



PSARC Meeting

Meeting Minutes

08/11/07

Operations Committee Meeting:

John Feldbauer (Buc) stated, “Commitments at work and with his local group have grown significantly. He’s ready to give up the position of Operations Chairperson”. He has put the word out there in the Operations Committee for any takers but as of yet there are none.

A discussion ensued regarding the DCNR and management issues. PSARC needs to stay ahead of where DCNR is trying to go. PSARC should continue the training and certification of Incident Command/Management Staff. The DCNR SAR TF is trying to move forward with this standard but it’s a slow moving process. Don Scelza mentioned that we need to present a list of performance standards of which to test against. All must “mentor” before being able to be a tester. Then, we must come up with an actual test. Don also mentioned that at the last DCNR SAR TF Meeting that a discussion ensued about providing expiration dates for certifications. Don further suggested that the Operations Committee establish a statement regarding this possibility and what we are going to do about recertification.

Board of Directors Meeting:

Board members present:

Don Scelza (President), Vikki Coup (VP), Chris Rudolph (Northeast), Brian Winterstein (At-Large), Kim Carr (Central) and Paul Falovolito (Western). This does constitute a quorum.

Don made a map of all teams based on the three databases available on yahoo groups. He will be using the *Commander Database* to send out election information. There seemed to be opposition by many. Most expressed concern that PSARC mailing should be sent via the team address. PSARC has no knowledge of most teams’ actual addresses. *All* teams must update their own information at yahoo.com/groups/psarc. To date there are only 20 teams that have provided information in the Team Commander area. PSARC presently consists of 30 teams! Only 24 teams have provided their dispatch information. Don mentioned that the Council will be removing the list from the PSARC server and only maintain the Yahoo.com site. He will be sending out a notice via email of this change and when it will take effect. A discussion then ensued regarding the use of the

databases and updating the contact information. This is the responsibility of all PSARC Member Teams!

Don mentioned that elections will be at the November meeting scheduled for 11/10/07. He would like to have all notices sent out by early September. He needs the database issues cleared up ASAP. Buc stated he would work on it the night of the meeting and notify him (Don) when complete. Don will publicize on the PSARC List for everyone to get their information submitted or it's a possibility that teams will not receive their election information packet. The return address for all ballots will be Roger Tobias with Don receiving any notices that were not deliverable.

Bruce Barton mentioned he was an Icom Radio Dealer and would like to offer PSARC a \$5.00 donation for each radio purchased by a team. Eric Phillips also mentioned that he was a Kenwood Radio Dealer. Don mentioned that he would like to see the implementation of a broader statement where membership can get good "deals" provided that PSARC receives something in return for the advertising.

Motion to adjourn the Board of Directors Meeting was made by Chris Rudolph. Motion seconded by Brian Winterstein. All were in favor!

General Meeting:

There were 15 Teams present which constitutes a forum for conducting business.

Presidents Opening Remarks:

Don opened the meeting by discussing PEMA and DCNR and how their starting to talk about SAR in the Commonwealth. There continues to be a push from PEMA to organize search and rescue. PSARC's interactions with the DCNR and CAP have gone a long way to show PEMA that PSARC is the SAR organization of the State.

The DCNR is uncertain as to how many searches have occurred on DCNR property over any given period of time. Their databases have not been updated maintained in quite some time. PSARC member teams need to start entering searches in the database and collecting the data. Any and all searches should be entered into the database, cancellations included! This is an important marketing tool for PSARC to aid us to move forward.

Vice Presidents Report:

None

Treasury Report:

Treasurer not present! LouAnn Pomposelli does have an accountant moving forward on the 501(c)(3) issues!

Committees:

Membership Committee:

No report

Operations Committee:

Buc advised everyone that he would rather co-chair the Operations Committee. Please let Don or Buc know if you are interested in Chairing the Operations Committee.

There seems to be some interest in PSARC pursuing the certification process instead of using outside resources such as NASAR/DCNR or CAP. Buc mentioned that we need to continue working with other entities as all are major players and components. It should be easier to obtain instructors/testers to certify and possibly less expensive. A major discussion ensued. Buc mentioned that there already exists a national standard defined by NIMS and proposed that the Operations Committee work on the Incident Command/Management Staff standards and curriculum during the committee meetings for review at the November meeting. Don stated that it would be political suicide to replace the FTM/FTL standards and testing currently in place at this time. If we want to test this idea...use Incident Staff or Incident Commander since there are no current standards or certification in place. Prepare a plan for a set of required competencies, a set of certifications and then a curriculum. Once these are in place, we can revisit the already established certifications such as FTM or FTL. The DCNR is presently reviewing and upgrading the FTM and FTL tests. Once they become available, they will be made available to the PSARC membership.

Jeff Weaver of Cumberland County SAR volunteered to generate a curriculum for what we would like to see as core competencies for FTM. He will then send a copy to Brenda Richards of Valley SAR and Bruce Barton of Northeast SAR for review.

Don will discuss with the DCNR the possibility of having more PSARC seats on the committee. Bruce Barton would like to open a line of communication between the PSARC and the DCNR. Bruce Barton made a motion to approach the DCNR that PSARC needs more representation at their Search & Rescue TF meetings. The motion was seconded by Chris Rudolph. Buc added that he would like to amend the motion to

having observation seats at the meetings instead of voting privileges. The amendment was rescinded by Bruce Barton and the motion rescinded.

Dispatch Committee:

No report

Web Committee:

No report

SAREX Committee:

Is waiting for a valid accounting of all funds from the SAREX Committee.

DCNR Committee:

Don spoke of the issues regarding the DCNR in previous reports!

K9 Standards Committee:

No report

By-Laws Committee:

No report

Nominating Committee:

President: Don Scelza

Vice President: Pepper Broad, Tony Ghaffari and Kim Carr. Roger Tobias was nominated but cannot accept without dropping Secretary.

Secretary: Roger Tobias

Treasurer: LouAnn Pomposelli

Northwest Board: John Feldbauer (Buc)

At-Large Board: Brian Winterstein and Vikki Coup

West Board: Paul Falovolito

Motion to close nominations was made by Mid-Atlantic. Motion seconded by Chris Rudolph. Don closed nominations!

Public Relations Committee:

Two SAR teams had booths at the Pittsburgh Fire Expo. White Oaks SAR and Air Search both distributed valuable and positive information about PSARC.

NASAR Committee:

No report

Sweep Width Experiment Committee:

No report

Old Business:

No report

New Business:

A decision was made to create a new database in yahoo groups for team addresses called "Team Contacts". Don will send out an email to both the PSARC List and yahoo groups lists and this **WILL BE** the database to which the ballots are sent. This database will be maintained by the member groups...not by a PSARC Officer. The deadline is September 3rd, 2007 to have your information updated. The list will then be pulled at that point for the mailing.

Good & Welfare:

Buc presented Team Level Certifications to Central Region Emergency Strike Team, White Oaks SAR and Chesapeake SAR Dogs.

Rabies vaccination is being air-dropped over parts of Pa. Dog handlers should be aware that it's out there.

Susquehanna SAR is hosting a National Search & Rescue School.

Mark Hopkins from Greater Philadelphia SAR encouraged neighboring teams to communicate about important issues or potential relationship with unsavory characters.

Meeting Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Chris Rudolph

Seconded By: Ken Chiacchia

Meeting adjourned at 1350 hours.