wilderness Emergency Strike Team (WEST) and;
Northern Ohio Valley Area SAR (NOVASAR)

Northeast SAR had their Level I Evaluation completed by Chris Rudolph and have successfully passed. East Penn Technical SAR was re-evaluated as a Level I Team at SAREX by Chris Rudolph and have successfully passed. STRIKE K-9 was recently re-evaluated as a Level II and have successfully passed.

There was discussion regarding Liability Insurance. The Operations Committee is recommending that all teams need to seriously start looking into acquiring, at a minimum, Liability Insurance coverage!

Tina Smith from Greater Philadelphia SAR (GPSAR) suggested that standards be established and put in place for sign-cutting and tracking. The Operations Committee has approved her to move forward with the standards. Tina mentioned that a yahoo group could be established to hold meetings and discuss the formulation of these standards. Tina created the same standards for the Search and Rescue Council of New Jersey. She obtained the standards from the Virginia sign-cutting and tracking standards. Tina will be the Chair for this Committee.

Pepper Broad has made many phone calls to teams and their contacts to decipher whether or not teams are still in service and wish to remain members of the PSARC. Some teams are no longer in service and he is working on updating the list of operational teams. All teams should try to return all forms by March 1st in the future.

Don Scelza pointed out that there are 28 teams within the PSARC but only 18 teams have paid their dues. He asked if there was any recourse to handle this issue.

Pepper Broad mentioned that if anyone is interested in becoming part of the Operations Committee to contact him.

K9 Standards Committee:

Vicki Coup mentioned that the K-9 Committee has tweaked the standards a bit for the Airscent Specialist to be compliant with NIMS. It will be submitted to the DCNR for approval. Once approved by the DCNR it will be sent back to the PSARC for any other modifications before being accepted.

The proposed test was changed to 120 acres and the handler must have 72 hours of resources for themselves and their K-9. All handlers must possess IS-100, 200, 700 & 800.

Vicki also mentioned that Brenda Richards from Valley SAR (VSAR) has successfully finished her internship as a K-9 Evaluator for the East Region.

Sharon Mosteller from the Committee gave the statistics of the FTM & FTL Testing at SAREX. For the FTM Test...13 people tested with a 92% pass rate. For the FTL Test...13 people tested with a 54% pass rate. For the K-9 Airscent Specialist Test...2 people tested with a 100% pass rate.

Vicki stated that for the FTM & FTL Tests, the only major change is that you must now successfully pass (3) out of (4) practical stations. The new tests are very similar to the old tests with the exception of a few questions.

People that are wishing to re-test do not need to wait any period of time before trying again. You can either contact Vicki Coup to test or you can take it anytime or anywhere it's offered. There is no wait period to re-test!

By-Laws Committee:

Roger Tobias motioned that PSARC change the Fiscal Year of the PSARC to January 1st. – December 31st. Motion was seconded by LouAnn Pomposelli. With (18) Team Delegates present, a vote was taken to accept the motion. The vote was (17) yes with (1) abstention. Motion carries!

Roger also motioned to accept the Conflict of Interest clause to be added to the PSARC Administrative Manual for our 501 (c)(3) as recommended by the IRS. The motion was seconded by Dr. Keith Conover. With (18) Team Delegates present, a vote was taken to accept the motion. The vote was (17) yes with (1) abstention. Motion carries!

Don Scelza mentioned that the Administration Manual Committee will have to put a clause in the manual stating that all Officers and Board members must sign the Conflict of Interest form yearly.

LouAnn mentioned that in order to get these By-laws accepted in a timely manner so we can move forward with the 501 (c)(3), that the PSARC would need to suspend the By-laws with the specific purpose to accept the proposed changes to the By-laws.

Don Scelza mentioned that according to Roberts Rules of Order the PSARC may suspend the By-laws to make immediate changes as needed.

Roger Tobias motioned that the PSARC suspend the By-laws for the specific purpose to accept the proposed By-law changes mentioned above. Motion was seconded by Dr. Keith Conover. . With (18) Team Delegates present, a vote was taken to accept the motion. The vote was (15) yes with (3) no. Motion carries!

SAREX Committee:

Linda Percy hoped everyone had a good time and got something out of the weekend. The weather was great! She wanted to thank all staff, instructors, movers and shakers. She mentioned that she saw a lot of new faces this year and to please spread the word about SAREX. You may now use PayPal to pay for SAREX.

She asked that on the morning of 5/4/08 that anyone present please thank the Pinch Pond Campground staff & caterers for a wonderful job.

She mentioned to everyone present to please fill out the SAREX Survey for any of the classes taken. This is the only way the PSARC can critique the SAREX weekend and the courses scheduled.

Statistics for the 2008 SAREX are as follows:

Had 186 people register
3 people cancelled
1 No-show
36 Teams from 7 different States
Had approximately 67 – 70 K-9 on the grounds
1 K-9 medical emergency
2 human medical emergencies

Linda advised all Instructors to submit their forms with the courses you wish to schedule for the 2009 SAREX.

Vicki Coup has offered to do the graphics for the 2009 SAREX t-shirts.

Brian Winterstein has offered to update the SAREX website.

Jake & Ellen will do logistics and safety.

Brian Winterstein and Tracy Reagan will be coordinating all ground classes and Rich Goodwin will be coordinating the K-9 classes.

Linda asked that everyone please clean their campsite before they leave. Put tables back and pile wood neatly. Leave the site the way you found it!

The 2009 SAREX will be held at Pinch Pond Campground from April 30th (Thursday) to May 3rd!

DCNR Committee:

Report was given under the K-9 Standards Committee

Old Business:

Lou Ann Pomposelli and one of her team members spent about 3 – 4 hours going over the 2006 & 2007 SAREX financial books and found no discrepancies with the records. Linda kept all records on Quicken which made the audit simple to complete. LouAnn will submit a formal report at the next PSARC Meeting.

New Business:

No new business!

Good & Welfare:

Chris Rudolph and Bruce Barton met with Karen Beyer from Allentown who is the Co-Chairperson of the Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives. They met with Representative Benehoff to discuss and improve SAR in the Commonwealth. They will combine their efforts to attempt to create legislation that will formally recognize SAR as an emergency service. Bruce and Chris will have more information within the next few weeks regarding SAR legislation.

Dr. Keith Conover & Jeff Finlay asked that Chris and Bruce send them any legislation information, as they want to work on the Representatives in their area.

It was discussed that all teams should be concerned with legislation and participate by sending letters to their local State Representatives. The more State Representatives reached the better!

Bruce Barton brought up the issue of Emergency Vehicle Plates. It appears as though there is still a problem with Penn Dot registering Emergency Vehicles. Bruce will continue to look into this matter and keep the membership apprised of any further information or status.

Don suggested that more information be provided and perhaps a letter can be sent on behalf of the Council.

Meeting Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: John Miller

Seconded By: Chris Rudolph

Meeting adjourned at 2052 hours.