

**New Mexico Emergency Services Council  
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting  
December 8, 2007**

The meeting was held at Dion's Restaurant, Tramway Blvd. and Central Ave., Albuquerque, NM.

Attending: Gail Zimmerman, Sue Williams, Don Stone, Richard Swartz, Dave Baldrige, Brian Fuller, Tony Gaier, John Van Dreese, Robert Valdez; and guest, SAR Resource Officer, James Newberry. Absent: Gary Cascio and Ross Hollbrook.

**I. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gail Zimmerman at 3:48 p.m.

**II. Introductions** - No introductions were necessary.

**III. Minutes from Last Meeting** - The minutes of the October 6, 2007 meeting were approved via e-mail and telephone on October 24, 2007.

**IV. Treasurer's Report** - Richard reported the following account balances: ESCAPE - \$10,165.43; NMESC (checking) - \$4,321.59; Savings - \$8,293.96; Total - \$22,780.98. He has received a bill for web site maintenance for \$372.66. On a motion by Brian, seconded by Robert, the Board unanimously approved payment. He also has received a bill for the web domain fee. On a motion from Don, seconded by Sue, the Board unanimously approved a 5 year contract for \$99. Richard also reported that a donation of \$1000 was received from Mac Roopani on behalf of Arasalan Seratian, subject of a search, mission number 07-12-07. Richard will write a thank-you letter and disburse the donation to the participating teams.

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. Training** - Tony reported that the classroom session of Boot Camp was held today in Tijeras. The field session will be held tomorrow, December 9, in the Sandia foothills.

**B. ESCAPE** - Tony distributed a planning timeline for ESCAPE. He reported that he has track leaders for all tracks, but the management track is questionable since James Newberry will not be attending. Gail recommended that Tony contact ACs and FCs for help. Sue stated that ESCAPE committee meetings have been held in conjunction with Board meetings and there is no reason to bring in track leaders. It was agreed that it would be too expensive to hire professional instructors. Gail stated that, as chairperson, she will coordinate the Dowdy award process and prepare the Board nomination letter.

**C. Membership** - Robert distributed drafts of letters to be sent to all active and non-active state-recognized SAR teams. The "non-active" letter encourages teams to join the Council. The "active" letter encourages the teams to renew their membership. A separate letter to active teams, to be sent when they renew or join, reminds them of the

radio policy and license. Robert also assigned Board members to be liaisons with the non-member teams.

**D. Newsletter** – It was agreed the next Newsletter will be published “pre-ESCAPE”; i.e., between March 15 and April 1, 2008, and will be “heavy” on ESCAPE material. Dave would like to receive articles by March 1. He will include biographies of several additional Board members. He would like to include an article about the history of SAR in NM. Don suggested Gary Williams as a possible source and he will send Dave an article he wrote which explains the origins of the SAR law and of the Council.

**E. Mapping Program** – Gail reported for Gary. The map committee members are: Gail and Gary Cascio representing the Council; and Paul McLendon and Bob Cowan representing the Los Alamos group. About 2000 maps have been sold and many are still being ordered. The program has about \$2350 on hand and enough paper and ink for about 700 maps. The high speed ISP, used to download map updates, is no longer available and the committee is looking for a replacement service.

**F. Web Site** – No report due to Gary’s absence.

**G. Fundraising** – Gail reporting for Steve Van Kouteren, fundraising chair, stated that Patagonia, a potential contributor, has not made any promises, but neither have they said “no”.

**H. PACE** – Gail reported that there was one serious error in the Study Guide, which she will correct. A certification session was held December 7 in Carlsbad. Tony will arrange one soon in central New Mexico and Gail will conduct a test February 16, 2008 in Silver City.

**I. SAR Review Board** – James Newberry reported the state Boards and Commission organization does not know who the current members of the Review Board are and had asked him for the names of former members.

## **VI. Old Business**

**A. SAR Funding Issue** - On a motion by Sue, seconded by Dave, it was unanimously agreed not to pursue any changes to funding of SAR by the state (e.g., a fee on hunting licenses) as discussed during previous Board meetings.

**B. Reimbursement** – James Newberry agreed with the Board that gas reimbursement has been a headache. He explained that procedures can change any time a new person gets involved, but thinks we are through the log jam. He said reimbursement should not be expected in fewer than 90 to 120 days. Sue presented James with a list of people who informed her they are awaiting reimbursement. James will investigate and e-mail Sue his findings. Sue pointed out that there is a need to communicate with the volunteers and it was agreed that she would post a status report on the nmsar-forum e-mail list; and she agreed to be the point person on this issue. James also announced that he can no longer

assign a state mission number for ESCAPE because policy does not allow it. Sue pointed out that we will need to explain the reason for this when it is announced to the membership.

**C. Investment of Funds** – Richard stated that ING, where the Board plans to transfer the savings account for a higher rate of return, requires the names of three people authorized to conduct banking business; a resolution signed by all Directors approving the three names; and a Letter of Determination. Gail, Sue and Richard were named the Board members authorized to conduct business with ING. The Resolution was signed during the meeting. Richard has a copy of the Letter of Determination to submit.

**D. Press Release** – Dave distributed a copy of KOB's web site home page and a draft of a press release. He pointed out that all the TV stations' web sites allow tips for stories to be submitted. It was agreed that, for print media, written releases should be provided to the Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Farmington papers. On a question from Sue, Gail pointed out that two things need to be accomplished: 1) how SAR in NM works, and 2) an outline for the use by individual teams. Sue also suggested that a mock search would provide good publicity if the local media of all the teams that participate are invited.

## **VII. New Business**

A SAR volunteer had suggested to Gail that the Council's web site have a link to Amber Alerts. It was agreed not to do so.

It was agreed to table an earlier suggestion to update the state web site until it is up and running.

The next two scheduled meetings will be:

February 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at State Police District 5 Headquarters, Albuquerque  
April 12, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the Glorieta Conference Center

**VIII. Adjourn** – On a motion by Sue, seconded by Don, it was agreed to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted By:



Don Stone, Secretary

Approved: December 24, 2007