

ISARC Board Meeting
January 6, 2024, 9:00 am
Illinois Valley Community College, CTC-124, or Zoom

I. Call to Order

The January 6, 2024, ISARC Board meeting was held at Illinois Valley Community College and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 0902 by Chair Richard Bickel. Members present were Chair Richard Bickel, Vice-Chair Jim Hilgenberg, Treasurer Carol Lussky, Secretary Dawn Watson, and Board Members Liz Brady (via Zoom) Beth Drendel (via Zoom), and Scott Garrett (via Zoom). Also present via Zoom were Tom Foust, Outreach Committee Chair; Kim Gotte, Mutual Aid Resource Committee Chair; Linda Keen from Carol Stream, Robert Werderitsch from Plainfield County, John Bennett from Lake County, and Allen Matza from Will County.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2023, Board Meeting

A motion to approve the December 2, 2023, minutes as printed was made by Carol Lussky and seconded by Jim Hilgenberg. Motion passes.

III. Treasurer Report – December 2023

a. Fraud

Almost all the money has been reimbursed. The bank has reversed some credits and Carol Lussky contested the reversal. Carol Lussky is still fighting to get this cleaned up.

b. Annual Report

This will be done in February.

c. Membership Renewals

Invoices have been sent on 1/1/24. One agency has renewed already.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted was made by Jim Hilgenberg and seconded by Dawn Watson. Motion passes.

IV. Public Comments

John Bennett made a statement of some items to discuss with the Board.

a) At the SARM Beta class, a discussion between John Bennett and Tony Sondgeroth became very heated. The discussion was regarding his request for a BNAV and GSAR class in Lake County in 2024. He reached out to the Training Scheduler on November 8 because he had a training schedule planning day on December 2. Unfortunately, nothing was resolved during this discussion. John apologizes to the rest of the people who witnessed this.

b) John feels that certain members of the board have displayed a hostile environment John Bennett and the Lake County SAR team. Prior to John Bennett, Lake County did not have many participating members. After Domingo Kaller left, John Bennett was asked to take over. Lake County did not have a full complement for most of 2023 and only had a few members who responded to callouts. On 11/18, all the hard work paid off when Lake County responded with a full team. There are still many obstacles for Lake County SAR, one being the liability issue that prevents them from responding outside of Lake County. John Bennett discovered an Illinois State Administrative Rule that allows SAR volunteers to be covered by the State's Workmens Compensation policy for training and callouts, provided a case number is requested and approved. John Bennett indicates that he has tried to get ISARC to use this resource but has not

made much progress with this. John Bennett indicated that ISARC should call IEMA to get the case number and coverage.

- c) Board members have denied John Bennett the use of ISARC materials for his monthly trainings. This has been resolved.
- d) In BNAV and GSAR classes that John Bennett is the lead instructor, John Bennett indicates that other instructors tell him, in front of the attendees, that he's not using the right material. He also indicates the instructor didn't follow how he set up the field exercises.
- e) John Bennet would like to know if ISARC will support a team in Lake County and have John Bennett continue as a lead instructor.

Dick Bickel indicated that ISARC appreciates John Bennet's input and will investigate these concerns. Dick Bickel indicated that the state is blessed by having a team in Lake County and the members sitting here give their stamp of approval.

Regarding calling the State for the insurance, Dick Bickel indicated that his coordinator told him that she has to be the one to call the State. Kim Gotte had contacted the State EOC regarding liability insurance in December. The EoC indicated that an accredited EMA must be the one to make the request. John Bennett suggested that, when ISARC receives search requests, ISARC recommend the calling agency call the State EOC. This will be an article in the newsletter, sent out as an email to the PoCs, and added to the Hotline Procedures.

Allen Matza requested a Resource Guide. Dawn Watson indicated that a new resource guide will be created with the updated membership renewals. The Outreach Committee calls every agency to remind them to return their membership renewal.

V. Old Business

a. Resource Guide

John Bennett asked ISARC to share the Resource Guide with other agencies. The ISARC Board had agreed to this at the December meeting.

b. Membership Application

In progress

c. Membership Renewal Letter

Carol Lussky indicated that there is a way to include a document with the invoice. This was the plan for 2024, but the membership application and resource guide were not completed in time.

Dawn Watson is still working on drafting the membership renewal letter for 2024.

d. Trademark

No progress

e. CDs

Carol Lussky reached out to a few banks but is waiting for the fraud issue to be resolved.

f. Chase account signers

Carol Lussky needs to get in touch with the bank.

- g. IEMA Insurance
See public comments
- h. Eventbrite Options
This has been pending due to the fraud issue. A credit card is required for all options, such as RegFox.
- i. Proposed changes to the bylaws
No progress

VI. New Business

- a. IAmResponding renewal
Options are a 3-year or 5-year renewal, with annual payments or a one-time payment. A motion to renew for a 5-year plan in one payment was made by Liz Brady and seconded by Carol Lussky. Motion passes.
- b. Amazon Business
Carol Lussky indicated that Amazon Business is free, but you must upgrade to the premium account for free shipping. Carol Lussky will investigate this further.
- c. ISARC Polos
Due to taxes and paperwork, it was decided to sell merchandise only at the conference. Polos will be available for purchase at the 2024 conference. Beth Drendel is working with a company in Geneva and will be getting samples and pricing on embroidering.

Liz Brady indicated that she has contact with Boomer T's, so this might be another option. Liz Brady will send that information to Beth Drendel.

- d. Information requests
All information requests have been answered.
- e. Search Requests and Results
No search requests from agencies in December.
- f. Approvals
 - 1. Instructors
No new instructor approvals.
 - 2. Member Agencies
No new member agencies for December.
St. Charles and Elburn will be submitting applications.

VII. Committees

- a. Conference Committee
Beth Drendel and Carol Lussky will reach out to people who have expressed interest in being on the committee.
The next committee meeting will be held on January 25, 2024, at 7pm, via Zoom.

If anyone has any ideas for topics, please let Carol Lussky and Beth Drendel know.
John Bennett suggested doing a night search training

Linda Keen will be running the auction again for the 2024 conference.

There will be a competition to design the 2024 conference T-shirt.

b. Curriculum/Training

1. Updates from Training Scheduler

a. Regional Training Dates

Liz Brady, Allen Matza, and Robert Werderitsch suggested having GSAR classes scheduled closer to BNAV classes, instead of waiting 1-2 months. They indicated that they are having difficulty retaining members due to the wait between the classes.

John Bennett requested flexibility, as it is unfair to have regional trainings the same month/day every year.

This topic will be discussed at the January 10th Training/Curriculum meeting. Scott Garrett indicated that if an agency has enough people who need training, that agency can request a class outside of the regional training schedule. ISARC is trying to get into a rhythm/structure with regional trainings. The first year this is in place, there will be bumps and adjustments will be made.

b. SARIO presentations

Tom Foust presented SARIO to Christian County on 12/9. Thirty people attended. Christian County wants to start a team again.

2. SARM BETA class updates

Scott Garrett would like to recognize the Training Committee for revising the BNAV, GSAR, and SARM classes during 2023.

Beth Drendel indicated that the SARM class and instructors were very good. John Bennett also indicated it was a very good class, well received, with minor adjustments to be made. Liz Brady learned a lot and why a ground pounder waits so much. The exercises were a little confusing to her as she has not having done those before. The instructors did a very good job.

3. Instructor Updates Meeting Dates Reminder

Instructor updates will be held on 1/17, 1/20, and 1/23.

A reminder will be sent to instructors next week.

4. Printing SARIO, BNAV, GSAR, SARM materials

One quote indicates the cost would be \$581.31 for 138 copies of BNAV materials and 24 laminated BNAV maps, \$334.36 for GSAR materials and \$483.94 for SARM materials, for a total cost of \$1038.21. The cost decreases with increases in quantities.

Kim Gotte indicated that there are printed materials at her home. Carol Lussky indicated that these materials need to be brought down to store at the Peru Rescue Station.

The Board had decided to give all lead instructors two copies ahead of time, which will be replenished when they teach a class.

Liz Brady is contacting UPS and FedEx to set up an account to mail materials if needed. Carol Lussky indicated that PirateShip.com is an inexpensive shipping option. Liz Brady will look into this also.

Liz Brady is also investigating high-capacity laser printers. It was suggested that ISARC needs to consider not just the initial cost, but the ongoing maintenance costs.

c. Mutual Aid Resource Committee

1. Committee Members

Liz Brady and Allen Matza agreed to serve as MARC committee members. Kim Gotte has also asked Matt Roop to be a committee member.

2. ILEAS Regional Training

Kim Gotte has spoken with three regional planning coordinators of ILEAS on how to get word out to their membership regarding ISARC. ILEAS is working on scheduling a date for ISARC to speak at a regional planning coordinator meeting.

3. Memorandum of Agreement

No updates

4. ISARC Hot Line/Duty Officer Policy, Procedures, Guidelines

No updates

5. Hotline Phone Number Options

ISARC has been grandfathered into Google Voice free version.
MARC will investigate other options.

d. Outreach Committee

Outreach Committee sent out 29 thank you cards to the auction donators. Dick Bickel is starting to collect "free" items for the auction.

The Outreach Committee is going to start calling the member agencies again and would like to know what the Board wants to know from the teams. Some suggestions include asking if they went to the conference, if they have any suggestions for breakout sessions, and if they know of anyone to teach those sessions. Tom Foust will have a draft survey for the next Board meeting. The survey will contain a reminder to submit team highlights for publication in the newsletter.

Tom Foust is also getting a list of the IL State Police Districts to send them the ISARC "introduction" letter.

VIII. Board Workgroups

a. ISARC Newsletter

Carol Lussky hopes to have a newsletter out shortly but needs content.

Allen Matza suggested a blurb on the accomplishments of the Training/Curriculum Committee. Allen Matza will start something and send it to Carol Lussky to finish.

IX. For the Good of the Organization

Allen Matza thanks everyone for everything that's been done and appreciates everyone on the Board. John Bennett also thanks everyone for listening. SAR is a huge passion for him.

A motion to adjourn at 10:41 was made by Carol Lussky and seconded by Liz Brady. Motion passes.