



# Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association

**Wednesday June 13, 2012**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Location: City Side Bar and Grill 133 Coon Rapids Blvd N.W. Coon Rapids, MN 55433**

**Meeting called to order by Chair Scott Kostohryz at 1133 hrs.**

### **Present:**

Past Chair Brandon Brugger (MLEEA/ Minneapolis P.D.), Chair Scott Kostohryz (MLEEA/ Moorhead P.D.), Secretary Desiree Toninato (MLEEA Coon Rapids P.D.), Treasurer DuWayne Dixon, (MLEEA), Co-Chair Julie Olson, (MLEEA/Maplewood P.D.), Melinda Inman, (Northern Star Council), Tom Lancaster, (Northern Star Council), Scott Tulus, (Rochester P.D.), Ryan Manguson, (Rochester P.D.), Dennis Kreft, (Minneapolis P.D.), Mike Krukowski, (MN State Patrol), Kelly Phillips, (MN State Patrol), Jeffrey Tomaszewski, (Brooklyn Park P.D.), Gary Cayo, (MLEEA), Charles Redmond, (St. Paul P.D.), Chadd Smith, (Carver CSO), Erika Wallert, (Carver CSO), Brian Owens, (Blaine P.D.), Brad Nordby, (Blaine P.D), and Kathy Mcneely, (New Brighton P.D.).

### **Approval of the Agenda:**

Chair Kostohryz requested an approval for the agenda dated June 13, 2012. Motioned to approve the agenda by Rochester P.D. and seconded by Carver County. **AGENDA APPROVED.**

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chair Kostohryz requested an approval for the minutes dated April 20, 2012. Motioned to approve the minutes by Carver County and seconded by Blaine P.D. **MINUTES APPROVED.**

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Scholarship Committee – Presented by Toninato**

Per Sgt. Keasling nothing to report at this time.

#### **Treasurers' report – Presented by Dixon**

Profit and loss sheets handed out dated from May 2011 through April 2012 and Balance Sheet dated April 30, 2012.

Dixon explained all the financial data on both items handed out. He indicated we are investing soundly at this time and the investments cover the scholarship fund. He mentioned that some of the posts that are no longer in operation will forfeit their scholarship funds. He advised that the scholarship totals had been sent out last week and all posts should have received them. He said, recently approximately \$8,000.00 has been paid out. Dixon advised he purchased software to accomplish the accounting more effectively for \$190.00 but it was worth \$2,000.00. The paperwork will be going to the Auditors next month.

Chair Kostohryz requested an approval for the Treasurers' report. Motioned to approve the Treasurers' report by Carver County and seconded by Rochester P.D. **TREASURERS' REPORT APPROVED.**



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## OLD BUSINESS:

### **State Conference – Reviews: Kostohryz presented.**

In utilizing Survey Monkey there were a total of 189 people that responded with 91 participants being explorers. If names are given the only individuals that will see them are the Board and the youth rep. Most of the survey was positive. The negatives were about the food and the Kahler. The survey will close July 1, 2012. Please send it out to your explorers. It will be available again in an email as well as a link on the web site. The practical exercises had more than half the reviews in the excellent category.

### **Other conference information: Dixon presented.**

In regards to the bad reviews on the food – our next step would be to upgrade the food but the price of the conference would go up. The next level is approximately \$1.00 per person per meal. This could mean a possible increase of \$5.00 to \$10.00.

The question was posed: What was the next upgrade? Dixon advised it does not show on their web site (Canadian Honker), but he will check into it. He advised that bids had been presented by both the Double Tree and the Kahler but they would not volunteer to come over to see how our meals were run to feed 1000 people. The Canadian Honker does have the contract for four years. This past year was one of four. They were the best value. It was decided he would contact them for some upgrades.

### **Extra Conference Books:**

Dixon advised he has some extra conference books if anyone is interested.

### **Upcoming Contracts: Dixon presented.**

The hotels are asking about the 2016 and 2017 contracts. The contracts will actually becoming from the Rochester visitors center. There will be an increase of 1.5% each year. Do we want to lock in for 2016 and 2017 so we get our specific dates? Question was asked by Rochester P.D. what other options are there?

Dixon explained that there is really nothing than can completely handle all our needs and Rochester is our best venue. Cayo commented that he had checked into Madden's and they could handle us but it would not be cost effective. It would be very expensive. Breezy was mentioned but we have grown out of there. Dewey advised that if anyone wants to research other options that people should do so and then present it to the board.

We took a brief break at 1153 hrs.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### **Nationals:**

Good luck to those that are going.

### **Air Soft Guns: Dixon presented.**

Dixon advised due to our current Air pistols not working properly at the recent shoot he is requesting to purchase four new ones at \$160.00 each. Each comes with two mags. He advised we can purchase 5000 rounds for about \$16.00. We sold the older ones for a total of \$200.00. The money would come from the sale of the old ones and from our Rainy Day fund.

Melinda Inman advised this was a good idea because when she inquired about replacement parts for our older revolver models that they are almost obsolete and the parts are really not available.

Dixon advised that the Air Soft Rep. will be available for the next conference to assist at the Air Soft shoot.



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He is also looking into a shoot house for an M-4, the rounds would cost about \$5.00 for 30. It would probably not be for this year but the following.

Rochester advised that they have twenty Glock Air Soft s that we could borrow and suggested we try theirs before we purchase our own to see if we like them or not.

### **Academics: Julie Olson presented:**

Julie is now in charge of organizing the Academics so if you have any ideas please get them to her.

### **Misc Information:**

The board received an email from Minneapolis Advisor Dennis Kreft expressing concerns of posts cheating during Academics and Practical's. Most recently a post was caught cheating during one of the Academics.

Kreft addressed this at the meeting as well.

He questioned if there was an actual policy/rule addressing the issues of cheating. He advised that he believes posts talk amongst themselves and then share the info about the event with themselves and other posts making them more likely to place. He was concerned with keeping it fair. He knew of the incident involving a post at an academic, and said it actually involved one of the explorers that were running for the State Rep position

Kostohryz addressed his concerns: He said this is why we have judges as well as the board to deal with these types of issues and felt this specific event was dealt accordingly by that post being eliminated from all the academics.

Kostohryz also stated he believes that the advisors are very good at dealing with these codes of conduct issues and the advisors should be responsible for delivering that message to their explorers.

Kreft requested that there be some kind of rule in effect that had some "teeth" to it, like possibly a result of dismissal.

Olson advised that the code of conduct she has in place for her post is signed by both the explorers and their parents and this could be an option for other posts. If her explorers have issues they could be sent home at any time and the parents would have to come pick them up.

Kreft asked Gary Cayo he felt that sometimes some of the posts that were winners this year could have been groups sharing information. Cayo advised that he really did not think so because the judges are very good at picking up on information when a post competes and the judges have been asked and know to switch up the scenarios.

Kreft also felt that there was an issue of explorers watching traffic stops and accidents. State Patrol responded that the winning score of 57 out of 100 reflects how the judges can detect if the kids have spoken or been watching and take the necessary action to judge them.

Gary advised sometimes the kids knowing "too much" can cause them more negative issues than good. This is again because of our judges will pick up on this

Kreft asked Cayo if there was something that he could do with scheduling so posts that have teams competing in the same events would not be able to do cheat. Gary advised with only 14 events it would be very hard to do for scheduling. He really does not want to start moving them around. Gary again expressed his feelings that he didn't feel it was an issue.

Kreft asked if there was a standardized score sheet or manual for each event. He said this year when they received the score sheet for the First Aid event he did not know what some of the acronyms stood for or what they were looking for.

Dixon advised there are some Keys on the National Web site but they are old from 2003.



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Cayo advised we could put a paragraph description of the events in the Conference Book like we used to.

Toninato asked how many advisors at the meeting had power point presentations, most said they did. Krefit said he did not have any. Toninato suggested that persons send into the board their power points to possibly help out posts that did not have this information.

It was decided that if your post has a power point on an event you would not mind sharing you could forward it to Dixon and he would put it on our web site.

### **Misc Items:**

Blaine P.D. Sgt Owens requested assistance with their 3M golf tournament scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> - August 5, 2012. Please contact him at [bowens@ci.blaine.mn.us](mailto:bowens@ci.blaine.mn.us). Flyer to be scanned into our web site.

Sgt. Owens also inquired if his post could opt out all of the meals at the conference.

Kostohryz addressed this: Don't think we can do it; we really need to work together on this to make it work. He advised he would discuss this with the other board members.

Dixon explained this would be an accounting night mare for him because the meal is included with the conference costs. He also mentioned previously that Austin P.D. wanted to just drive back and forth to the Conference and not be required to pay for the hotel and food costs and we would not let them do this because if other posts chose to do this it would affect the conference adversely.

Another issue would be the explorers need to wear their wrist bands for both the competitions as well as for the meals. You could potentially have explorers that have not paid now go into eat meals, shorting the people that paid. Dixon was asked how much the meals cost for the conference. He advised it was \$69.25 per person for seven meals.

Kostohryz asked Owens what was the main issue that he did not want his kids to eat at the conference and Owens advised it was hard to get his explorers out of bed to eat and the quality was not good.

Kostohryz advised Owens we would upgrade the food this year, see how it is and then address the issue after the changes.

Report Writing Topic: Erika Wallert Carver County Sheriff's Office.

Wallert advised that she felt a Report Writing Practical Competition would be a need addition to our list.

She advised we could discuss this more in detail but she had a possible judge for it and it could be done using actors or a video and a lap top could be utilized. This could possibly be for a 4 person team.

This will be address in more detail.

Dixon mentioned the NRA grant would be here in about 6 -8 weeks and we would be receiving an allotment of ammunition.

**Next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 1130. Location TBA.**

**Kostohryz motioned to adjourn at 1300 hrs. Motioned to approve by Blaine P.D. and seconded by St. Paul P.D. Meeting adjourned.**