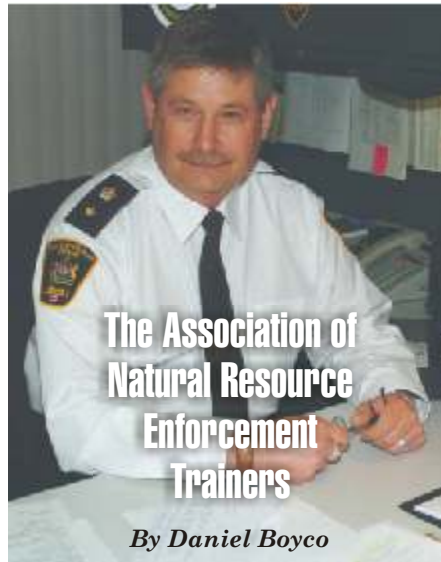


ANRET

For readers of this magazine, it is unlikely that I need dwell on the importance of training for law enforcement officers. *The International Game Warden Magazine* has for years done its part to underscore training as vital to the safety and success of an officer's career. My purpose is to introduce you to an organization whose very existence centers on the field of training for conservation law enforcement officers. Some of you may be familiar with the Association of Natural Resource Enforcement Trainers (ANRET) and it is likely that your agency is a member.

The business of training law enforcement officers is a crucial undertaking for any agency, and it exacts a significant time commitment and substantial resources – both human and financial. The notion that employees have a right to the safest possible work environment and that the tax-paying public demands these positions of authority and trust be occupied by professionals lies at the heart of it. The concept of due diligence has thrust training into the number one spot as the single most important factor when the work done by law enforcement officers is brought into question. Consequently, every aspect of a training program is analyzed through a microscope. Agency administrators, human resource manag-



The Association of
Natural Resource
Enforcement
Trainers

By Daniel Boyco

ers, occupational health and safety professionals, legal teams and, of course, the public recognize that good training is critical. ANRET is an international organization dedicated to meeting that objective.

ANRET is represented by conservation law enforcement agencies from across

North America and beyond. Founded in 1986, it was born from an understanding that agencies that share training information will be better positioned to address emerging issues in the training field and more capable of fulfilling their mandate to maintain a well trained and professional contingent of law enforcement personnel. ANRET acts as a resource for member agencies, ensuring that up to date training information is readily available whenever it is required. The association promotes training as a means to enhance officer safety and supports best practices in the field of conservation law enforcement. ANRET encourages cooperation between member agencies to disseminate information, promote research and development and adopt progressive training standards. The association has long been a repository for training information collected by member agencies – information that is readily available to any member upon request.

Likely the most important venue for member agencies to make contacts and exchange information is the annual conference; a place where representatives gather to pool their wisdom, experience and ideas for the benefit of all. The conference is held at a different location each year, determined by the membership following an offer by a member agency to



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act as host. Over a period of four days, agency reps will listen and learn from a full complement of guest speakers and subject matter experts. Members are encouraged to attend with new training and development materials for information exchange.

ANRET is an incorporated non-profit entity with a duly elected Board of Directors comprised of four officers: president, vice-president, executive secretary and treasurer. Three committees are assigned the work of the association: Audit, Bylaws, and Research and Development, and they report to the board and the members at the annual general meeting that takes place during the conference.

Professional development is paramount in the field of conservation law enforcement and ANRET is dedicated to ensuring that member agencies have access to the information they need. If you or your agency would like more information about ANRET and the benefits of membership, please contact our executive secretary, Scotty Roxburgh, at roxburgh_scotty@shaw.ca or visit www.anret.org

Daniel Boyco is Head, Field Logistics Section, Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division in Edmonton, Alberta, and is past president of ANRET.



The Association of Natural Resources Enforcement Trainers (ANRET) was founded in 1986 out of a need to share, and where possible, standardize training information and materials for the benefit of environmental enforcement agencies. It does not presume to dictate training and development practices to member agencies, but to assist them.

Goals & Objectives of the Association:

- to promote a more efficient and safer working environment for natural resource officers and to enhance their safety;
- to encourage and develop efficient cooperative law enforcement practices among natural resource enforcement agencies;
- to promote law enforcement research and development by determining training requirements, conducting training research, and establishing the highest training standards for natural resource enforcement professionals;
- to provide a medium for the collection and dissemination of training information; and
- to hold an annual workshop/conference to facilitate the exchange of training information.

While ANRET membership is primarily North American (Canada, USA) it includes members from the international community. They include representatives at the federal and state/provincial levels of government.

The game, fish, forest, parks, marine and environmental officers engaged in guarding our environment are a very dedicated group of people, who take their enforcement and technical responsibilities seriously.

The common mandate of all agencies is to protect and sustain the environment and to investigate and take appropriate action when legislation is violated. To accomplish this requires professional training. ANRET is the umbrella under which agencies gather to pool their collective training experience, wisdom and materials for the benefit of all.

The association is an incorporated non-profit entity with a duly elected Board of Directors comprising four officers: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Each of these positions is filled with a person from a different agency. Minutes of annual meetings and committee meetings are recorded. Three committees do the work of the

association; Audit, Bylaws, and Research and Development, and report to the board and the members at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting is held in a different location each year, decided by the membership following the offer of one or more agencies to host it. Meetings span four days with a full agenda, a number of guest speakers and cover the full spectrum of training and safety issues. Members bring training and development materials, including videos and computer diskettes for viewing and sharing. This is where the real work of the association is conducted.

There is an association membership fee of US \$50 and an annual conference registration fee for conference attendees.

- The membership fee entitles the agency member to receive a copy of the ANRET training catalog, the semi-annual newsletter and correspondence from the board and other members.
- The registration fee covers a wide range of necessary items, such as binders, inserts, paper, printing and distribution of meeting minutes, presentation papers, and occasionally, travel assistance for speakers.
- Revenue is also used to purchase ANRET lapel pins and shirts which are sold to members at cost.

ANRET has produced a catalog of training topics covering hundreds of subjects related to the training and development of enforcement officer and/or technicians. Members exchange lesson plans, video training tapes, and computer diskettes among other members upon request. Members and agency instructors are occasionally invited to guest lecture for another member's agency.

An association newsletter is published semi-annually and distributed to current members.

The benefits derived from membership in ANRET are very tangible ones. The excellent quality and large quantity of materials and information available allow trainers to provide state of the art instruction and materials to their classes. In turn, this enhances the professionalism of the officers and their agency. It also creates a large network of like-minded trainers which is one of the Goals and Objectives of the Association: sharing training information.

The quarterly news letter can be found inside the Members Zone. To be able to enter the Members Zone you need to be a paid up member of ANRET.

Complete an application and join ANRET today!
Visit us on the web at www.anret.org



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