

The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads Presents

The Alabama Rescuer



1st Quarter 2025
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ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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State Training Coordinator

Jim Dennis, Childersburg

AARS STATE PHOTOGRAPHER

Tina Wood, LASAR

2025 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

CHAPLAIN

Tony Dickie, Disaster Services

ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Billy Evans, N. Lamar

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN, Ray Hogans
Jimmy Looney, East Colbert
Eddie Tigue, Scottsboro-Jackson County
Danny Butler, Geraldine
Greg Rogers, South Marengo Co.
Jim Dennis, Childersburg
Curtis Shirley, Southwest Tuscaloosa

RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN, Danny Smith, Cherokee
Johnny Warren, Randolph
Danny Butler, Geraldine

WAYS and MEANS

CHAIRMAN, Danny Smith, Cherokee
Chauncey Wood, LASAR
Johnny Warren, Randolph
Ray Hogans, LASAR
Billy Evans, N. Lamar
Danny Butler, Geraldine
Candi Davidson, McIntosh

EDUCATION and TRAINING

CHAIRMAN, Greg Rogers, South Marengo Co.
State Coordinator, Jim Dennis, Childersburg

Dive, John Wade, LASAR
Medical, Jamie Gray, Elmore
SAR, Trevor Graben, Rosalie
K-9, Susan Hanson, Autauga
Drones, Andy Sims, Carbon Hill

2025 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (Continued)

NOMINATIONS

CHAIRMAN, Danny Butler, Geraldine
Johnny Warren, Randolph
Danny Smith, Cherokee
Jimmy Looney, East Colbert
Tina Wood, LASAR

LEGISLATION

CHAIRMAN, Chauncey Wood, LASAR
Danny Butler, Geraldine
Jimmy Looney, East Colbert
Matthew Knight, Randolph
Ray Hogans, LASAR
Mike Surles, Autauga
Gene Piatkowski, Childersburg

COMMUNICATIONS

CHAIRMAN, Danny Butler, Geraldine
Letty Rodrigues, LASAR
Mike Surles, Autauga

CONFERENCE

CHAIRMAN, Matthew Knight, Randolph
Chauncey Wood, LASAR
Tina Wood, LASAR
Jimmy Looney, East Colbert
Gwen Stone, Geraldine
Ray Hogans, LASAR
Joyce Butler, Geraldine
Mechelle Looney, East Colbert

AARS HISTORIAN

Gwen Stone, Geraldine

FROM THE DESK OF CHAUNCEY WOOD PRESIDENT



Hoping and praying everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. It's an Honor and a Privilege to serve as President of our Association.

Good to see everyone at the Conference it was a good turnout! Thanks to all the Instructors, the classes were great; Ray Hagans and Jim Dennis did an outstanding job organizing them. Thanks to Organized Seafood Association the food Friday and Saturday Night was Delicious. Tina Wood and Jimmy Looney did an awesome job getting the vendors in, hope everyone took the time to welcome and visit the vendors.

The Executive Board had its transition meeting January 15, 2025 (hard to believe its 2025 already), in Prattville to set up the Committees for the upcoming year, discuss squad memberships, education, training and grants. Remember ACT 2018-524 was passed and signed "Volunteer Rescue Student Tuition Reimbursement" Program for (EMSP) Emergency Medical Services Personnel. Commit for 3 years and get reimbursed tuition for EMT Basic, Advanced and Paramedic. Participating Colleges are Alabama Community Colleges, Alabama Fire College, and The University of South Alabama. If interested, I ask that you please take advantage of this program, it is the reason I ask the Legislature to renew the line item appropriation each session.

As we go into the New Year, I offer my "Congratulations" to Ray Hogans going to 1st Vice President and Greg Rogers as 2nd Vice President. I look forward to working with both of them, as I know they will do a great job. Can't leave out our NEW (Long time member, past President, 1st and 2nd Vice President) Executive Secretary – Treasurer Matthew "MATT" Knight, who has already jumped in with both feet!! Debbie Tidwell 20 plus years Retired Executive Secretary- Treasurer has helped to assist Matt with the AARS business during the transition period. Kudos to Debbie, don't be a stranger!!

(Continued)

Remember, this is your Association, call or text me with any concerns or ideas. As always I'm at your service. Hope to see everyone in Scottsboro for the Frist Quarterly meeting. Eddie Tighe and Scottsboro/Jackson Rescue Squad always make us feel welcome and take good care of us!!

Be Safe, Take Care and May God Bless You All!

Chauncey Wood
President

From 2024 conference



FROM THE DESK OF
Ray Hogans
1st Vice PRESIDENT



Hello all AARS Members:

As we start this new year, we are looking forward to great things for the rescue community. As we move forward into a new year of events and missions, we can expect more requirements and hurdles for all the member squads. I hope to see more joint operations and better methods for all squads to become better equipped and highly trained in advanced operations. Our association is a great group of highly dedicated rescue personnel and has outstanding skills. As we move forward in the technical world, we need to keep our skills and methods of operations on the modern edge. To do this, we are going to be tasked as individuals and squads to keep up with new and innovative methods and equipment for our ability to complete our mission in an outstanding manner.

I challenge each member and squad to become more efficient and more qualified in the SAR and MEDICAL community through advanced training and acquiring certifications in advanced methods of operations. We are losing our place in the professional world if we are not advancing in our ability to successfully conduct our mission in an advanced technical world of today's tools and equipment. We need to actively be recruiting newer and younger members to enhance the teams and nurture these younger individuals into our future squad members and leaders. Every squad needs to grow their membership and increase the training for those new members to become the experts of tomorrow.

Ray Hogans

1st VP AARS

From The Desk Of

Greg Rogers

2nd Vice President



I would like to thank the Association for putting their faith in me to serve as the 2nd VP for the 2025 year. While I'm no stranger to the AARS, this is my first year as a member of the Executive Board.

For those who do not know me, I joined the South Marengo Fire and Rescue Squad in Sweet Water as a junior member back in 1983 and have been a member since that time. Over the years I've served in most every position in that department and currently serve as their Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Over the years I have been an EMT Basic for 27 years, LPN for 35 years and a volunteer firefighter with the department since joining. As 2nd VP, training and public relations for the AARS fall under my responsibility. I feel my experiences will be a benefit to me performing my duties here.

The AARS has offered training as part of the conference for many years. Most recently, there has been a push to offer more formal training with a goal of meeting state and national standards. The purpose of this formal training was to first improve the knowledge and capabilities of our members but to also provide a training standard within the AARS that all of our members can work toward. Our member departments provide a wide array of services to the citizens of the state and we hope to be able to tailor our training offerings from the association to match these same services.

As we move to expand the training program from the AARS I ask that each of the member departments work with us in this process. On top of the monthly training classes from the AARS, every department provides their members with in-house training and some participate in additional training through other outside sources. Going forward we want to be able to capture all the training hours and build a database of total training classes and hours across the association. This will require the help of the departments and the instructors to send this information to us.

With the submissions of current training at the department level, the monthly classes by the association, and at expanded training at conference we hope to have a very educational year. I do want to add that it is wonderful to see social media postings of AARS departments participating in training. Please be sure to send pictures and information of your classes to the newsletter editor so this information can be seen by all our members and visitors to our website.

You in at the quarterly meeting.

Greg Rogers,
2nd Vice President

2024 Conference Minutes

2024 AARS Annual Conference in Orange Beach, AL on November 9. 2024 opened with the posting of the Colors by the AARS Honor Guard. Prayer by Chaplin Mike Tidwell.

Guest Speakers Nicole Nelson from Spring Hill Suites, Rep. Ed Oliver, AL House of Representatives, John Blue, East AL EMS Region Director, and Michael Rowlin from AFBA.

Minutes of Alabama Association of Rescue 2024 Annual Conference on November 9, 2024. Meeting called to order by President Danny Butler. Prayer by

Roll called with 66 members present.

Motion by TallCo 2nd by Gearldine to Count NWALK9 present due them being on a mission. Motion Carried.

Minutes of the 2024 3rd Quarterly Meeting were suspended by a motion from Huntsville Cave, 2nd by East Colbert. Motion Carried.

Exec. Sec/Treas. Debbie gave Financial Report:

Ad Val Account \$153,366.32

Conference Acct \$ 14,227.46

General Acct \$ 63,167.72

Benevol Acct \$ 3,418.84

Investment Acct. \$ 95,197.02

TOTAL \$329,377.36

Motion by East Colbert 2nd by Carbon Hill to approve Financial Report. Motion Carried.

1st Vice President Chauncey Wood recognized: Guest speakers were Greg Robinson AL EMA, with Janelle Speak present, Chief Matt Brooks, ALEA,

2nd Vice President Ray Hogans thanked everyone for being at Conference. Ray reported 1695hrs of training was awarded at conference, 1486 members took classroom with a total of 8900hrs for the year. Trevor Graben from Rosalie thought the most classes than all instructors. Ray mentioned yearly Drone inspection. Ray also recognized several squads for the donations of supplies that were affected by the Hurricanes. Ray brought up about Mountain City, TN Christmas for Kid. Mike Tidwell from Winston Co Search and Dive challenged and made a motion 2nd by USNRC that all squads and Dept's to make a \$50.00 Donation. Motion Carried. Brian Bailey Huntsville Cave made a motion 2nd by North Lamar that the AARS \$500.00 pending approval from State. Motion Carried.

1st Vice President Chauncey Wood mentioned a little legislative agenda. AARS Permanent Tag are available to purchase thru AL DOR and Matthew Knight gave a demonstration on how to sign up and purchase the tags and of have any questions to contact him. Chauncey brought one

(Continued)

department up for membership Elmore Fire and Rescue. Chauncey reported they meet all requirements and were present. Motion by East Colbert 2nd by Daphne. Motion carried.

Danny made recommendation to Appoint Matthew Knight as Exec. Sec./Treas. Huntsville Cave made Motion 2nd by Winston Co. Motion Carried.

Danny recognized the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads for being present at our Conference and thanked them for their hospitality at the TNARS Conference in October.

Danny recognized Gwen Stone for her number of years as Editor of the Rescuer. Danny recognized Mike Stone for his years as Webmaster of the Web Site.

Danny mentioned that new tires had to be purchased for the association trailer. LASAR purchased. East Colbert made motion 2nd by Daphne to reimburse LASAR for the purchase. Motion carried.

Danny mentioned that the monthly bills have been reviewed by the executive board. Ider made a motion 2nd by Autauga Co Motion carried.

Danny mentioned no Rescuer of the Quarter.

Danny mentioned self-employment to missions and disasters.

Danny said no elections and recognized the new officers for next year:

Chauncey Wood President

1st Vice President Ray Hogans

2nd Vice President Greg Rogers

Danny mentioned sponsoring the ICS 300 and 400 Classes.

Danny thanked Jamie Gray for help with CEU's and Class assignments.

Matt mentioned he had mailed out renewal packets for 2025.

Chauncey recognized and presented Chief Matt Brooks ALEA with a plaque. Board of Directors meeting adjourned.

General Membership meeting opened with prayer by Tony Taylor.

Minutes were dispensed from reading by motion from Huntsville Cave 2nd by East Colbert. Motion carried.

Financial report was dispensed from reporting by motion from Autauga Co 2nd by North Lamar. Review from BOD meeting by officers.

Elmore Fire and Rescue was voted in by General Membership.

Debbie got up and thanked the Association for the opportunity to serve as your Exec. Sec./Treas. Danny also thanked the Association for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Chauncey mentioned the start of a K9 Committee. meeting was suspended and reconvened at Annual Banquet.

Matthew reported that Microsoft Office is available for every squad or department.

After the Annual Banquet, the meeting of our 2024 Annual Conference was adjourned. AARS Honor Guard retired the colors.

Pictures from 2024 Conference









2025 AARS, QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULE

February 15th First Quarter

Scottsboro Jackson County rescue

404 Cedar Hill Drive

Scottsboro Al. 33768

May 17th Second Quarter

Autauga County Rescue

Prattville Alabama

August 16th Third Quarter

Alabama Fire College

Tuscaloosa Alabama

November 5th — 8th Fourth Quarter

AARS 2025 Annual Conference

Orange Beach Event Center

Orange Beach Alabama

From The Desk of Jim Dennis Training Coordinator



WOW!

A lot has occurred since our last meeting, The conference was a huge success with lots of training opportunities. 1512 certificates of training were issued in 2024! This would not have been possible without your support. Thank you for getting behind all of the training classes and we look forward to 2025. Our attendance was down a little at conference but hopefully will be back up this year. We are planning some great classes to be offered this year, and we will announce them in May so you will have plenty of time to plan for which classes interest you.

This year the weather interrupted our training for January at most sites. Feb. and March training will consist of EMFR training, and this is a DOT class. You will be required to be at all classes in this series and will be tested midterm and at the conclusion. This is a pass or fail class but very well worth the effort. Please plan to attend if able.

April will be compass and map reading, May will be CALTOPO, and June will be a new version similar to previous Man tracking classes which will be very interesting and informative.

We are working hard to improve training to meet the demands of the future as well as the current needs. Just a reminder, if you are an AARS instructor, you must teach a minimum of 2 classes per year to keep instructor status. If you would like to be an instructor, please go to the website and fill out an application and send to me or the 2nd Vice President for consideration. We are always looking for quality minded teachers to train our squads. We have a lot of good things coming up with training and look forward to sharing them with you as they develop.

If your squad would like to have classes at their squad as a unit, please go to the website and fill out the simple one-page form and we will do our best to accommodate your squad. If your squad is doing training within your unit, please let us know as we would like to document it. This will strengthen the credibility of our association as being a well-trained association with other agencies and the public.

Operation Christmas Rescue was a huge success and the squads that participated were able to help 2,834 children with our group and also provided to roughly another 3000 children with the Tenn Mine Rescue Assoc, What a blessing this was to these families and to the area. It was also a huge blessing to those who were able to witness it and to those who helped in so many ways. From the families in Tenn., I was asked to express their sincerest thank yous. God is so good all the time and even in the darkest of hours, he still provides blessings and this time he used each of us to provide a few moments of happiness and the joy of knowing that someone cares about them.

Thanks for a great year of training and we look forward to serving your needs in 2025.

Sincerely,

Jim Dennis

AARS Training Coordinator.

Pictures from the Toy Drive.





Samsung Kassie's A14







Thank You
Rescuers!

- 2025 2nd QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: April 7th 2025
- 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

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!

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AARS VEHICLE DECAL	_____	x \$ 2.00	_____
AARS FLAG	_____	x \$50.00	_____
GRAND TOTAL \$ _____			

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

Alabama Association Rescue Squads

1ST Quarterly Meeting 2025

Date: February 15, 2025

Location: Scottsboro Jackson County Rescue Squad
404 Cedar Hill Dr
Scottsboro Al 35768

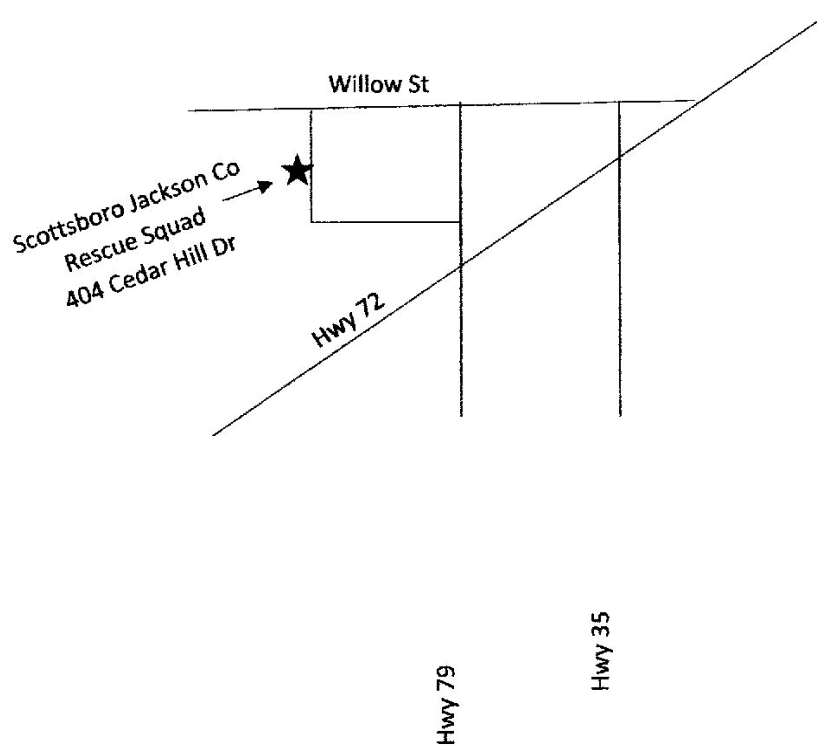
Questions: Eddie Tigie 256-899-3445

Agenda:

Registration	8:30 – 9:30 am
Welcome	9:30 am
Board of Directs Meeting	10:00 am
Lunch	11:30 am to 1:00 pm (will be provided)
Business Meeting	1:00 pm - Until

Accommodations:

Hampton Inn	256-259-5200
Comfort Inn	844-207-8861
Red Roof Inn	256-574-6740





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you'll never
know how good
your insurance
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something bad
happens.

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