



Meeting Minutes PSARC Board Meeting 11/10/07

Board of Directors Meeting:

Don Scelza called the meeting to order at 10:00 hours.

Board members present:

Don Scelza (President), Vikki Coup (VP), Roger Tobias (Secretary), Lou Ann Pomposelli (Treasurer), Chris Rudolph (Northeast), Alan Houck (Southeast) and Kim Carr (Central) were present. John Feldbauer, Brian Winterstein and Paul Falovolito were not present. This does constitute a quorum.

CREST has met all membership requirements and should be removed from the probationary status and moved to full membership status.

A discussion regarding the requirements to vote at the PSARC meeting elections ensued. LouAnn presented with the packet sent out in 11/2006 that for a Team to be in good standing with PSARC, dues must be paid up-to-date and must attend at least two meetings per year beginning January 1, 2007! NOVASAR has paid their dues however did not attend any meetings and will not be eligible to vote.

Don Scelza will update the Administrative documents to reflect the voting requirements to make it easier to find next year.

Meeting dates for 2008 are as follows:

February 9
May 3
August 9
November 8

A discussion regarding the new Team Evaluation Process ensued. The Evaluator will now need to verify other certifications from all team members of the organization they are evaluating. The Evaluator will now need to visually verify Basic First and CPR, FTM, FTL, IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800. These changes have been made to the Evaluation Process to comply with NIMS requirements for Resource Typing and also to comply with the recommendations mentioned at PEMA meetings. Changes have also been made to the Annual Resource Sheet. These changes will be presented during the General Meeting to potentially adopt the processes.

LouAnn mentioned that she needed a copy of the Articles of Incorporation of PSARC for the 501(c)(3) process. She also mentioned that she needs all the information that goes into the 2008 Dues packet before the end of the month.

Don Scelza is requesting an audit of all PSARC books. He would like to create two committees to assist with this audit to due the geographic location of each set of books.

Kim Carr motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Alan Houck. All were in favor!

General Meeting:

Don Scelza called the meeting to order at 11:15 hours.

Rick Marshall motioned to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion was seconded by Ken Chiacchia. All were in favor!

Presidents Opening Remarks:

Don Scelza mentioned that there was a lot of activity with searches recently. He mentioned that some work still needs to be done but was pleased that the OneCall System is being utilized and is working effectively.

Over the next year PSARC will be pushing all teams to become NIMS Compliant. The Operations Committee has been working on this for some time now. The Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) has adopted Policy 105.1 which is available on their website. It is a PowerPoint presentation which explains how the MRA is dealing with NIMS Compliance for their organization. Roger Tobias has evaluated the policy for areas that PSARC is presently compliant and targeting areas that need to be improved upon for compliance.

Vice Presidents Report:

No report!

Treasury Report:

LouAnn mentioned she needs the Articles of Incorporation for the 501(c)(3) which is in process. Don will attempt to locate the necessary information and get them to LouAnn.

OneCall has been paid up-to-date.

Membership Committee:

CREST has met all requirements of a Probationary Team and will be moved to Full Membership status.

Operations Committee:

Roger Tobias reported that the Committee has met many times and are working on issues concerning NIMS Compliance and PEMA concerns. The Team Evaluation Process has been updated to include NIMS Courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800 which are required to be NIMS Compliant. The Evaluator will now have to validate the above mentioned certificates as well as their Basic First Aid & CPR, FTM and FTL certifications. For re-certification, which is every three years, the Evaluator will only need to verify the new members. It was discussed that video taping will still be honored in the absence of a Board member, however, the team will need to submit a media file (CD/zip file) containing the necessary documentation in order to finalize the evaluation.

PEMA has recommended to PSARC that we establish a method to verify the training of all wilderness SAR responders to be certain that those responding are properly trained and certified. Roger mentioned that the Annual Resource Sheet has been modified to reflect PEMA concerns and NIMS Compliance. The sheet now includes State Fire Academy, DCNR, NASAR, NIMS and other courses.

Don explained that the PSARC body needs to vote on the recommended modifications and processes. A motion was made by Rocco Onorato that all team members' certifications be verified during the Team Level Evaluation Process and to accept the modifications to the Annual Resource Sheet. Motion was seconded by Chris Rudolph. All were in favor with no opposition!

The new Annual Resource Sheet will be sent out with the 2008 dues packet. It was requested to add a section on the Resource to include delegates. Please list your Teams delegates on the 2008 Resource Sheet!

Web Committee:

Don has been asking for a year plan for the current PSARC website to see how we can make it more useful and user friendly to PSARC member teams but nothing has happened. Roger Tobias mentioned that Don Scelza has created an unofficial site for PSARC which is much more user friendly and updated with the current happenings of PSARC than the existing site. The present site is in need of updating! Dons' unofficial site can be located at dascelza.com, psarc.net or psarc.info for your review!

SAREX Committee:

PSARC has not yet received a valid accounting for this year SAREX! We need the profit and loss sheet which the Council will try to acquire.

DCNR Committee:

No report!

K9 Standards Committee:

No report!

By-Laws Committee:

It was mentioned by LouAnn that the accountant may recommend some By-Laws changes once the 501(c)(3) is completed.

Tally Committee:

A Tally Committee was formed by Don Scelza. Don asked Ken Chiacchia to head the Committee. Also appointed to the Committee were Alan Houck and Joe Corona. Secretary Roger Tobias provided the Tally Committee with all ballots received. Don Scelza reviewed the election process and made mention that the President provides a ballot to be used only in the event of a tie. New positions take effect immediately!

Total Votes Cast = 20

Illegal/Blank = 1

Vice President

Cast = 20

Pepper Broad = 4

Kim Carr = 4

Tony Ghaffari = 11

Illegal/Blank = 1

At-Large Board

Cast = 20

Vicki Coup = 9

Brian Winterstein = 10

Illegal/Blank = 1

President – Don Scelza

Vice President – Tony Ghaffari

Secretary – Roger Tobias

Treasurer – LouAnn Pomposelli

At-Large – Brian Winterstein

NW – John Feldbauer

West – Paul Falovolito

East – Alan Houck

NE – Chris Rudolph

Central – Kim Carr

Don Scelza thanked Vicki Coup for her dedication to PSARC as Vice President! He also mentioned that he would not be running for President again in two years so everyone should start to think ahead for next term elections.

Public Relations Committee:

LouAnn Pomposelli has the two PSARC Banners. They are available to any PSARC Team. Give LouAnn notice that the PSARC Banner is needed and she'll get them to you. Please be sure that PSARC gets the banners back when requested.

NASAR Committee:

No report!

Sweep Width Experiment Committee:

Ken Chiacchia has been working on forms for sweep width. Ken was actively working with the Tally Committee during the meeting and was not available for his report.

Old Business:

A question concerning MEDSTAT was brought to the body by Tony Ghaffari. Tony asked why a person from CEASAR answered the phone when he contacted MEDSTAT for an actual search recently in Centre County. Tony mentioned, as did others, that MEDSTAT needs to be reviewed and refined as the OneCall system is working fairly well. Don Scelza mentioned he would get with MEDSTAT to resolve the old information vs. the current information.

Don mentioned that PSARC needs to conduct some sort of CDO training and that more CDO's need to be added to the schedule.

New Business:

Don Scelza mentioned the new Hug-A-Tree program is now out and available. The form is on the NASAR website that must be sent in to verify that you're an approved instructor for the program.

Dave Lynch from Lower Leechburg EMS have established a hasty SAR Team (Lower Kiski Special Operations Support Team) which is mainly medically trained and are interested in becoming a member organization of PSARC. He submitted an application to Ken Chiacchia who submitted the application at this meeting. They are being sponsored by AMRG.

Don Scelza will be asking Pepper Broad to Chair the Operations Committee and Kim Carr to Co-Chair the Committee as John Feldbauer (Buc) no longer feels he has the appropriate time to devote to the Committee. Kim has accepted the Co-Chair position.

Good & Welfare:

LouAnn Pomposelli asked that all information required to be sent out with the 2008 Dues and Resource Information Packet needs to be sent to her by the end of the month.

Kim Carr mentioned that the K-9 treats being offered to everyone by Blue Mountain SAR are valid! She checked with the donor company and this donation represents a mile mark celebration for the company!

Meeting Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Chris Rudolph

Seconded By: Alan Houck

Meeting adjourned at 1315 hours.