**PENNSYLVANIA SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL**

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**PSARC General Business Meeting Minutes**

**February 19, 2022**

**Meeting was called to order at 11:01 by President Vikki Coup.**

**Roll Call**

*Teams Present*

* Allegany Mountains Rescue Group
* Air SAR
* Bedford County
* Cumberland County
* Elkland
* Fayette County
* Laurel Mountain
* Lower Kiski
* Mountaineer
* Mid-Atlantic Regional
* Northwest
* Northeast
* PACSAR
* PAWSAR
* STRIKE
* White Oak
* Wolfpack

*Probationary Teams Present*

* Berks County SAR
* Special Unit 66
* Steel City

*Absent / Excused Teams*

* Greater Philly – possibly on a search with NJSAR
* NJSAR – Active Search

*Absent (Probationary)*

* Catskill Mountain
* Lawrence County SAR

**President’s Welcome**:

Vikki thanked everyone for their interest in moving the council forward and reminded everyone that resource sheets need to be completed to provide up-to-date information.

**Minutes:**

Approved as written with a motion by Lou Ann Pomposelli / Second by Carol Thompson

**President’s Report**:

Vikki reported that NASAR membership continues to be under CAP’s annual plan

She also reported that all committees are appointed and working.

**Vice President’s Report:**

Terry Wise gave an update on the vision of PSARC, to move forward and noted that there are many great things in the future. Vikki is working hard and has already started putting several gears in motion. He relates that if anyone has any concerns, questions or ideas, please reach out.

**Secretary’s report**:

Lisa Rice reported that there are several resource sheets still outstanding. Lisa will reach out to those teams with missing information. She thanked everyone for their patience as she gets information sorted out and in a more usable format. Vikki reminded that all dues should be sent to Lou Ann and all resource sheets should go to Lisa.

**Treasurers Report**:

Lou Ann reported an account balance of $3826.60

She conveyed that dues were coming in regularly.

Bills paid on motion from the last meeting – Ring Central and One Call

There are two bills for payment that will be presented under New Business.

**Regional Representative Reports**:

There were no reports – however Vikki asked that if your Regional Representative reaches out to you, please respond so that they know you received the message.

**Membership Committee**:

Lou Ann reported no new membership applications have been received. Steel City is due for regular membership in April. They still need to be leveled.

She reminded everyone that if you are a sponsor, please follow through with your obligations. If you are a joining team and your sponsor isn’t following through, please let Vikki or someone from the Board know.

**Operations Committee**:

Jon reported that they are just getting started and that they are focusing on making sure that the council standards are in line with ASRC standards. He thanks those that are participating on the committee. They will bring a report back to the membership at the April meeting.

Vikki mentioned that ASRC standards have already been voted in as the council’s accepted standard, but since ASRC has updated their standards, we need to make sure ours are still equating to them.

There was some discussion with some conflicting information about whether EMT is equivalent to or acceptable in place of WFA. We will research the requirement and report back. As of now, PSARC/NASAR and DCNR all require WFA as a prerequisite.

**Bylaws:**

Matt was not present, nothing to report. Vikki noted that the committee is working on getting their meetings started to move forward.

**Website:**

Terry reported that the committee has received a lot of feedback on the website. This has been an issue for quite some time, but he now feels confident that he has answers to many ongoing questions. The website will be getting a much-needed facelift. Brian Cunningham who is a web-designer by career, as a member of the council and his help and guidance is much appreciated. There should be changes noted on the website as early as later tonight. Some things that are upcoming to name just a few;

* PSARC K9 evaluators list and contact information for them;
* Active members only area;
* Events page showing upcoming training open to others, etc;
* Eventually fillable resource forms to make updates easier and more accessible

Terry questioned whether teams were having problems using the emails provided to each team by PSARC? There was a lot of feedback indicating that there were problems utilizing them and many teams just don’t utilize them at all.

Terry ended by letting everyone know that he is excited about the upcoming website changes and asked that anyone with questions or ideas contact him.

**K9 Committee**:

Chris Wisser reported that the committee is focusing on standardization of language and making sure that the standards continue to be up to date. They are evaluating at other certifying agencies to determine if their standards are at a level acceptable to the council.

Chris reported that Dave Powers has applied for and been accepted as an Air Scent Evaluator.

**Old Business:**

Vikki pointed out that it was nice to see so many teams getting their dues in. She reiterated the importance of getting the resource sheets and the call-out contact information sheets completed as soon as possible. Per Lou Ann, the updated 2022 sheets should be uploaded and available on the website by tomorrow.

Meeting dates and times were reviewed

* April 23, 2022 will be held at SAR Summit, she asked that members consider staying after completion of that meeting to network with other teams and for fellowship. Time TBD
* Saturday, August 21 at 1900 via online platform
* Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 1900 via online platform

Vikki reported that the council will continue to be involved in meetings with PEMA. She would like multiple team representatives involved, reach out to Vikki if you are interested in participating.

Team leveling guidelines were updated in August 2021 and provided to the past administration for review. The review seems to have stalled at that point, however, Terry still has the drafted update and it will be sent to the Operations Committee to review and get moving again. One of the things the updated version is trying to address is helping the council teams to be more compliant with FEMA typing which is one thing that PEMA was requesting.

**New Business:**

Lou Ann presented a request to purchase Zoom for the council. This could be used for board meetings, general membership meetings and committee meetings. Dave Powers brought up that Google Meets could be used and that it was free. During the Board meeting, it was agreed that using Zoom was a good idea, however the membership felt that reviewing what each had to offer and then selecting the best option was in order. There was a motion by Lou Ann, seconded Jeff–to authorize the purchase of Zoom (under $200) if a review of Google Meets shows that it isn’t as good of an option for the council. A voice vote found all approved with the exception of Dave Powers who was a nay.

It had been brought up previously to look at purchasing PSARC patches to have available for purchase to members. These will coordinate with the rockers that are already on hand. Motion by Lou Ann, seconded by Carol Thompson to purchase 100 patches (up to $300.). Approved unanimously.

There was discussion about creating a decal to be available to those that are interested in displaying them. The decal would be PSARC’s logo with a team level. These could be purchased to display on team trailers. There would be a cost involved with some of the profit going to the council. Dave Clark will have a mock up available at Summit.

Vikki reported that Regional Reps asked for feedback from their area teams and received little feedback, however some of what did come back was; updated website with “usable” information, more standardization, more coordinated joint trainings. Many of the ideas brought up are already in progress.

Vikki gave an update on DCNR. Rick Bacon is managing the updates to requirements and testing. It’s is looking like the testing may have to move to a multi-day (two day) format. There will be more evaluators available from DCNR once they are certified and trained as evaluators. Vikki will remain the only civilian evaluator. There is no charge for the test, but a minimal donation towards fuel / travel expenses would be appreciated.

**Good of the order:**

Vikki – asks that membership please let us know what we can do better, give feedback.

Jeff from AMRG felt that the new administration was off to a good start. Their team would like to see Summit moved around the Commonwealth and thought that regional joint trainings might be a good way to get that started. There has been previous conversation about moving Summit so there was definitely more discussion to be had by the Summit Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 on a motion by Lou Ann, seconded by Lisa