



## 2025 ICAR ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES REPORT



### **2025 ICAR Assembly of Delegates**

The 76<sup>th</sup> ICAR Assembly of Delegates was held on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, the final afternoon of the ICAR conference, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. This marks only the second time in ICAR history that ICAR has been held in the United States.

The Assembly of Delegates is made up of all the voting member organizations, of which there are roughly 120 organizations. Each voting member organization is issued voting cards that are to be raised in support or opposition of the agenda items put to a vote. This outdated method for tallying hundreds of votes led to multiple recounts this year and added a great deal of time and confusion to the AOD meeting. Hopefully, next year's AOD will incorporate a more streamlined digital voting platform.

The MRA is an A Category member of ICAR, which gives us 4 votes. B1 Category members get 2 votes, while B2 Category members carry one vote. ICAR Category C, D and E members do not receive voting privileges.

This year, it was decided by the ICAR Executive Board (which is an elected Board of Directors independent of the ICAR membership) that they would allow proxy voting, which has never been permitted in past AOD meetings (per ICAR's bylaws and reportedly Swiss Law). The MRA delegates unanimously felt that this was an unprecedented action without clear parameters, so we officially moved that the ICAR Executive Board better define proxy voting before the 2026 AOD and present those clarifications to the ICAR membership for approval. This motion was voted on and approved by the membership, but did not disallow proxy voting for the current year. More than 20% of the overall votes this year were by administered by proxy.

Several new organizations, including several from North America, were voted on and approved for ICAR membership. As an A Category member of ICAR, the MRA is typically notified by the ICAR Executive Board when another organization from our country is applying for ICAR membership. This did not happen in 2025, which resulted in the MRA delegates being surprised to discover that three organizations from the United States were applying for ICAR membership. All were voted on approved for membership. The MRA will be reaching out to the ICAR Executive Board to make sure that this oversight is not repeated in 2026.



## 2025 ICAR ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES REPORT



Here is the list of new ICAR member organizations:

### **A Category Member (4 votes)**

- Kosovo Mountain Search and Rescue Services (Kosovo)

### **B2 Category Members (one vote)**

- Two Bear Air Rescue Foundation (Montana, USA)
- Air Zermatt (Switzerland)
- Responder Alliance (Colorado, USA)
- Redog
- Association Nationale des Medecins et Sauveteurs en Montagne (France)

### **C Category Members (no votes)**

- Canadian Association of Wilderness Medicine (Canada)
- Rescue International (Netherlands)
- University of Vermont Wilderness Medicine Section (Vermont, USA)

### **Expulsion of Member Organizations**

The following member organization was expelled from ICAR due to more than one year of not paying annual dues:

- New South Wales State Emergency Service

### **ICAR Executive Board Elections**

ICAR also held elections for several Executive Board member positions. All Board positions have a four-year term. Currently, only two board members are non-European (from the United States and New Zealand), with Germany having the strongest presence at five of 12 board members hailing from that country.

Here is the 2025 ICAR Executive Board:

- Gebhard Barbisch, ICAR President (Germany)
- Marie Nordgren, ICAR Vice President (Sweden)
- Peter Zimmer ICAR Assessor (New Zealand)
- Volker Lischke, ICAR Assessor (Germany)
- Oceane Vibert, ICAR Assessor (France)
- Gregor Dolinar, ICAR Auditor (Slovenia)
- Markus Hölzl, ICAR Treasurer (Germany)



## 2025 ICAR ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES REPORT



- Natalie Hölzl, ICAR MedComm President (Germany)
- Stefan Blochum, ICAR TerComm President (Germany)
- Renauld Guillermet, ICAR Air Rescue Comm President (France)
- Stephanie Thomas, ICAR Avalanche Rescue Comm President (United States)
- Marcel Meier, ICAR Dog Handler Sub-Commission President (Switzerland)

### ICAR Recommendations

Each year, all four ICAR commissions (along with the Dog Handler Sub-Commission) create or update their existing ICAR recommendations. All ICAR recommendations are subject to review every five years. Once the commission approves a recommendation, it is then submitted to the AOD for a vote. All ICAR approved recommendations can be found here: <https://www.alpine-rescue.org/topics/161--recommendations> .

Here are the recommendations that were voted on and approved by the AOD for 2025:

Medical Commission, *2025 Rescue at Very High Altitude: Pharmacological Prophylaxis and Supplemental Oxygen for Unacclimatised Rescuers* (<https://www.alpine-rescue.org/articles/1693--2025-rescue-at-very-high-altitude-pharma-cological-prophylaxis-and-supplemental-oxygen-for-unacclimatised-rescuers> )

Avalanche Rescue Commission, 20251011-AVA-REC0011 Avalanche Commission Recommendation (Original 2015, Updated 2025), *Organized Avalanche Rescue Probing Strategies* (<https://www.alpine-rescue.org/articles/1682--organized-avalanche-rescue-probing-strategies-2015-updated-2025> )

Avalanche Rescue Commission, *Phases in an Avalanche Search-Recommendation 009 (2008, Updated 2025)* (<https://www.alpine-rescue.org/articles/1681--phases-in-an-avalanche-search-recommendation-009-2008-updated-2025> )

Terrestrial Rescue Commission, *Wildfire TER-REC0011* (<https://www.alpine-rescue.org/articles/1680--wildfire-tercom-recommendation-nr-11> )



## 2025 ICAR ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES REPORT



Terrestrial Rescue Commission, *Tensioned Rope Rescue Systems TER-REC0005*  
(<https://www.alpine-rescue.org/articles/14--tensioned-rope-rescue-systems-tercom-recommendation-nr-5> )

### **Conclusion**

The 2026 ICAR Conference will be held October 6-11, 2026 in Innsbruck, Austria and will be hosted by the Austrian Mountain Rescue Service. The 2026 conference themes will be disaster preparedness, training the next generation and rethinking how we train. Likely, registrations for 2026 will first be open to ICAR member organizations, with 10 registrations per organization. Then registrations will open to vendors and non-members. Registration usually opens in late Spring or early summer, keep an eye out on the MRA website for ICAR registration announcements.

ICAR 2027 will be held in Sinaia, Romania.

ICAR 2028 will be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Tom Wood and Rich Siemer