

USMRA EDUCATION COMMITTEE Annual Report

To: USMRA President, Lisa Geller

From: USMRA Education Committee

Re: USMRA EDUCATION COMMITTEE Annual Report

With our committee being new we spent the first few meetings discussing term and short term goals and brainstorming the means of implementing the goals of promoting and supporting the membership through education.

The USMRA Quarterly Newsletter will inform and educate through the sharing of information such as articles, interviews and will aid in the dissemination of information. The Newsletter will be managed by the committee with help from members and will be submitted to the BOD for approval prior to publishing. We do not intend to duplicate other information that is already on the USMRA site but to add another layer of interesting educational facts for the beginner and the advanced MR member.

The Education committee recommends the 2014 Budget provide a line item for Member Education in the amount of \$3000. This money will be used to expenses related to the newsletter (if any) educational grants such as regional mock trials, expos, regional workshops and seminars to name a few. It is intended that these regional grants will encourage clubs to work together, pooling resources and making these events more affordable and more available to more members.

There will be a written list of criteria for obtaining a grant from USMRA Education Fund.

Dividing the country into Regions has created many interesting discussions but we still have no agreement. Every method is flawed and we think moving forward we may be better able to determine boundaries as we see the patterns of interest in grant requests. Therefore we would like to get details during the grant request process so the requests can be analyzed.

Name of clubs

(Possibly granting more weight to requests that would serve more than 1 Club)

Type of Events

(Possibly granting more weight to requests planning more than 1 event. For instance, multiple Mock Trials or Expos or Sanctioned trials sharing of resources (decoys, judges venue) with other clubs. This is to address one important criteria- "how will your event promote the sport and how will your club give back to the USMRA)

Date of Events

Location of Events

(to determine if it can actually support several groups and possibly giving more weight to a request that will be "high profile" thus attracting other protection sport enthusiasts)

Names and address of USMRA Members attending and Level of Dogs attending

(to determine if this is a start up club or an established club, possibly giving more weight to a start up club **especially** if established clubs are involved)

Age of Club

(to determine what level of members we are supporting)

Number of Members with dogs training in MR but not yet competing in the sport

(to understand and consider members who are not quite ready to compete)

Location of primary training field to determine where these members train on a regular basis for geographical analysis

Anti discrimination clause

We suggest that the USMRA site show the Education Committee as the contact for information about “Upcoming Seminars” and any and all USMRA support events be posted thus being public record.

We suggest that short video clips posted to the USMRA site would be a good way to educate the new members by showing perfect performances along with a narrative of the exercise in sub title or audio, by a USMRA Judge or Board Member. We intend to request in the USMRA forums that members who are interested in allowing us to use video of their performances contact us for committee review.

Thank you,

Deb Hawkins, Education Committee Chair