**PENNSYLVANIA SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL**

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[www.PSARC.net](http://www.PSARC.net)

**PSARC Board Meeting**

**February 11, 2023 @ 0900**

**Via Zoom**

**PSARC General Business Meeting Minutes**

**February 11, 2023 10:00 via Conference Line**

**Meeting was called to order at 10:05 by President Vikki Coup.**

**Roll Call**

*Teams Present*

* Allegany Mountains Rescue Group
* Air SAR
* Bedford County
* Berks County SAR
* Elkland
* Fayette County
* Laurel Mountain
* Lawrence County SAR
* Lower Kiski
* Mid-Atlantic Regional
* Mountaineer
* Northeast
* PAWSAR
* Special Unit 66
* STRIKE
* Wolfpack

*Absent*

* Cumberland County
* Greater Philly
* NJSAR
* Northwest
* PACSAR
* White Oak

*Probationary Teams Present*

* Chesco SAR
* East Penn SAR
* Steel City

**President’s Report**:

Vikki (STRIKE) reported that Dave Powers has left Cumberland County SAR, Dave will submit a letter of resignation for the position of Central Regional Representative as team membership is a requirement of the position. The BOD has reviewed the bylaws and confirmed that vacant positions may be filled by the BOD until the next Annual Meeting. The BOD has determined that moving Carol Thompson from Bedford County SAR into the position of Central Regional Representative is the best option for the interim period. Carol had been in the Member-at-Large position, so that position is now vacant. The BOD will appoint a Member-at-Large. Any team with a member that may be interested in participating is asked to submit names to the Secretary. Submissions will be accepted until 2/28/23.

Positions for elections this year are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Northwest Board, Western Board, and Member-at-Large. There is also a vacancy for the Position of Central Board with the resignation of Dave Powers so that will be voted on as well. A Nominating Committee was appointed including Jim Wilkins (Wolfpack), Kathy Ortuba (Lower Kiski), Holly Bayer (AirSAR).

Vikki reported that the first DCNR test has been scheduled for May. Once that is done, testing opportunities will open up. She recommended reviewing the DCNR website for information on skills needed for testing. The written test remains the same as before at this point.

**Vice President’s Report:** Terry excused for work

**Treasurers Report**: Lou Ann (AirSAR) reported the following:

* She is currently having issues with PayPal.
* There was an unexpected invoice for $35.00 for work on updating FCC License. John Miller was reimbursed for fees associated with the update.
* Thank you to the K9 Evaluators for the deposit of funds.

**Secretary’s report**:

Lisa (LMSAR) Reported that there are still many outstanding Resource Sheets due. To date the following are still outstanding:

* AirSAR
* Bedford County
* Cumberland County
* Elkland
* Fayette County
* Greater Philly
* Lawrence County
* Mid Atlantic (MARSAR)
* New Jersey
* Northwest PA
* Northeast PA
* PAWSAR
* White Oak
* Wolfpack

Several indicated that these would be sent today.

**Committee Reports**

**Regional Representatives** –

* Vikki (STRIKE) thanked Dave Powers for his time spent in the position.
* Dave Clark (PAWSAR) reported that he will be sending information to teams via the PSARC emails for inspections in the Eastern Region.

**Website:** Terry (PACSAR) – Terry (PACSAR) was excused for work. Vikki (STRIKE) reported that two that were helping Terry are no longer able to assist. Vikki asked that interested parties get in touch with either Terry or her.

**Bylaws:** Lou Ann (AirSAR) reported that the committee has been working on updates. There will be a draft copy for review and feedback preceding a vote at the April meeting). Anyone interested in serving on the committee or with thoughts, please email Lou Ann.

**Marketing**: No report

**Operations Committee**: Lisa (LMSAR) nothing to report

**K9 Committee**: Lou Ann (AirSAR) – Reported for Chris Wisser (STRIKE). Standards have been reviewed and changes are being made in an attempt to bring the standards in line with other certifying organizations. Some changes include:

* + Minimum/Maximum amounts for HRD testing
  + Changing the cerification period from three to two years
  + Elimination of night problem for recertification, the night problem will remain on the initial certifications. Training log review will be more intensely focused on night training.

Ken Chiacchia (MARG) felt that the change in certification levels was unwarranted. Discussion ensued.

**Membership Committee**: Lou Ann (AirSAR) reported the following;

* + Steel City (Carrie Halas) was present at the meeting. AMRG confirmed that they were supportive of Steel City being moved from Probationary Member to Active Member. The Membership Committee (Lou Ann) reported that all requirements have been fulfilled and recommends that the team be accepted. A motion was made by Dave (PAWSAR), seconded by Ken (MARG) to finalize the status change. Barry (Berks) questioned whether all paperwork has been filed. Lou Ann confirmed that all paperwork has been completed. Hearing no further questions, motion carried unanimously. Welcome Steel City!

**Summit Committee** – Jeff (AMRG) as absent, so John Rogowski (AMRG) reported that the website will be up soon. Lou asked about any meetings that have happened as others that were going to be included in meetings that haven’t heard anything. John reported that there have been meetings taking place.

John asked for input about expected participation, and many teams related that they were awaiting information in reference to cost, housing and training/class offerings. John did relate that there will be basic rigging classes for ground pounders. Vikki related that SarTech2 testing is being offered as well. John advised that there is availability for a lot of tents, which raised questions about availability for trailers/campers/RVs.

John questioned who would be doing the seminar next year. That will be determined at a later date

**OLD Business** – Dave (PAWSAR) has worked to get PSARC into the Rotunda at the Capitol for Wednesday, April 26. From 1030-1400. They are only allowing 20 people and 3 K9s on site. They will not allow any vehicles or trailers. Those interested in attending are asked to contact Dave.

**Good of the Order –** Vikki (STRIKE) reported 8 new teams in the past two years have joined. She is happy to see the membership numbers growing.

Ken Chiacchia (MARG) reported that the new Deriving Objective Probability of Detection for Missing Person Search: Validating Use of Effective Sweep Width and Associated Mathematical Models paper has been published. He also inquired about using an online meeting app to make meetings easier. The BOD has been discussing the use of an online meeting application that allows for visual communications. The BOD tried utilizing one for the Board Meeting today and were happy with the results. They will work to determine the best platform to use.

Barry (BERKS) inquired about whether there will still be the option to call into Summit in April, it was confirmed that there will be that option. Barry also noted that his team’s dues were sent certified mail, but weren’t delivered or picked up. Lou will check with the Post Office as she didn’t receive any notification about having certified mail.

Dave Powers inquired what was being done with Chesco’s probation since he is no longer with Cumberland County (the sponsoring team). Vikki will be talking with Cumberland County to see if they will be able to continue sponsoring Chesco. If not, the Council will find another team willing to sponsor. This will not affect Chesco’s membership.

Remaining meetings for 2023:

Second Quarter – TBA based on SAR Summit Schedule (Tentative April 21-22, 2023)

Third Quarter – Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 1000

Fourth Quarter – Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 1000

The next meeting will be announced, but will be at SAR Training Summit. For those unable to attend in person, the Conference Call number will be accessible.

605-468-8038     Access Code: 564149

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 on a motion by Ken (Mountaineer), second by Val (Fayette SAR)