

The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads Presents

# THE ALABAMA RESCUER



---

2nd Quarter 2023



# NAFECO

**holmatro**  
mastering power



## PENTHEON



### THE NEW SUPERIOR PENTHEON SERIES UNRESTRAINED PERFORMANCE FOR YOUR MISSION

Working under pressure, in a race against the clock, first responders need equipment they can fully rely on. It is for these men and women that we have developed our new Pentheon Series: High-tech rescue tools that are miles ahead of all other equipment on the market, cordless and hose tools alike.

### USER CENTERED DESIGN BATTERY MANAGEMENT MADE EASY

What if battery management could be made as simple as just plugging it in? Well, that's exactly what we have done!



**CONTACT YOUR TERRITORY MANAGER FOR DEMO**



[NAFECO.com/Holmatro](http://NAFECO.com/Holmatro)  
[info@nafeco.com](mailto:info@nafeco.com) • 800-628-6233



**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE  
SQUADS  
ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

**2023 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**PRESIDENT.....DANNY BUTLER**  
(256) 997-6243  
1389 County Rd 160  
Crossville, AL 35962  
E-Mail: president@alars.org

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT.....BRIAN BAILEY**  
(256) 509-4785  
3153 Hwy 231  
Laceys Spring, AL 35754  
E-Mail: 1stvp@alars.org

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT.....RAY HOGANS**  
(251) 747-1451  
14350 County Road 93  
Lillian, AL 36549  
E-Mail: 2ndvp@alars.org

**SECRETARY / TREASURER.....DEBBIE TIDWELL**  
Association Phone: (205) 810-9918  
Fax: (256) 747-3633  
Cell: (256) 347-2690  
PO Box 569  
Addison, AL 35540  
E-Mail: sectreas@alars.org

**LEGAL ADVISOR .....CONTACT A MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE IF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED.**

---

**HONOR GUARD**  
Captain.....Andrew Nicholas  
(256) 651-0917  
E-Mail: honorguard@alars.org

**CONTACT A MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR REQUEST**

**RESCUER MAGAZINE**  
EDITOR.....GWEN STONE, Desoto  
Phone: (256) 364-0150  
E-Mail for Editor: editor@alars.org

WEBMASTER.....MICHAEL STONE, Desoto  
Phone: (256) 755-1023  
E-Mail for Webmaster: webmaster@alars.org

PHOTOGRAPHER.....TINA WOOD, LASAR

**CHAPLAIN.....MICHAEL TIDWELL, Winston County**  
**ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN..... BILLY EVANS, N Lamar**

**MEMBERSHIP.....CHAIR: BRIAN BAILEY, Huntsville Cave**  
JAMES MILLER, Etowah County  
JIM DENNIS, Childersburg  
JIMMY LOONEY, East Colbert  
RAY HOGANS, LASAR

**PUBLICITY/PR.....GWEN STONE, Desoto**  
**RESOLUTIONS.....CHAIR: DANNY SMITH, Cherokee**  
JOHNNY WARREN, Anniston  
GEORGE GRABRYAN, Florence-Lauderdale EMA

**WAYS/MEANS.....CHAIR: DANNY SMITH, Cherokee County**  
CHAUNCEY WOOD, LASAR  
JOHNNY WARREN, Anniston  
BRIAN BAILEY, Huntsville Cave Rescue  
RAY HOGAN, LASAR  
BILLY EVANS, N Lamar  
DANNY BUTLER, Geraldine

**EDUCATION/TRAINING....CHAIR: RAY HOGANS, LASAR**  
Medical - MATTHEW KNIGHT, Randolph County  
Dive / Water - JOHN WADE, LASAR  
SAR – JEFF RANDALL – RAT-SAR  
K-9 – COREY SPEEGLE NWA-K-9  
Drones - BRIAN MOSES, Morgan County

**NOMINATING.....CHAIR: MATTHEW KNIGHT, Randolph County**  
JOHNNY WARREN, Anniston  
DANNY SMITH, Cherokee  
JIMMY LOONEY, East Colbert  
TINA WOOD, LASAR

**LEGISLATIVE.....CHAIR: DANNY BUTLER, Geraldine**  
BRIAN BAILEY, Huntsville Cave  
DEBBIE TIDWELL, Winston County Search and Dive Team  
JIMMY LOONEY, East Colbert  
RAY HOGANS, LASAR  
CHAUNCEY WOOD, LASAR  
MATTHEW KNIGHT, Randolph County

**COMMUNICATIONS .....CHAIR: MICHAEL STONE, Desoto**  
JAMES RICHARSON, Morgan County  
CHAUNCEY WOOD, LASAR

**PARLIAMENTARIANS.....JOHNNY WARREN, Anniston**  
DANNY SMITH, Cherokee

**CONFERENCE.....CHAIRMEN: DEBBIE TIDWELL, Winston County**  
CHAUNCEY WOOD, LASAR  
TINA WOOD, LASAR  
GWEN STONE, Desoto  
JIMMY LOONEY, East Colbert  
MICHELL LOONEY, East Colbert  
RAY HOGANS, LASAR  
JONATHAN STANFIELD, Etowah County

**HISTORIANS.....BRE HEARD, Rosalie**  
JAMES MILLER, Etowah County

# FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

---

## From the Desk of the President

Hello to all, I hope all is well with each squad. I want to thank Mobile County for hosting the last meeting. Had a good time down there and enjoyed the meeting. Now I'M going to get on my soap box. The Alabama Association is open to any Squad and or Fire Dept that want to apply for membership. With that being said at the first quarter meeting we had a closed meeting to discuss a squad that had applied for membership. The issue was taken care of during the meeting with the Board of Directors and General membership . Then we received a letter voicing a displeasure in the way it was handled. In the by-laws it states we shall and or should send a letter. The last time I sent a letter to the squads in the same county and or area, the letter I sent was never read to the squads involved and/or members of the squad. I did talk to the squad Captain and or President on the phone as did Brian. Is this a By-Laws violation? No, it was not. They were notified well in advance of the meeting. Now that the Legislation is in session, Chauncey has been hard at it. He has been working hard during this session and we can't forget Jimmy who also has helped. He has gotten us some great bills passed this time that will help us in the long run. When you see them at the meetings, please let them know how much you appreciate all the hard work they do. I want to thank the squads who go to and sit in during the meetings for your support of the AARS. The next meeting is in Athens, AL for the second quarter. I hope to see you all there. Please be safe out there.

Danny Butler  
President

## From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

Hello everyone. Second quarter meeting is coming up quick. First, I want to apologize for leaving the first quarterly meeting early. I was really sick but thought I would be able to get through it but that didn't happen. Miserable ride home, but made it. A big thank you to all that reached out later to see if I made it home and was okay. Nothing like the AARS family. We probably will have a few new squads to vote on this meeting. So I hope we have a good turnout. It's great to see new squads coming on board to make the association stronger. Glad to see all these people wanting to volunteer to help give back to their community. That says a lot in this day and time. Hopefully we will be issuing the new drones that were received with the grant from the Alabama Association of RC and D councils. They have been a great partner to us in many squads. Their help has been greatly appreciated.

There are a lot of folks working on the groundwork for our new standards. Hopefully we will have an update at the meeting.

Also at the meeting I would like to address mutual aid programs that some squads are using and finding to be very beneficial. Hope to see you all in Athens. Just remember this is your association so get involved and make a difference.

Brian Bailey  
1st Vice President

## From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

Good morning all Rescuers,  
As Spring approaches, we can look forward to more people enjoying the outdoors and the waterways of this beautiful State of Alabama. Along with this will come a greater need for all of the AARS Squads to be called upon for assistance and help with multiple missions. With this said, I encourage each and every member to update and renew your training and education in your specialized rescue skills. As we continue to work diligently on establishing the AARS training network with designated Association Certified instructors and certifying training classes and programs through the AARS, we need everyone and every squad to work with and through the association to bring this program to completion. All squads need to encourage members to become instructors in some aspect of training. Every squad needs to become active in the training program and schedule classes and encourage everyone to step up and enhance their abilities and certifications in the rescue field.

As we progress in the training project as announced at the first quarter meeting the association is looking for someone to become the AARS State Training Coordinator and work directly with the development of the education and training as it continues to develop. If you feel you are interested and have a commitment to the training program please submit your request and interest for this position. I am seeking input from everyone on suggestions for training events throughout the year and classes you wish to have for annual conference.

RAY HOGANS  
2nd 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

---

## AARS MEETING MINUTES 1st Quarterly meeting, Mobile, AL February 18, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Danny Butler.

Roll call was done by Johnny Warren.

A motion was made by Desoto Rescue Squad to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 2022 AARS conference. Motion was seconded by Autauga County. Motion passed. In the general business meeting East Colbert made the motion to dispense and it was seconded by Desoto Rescue and passed.

Financial report was read as follows by Johnny Warren:

\*General Fund - \$53,245.35

\*Conference account - \$46,082.83

\*Ad Valorem account - \$128,280.98

\*Benevolent account - \$4,394.68

\*Investment account - \$83,401.22

\*Total - \$315,405.06

A motion was made by Desoto Rescue Squad to accept the financial report as read. Motion was seconded by Etowah County. Motion passed. In the general business meeting East Colber made a motion to dispense with the reading of the financial report. It was seconded by Desoto Rescue and motion passed.

President Danny Butler announced the other new officers, 1st Vice President, Brian Bailey, and 2nd Vice President, Ray Hogans. Debbie Tidwell remains as Executive Secretary/Treasurer.

1st Vice President Brian Bailey presented two new squads for acceptance into the AARS. The first squad presented was County Line Volunteer Rescue Squad from Talladega County. Danny Butler inspected them and they met all the AARS requirements. A motion was made by Desoto Rescue Squad to accept for membership. Motion was seconded by LASAR. Motion passed. In the general business meeting Athens/Limestone made the motion to accept and it was seconded by Marengo. Motion passed.

The second squad presented was Dual River Rescue Squad from Blount County. Danny had inspected them also and they met all the AARS requirements. Blount County Rescue Squad made a motion that Dual River be denied membership in the AARS due to alleged previous ethical issues with the current chief of Dual River.

Chauncey Wood pointed out that we needed to go into Executive Session to discuss the good name and character of someone. Motion was made by Childersburg and seconded by Geraldine to go into Executive Session. Motion carried.

(Executive Session held - no minutes)

(Executive Session closed)

Blount County's motion to deny Dual River admission into the AARS died for lack of a second. A motion to accept Dual River was made by Carbon Hill and seconded by Mobile EMS. Motion passed. In the general business meeting Athens/Limestone made the motion to accept and it was seconded by East Colbert. Motion passed.

Brian announced that 5 drones had already been passed out and a new grant would give the AARS 6 more drones available. He asked any squads who might be interested in having a drone to apply

2nd Vice President Ray Hogans told all squads how important it was to be certain your squad was 100% NIMS compliant because it was needed for funding through both the state and federal government.

Ray also announced training classes scheduled in Morgan Co. and Childersburg that were open to any squad, that he is working on state certification for instructor's and that there would be K-9 training June 10th and 11th at Blakely State Park for any squads interested.

Ray also said that he was working on Fall training as well as Conference training and that anyone who had any classes they would like to have at conference to let him know.

Danny Smith reported that the Ways & Means Committee had awarded grants totaling \$16,581. Two more grants were tabled because of missing information but it was anticipated those would be awarded as well. The combined total of grants was \$24,681. More grants will be available in August. A motion was made by Randolph Co and seconded by Carbon Hill to accept. Motion carried.

In the Legislative Report, Chauncey reported that a bill has been introduced to amend Bill 2018-524, the Volunteer Rescue Student bill. The proposed bill would amend to include program fees and other expenses and to add ambulance services and also to drop the mandatory stay to 2 years from 3 years.

Chauncey also reported that he is continuing to work on getting annual funding for rescue squads.

Matt Knight spoke about ARPA money and ambulance services receiving some of that money and the possibility that if there is left over money is might go to rescue squads. Chauncey then gave an update on the loaner program.

Danny Butler reported that Jeff Randall who had been appointed as training officer for the AARS had resigned. Anyone interested in the position should send a resume to the Executive Board.

Danny also stressed the importance of keeping up with your squads statistics, as far as calls run, and that the AARS was working on a way to make that easier.

There was discussion about the all call system and that it needed some changes and improvements.

Matt Knight was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award as he had not been at conference to get it then.

In Old Business, Mike Hardy questioned why new class A uniforms for the Honor Guard had not been provided yet because they had been approved years ago. Danny agreed that they would look into it and figure out why.

The next meeting would be May 20, 2023 at Athens/Limestone.

Meeting was adjourned.

**Meeting location is the DAV Building  
25396 Airport Road, Athens, AL 35614**

**Best Western Inn**

**1329 US Hwy 72**

**256-233-4030**

**Holiday Inn Express**

**16074 Athens Limestone Blvd.**

**256-233-7931**

**Country Hearth Inn**

**1500 Highway 72**

**256-232-1520**

**Days Inn**

**1322 Highway 72**

**256-233-7500**

**Super 8 Motel**

**1325 US Hwy 72**

**256-233-1446**

**Travel Inn**

**1218 Kelli Dr.**

**256-233-2704**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Meeting Agenda**

<b>Registration</b>	<b>8:30—9:30 am</b>
<b>Welcome and the Posting, of Colors</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:00 pm—1:30 pm</b>
<b>General Membership Meeting</b>	<b>1:30 pm--?</b>
<b>POC- Mike Hardy 256-431-7734</b>	

**Athens Limestone Recue is hosting a meet and greet, Friday S/19/23 at Squad bldg. 1401 Freeman Avenue, Athens Al. 35613. Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be served.**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- **2023 3rd QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: July 1, 2023**
- **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](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.**

<http://www.alars.org>



**AARS ORDER FORM**

	QTY.	COST	TOTAL
AARS SHOULDER PATCH	___	x \$ 3.00	___
AMERICAN FLAG PATCH	___	x \$ 3.00	___
AARS WINDOW DECAL	___	x \$ 0.50	___
AARS VEHICLE DECAL	___	x \$ 2.00	___
AARS FLAG	___	x \$85.00	___

GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CLIP AND MAIL TO:**

**AARS  
PO BOX 569  
ADDISON, AL 35540  
FAX: (256) 747-3633**

\*\*\* DO NOT SEND MONEY WITH YOUR ORDER. I WILL MAIL THE ITEMS TO YOU WITH AN INVOICE THAT WILL INCLUDE POSTAGE. THE POSTAGE FEE WILL BE WHATEVER IT COSTS TO MAIL THE ITEMS. \*\*\*

\*\*\* IF YOU PREFER I WILL BE GLAD TO BRING THE ITEMS TO THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING. \*\*\*



Unfortunately,  
you'll never  
know how good  
your insurance  
company is until  
something bad  
happens.

Emotional pain is something no one can fix. Lost income is a different matter. VFIS has built its reputation on prompt response and the kind of in-depth coverage that goes well beyond industry standards. Isn't it nice to know that someone else is looking out for your family too?

Coverage underwritten by  
National Union Fire Insurance  
Company of Pittsburg, PA,  
with its principal place of business  
in New York, NY.



**Insuring America's Heroes**

VFIS/Southeast  
PO Box 280  
Lineville, AL 36266  
(800) 621-3380  
[www.vfisal.com](http://www.vfisal.com)