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# 1st Quarter 2016



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# FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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From the Desk of the President

Boy this New Year has been busy!!!!!!! I hope everyone had a great end to 2015. Many of you were called on in various capacities to deal with some very heavy rains and made some of your rescues very dangerous and challenging. It is till my position that we are a valuable resource and asset to the citizens of Alabama. I hope you will accept that challenge and continue to get and maintain the training necessary to carry out each Squad and/or Departments mission. Reach out to our association to help you meet those goals.

I still caution each and every organization, we must work with our loyal members, as well as others who we may not see eye to eye with all the time, to accomplish our mission and task. Some of the things that are going on are reflecting very negatively to all squads. We are receiving state equipment and money and this will only make our efforts to our legislative supporters think twice in helping us. Chauncey already has a hard enough time to gather and gain support and the wrong and negative action by some has made it back to him in Montgomery.

I look forward to seeing each and every Squad/Department at our upcoming February meeting in Foley hosted by LASAR. But I will tell you up front, in our Board of Directors meeting will be only one person per Squad/Department. I was very disappointed at how our Board of Directors meeting went at conference. So I will be posting at the door and monitor. We have some very personal issues to discuss. This discussion has got to occur and I am asking all to comply. Again I look forward to seeing everyone in February, call on your officers to assist you and reach out to your legislators, and thank them for what they have done for us and them to continue to support us.

Matt Knight  
President

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From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

As we start the New Year, I hope all the Squads are doing well. This is going to be a trying year for us all as we try to keep up with the times. Money is tight and members are down as we try to staff the units. I for one know the frustration of getting and maintaining the memberships. We all have the problem of getting the younger ones to join in and do what we ask.

I just want to say a big Thank you to all of the people and squads that attended the Conference in Orange Beach. I have to say Chauncey had the vendor's present, it was the most I have seen in a long time and we did receive good feedback for next year. I appreciate them all being there. So thanks to the Woods for doing a great job on lining them up.

On a sadder note; Mike Pettit, past President of AARS notified us that he is terminally ill. Please keep him and Martha in your prayers. Thanks to Fischer Rescue Squad for letting me spend Christmas night with them all night in Little River Canyon on a mission. Thanks for doing a great job.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly meeting.

Danny Butler  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

Hello and Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year. Let me start by saying that the positive feedback from Conference has been overwhelming and I thank everyone that has taken the time to provide me with that feedback. We recognized a few things we can improve on and look forward to continuing the tradition of providing quality training and education at Conference. Every instructor, without fail, remarked on how pleased they were with the turnout and with the attentiveness and interaction of the attendees. All of them also expressed an interest in returning and presenting again, so please let me know what classes you want to see return or how these instructors can bring other training that may be desired. I also made several rounds and spoke to every vendor I could to get their feedback and there was not a single negative note expressed. So again, I thank you all for your attendance and support. If you were unable to attend, I look forward to seeing you this year.

Once again, I am humbled and honored by the confidence you have placed in me to serve another year as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. I am excited about the possibilities this year holds and look forward to working with my fellow officers to keep the AARS moving forward. I am wanting to have a couple of statewide or regional training sessions this year, so again, let me know where the interest lies so I can get you the training you want and need.

I will end with a more sobering note. Reports of violence against emergency personnel seem to be at an all-time high with no hope of lessening in sight. I urge you all to remember safety first and take every measure you can to insure the safety and well-being of yourself and your fellow rescuers. It is a sad commentary on society that this is such a frequent occurrence but that is the world in which we live and work so take care of yourself, you are important and needed by your family, your squad, and your community. If there is anything I can do to help you, please call. Thanks again for everything that you do! It is noticed and appreciated.

Chad Singleton  
2nd Vice President



# FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Conference 2015  
Orange Beach, AL

Honor Guard posted colors, opening prayer by Hoyt McCaghren.

Special Guests: Lt Ryan Bennett with ALEA

Art Faulkner State EMA Director

Trey Carter with AFBA

Allan Rice with Alabama Fire College

Meeting was called to order by President Matthew Knight

Roll was called with 62 squads present.

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes by Desoto Rescue Squad. Seconded by East Colbert Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

Request to start showing separate entry for state monies.

Motion was made by Ider Rescue Squad to excuse Choctaw County Rescue Squad due to a death in the squad. Seconded by Daphne Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vernon Rescue Squad to excuse Red Bay Rescue Squad. Seconded by Desoto Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

Financial report was read by Debbie Tidwell. Motion to accept by Daphne Search and Rescue. Seconded by Athens-Limestone Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

Tony with Rescue One spoke about a boat lease program.

Chauncey Wood spoke about the legislation. Regular session starts February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Chauncey thanked everyone for getting door prizes.

Danny Butler presented application for a new squad. Flatrock Fire and Rescue in Conecuh County. Daniel Day inspected. East Colbert Rescue Squad made motion to accept. Seconded Geraldine. Motion carried.

Chad spoke about the educational part of the conference and if anyone has suggestions to please let him know. Chad thanked all of the instructors for coming out.

There was no Rescuer of the Quarter.

The Executive Board reappointed Debbie Tidwell as Executive Secretary Treasurer for 2016.

2016 Conference will be at the Orange Beach Event Center.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

\* **2016 SECOND QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE:**

**APRIL 2, 2016 !!!!!!!!**

\* **The Electronic Version contains the ads and articles and can be found on the AARS Website or by subscribing by sending an email to [rescuer@alars.org](mailto:rescuer@alars.org) please include your name and Squad.**

\* **THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ANY ARTICLE SUBMITTED**

\* **ARTICLES SHOULD BE SENT USING THE EDITOR LINK ON THE AARS WEBSITE OR TO [editor@alars.org](mailto:editor@alars.org)**

\* **Be sure to check the Website regularly for updated information about things of interest.**

**The AARS Website is  
<http://www.alars.org>**

**ALL REQUESTS FOR AARS ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF YOUR COUNTY  
SHOULD COME FROM THE INCIDENT COMMANDER OF THE SCENE  
AND GO THROUGH A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.**

Christmas Day  
December 25, 2015  
Submitted by Huntsville Madison County Rescue Squad

It was Christmas morning at the Huntsville-Madison County Rescue Squad, Inc. Shortly after 9:00am we were dispatched to a water rescue call. Little did we know this would be just the tip of the iceberg as unfortunately, this would be our first of 11 calls over the next 28 hours.

Our area had experienced heavy rains over the previous several days and Christmas morning arrived with torrential rains in tow. Excess water had nowhere to go resulting in dangerous flooding which put many lives in dangers, including our own.

Our first water rescue was in a neighborhood in northwest Madison County. Water levels were above five feet deep and flowing fast. Our mission was to rescue a family trapped at the club house by rapidly rising flood waters. Upon our arrival we quickly realized there were other individuals who also needed to be rescued. We worked side by side with multiple agencies under a unified command. Our swift water training had taught us that time was of the essence and minutes mattered, so we worked diligently and methodically while also battling the elements, to rescue all victims before the threats of hypothermia and drowning could take their toll.

It seemed as if we couldn't finish one water call before being dispatched to another, which seemed to be the trend of the day. Often times we found ourselves being dispatched to multiple calls simultaneously.

At the end of the night we were dispatched to Ditto Landing Marina where the entire camp ground was under waist high water. We had two rescuers go in the water and we rescued four individuals. We also transported Huntsville Police officers to assist an individual out of harm's way. Campers had been notified they were to evacuate by noon, however these individuals disobeyed and had to be rescued.

These rescue situations were all preventable. Our community has got to become more in tune with the dangers of driving on water covered roads. Our local media had educated the community to the dangers prior to this occurrence. The National Weather Service has articles and educational videos depicting the impact of driving through flood waters. Visit the NOAA website, [nws.noaa.gov](http://nws.noaa.gov) and [tadd.weather.gov](http://tadd.weather.gov), "Turn Around, Don't Drown."





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First Quarterly Meeting At  
Foley Civic Center Council Chambers  
407 East Laurel Ave. (US Hwy. 98)  
Foley, Alabama 36535  
February 20, 2016

Hosted by Lower Alabama Search and Rescue



Registration.....7:30am---8:45am

Welcome and posting of Colors.....8:45am

Board of Directors Meeting.....10:00am

Lunch.....12:00noon—1:00pm

General Business Meeting..... 1:00pm

\*\*\*\*\*                      Friday Night Cookout                      \*\*\*\*\*  
Hot dogs and hamburgers at the LASAR building Friday  
February 19 from 4pm until 9pm. LASAR is celebrating  
16 years as an AARS squad and invite everyone out  
for food and fellowship.



1st Quarter 2016  
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Google earth

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2



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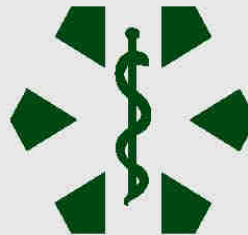
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