



Assistance Dogs International Newsletter



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President's Message



Welcome to the ADI Newsletter.

ADI regions and members have been very active over the first quarter of the year. ADEu have announced their conference to be held in Spa Belgium between 3rd and 5th of November which will include a European Assessors workshop. Back to back with the conference the much anticipated launch of Animal Assisted Intervention International (AII) will take place on the 5th and 6th of November

ANZAD was officially launched by the Governor Generals (The Heads of State) of Australia and New Zealand in separate events held in Sydney Australia and Auckland New Zealand. Both events were well attended by ADI members and candidates and potential candidates.

ADINA has been working with the Board of ADI and host organisation Freedom Service Dogs to set up the 2014 Assistance Dogs International Conference. A combined International & Trainers conference is planned to be held in Denver, Colorado at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Denver 15th to 19th September, 2014.

In the past several years many members and candidates have failed to renew their yearly renewals in a timely manner. It has been adopted that all 2013 and subsequent ADI yearly renewals must be due or current by April 15th each year. After that date, organizations that do not renew will no longer be affiliated with ADI and its name will be removed from the ADI roster and website. I will mail organizations personally outlining the actions taken and the organization's recourse.

If the organization decides to renew between April 15 and June 15 a reinstatement fee of \$200 plus current renewal fees will apply. Any request for renewal after June 15th will not be honoured unless the organization can show due cause for the lack of renewal. If renewal is not honoured, the member must remain inactive for a period of one year. Any Candidate who has gone through the reinstatement or inactive period process will go back to the years they have already served. If accredited, ADI Accreditation will be removed and voided.

I look forward to members and candidates support on this matter. In closing I would like to thank Amanda Hope for taking over the role of editor of this newsletter and to wish you all well with your programs in 2013.

Richard Lord

ADI approves new minimum standards and new accreditation standard for certification of owner/private trained teams.

At the 2012 ADI Conference in Barcelona, the membership approved new Minimum Standards & Ethics for Certification of Owner/Private Trainer Trained Assistance Dog Teams. These minimum standards were developed by the ADI Standards & Ethics Committee partly because programs were experiencing increased requests for this service. The membership affirmed that it was important to have criteria that would assure that the ADI program and assistance dog team would meet high standards for team evaluation, training, certification testing and follow-up.



All ADI programs that provide certification for teams that did not originate with the program should please review the new minimum standards to be sure that they are in compliance. The minimum standards can be found on the ADI website in the Standards area on the Standards for Programs page.

Following the conference, the Accreditation Steering Committee also developed a new Accreditation Standard for these teams. From 2013 forward, Accredited Members and Candidates that provide this type of certification must be able to demonstrate compliance with the new accreditation standard. The accreditation standard is posted in the January 2013 ADI Accreditation Manual, which



standard. The accreditation standard is posted in the January, 2010 ADI Accreditation Manual, which is available on the ADI website.

ADI programs that have questions about this information should send an email inquiry to info@assistancedogsinternational.org

Dogs4Diabetics Founder Mark Ruefenacht honored with Jefferson Award



In January, Dogs4Diabetics Founder, Mark Ruefenacht and "Buckley" took center stage to receive the Silver Medal Jefferson Award presented in San Francisco by Jefferson Award co-founder, Sam Beard. The Jefferson Award was founded by Jacqueline Kennedy and Sam Beard to honor individuals who promote volunteerism and community service. Past Jefferson Award winners include Oprah Winfrey, Sandra Day O'Conner and numerous other notable individuals.

Mark Ruefenacht accepted the award on behalf of all Dogs4Diabetics and Guide Dogs for the Blind volunteers who work tirelessly to provide dogs to people with diabetes and visual impairment at no cost to their clients.

Sponsored by CBS, Jefferson Awards recipients are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward. By honoring the recipients, it is the goal of the Jefferson Awards to inspire others to become involved in community and public service. The honor is awarded at two levels. Recognized regionally, Ruefenacht is now in contention for recognition at the national level which will be announced in the coming months.

Mark Ruefenacht officially launched Dogs4Diabetics in 2004, after years of research on how dogs could use their phenomenal sense of smell to detect and alert on hypoglycemic episodes in diabetics. Combined with his own diabetes, his professional experience in Forensic Metrology and years of experience as a volunteer for Guide Dogs for the Blind of San Rafael, Ruefenacht developed the procedures now used to train dogs in this unique scent-detection effort.

Today, Dogs4Diabetics is run by a small staff along with the assistance of an army of volunteers. Over 100 dogs have been trained to detect the scent of hypoglycemia as well as how to alert their diabetic handler on their impending hypoglycemic episode. The organization also provides training and lifetime support for the diabetic partners of these specialized dogs.

In Ruefenacht's acceptance remarks he stated, "True happiness is not found in material possessions, but in reaching out in the service of others, and engaging yourself in what truly matters." He closed his remarks by saying, "I sincerely believe that community service and volunteerism is not something you do. Rather, volunteerism is a way of life...indeed, volunteerism is a lifestyle."

Continuing in that "lifestyle", in March, Ruefenacht is headed to Europe on a volunteer vacation. There he will work with other ADI accredited assistance dogs schools and guide dog schools to share information and some highlights about Dogs4Diabetics and Guide Dogs for the Blind programs.

For more information, visit www.Dogs4Diabetics.com.

Sr Pauline Quinn - Surviving the pain, living the dream

After visiting Asia and seeing donkeys and burros carrying kitchen wares for people, and also serving as crutches for some, Bonnie Bergin's experience of animals helping the handicapped planted an idea in her mind that subsequently caused a ripple



effect that shot around the world. She saw personal struggles and how the people were being aided by the donkeys and burros. Once she recognized the potential for programs that would train animals to help physically challenged people, her vision led to her founding the assistance dog movement.

Not everyone shared Bonnie's dream, but having a dream that people ridiculed because they didn't understand never deterred Bonnie; she refused to allow the pressures of repeated rejections to cause her to waver. With no formal knowledge of dog training, she relentlessly moved forward with strength, determination, and commitment that made her dream a reality and gave others the opportunity to realize dreams of their own. When people learned the value of a dog's ability to help others, it stimulated their own dreams and a desire to build similar programs to train assistance dogs. I was one of those who benefited from Bonnie's dedication.

Back in the late 1970s, I met Dr. Leo Bustad, the dean of the Veterinarian College at Washington State University. He helped to found the Delta Society and was totally committed to helping people through the love of animals and his unconditional compassion for wounded souls. He clearly understood the importance of love in healing hearts.

By comparison, people consumed with their own problems sometimes have difficulty showing empathy to others. Dr. Bustad had been a prisoner of war in Poland during World War II, and witnessed so much suffering in the prison camp that he couldn't forget it. With that as a backdrop, he also saw the power of the unconditional love a dog has to give. Combining that

with his awareness of human beings' need to learn how to reach out to others, he developed and taught a class at the university titled, "Compassion: Our Last Great Hope."

When Dr. Bustad and I met in the late 1970s, he understood what I had endured in my life, that understanding gleaned from his personal trauma as a young man. My childhood was filled with grief and sorrow. Abuse kills the spirit, crumples the self-esteem, and buries hope into a deep hole that is difficult to escape. During the 1950s, I had no one I could confide in. I therefore kept everything inside where I suffered nonstop. I repeatedly ran away from abuse only to be brought back home and scolded for running away from such a nice family.

When people don't understand the circumstances of another person's life they can cruelly judge them. No one understood what was happening to me, and when I ran away too often, I was placed in institutions where I lived intermittently for years. At that time, young people didn't have a voice or an advocate. I suffered years of torture in these institutions. I was kept tied to a post in a courtyard, hogtied with my hands secured to my ankles behind my back, beaten over the head, and totally dehumanized as a young teenager. I eventually ceased conversation and became mute, unable to speak unless I completely trusted the person. I also developed self-abuse syndrome, with which I struggled for twenty-five years, almost dying a number of times. I avoided going outside during the day because I was afraid of being seen. I ended up living in abandoned buildings and never attended high school. And yet, I came out of that rubble after I was given a German shepherd dog named Joni who changed my life forever.

Determined to use my experiences with Joni as a template for helping others, I learned how to train dogs by attending classes as an observer since I didn't have the money to pay for the classes. At other times, I trained in the background with my dog while listening to the trainer teaching students. I read, watched documentaries, found people willing to teach me. Since I had only my dog and was unable to work because I suffered from severe Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, I had more time to learn.

After many years of working hard, having a stable place to live, and with the help of Dr. Bustad who lived on the other side of the state from me, I put my dream into reality. I told him my dream, prompted when Bonny Bergin's dream rippled into my life. I saw hope, and he wanted to help me achieve it.

I wanted to start a program where people in institutions would train dogs to help the handicapped. Because my dog helped me in my struggles, I wanted a dog to help their lives as well. I didn't want to abandon them as I had been abandoned. I wanted to give them hope. I wanted the trainers to use the dog as a tool for healing themselves while they trained the dog to help others and along the way find hope in their pain. I wanted them to learn how to become "other centered," because when we think of others, our own sorrows start to heal. We must reach out to others unconditionally, as the dog reaches for us.

At first I thought of using the patients were confined at hospitals. The director of Washington State Mental Health wasn't interested in my proposal. I lived near two prisons at the time, men's and women's. Since it was easier traveling to the women's prison, I contacted the warden. Dr. Bustad wrote a letter on my behalf, then I arranged a meeting where we all got acquainted. I had found two excellent trainers to help me, and the program was given the go ahead. The first prison dog program started in 1981 at the Washington State Correctional Center for women.

Now after thirty-one years, the program is still thriving. It has a large boarding kennel inside the maximum-security prison, as well as grooming and education programs that offer certificates for completion. The State of Washington realized the many benefits of the animal programs in their twelve prisons, including ten that have dog programs and two with cat programs, where the inmates socialize feral and abused cats to help them recover enough to be adoptable.

Because of my experiences in institutions, I couldn't participate for a long time in an institutional setting, so others took over the program while I went to Italy to help the African refugees coming from the war. In my mission work that has taken me to different countries, I have witnessed the hardships of the handicapped dragging themselves along, unable to walk and with no wheelchair. In many cases, other people would walk by them as if they didn't even exist. I therefore took the opportunity to go around Europe to speak about the value of dogs being trained in prisons to help the handicapped. I had pictures to show, stories to tell, and hope to relay in order to demonstrate to educators the animal-human bond that characterized the programs that would help people.

In the process, my life began to heal. My dreams came true, and it became my passion to make every effort to pass on what I had learned in hopes that other assistance dog schools would start programs in prisons. My dream was that the Assistant Dog schools would get more trained dogs to help more people who had disabilities and would simultaneously help the prisoners and the correctional institution to bring love into their prisons. No one can be around dogs without feeling the great love that the dog can give.

The benefits of these prison programs don't cease when a participant is released. Many people who were in prison are now training dogs in the community. They learned positive training techniques, how to work as a team, how to help others who are struggling in life even more than they are. Perhaps most important, they learn that doing good deeds is far better and gets more attention than going out to commit crimes.

The prison dog programs I started or helped start are all over the United States and other countries. I also helped bring handicapped orphans here to the US, brought children who needed medical help for surgeries, as well as wounded soldiers

from Bosnia for medical help. It is amazing that a person who couldn't speak and couldn't look at anyone can now go out and give talks to large audiences and start programs in the prison system, all with no education beyond elementary school. I am self-taught, in the process of getting my doctorate from the college of experience, the toughest curriculum there is.

Approaching the end of my life, I can honestly say that I won the race. I used rejection, misunderstanding, and indifference as confidence builders. I discovered that if I believed in myself, then no one could hurt me again. Through years of overcoming what I went through, I learned that you can have a horrible life, but that doesn't mean that you can't be effective in helping others with their pain. Using a dog's love is the prescription that gives us what we need to heal.

Congratulations on your accreditation



Congratulations to the following ADI Members that achieved full five-year Accreditation or Re-accreditation during 2012 and early 2013!

ASKAL, Spain

Autism Dog Services, Canada

Brigadoon Service Dogs, USA

Canines for Service, USA

Fidos for Freedom, USA

Japan Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Japan

Lions Hearing Dogs, Australia

Medical Detection Dogs UK

Pacific Assistance Dogs, USA

Palmetto Animal Assisted Life Services/PAALS, USA

Paws With A Cause, USA

Saint Francis Service Dogs, USA

Stichting Signaalhond, The Netherlands

Tender Loving Canines Assistance Dogs, USA

Texas Hearing and Service Dogs, USA

VITA eV Assistenzhunde, Germany

It's Top Dog and the News Hound from Assistance Dogs Australia here – the ADI newsletter editors!

We hope you enjoy this edition of the ADI Newsletter. We would love to include a story about your Assistance Dogs Organisation next time. All submissions can be sent to ahope@assistancedogs.org.au and need to be 200 words or less. Please also send a JPEG to accompany your story and don't forget to include your website address in your email so we can link to it in the story.

Until next time, we're sending you lots of tail wags from the Super Puppies down under.

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