

**Articles of Incorporation
of the
West Virginia Search and Rescue Council, Inc.**

These Articles of Incorporation for the West Virginia Search and Rescue Council, Inc. shall be on file with the Secretary of State of the state of West Virginia.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this corporation is the “West Virginia Search and Rescue Council, Inc.”, also known as “WVSARCO”, hereinafter referred to as the Corporation. The Corporation operates under the charter granted by the State of West Virginia.

ARTICLE II. ADDRESS

The address of the principal office of the Corporation will be Post Office Box 1574, Charleston, WV, 25326-1574 in the county of Kanawha.

The physical address of the principal place of business in West Virginia will be 1408 Virginia Street East, Apt 2B, Charleston, WV, 25301 in the county of Kanawha.

ARTICLE III. NON-PROFIT STATUS

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE IV. PURPOSES

Said corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The Corporation is formed for the following purposes:

- To serve as the coordinating agency in West Virginia for primarily wilderness search and rescue, and, as appropriate, other regions of the United States.
- To coordinate the establishment of Memorandums of Agreement with Members of the Corporation and the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and other local, state, national, and Federal organizations, as appropriate.

- To establish and coordinate mutual aid agreements in wilderness search and rescue and related services with local, state, national, and Federal organizations.
- To develop and coordinate a search and rescue system in West Virginia which provides for the arrangement of personnel, facilities, and equipment for the effective and coordinated delivery of wilderness search and rescue services.
- To coordinate and promote the implementation of the common purposes and to plan and coordinate the provision of wilderness search and rescue services by provider entities.
- To conduct training programs and education in subjects related to wilderness search and rescue.
- To conduct and carry out the work of the Corporation, not for profit, but exclusively for humanitarian, educational, and public services purposes.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

The classes of membership of the Corporation shall be:

- A) **Charter Member**: An organization present at the February 15, 2009 charter meeting that provides operational search and rescue resources. The member shall pay charter dues of \$50 by June 15, 2009. The member shall pay dues and meet all qualifications as prescribed in the Bylaws. The rights of membership shall include meeting attendance, voting, holding office and other rights as prescribed in the Bylaws. The member will officially designate two representatives and two alternate representatives to exercise the rights of membership. The membership automatically expires at the end of the corporate year, December 31st, and renewal must be made as required in the Bylaws.
- B) **Member**: An organization that provides operational search and rescue resources, and has entered into Memorandums of Agreement with the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and other agencies, as appropriate. The member shall pay dues and meet all qualification requirements as prescribed in the Bylaws in accordance with Member status. The rights of membership shall include meeting attendance, voting, holding office and other rights as prescribed in the Bylaws. The member will officially designate two representatives and two alternate representatives to exercise the rights of membership. The membership automatically expires at the end of the corporate year, December 31st, and renewal must be made as required in the Bylaws.
- C) **Affiliated Member**: An individual, organization or agency that supports the purposes of the Corporation but is not eligible or does not wish to be a Member. The member shall pay dues and meet all qualification requirements as prescribed in the Bylaws in accordance with Affiliated Member status. The Affiliated Member does not have voting rights nor have the right to hold office within the Corporation. The membership rights include meeting attendance and other rights as prescribed in the Bylaws. The membership automatically expires at the end of the corporate year, December 31st, and renewal must be made as required in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI. LIMITATIONS ON EARNINGS

No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article IV hereof.

ARTICLE VII. LOBBYING

No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE VIII. TRANSACTIONS

The Corporation shall not engage in any transaction which inures to the private advantage of its directors, officers, members or any substantial contributor to the Corporation, a member of the family of such persons, or a corporation controlled by such persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article IV.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

The corporation shall notify each member entitled to vote on the amendment, and of the proposed meeting of members in which consideration of the amendment is to be given 30 days prior to the meeting. The notice of meeting must also state that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is to consider the proposed amendment and contain or be accompanied by a copy or summary of the amendment.

Amendments to these Articles shall be adopted upon receiving more than two-thirds vote of the voting membership.

ARTICLE XI. INITIAL COUNCIL

The number of organizations constituting the initial Council of the corporation is twelve, and the names and addresses of the 24 persons who are to serve as the initial members of the Council of the corporation until their successors are elected and qualified are as follows:

1. Cabell County EMS Disaster Response Team
Steve Vititoe
Gordon Merry
846 8th Ave
Huntington, WV 25701
2. Hurricane Fire and Rescue
Deron Wilkes
Frank Stover
2716 Main St.
Hurricane, WV 25526
3. Logan County Ambulance Authority
Roger E. Bryant
Tim Arthur
26 1/2 Main Ave
Logan, WV 25601
4. Monroe County Search and Rescue
Bruce L. Power, Sr.
Richard Miller
P.O. Box 200
Union, WV 24983
5. Mountaineer Area Rescue Group
Don Ferguson
Doug Moore
P.O. Box 204
Kingwood, WV 26537
6. Nicholas County Volunteer Search and Rescue Team
John D. Fagan
Archie Vannoy
263 Gauley Mills Rd
Camden on Gauley, WV 26208
7. Northern Ohio Valley Area Search and Rescue, Inc.
Gary Rosenlieb
Carrie Walls
P.O. Box 468
Wheeling, WV 26003

8. Tyler County SAR
Tom Cooper
John Miller
P.O. Box 238
Middlebourne, WV 26149
9. Webster County Search and Rescue
Edward Litten
Larry Cogar
80 Gauley Ave
Cowen, WV 26206
10. West Virginia K-9 Search and Rescue, Inc.
Wanda Yeater
Rita Richard
P.O. Box 535
Charleston, WV 25322
11. West Virginia Project Lifesaver
Dave Byers
Mark King
193 Main St.
New Martinsville, WV 26155
12. West Virginia State Police Troop 3 SAR
CPL Bill Huddleston
SGT Bob Stump
1300 Harrison Ave
Elkins, WV 26241

ARTICLE XII. INCORPORATOR

The incorporator is Rita Richard of 1408 Virginia Street East, Apt 2B, Charleston, WV, 25301.

Signature of Incorporator: *Rita E Richard* Date: *5/8/2009*

If there is a problem with filing, please contact Rita Richard at (304) 344 – 0043.

END OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.