Present:
Don  Matt  Joe  Scott  Chris  Ben

Approval of previous meeting minutes
• No changes

Committee Reports
• No committees

ED Report
• Membership:
  o Nothing terribly pressing. Chris Ritter background check came back, “nothing actionable”
  o Eric’s dog bitten by MARG member’s dog
  o Another possible canine handler
  o Matt started discussion about bylaws change so that membership votes do not go through the training officer
• Finance
  o Scott sent out financial info
  o PSARC cashed check
  o WVSARC – no check sent
  o “Haines” school donation
  o CDS – WFA class
• Outreach
  o
• Fundraising
  o MRA Grant
• AGM
  o Went well
• MRA Meeting Hosting
  o Potential 2017
  o Would primarily be a logistics problem, figuring out where people stay, how to move people around
  o financial outlay would probably be less than $10,000
  o Usually 3 days
  o 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
  o Tabled

• Criminal & Child abuse background check policy
  o Administration is painful.
  o Don’s EMS service uses a service that does all checks. Don will find details and send out.
  o General consensus: AMRG should pay for this.
  o May be issue with schools accepting clearances issued by Department of health.
  o May want to set maximum number of trainings that a member may attend before we have to run a background check.
  o 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)
  o Mandatory Reporting training to be added to required training.

• Canine Bite and Aggression Policy
  o To be reviewed by Canine handlers prior to implementation.
  o 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
  o No consensus on this. Several people are not interested in creating a backdoor to get around the FTL requirement.
  o Note: ASRC FTL does not appear to require a 1 year membership in the team.
  o One approach:
    ▪ Incoming handler must get FTM, they can then be a Type 4 handler, and be field promoted as needed at searches.
  o Another approach:
    ▪ Handlers must challenge FTL test.

• Jackets
  o Cost: $10,000
  o 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.