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**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE
SQUADS
ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

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FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

From the Desk of the President

Hello Fellow Squad Members..... I do hope this finds everybody well. Sure has been a busy and hot summer so far. I am very excited to be returning to the north end of our GREAT STATE with Athens-Limestone hosting our 3rd quarter quarterly meeting. Then before we know it will be conference time again down south.

As I begin to put my thoughts together for the letter, I recall this past week and the tragic loss of life that happened over the July 4th holiday period. I only go back just two weeks ago when we were dealing with a tragic drowning as well. Great work of resources by our neighboring agencies from Clay County Rescue Squad, ALEA Marine, AL Game and Fish, and Alex City/Tallapoosa Rescue Squad. Several things were seen at the end of this mission. I only will share my thoughts if asked, others will have their thoughts as well. In the end, we were able to put some closure for the family who has lost a loved one. Again, I woke up the morning of the fourth and 4 victims were missing in waters over our state. Good communication between all agencies that they had the necessary resources for their particular mission. Again, as I am writing this morning we are watching our first tropical mischief begin to develop we will now turn our attention to what our tropical season brings. You are always prepared to do your very best for the citizens you serve. But as the saying goes if you don't like something in Alabama just wait it changes.

Let's move onto to training. The Dept. of Postsecondary Education has developed a brochure that we have put on our website and Facebook page that I hope will stir up some takers for the tuition reimbursement program. I am set to meet with the new coordinator of the program the end this month or the beginning of August in making some changes. I hope to be able to share those changes or suggestions to everyone at the quarterly meeting. Please don't forget about the FEMA classes that Ray has worked hard for us to be able to take at conference. Jason should have classes squared away, but please if there is something you want to see, please contact him. Please know that each officer is only a phone call away and if we can help, please don't hesitate in calling. Look forward again in seeing everybody in Athens. God Bless!!!!

God Bless...
Matthew Knight
President

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

I hope this letter finds all of our AARS family doing well. It's hard to believe it is already time for the third quarterly meeting. This year seems to be flying by.

As all of us know we have had a devastating year so far. From the floods and tornadoes at the first of the year to the lake and river tragedies of the last few months. As of now there have been 25 boating deaths in our state in 2019. This is the deadliest year since 1998. We have also had 2 deaths at a favorite cave venue this year. With that being said, I would like all of our AARS squads to know how very proud I am of you and your members for all of your hard work and dedication to help bring closure to the families of the victims. My thoughts and prayers are with all of the families and the first responders that are responsible for the recoveries.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a major concern for first responders. If any of you or any first responder you know needs help, please feel free to call me. (256-509-4785) and the AARS will do everything we can to get them the help they need. DONT BE TO PROUD TO ASK FOR HELP!! We at the HCRU had a post-traumatic stress debriefing after a difficult recovery at the first of the year. It was highly productive. We were able to discuss the recovery and how it made us feel. In the end it brought the team closer and made us stronger. These debriefings are very important. Try not to overlook your debriefings after a difficult rescue or recovery. These can be held in house or in the company of a professional.

We will be having a meeting with the dog teams after the general business meeting in Athens. We will be discussing recommended training guidelines for dog teams. If possible, we would like only 1 or 2 members of your team, preferably an officer and your training officer.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. Remember this is your association so get involved and make a difference.

Brian Bailey
1st Vice President



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.

FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

2nd Quarterly Meeting
May 18, 2019
General Meeting

Wow, summer has come and gone. The kids are headed back to school. I am looking forward to the third quarterly meeting in Athens. Hope to see everyone there. I have been working to get conference classes scheduled. I think we have got something everyone can benefit from. Remember you have to register for the classes for us to have them. We have instructors giving up their time to come teach for us. Remember the reason you come to conference. We all like to enjoy the beach, fun, and food but please do this in your spare time. The classes can be very beneficial to you and your squad. We want all squads to participate in the challenges we have. We are working some team building challenges with prizes that could be more than a trophy. Make sure you go ahead and register for the FEMA classes early on line. We have to meet a minimum requirement to have these classes. Ray Hogan has worked hard to get these classes set up. We are also having Paramedic, Advanced, Intermediate, and Basic refresher modules. Paramedic and Advanced start on Monday November 18 at 8:00. Paramedic, Advanced, and Intermediate will attend all five days. Basics need to attend Thursday and Friday. You need to attend all classes so you can complete all your credit hours. USA will have their sim lab so we can practice skills. I have been asked to have the CPR instructor class again that will start on Wednesday and continue on Thursday. Jimmy Jones with Jackson County Sheriff's office on will be teaching class on Friday AM and PM. These will be very interesting classes. This year we are also including all our children in classes, Mike Stone will be teaching Children's First Aid and CPR Friday AM and PM. We will also have Healthcare provider class Friday AM to be taught by our new instructors. The FEMA classes that are going to be offered are as follows: Thursday AM and PM Crisis management awareness 148 and Friday AM and PM Working with media awareness 209 and Access and functional needs preparedness management 403. Please remember if we do not have enough participation for these classes we cannot justify having them. Hope to see everyone in Athens, August 17. Until then remember to always spend time with family, enjoy life, train hard, and stay safe.

Jason Heard
2nd Vice President

Colors posted by Honor Guard, opening prayer Hoyt MacCaghen.

Special Guests:

Trae Carter with First Responder Task Force

Captain Matt Brooks - ALEA

Captain Gary Buchanan - ALEA

Lieutenant Mark Fuller - ALEA

Dawn Russell - ADECA

Ed Oliver - Representative

Meeting called to order by President Matt Knight

Roll call by Sec/Treas Debbie Tidwell with 53 squads represented.

Motion was made by East Colbert to excuse Autauga County and Desoto. Motion was seconded by LASAR. Motion carried,

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes by LASAR.

Motion was seconded by East Colbert. Motion carried.

Financial report was read by Debbie Tidwell. Motion to accept by LASAR. Motion was seconded by East Colbert. Motion carried.

Brian presented application from Choctaw County for membership.

South Marengo made motion to accept Choctaw County back into Association. Central Alabama SAR seconded motion. Motion carried.

Brian also mentioned that there need to be a meeting with all the search dog squads at the August meeting, one representative from each squad.

Chauncey spoke about the legislation.

Jason spoke about training. Everyone needs to sign up for the FEMA classes and get their SID number.

Ray spoke about the cruise; it was a success. Maybe looking to do another in 2 years.

Deadline for grant application is August. Grants will be awarded at the conference.

Motion was made by North Lamar to pay Chauncey and Jimmy for the legislative work for the year. Motion was seconded by LASAR. Motion carried.

August meeting will be held in Athens.

Colors retired by the Honor Guard and meeting was dismissed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

* **2019 THIRD QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2019**

ANY ARTICLE SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE IS SUBJECT TO BE PLACED IN NEXT QUARTER'S MAGAZINE!

* **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 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**

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

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

3rd Quarterly Meeting
Hosted by:
Athens-Limestone Rescue Squad
August 17, 2019
Vietnam Veterans Building
17953 West Elm Street
Athens, AL

Agenda

Registration	8:30am – 9:30am
Welcome and Posting of Colors	9:30am
Board of Directors Meeting	10:00am
Lunch	12:00 – 1:30pm
General Business Meeting	1:30pm

Lunch provided

Friday Night Meet and Greet

Athens-Limestone Rescue Squad Building
1401 Freeman Avenue
Athens, AL
6pm - ???
Food provided
Contact: Mike Hardy
256-431-7734

Hotel Information

Best Western Inn
1329 US Hwy 72
256-233-4030

Holiday Inn Express
16074 Athens-Limestone Blvd
256-233-7932

Country Hearth Inn
1500 Highway 72
256-232-1520

Days Inn
1322 Highway 73
256-233-7500

Super 8 Motel
1325 US Hwy 72
256-233-1446

Travel Inn
1218 Kelli Drive
256-232-2704



AWR 148 - Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems

Orange Beach, AL / November 21, 2019

AWR 148: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents – Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems is an 8-hour, DHS-approved course designed to educate rural law enforcement personnel as well as school administrators and staff on the elements that would allow for an effective response to school-based emergencies. Schools in small, rural, and remote areas across the country account for almost 23 percent of the total student population (more than 11 million students). Rural schools, law enforcement, and other emergency responders are often limited in resources, so it is imperative that all potentially affected parties collaborate on planning, preparing, communicating, responding, and recovering from a school-based incident.

This **tuition-free** course is beneficial for rural police and sheriff departments, school administrators, school resource officers, counselors, EMA, fire, first responders and others involved in school safety and security.

Topics covered include:

- Introduction to Incident Planning and Preparedness
- Proactive Threat Mitigation
- Incident Response
- Incident Recovery
- Vulnerability Assessments
- Threat Assessment Management
- Incident Defusing and Debriefing
- Parent Reunification
- Anniversaries, Memorials, "Copy-Cats"

*Please note all Non-U.S. citizens need to complete a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request Form by October 21, 2019 in order to attend this course. Contact John Kayser with any questions.



Training sponsored by:
Alabama Association of Rescue Squads

Training site: Wharf Convention Center
4671 Wharf Pkwy.
Orange Beach, AL
36561

Date: November 21, 2019

Time: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Prerequisites: U.S. Citizenship*

Registration Deadline: November 7, 2019

To register, please visit our website:

<https://www.ruraltraining.org/training/schedule/2019-11-21-awr148-orangebeach-al-001/>

Please sign-up no later than November 7, 2019 as a minimum of 20 registrations must be received by this date in order to confirm the class will be held. Should you have any questions regarding the facility or location please contact Ray Hogans at 251-747-1451 or boots1@gulftel.com.

FEMA S.I.D. — REQUIRED
Register for your FEMA Student Identification number at:
<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>

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For more information about this course, please contact John Kayser at Kayser@findlay.edu or 419-434-5814.





AWR 209 Working with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders

Training offered at NO COST!!



AWR 209 Working with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders is a seven-hour tuition-free course designed to provide rural first responders with the skills and knowledge to quickly adopt the role of public information officer (PIO) if/when needed and to communicate with the public through the media. Many rural first responder organizations do not have a full or part-time PIO on staff. Therefore, in the event that a first responder is thrust into the role of PIO, whether it be roadside at the scene of an emergency or detailing directions to the public in a crisis situation, it is important to understand how the media works and how best to work with the available media outlets.

Topics covered include but are not limited to:

- Utilizing the media in emergency and public awareness situations.
- Working with the media at the scene of an emergency.
- Anticipating what news agencies want from the responders at the scene of an emergency.
- Giving interviews that work.
- Writing effective news releases that will be read.

**Please note all foreign nationals need to complete a Department of Homeland Security Foreign National Visitor Request Form in order to attend this course.*

Register for your FEMA Student Identification number at:
<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>



Friday, November 22, 2019

Registration Deadline: November 8, 2019

*Please sign-up no later than **Friday, November 8, 2019** as a minimum of 20 registrations must be received by this date to confirm the class will be held. Should you have any questions regarding the local jurisdiction or directions to the facility please contact Ray Hogans, (251) 747-1451 or boots1@gulftel.com.*

Training Sponsored by:

Alabama Association of Rescue Squads

Training Site

Wharf

4671 Wharf Parkway, Orange Beach, AL 36561

Sign-in begins: 7:30am

Class time: 8:00am - 4:00pm

Prerequisites: U.S. Citizenship

Registration

[Click here to register](#)

or visit

www.ruraltraining.org

Students who successfully complete training will receive an RDPC certificate in approximately 6-8 weeks after training.

For information about course content or how to obtain a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request Form contact the RDPC at: helpdesk@ruraltraining.org or 877-855-RDPC (7372)



MGT 403 Access and Functional Needs Preparedness Planning for Rural Communities



Friday, November 22, 2019

Class Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Registration Deadline: November 8, 2019

Please sign-up no later than November 8, 2019 as a minimum of 20 registrations must be received by this date to confirm the class will be held. Should you have any questions regarding the local jurisdiction or directions to the facility please contact Ray Hogans at: boots1@gulftel.com or Phone: (251) 747-1451.

Training Site:

**Wharf Conference Center
4671 Wharf Parkway
Orange Beach, AL 36561**

This is an eight-hour planning and management-level course. The purpose of this course is to ensure the safety of older adults, particularly those residing in assisted-living and nursing homes, and people with access and functional needs during a crisis event by increasing knowledge among community emergency planners in the area of pre-planning and preparedness.

It is important to encourage outreach to the whole community so that everyone is aware that these individuals may require personalized care, transportation, shelter, and medical assistance that must be considered before the crisis occurs. This course focuses on the preparedness phase of emergency management.

Topics covered include but are not limited to:

- Review of Common Programs and Continuity Resources
- Partnerships
- Individual Considerations
- Community Considerations
- Care Provider Considerations
- Preparedness and Response Tabletop Activity and Evaluation

Prerequisites: US Citizenship

**Please note all foreign nationals need to complete a Department of Homeland Security Foreign National Visitor Request Form in order to attend this course.*

Registration

Training offered at NO COST!

To register **CLICK HERE** or visit:

www.RuralTraining.org

Training Sponsored by:

Alabama Association of Rescue Squads

**** You must have your FEMA SID number for class registration. ****

Register for your FEMA Student Identification number at: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>



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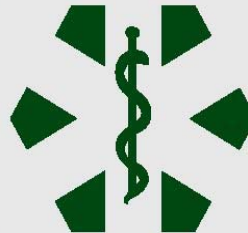
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