

MNPROA Insight

Quarterly Newsletter

February 2011

Volume 1 Edition 3

● MNPROA Board Corner by Mary McDonald

Why is a membership in MNPROA an important investment?

As an organization, the primary force is to provide grant monies for Reserves for ballistic vests and equipment. As a board, we need to be good stewards of the duties you as members have charged us. I know the past year has been difficult balancing the need to grant monies and the breaking the bank by giving all the money away. We have been hit hard by the down turn in the economy, so we have looked for ways to keep our expenses down, so that we can have money to use for grants. The reality of the situation is that we have been able to grant just over \$6200.00 in monies in 2010.

Some of the things we have done to cut our expenditures.

We are using more and more communication via electronic methods. Our website, Facebook, emails. This way we are not spending money on printing and postage.

We have changed our fundraising organization. At our last conference, I told you that the fundraiser we used had a high overhead and did not get a lot of money returned on the deal. The reality is, that as much as we would like to avoid using fundraisers, none of us has the time or expertise to know the rules and regulations that are in place. We have signed with a new company, with a better financial solvent and allow us to give more toward our grants. Your patience is appreciated.

We have moved our 2011 conference to the Crowne Plaza and have eliminated the President's reception. The Crowne has been courting us for sometime and is willing to work with

us to keep our costs down. In addition, we found that there did not seem to get much response from the members to attend the reception. I'm willing to stay after the conference and we can meet in the lobby bar for any post-conference discussions that anyone would wish to have with me.

We have entertained several suggestions by members as to ways we can raise money. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find any way to do these without a substantial outlay of money. We will continue to entertain your suggestions and you will be invited to make your presentations to the board for consideration

We are working with Ron Burg and Associates a full service Company to guide the board, and to provide management for the organization. Again it is a necessary expenditure as the reality is the Board consists of volunteers, who are either working full time, going to school, have families along with our responsibilities to our own Reserve organizations that we do not have the time to do the day-to-day operation of the organization.

Some of the things we have done in 2010 for our members.

To make the Acronym less confusing with the Minneapolis Police Reserves and to make us more inclusive to the Reserves Statewide we have change our Acronym to MNPROA. This may seem like a small change, but in the big picture we hope that we can get more board members from the out-state Reserves

We hold our meetings on line using Skype; this does not cost the board any additional money as we do not have to travel for the board meetings, nor do we have cost attributed to holding meetings in a Restaurant or other location. This also makes attractive to having board members from outside the metro area.

We host the Spring Conference; we have kept the cost down so that more people can afford to attend. We are trying to be responsive to you as members to make sure we provide timely and interesting program. In 2011, we will be providing the Certified Sky warn training for all attendees. This will fulfill any of your requirements for the Sky warn. We will have vendors in attendance so that you can talk to them about your needs and requirements for your units

We have co-sponsored training with Hennepin County on Use of Force this past August.

We have provided a forum for Departments to request assistance with training from other Departments.

We have granted \$6200.00 split among several agencies for ballistic vests and other equipment.

We need your support. We need your input and participation. Please encourage your fellow Reserves to join us and to come to the Spring Conference.

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MPROA Safety/Training and Tips

● **By Rocky Vandal, Director, MSFPD**

“Please refer to your department policies, or your department liaison, prior to employing the following”

FRISK OR SEARCH

The terminology and procedures of frisking and searching are sometimes thought to be the same. In practice, they are different procedures and used under different situations. A search procedure may or may not follow a frisk procedure. In this quarter’s newsletter, only the search procedure will be discussed. Last quarter the frisk procedure was discussed.

SEARCH: Glove up prior to searching and perform the search as soon as the suspect is in custody, secured and handcuffed.

The following procedure is not the only procedure but is one of several. The situation may dictate a modification of the following or a totally different technique. For example, the situation and demeanor of the suspect may suggest a search to be performed while the suspect is standing, kneeling or in a prone position. If standing, instruct the suspect to spread his/her feet (not spread their legs) but keep his/her legs straight. This helps to keep him/her off balance.

Approach should be at an angle and if possible from the rear. If you are carrying a control or impact device, approach in a bladed stance with your device secured. The side with the device should be on the side away from the suspect.

Procedure should start at the location where their hands are cuffed or secured, meaning the waistband area and small of the back. Once this area has been searched, search from the top down. If they are wearing a cap, remove it and place it out of his/her reach. Then search it afterwards.

Search down each arm, including the arm pits. Then do the upper torso and abdomen areas. Prior to going to the lower torso, groin and leg areas, recheck the waistband area.

Remove his/her shoes and then search one leg at a time. The next areas will be their lower torso and groin areas.

Notes: Weapons, contraband, handcuff keys and other items of interest have been found taped to the inside of belts, watch bands, shirt collars, forearms, skin in alignment with the spine and in the hair.

If searching a suspect of the opposite gender, have an officer of the same gender do the search. If one is unavailable, have a witness or another officer present and document accordingly.

Be Safe Out There!

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Unit Spotlight

The Wright County Sheriff's Office, (WCSO), is the third largest SO in Minnesota. There are 11 divisions within the SO: Administration, Bailiff, Civil Process, Communications, Community Services, Corrections, Criminal Investigation, Narcotics, Recreational Enforcement, Warrants/Transports and Patrol. Service is provided to the unincorporated areas of the county, and contract services are provided for 13 cities and 1 township within the county.

The Wright County Sheriff's Reserve was established as a result of a two part tale that began in the mid-1960's.

Part-one: "In 1966 under the command of the late Sheriff Darrell Wolf, Wright County Officers initiated an auxiliary law enforcement group to act as back up to the county deputies. Back then, reserves rode along with a deputy, carried guns and even made arrests. They made 50 cents an hour as compensation for their service," said Sheriff Gary Miller of the inaugural group.

"By 1972, the county encountered monetary difficulties. As a result, funding for the reserves was withdrawn. The county just didn't think it had enough money to keep up with the rate for reserves. The WCR's were disbanded," said Ken Antil, who served in the reserves from 1966-1968.

Part-two: By the late 1970's, the absence of the reserves was felt throughout the Sheriff's Department. In 1977 a truck had broken through the ice at Collinwood Lake. Ken Antil, now a Wright County Deputy in the boat and water division, and his partner rushed to the scene. As he and his partner tried desperately to save the victims of an accident that left one dead from drowning, Antil felt something was missing. How could he and his partner **alone** help the passengers of this truck? More hands were needed that day in 1977 and needed fast.

Left with only one other deputy that day at Collinwood Lake sealed the deal for Antil. "When we were helping with the drowning, I decided we needed more help, we needed two more guys!" In 1978, Antil

resurrected the WCSR's and acted as the reserve coordinator while working full-time as deputy within the Sheriff's Office. Antil served as the coordinator of the reserve unit until his retirement.

Six volunteers joined the re-emerging organization that was initially set up to relieve the Sheriff's Department of its snow patrol duties. Beginning with no monetary funding, the group spent years self-supporting their efforts through donations and fund raising efforts.

Today, the WCSR are 33 strong and assist the Sheriff's deputies at various community events, such as carnivals, parades, the Wright County Fair, water, snowmobile and ATV patrol, along with crime scene protection, evidence searches and road patrols.

The Reserve Unit provides service to the citizens of Wright County by their presence with Reserve Patrols in marked squads in the county parks, neighborhoods and businesses throughout the county. Wright County Reserve Officers work under the same Guiding Principles and Mission Statement as the Licensed Deputies: ~ **PROFESSIONALISM – FAIRNESS – CARING – INTEGRITY** ~

All training is provided by the WC Sheriff's Office, including time in dispatch and the county jail observing procedures and protocol. Reservists are continually trained in proper radio use, first aid (including CPR and AED), self-defense, firearms safety, search and rescue procedures, evidence searches, boat and water rescue/safety, ATV and snowmobile safety.



The Reserve Unit provides the Snowmobile Safety Training Program and holds classes for approximately 120 Wright County youth each year. Training includes classroom instruction and a driving test, using County equipment on a test track created by the reserves adjacent to the Law Enforcement Center.

Under the direction of Sheriff Gary Miller two licensed deputies – Sergeant Brian Johnson and Deputy/SRO Jake Hermansen, coordinate the reserve unit. There are currently 33 members in the Reserve Unit. The command structure within the unit consists of a Captain, a Lieutenant, and six Sergeants. Each Sergeant has responsibility for a group of reserves and provide guidance for them during assignments with additional training that might be required.

The reserves are civic minded men and women, wishing to give back to their community, and do so by generously donating thousands of hours per year. These volunteers willingly give of their time, including weekends and holidays, at any hour of the day in support of the Sheriff's Office and the people of Wright County.

As quoted in the Monticello Times article of 2001, Sheriff Miller said, "***The Reserves wear a number of hats. I don't know how the department could function without the Reserves. (When a need arises), who steps into the breach? It's the Reserves!***"

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Quotes accredited to Monticello Times - 2001