

Illinois Search and Rescue Council



2017 Board of Directors Election Biographies



Ally Burns

Ally Burns has served with Tazewell County Emergency Management Agency's Search and Rescue Team since 2007. Ally has advanced her search and rescue knowledge thru years of in-the-field operations as a search team member, field training officer, on Tazewell County SAR's leadership team, and as a GSAR instructor.

Besides her decade of field operations experience, Ally's education encompasses the world of emergency management of which SAR is a part. Her ISARC training includes Ground Search and Rescue, SAR management, Basic Land Navigation, Lost Person Behavior, and numerous GSAR Basic classes as both student and instructor.

Among her continuing education credits, Ally has completed the FEMA Professional Development Series Certificate, Texas A & M's (TEEX) Wide Area Search course, Illinois Fire Association's Command and General Staff Class.

Ally played a key role in Tazewell County during the tornado outbreak of 2013, where she served in the field doing detailed damage assessment work that proved critical to helping Tazewell County EMA, Health Department and Public Works develop their responses to that federally-declared disaster. She has been the go-to geographic information system (GIS) mapping person for TCEMA SAR ever since.

This life-changing experience spurred Ally on to complete her Associates in Meteorology (2015) and encouraged her to add a *third* minor - in Geo-Information Systems- to her Bachelor curriculum. Ally graduates next spring (2018) from Western Illinois University with her Bachelor's in Geography and minors in GIS, Emergency Management, and Homeland Security.

Ally's education and experience blend well with ISARC's goals of educating and supporting Search and Rescue Teams and Volunteers. Ally has the dedication and drive to serve not just her region, but her state as a competent board member of ISARC.



Thomas Foust

LaSalle Co. GSAR and Peru Rescue Station

I am running for the board of the Illinois Search and Rescue Council. I have had a long tenure of public service and I wish to continue this by being on the board.

The first thing I would like to do is continue helping the board move forward with the obtaining of our 501C3 tax status. By doing this, we will be able to apply for grants. I would also like to help with any other problems that might arise within our organization. One of the problems that I see and I would like to address is that we as board members need to do is stay in touch with our teams. I would like to know what their problems and concerns are and be able to bring these back to the board and see if they can be addressed and worked out. I also know that there are teams out there within the state that do not belong to our group. I would like to talk with them and see if we can bring them into our family. This will make us a stronger and more cohesive organization.

In coming from Ohio, I have never seen an organization like this. The friendships amongst the teams and other teams members make me really proud to belong to a group with this much professionalism and pride.

I want to help continue this and carry it on to other new possible members I believe that my experience as a deputy sheriff and a former fire fighter has given me experience with working with people and resolving problems. Thank you to all of you for the work that you do. Let's all move forward together.



Kimberly Gotte

I have been involved in Search and Rescue in some way since 1975. I have been involved in ground, mounted and ATV Search and Rescue in Colorado, Arizona, Texas and now Illinois. I have been involved extensively in survival, navigation and other aspects of Search and Rescue throughout the years.

I have been working with Illinois Search and Rescue Council since 2008 in one way or another. Kendall County EMA started a Search and Rescue team in 2013 and I was appointed Assistant Chief of Search and Rescue. We have grown in many ways, one of which is developing a comprehensive multi agency training schedule. We have brought together many agencies working together to learn new skills and reinforce old ones. We have done a lot to strengthen our relationships with law enforcement, fire and emergency management to serve our communities' search and rescue needs. In 2016 I was promoted to Section Chief – Search and Rescue. I am also very involved in a multi-agency K9 group as a flanker and trail layer and have been for several years. As those that know me, this is probably one of my favorite portions of my involvement in Search and Rescue.

I am a Lead Instructor for ISARC in Ground Search and Rescue, Search and Rescue Initial Operations, Basic Navigation and Search and Rescue Management. I have taught GSAR all over Northern Illinois since 2010. I am also an instructor for the Lost Person Behavior curriculum. As Curriculum Chair for ISARC, I hope to work with the committee and our membership to develop an updated curriculum to fulfill the newly adopted ISARC Certification matrix. I also would like to see additional outside training be offered to our member agencies that given them a more well-rounded Search and Rescue background.

As the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Search and Rescue Council for the last two years, I have seen such great forward movement of our organization. We have introduced new curriculum, drafted new bylaws to prepare us for our 501(C)3 submission, developed a continuing education program and so many more important development steps in maintaining our professionalism and aid to our communities and those in need.

I continue to believe in the direction that ISARC is taking Search and Rescue in Illinois and hope to be a part of its forward movement and growth. I hope that my experience in Search and Rescue can be of help in this goal.



Matthew Noar

My name is Matthew Noar and I am asking for your support as I run for a position on the Illinois Search and Rescue Council Board.

My involvement with ISARC began in 2010 as a member of McLean County EMA, Search and Rescue, K-9 Operations Team. I have greatly enjoyed and have benefited from numerous trainings from GSAR to search management courses not to mention the ongoing training that takes place with my K-9 Küster to keep him and myself at the top of our game, certified, and deployable. I would like the opportunity to broaden my service to the search and rescue community through ISARC. I believe ISARC is a prime example of, "You get out what you put in". ISARC has been a source for excellent training, continuing education, and conferences that promote critical networking. Many of us have benefitted from these opportunities and I want to play my part in ensuring that this tradition continues. If given the opportunity to serve on the board I will take the responsibility seriously and serve with much thought and full commitment. Thank you for your consideration!

Matthew Noar began training dogs in 2000 as decoy/handler in a local Schutzhund club, and as an instructor for Woodford County's 4H dog obedience program. Since then Matt has volunteered with Illinois Search Dogs as a decoy/flanker and is currently the Corporal for the K-9 Operations Team with the McLean County Emergency Management Agency in Illinois. He began training his first K9 partner Küster (German Shepherd) in 2011 and they have certified in tracking and trailing with the North American Police Working Dog (NAPWDA) and wilderness area search with the International Police Work Dog Association (IPWDA). Lately Matthew can be found working as an assistant instructor and helper/victim with Search Dog Organization of North America (SDONA).



Robby Paulsen

Boone County Search and Rescue

I have been Boone County Search and Rescue Team Leader since it was formed, and have been in SAR for approximately 9 years. I currently volunteer with Boone County EMA, CERT, Belvidere VIPS and the DeKalb County Sheriff Auxiliary and have done so for the past 12 years.

My first search was in 2012 and I have gone on any that I am able to ever since, regardless of weather, time of night or lack of sleep, like everyone. I have been on searches with many teams, and feel privileged to do so every time.

I have been a canine team flanker, FTO, as well as attended multiple SARM and LPB trainings. I have helped to evaluate emergency exercises with other agencies also. Boone Co. SAR holds our own monthly training. I participate in Multi-Agency training, as well as participate in other area training and exercises as scheduled and I encourage my teammates to do so as well.

I would like the opportunity to serve ISARC by being on the board. Especially by helping our organization achieve our 501C3 status, inform and encourage other agencies to take our training so that they are more prepared in the event of a missing person in their jurisdictions.