

Present:

Don Matt Joe Scott Chris Ben

Approval of previous meeting minutes

- No changes

Committee Reports

- No committees

ED Report

- Membership:
 - Nothing terribly pressing. Chris Ritter background check came back, “nothing actionable”
 - Eric’s dog bitten by MARG member’s dog
 - Another possible canine handler
 - Matt started discussion about bylaws change so that membership votes do not go through the training officer
- Finance
 - Scott sent out financial info
 - PSARC cashed check
 - WVSARC – no check sent
 - “Haines” school donation
 - CDS – WFA class
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- Outreach
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- Fundraising
 - MRA Grant
- AGM
 - Went well
- MRA Meeting Hosting
 - Potential 2017
 - Would primarily be a logistics problem, figuring out where people stay, how to move people around
 - financial outlay would probably be less than \$10,000
 - Usually 3 days
 - Seems like it should be discussed with the membership.
- Moving to the new format for meetings – more time for training, less meeting.
- Awards ceremony – Matt moving forward with that

Commander’s report

- Setting up meetings with operational officers to discuss ongoing member development and projects

- Operations officer:
 - Comms officer – position being eliminated and duties (such as they are) placed under the assistant Ops officer.
 - Training officer – updating curriculum,
 - Mike Lipay – contacted Chris about quitting the team. Reasons:
 - Not medical professional – lots of medical info sent out on list
 - Don’s question: Too much medical info, or not enough non-medical?
 - Mike didn’t have a good answer for what he would like to read about.
 - Good approach would be to generate more interesting information on the list – like old gear lightning talks.
 - Not progressing to FTM quickly.
 - John reworking curriculum.
- Canine Officer
 - Melissa parker taking assistant officer position
 - Need new canine manual
 - Need to move checkoffs out of salesforce
 - Planning canine seminar in fall
- Vertical officer
 - Wants to implement tiered system – certain skills would need to be mastered before participating in more advanced training.
- Cave
 - Cave training in August in Forbes State Forest
 - Work with State Rangers on preplan for cave incident.
- Outreach
 - Joint trainings with several other teams.
- Canine incident
 - Eric Ritter’s dog Bo (bitten dog in question)
 - Working with MARG – no resolution yet.
 - Biting dog had protection training.
- Jan Kestner rear-ended after last month’s training.
 - Whiplash, but okay. Car drivable.
- Idea: move some trainings to other locations than Mercy.

Old Business

- Kockau family donation disposition.
 - Chris wrote letter, given to Don for review
 - Scott to issue check.
- Results of Disciplinary request
 - Don sent out via email earlier
- Ken’s emails
 - Don sent out earlier
- Update on PA tax exempt status

- Paperwork sent in. No word.
- Jacket purchase
 - Tabled
- Criminal & Child abuse background check policy
 - Administration is painful.
 - Don's EMS service uses a service that does all checks. Don will find details and send out.
 - General consensus: AMRG should pay for this.
 - May be issue with schools accepting clearances issued by Department of health.
 - May want to set maximum number of trainings that a member may attend before we have to run a background check.
 - Non-members should not be presented as associated with AMRG at PR events. (Non-members should only be permitted to attend business meetings or trainings)
 - Mandatory Reporting training to be added to required training.
- Canine Bite and Aggression Policy
 - To be reviewed by Canine handlers prior to implementation.
 - Ben to send around PA Bite law link – calling level 1 behavior a “bite” may open handlers to unwanted legal liability.
- Policy for canine members who want to join from other teams
 - No consensus on this. Several people are not interested in creating a backdoor to get around the FTL requirement.
 - Note: ASRC FTL does not appear to require a 1 year membership in the team.
 - One approach:
 - Incoming handler must get FTM, they can then be a Type 4 handler, and be field promoted as needed at searches.
 - Another approach:
 - Handlers must challenge FTL test.
- Jackets
 - Cost: \$10,000
 - General consensus is that we should get a grant to pay for this.

Action Items:

- All: Read policy on Criminal and Child Abuse Background checks. Submit comments.
- Don will find details of service that does clearances and send details around.
- Ben to send around link to PA dog liability law.