

**New Mexico Emergency Services Council
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
October 6, 2007**

The meeting was held at District 5 State Police Headquarters in Albuquerque, NM.

Attending: Gail Zimmerman, Sue Williams, Don Stone, Richard Swartz, Dave Baldrige, Gary Cascio, Brian Fuller, Tony Gaier, Ross Holbrook, and Robert Valdez.
Absent: John Van Dreese.

I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gail Zimmerman at 10:05 a.m.

II. Introductions – No introductions were necessary.

III. Minutes from Last Meeting – The minutes of the August 18, 2007 meeting were approved via e-mail and telephone on September 6, 2007.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Richard presented current account balances; a proposed budget for FY 2007-2008; transactions from 8/19/07 thru 10/6/2007; and a web page from ING Direct. He reported that the \$5000 donation received from the family of the subject of the Santa Fe search was distributed among 17 teams. On a motion by Ross, seconded by Sue, the payment for website maintenance was approved. On a motion by Ross, seconded by Robert, the '07-'08 budget was approved as a "Proposed" budget.

V. Committee Reports

A. Training – Tony reported that he has checked on several sites for Boot Camp. Some are free, but with time limits, and others charge as much as \$100 per hour. It was agreed that Boot Camp would be held the first weekend in December with classroom sessions at the community center in Tijeras on Saturday and the field sessions on the west side of the Sandias on Sunday. [Ed. Note: The Boot Camp dates were later changed to the second weekend in December.]

B. ESCAPE - On a motion by Ross, seconded by Sue, it was agreed that Friday would be a formal part of ESCAPE and that the registration fee would remain at \$60. Instructors, even those from out-of-state, would continue to be offered a \$100 stipend. Tony reported that Glorieta has set aside 20 rooms for early arrivals on Thursday. Several alternatives for vendor space, including erecting a tent or using part of the dining hall, were discussed. Tony said that expanding the vendor area might involve amending the contract. He will check with Glorieta on options that they would accept. Sue reminded Tony that the medical track should be set up for awarding CEs. At Gail's request, Tony, prior to the next meeting, will e-mail the Board the names of the leader of each track.

C. Membership – Richard reported that McKinley County SAR has been added to the website. He reported that he has received an application and check from the Amarillo

Alliance of Search K-9s (AASK). He will have them contact James Newberry regarding state recognition. Gary will contact Newberry in reference to placing the application for state recognition on the Council's website.

Gail pointed out some confusion regarding a message on the website concerning liaisons to recognized teams rather than Council member teams. Robert will prepare a correction and send it to Gary for posting. It was agreed that team listings on the website will be updated the first week in January.

D. Newsletter – Dave distributed a draft of the fall Newsletter. Sue will provide him information regarding ESCAPE 2007. He proposed, and it was agreed, that he will include four bios, with pictures, starting with the Council officers. He is working on a history of SAR in New Mexico. He agreed to change the Board e-mail addresses in the Newsletter to those linked from the website and to leave them off the liaison list. In the "Training Corner", he will include information about Boot Camp and ESCAPE 2008. On a suggestion from Don it was agreed to add the Council's web address to its letterhead. Gary will contact Paul McClendon to see if he has the original art work. The Newsletter should be published in about two weeks. The Newsletter following the fall issue will be pre-ESCAPE. The Board agreed that non-Council sponsored training announcements could be included in the Newsletter as long as announcements are designated as Council or non-Council sponsored.

E. Mapping – Nothing new to report.

F. Website – Gary will look into adding an interactive calendar to the website. He will also try to get statistics on website usage. Sue will send the Board a draft of a mission statement which the Board previously agreed to post on the home page.

G. Fundraising – No report. Gail will contact Steve VanKouteren, Fundraising Chair, and ask him to send reports for future meetings.

H. PACE – Gail reported that the Field Certification update project is complete and is much improved. She stated she will turn the committee chair over to someone else in about six months; but would remain as Council liaison to PACE if the Board approves.

I. SAR Review Board – Ross reported that the Board has not met in about two years. They are supposed to meet twice a year. He has contacted the governor's office with no results. He will contact James Newberry to determine how many teams are waiting to be recognized and who the other SAR Review Board members are.

VI. Old Business

A. ESCAPE 08 Contract Questions – This subject is covered above in Paragraph V.B.

B. Reimbursement – Sue has received eight e-mails following her request on the SAR forum for reports of non-payment of gas vouchers. She will send out another message

announcing that it has been 30 days and request final comments. She will then summarize the results and draft a letter to James Newberry for review by the Board. After approval, the letter will be sent to Newberry and he will be asked to attend the next Board meeting to discuss the issue. Gary suggested that we need to get the appropriate people together to look at the reimbursement procedures.

C. Investment of Funds – Richard reported that Wells Fargo has agreed to make some improvements to interest paid on Council accounts. If the balance on the ESCAPE account is \$3000 or more, there will be no service charge. The savings account interest rate was increased from 0.2% to 0.4%. The checking account was grandfathered with no service charges. Following a report from Sue concerning her favorable experience with ING, on a motion by Ross, seconded by Sue, it was agreed that the savings account will be invested in an ING Direct Business Savings Account currently paying 4.75% average percentage yield.

D. Other – There was a discussion concerning funding of SAR including the pros and cons of the Colorado system and the appropriateness of the Council lobbying the state legislature. In Colorado, a surcharge on hunting and fishing licenses goes to SAR and subjects may be billed for the cost of a mission. No decisions were made on this subject.

VII. New Business – There was a discussion concerning the lack of coverage that the volunteer SAR effort receives by the news media. Dave will draft a press release.

The NASAR annual convention will be held in New Mexico in 2008. For the next meeting Board members are asked to think about how the Council will be involved. Ross volunteered to determine the dates of the convention. [It was later determined that the convention will be held in Colorado Springs, so there will be no involvement of the Council.]

VIII. Adjourn – On a motion by Ross, seconded by Robert, it was agreed to adjourn at 12:40 p.m.

Submitted By:



Don Stone, Secretary

Approved: October 24, 2007