



# NASAR Member Newsletter

October 2011

*National Association for Search and Rescue*

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## Letter from the President

As summer activities fade through the coolness of autumn, I hope the summer season was safe and successful for all. Depending on your location, preparation for SAR responses during the coming months will require a shift to winter equipment and techniques. It is during these seasonal changes that the importance of training and experience becomes paramount.

A message the NASAR Board of Directors (Board) hears loud and clear from the membership is the need to increase access to NASAR training and certification opportunities. Coupled with that message is concern with the cost of existing NASAR educational programs. I use the term "coupled" because access to and the cost of NASAR courses and certifications are truly interrelated. The focal point of that relationship is at the instructor/evaluator position. Access to training opportunities is limited by the availability of qualified instructors/evaluators and the cost of bringing these individuals to a locale or traveling elsewhere to scheduled classes.

The Board understands this dilemma and embarked on an initiative this year to provide a remedy. The goal of this initiative is to provide for the development of increased instructor/evaluator cadre at the jurisdictional level, while retaining the high standard of instruction and certifications currently offered by NASAR. In brief, the core of this new approach involves delegating the authority for vetting qualified SAR instructors/evaluators to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for SAR response at the local level. The Board believes that a wealth of untapped expertise exists at the local level; untapped because of a cumbersome process involved with becoming a NASAR instructor/evaluator. The revised process will be become established policy within the month.

Effective SAR response rests, in large measure, on the strength of relationships amongst SAR responders and response agencies. Thus, any activities which create or enhance relationships are to be developed and encouraged. The recognition of expertise and equivalencies in others, and the sharing of such, can only result in improved response to those in need. The enhanced process for the development of instructors/evaluators and this coming year's National Search and Rescue Conference hosted jointly by the MRA and NASAR embrace that philosophy.

Wishing you all a safe and successful autumn and winter season.

Training. Certification. Advocacy. One Voice...*that others may live.*

Dan Hourihan

President

## 2011 Board of Director's Election Results

Congratulations to Dan Hourihan, Paul Falavolito and Bernie Fontaine. Their term will begin during the 2012 January Board of Director Meeting and end in 2014.

Thank you to all the NASAR members that participated in the 2011 Election!

## Call for Technical Rescue Committee Members

In June 2011, the Technical Rescue Committee was formed and Loui McCurley, with Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI), has been appointed Committee Chair.

The purpose of the committee is to act as Subject Matter Experts in regards to Technical Rescue as well as develop content, parameters and processes for the new NASAR's Technical Rescue Certification procedures.

Are you interested in being a part of this process and have a passion for excellence in technical aspects of rescue? If so submit an application to the [Executive Director](#):

### Technical Rescue Committee Member

Application should include:

- Statement of Interest
- Brief bio outlining experience in the following areas:
  - Five years or more experience in Backcountry, Wilderness, or Mountain Rescue
  - Five years or more experience in Technical Rope Rescue or equivalent
  - Five years or more experience in training, curriculum development, and/or skills assessment in Technical Rescue (or related field)

The first Technical Rescue Committee conference call is scheduled for October 26th at 10am (Mountain Time).

Need Winter Gear for the coming season?  
Check out the [NASAR bookstore](#) for polar fleece jackets and vests!

## 2012 National Search and Rescue Conference

The Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) and the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) are coming together to welcome you to the first joint National Conference! Both the MRA and NASAR believe that a comprehensive emergency response conference is needed to serve the Search and Rescue community. In accomplishing this goal, the MRA and NASAR have partnered to bring this training forum which, we believe, cuts across the entire spectrum of contemporary emergency response activity, is innovative in its approach and will be attractive to a broad audience for its educational value.

The online registration process will open in November through the [Conference Website](#).

Presentations are being accepted for the following Tracks:

- General/Medical
- Government/Homeland Security/Urban SAR/Technology
- Management
- SAR Dog
- Technical & Mountain Rescue
- Water Rescue (Flood/Public Safety Dive/Swiftwater)

Due date for Workshop presentation submission is **November 11th**. For more information download the [Call for Presenters](#) form.



## 2012 Awards Program

Interested in submitting an award for the 2012 Conference but not sure where to start? Visit the NASAR website and the [Awards Program](#) page for information about the different awards, criteria and details. The due date for submission is March 1, 2012.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact the [Executive Director](#).

# National Search and Rescue Conference Sponsorship & Exhibitor Referral Program

In an effort to increase the number of Conference sponsors and exhibitors for the conference, the NASAR Board of Directors has approved a program to allow all members to be involved in the process. For every Sponsor or Exhibitor referred by a NASAR member, NASAR will compensate the member with a 20% finders fee on all fees collected by NASAR, from that Sponsor or Exhibitor, within 30 days after receipt of their payment to NASAR.

The Executive Director must be contacted with the name of the prospective company and contact you wish to refer. Already established relationships with exhibitors and sponsors are not eligible.

## Calendar of Special Dates

### 2011

November 11—2012 National Search and Rescue Conference Workshop presentation submission deadline

### 2012

January 13-15—NASAR Board of Directors' Meeting—Location TBA

March 1—Award Submission Deadline

May 1—Early Conference Registration Deadline (to receive deepest discounted rate)

May 11—Last day to book your room at Harveys Resort & Casino and receive group rate

June 6—NASAR Board of Directors' Meeting—Lake Tahoe, NV

June 7—NASAR General Membership Meeting & Opening Session of 2012 National Search and Rescue Conference

June 7—Meet the Candidates for the 2012 NASAR Board of Director Election (5pm deadline to submit candidate nominations)

June 7-9—2012 National Search and Rescue Conference Workshops

June 10—MRA Business Meeting

July 15—2012 NASAR Board of Director Election Released

September 15—Last day to vote in the 2012 NASAR Board of Director Election

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*...that others may live.*

## NASAR Board of Directors

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