



Meeting Minutes PSARC Member Meeting August 13, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 11:05

Presidents report - Don Scelza

One of the advantages of the position of President is the ability to see where the PSARC is headed. Last week for the first time in many years, there was an Officers Retreat. The main topics were what is going on in the SAR arena and where the PSARC should be headed in the next five years. One of the things that came out of it was the creation of the Mission Statement. The Mission Statement addresses who we are, how PSARC was formed and where we are going. This is the first time it has ever been seen. Please review it and digest it and see if you agree with or submit recommendations. This will drive the five year plan. Over the last couple of years, we have been seeing this move where PSARC has started creating standards and most recently a move seeing PSARC becoming an operational entity. The origins of PSARC included the vision for PSARC to be an operational entity. At that time, PSARC was not ready for this. Now, after 9/11 and with NIMS, it appears that this is the correct direction to go in. Last week Don Scelza received a call asking for assistance in resources from PRSARC and he basically started dispatching teams from his kitchen table. As we move forward, except for the ASRC there are probably no teams in PA that would qualify as a type one team under NIMS. The only reason the ASRC might

is because the ASRC is a conglomerate of teams and none of the individual teams could on their own qualify as a type one team under the ASRC. The Board and OPS committees fully support this move. The basic concept would take three years to implement and none of the individual teams would lose their identity or autonomy but would train and operate under one training standard and one operating guideline.

Q: What standards will be use?

A: It appears that NASAR will be the standard that everyone is adopting nationwide. Under NIMS everything is done under a nationwide standard. That is not to say that NASAR is the best or worst.

Vice Presidents Report

None

Treasurers report:

We received 2 dues \$80

The banner that was approved at last the meeting was purchased.

There was one other expense that was incurred.

PSARC has never registered as a 501(C) (3). We are in the process of doing that. Right now PSARC is only a PA non profit corporation. Filing for 501(c) (3) recognition will need the fiscal year changed. We would like to change the fiscal year of the Corporation. Once all the SAR-EX reporting is done, it makes

it very difficult to meet the filing deadlines. The proposed new fiscal year is July, 1 to June 31. At this time it is January, 1 to December 31.

OPS:

There have need requirements in place for some time. The requirements include having equipment checked in person or via video. Also, the teams must maintain a 51% or higher FTM/FTL members. Any teams not certified by the November meeting will be removed from the PSARC callout list. Probationary member can be on the callout list once they meet the operational requirements. The certifications recognized for FTM/FTL requirement are the DCNR FTM/FTL, ACRS FTM/FTL, NASAR Sartech 3 and 2 and the CAP certifications.

Chris motioned and Brian seconded the following motion: By the November meeting, teams wishing to be on the PSARC callout list, must be in good standing, completed the team level certification process successfully. Probationary teams are included with the same requirements. The motion was carried and passed.

The committee is looking a reimplementation of a process from long ago called the mission resource coordinators. This is a duty officer for PSARC. If somebody calls 1-800-MED-STAT number, the operator will have a list of duty officers by week will be available and the duty officer will call the IC to see what they need. At this time the PSARC Board Officers and the Operations chair will be the first to fill these positions.

We will need to supply information regarding the numbers of searches and other similar information. There is a link on the PSARC web page to fill out an after action report to DCNR. There is also a notification list search@psarc.org. Please use it to notify all PSARC member teams of an ongoing search. There are several different types of information available and they will include, The Search is far away (FYI). There is a search in your general area, plan to respond (Standby), and There is a search respond now (Callout).

SAR-EX:

John is looking for a ground SAR coordinator, K-9 training coordinator and logistics coordinator. If you are interested please contact John Miller directly at MARSAR4112@comcast.net. As SAR-EX has grown, we have a need for more people to assist both on-site and in the pre-planning. If you can help, please contact John. This year we had two guest speakers: Jack Frost from USCG and Jackie Golide from NASAR. If there is any interest in longer (40-hour) classes please contact John and let him know. Some classes have been cancelled because we have not had enough people sign-up ahead of time. Please sign-up for classes in advance to insure these classes

Membership:

No new applications. There is one new team, Centre County Search & K-9.

WEB:

Brain will put the links on the top of the pages for the Yahoo Groups. Once you

sign up either Brian or Buc will need to approve membership first. The meeting minutes and administrative manual will be placed on the website

K-9:

No report

Committees:

Don would like to give the committees more power so the committee can implement things without the involvement of everyone else. Along with this, more will be asked of the committees. The president can create committees and Don would like to create to new committees:

NASAR Committee: There has been a lot of discussion regarding NASAR licensing. The board feels that PSARC becoming a NASAR licensee is the right direction. This would allow PSARC to train instructors so they can train any member of any PSARC teams. There would be cost breaks with this also, such as book fees would be reduced by 25% and the certification fees would be reduced by 50%. The committee will determine costs, timelines, and implementation.

Sweep Width Committee:

There is a lot of investigation into sweep width which is used for POD determination by Marine and Naval units. By experimentation we know what POD is based on several factors. At the moment, we determine POD subjectively by a team member. Sweep width is a method for getting away from guessed POD. There are several experiments going on around the country and we would like to perform one at SAR-EX next year. The manual is several hundred pages long. One if the

discoveries is that search training does not necessarily make a better trainer. What a person does for a living effects searching more than training. A good example was a fighter pilot in Virginia did much better than trained searchers because he spends his entire day looking for anything around him.

By-Laws:

The Fiscal year will be changed from 1/1 through 12/31 to 7/1 to 6/31

PR:

The banner has been purchased. There is a Yahoo Calendar for purposes of who will have it when. If you would like to use the banner please contact Lou Ann and Brain.

The purpose of the banner is for teams to advertise during team events and to supplement your banners.

Brochures and tri-folds are still available. If you would like some brochures or tri-folds contact Brian.

Part of the Mission Statement will include training. The PSARC may be getting some interns to create educational videos and/or an improved tri-fold.

A new list serve called PR@psarc.org will be created.

Old Business:

The Administrative manual was discussed. (see Lou Ann's notes)

Nominations:

A call for nominations was made with no additional nominations made. A motion was made by Chris Rudolph and seconded by Bill. Motion was

carried and passed. The Nominations are as follows:

President: Don Scelza
Vice Pres: Vicki Coup
Secretary: Roger Tobias
Treasurer: Lou Ann Pomposelli
Central: Tony Ghaffari
Kim Carr
East: Allen Houck
Northeast: Chris Rudolph
West:

The president has issued an order to the acting Secretary to issue ballots to all teams in good standing for the contested positions and issue a single vote for all the uncontested positions.

New Business:

None

Good of the order:

Chris Rudolph – There are only seven teams listed under the contact information in the Yahoo Groups. It is a very simple process and only takes about two minutes.

Chris is also working with a State Legislator from Allentown to make November “State Search & Rescue Awareness” and to make PSARC the operational entity for SAR in PA.