



Setting Standards for the Assistance Dog Industry Since 1987

Mission Statement for Assistance Dogs International (ADI):

- Promote standards of excellence in all areas of Assistance Dog Programs
- Facilitate communication and learning among organizations
- Educate the public to the benefits of these programs



ADI-NA held it's first regional conference since the changes in the last two years to create a larger ADI being composed of regions (ADI-NA, ADEu, ANZAD and ADI-Asia). The two and one half day conference was attended by over 150 people and highlighted by Brian Hare, PhD, Duke University presenting the keynote speech about the Evolution of the Cognitive Dog and Janet S Frankel, Principal Partner from Tecker Consultants, LLC offering insights into NPO's surviving the current economic downturn.

The Royal Sun hotel was conveniently located 300 yards from Downtown Disney and adjacent to all the Orlando theme parks. Finance, membership, advocacy, website and testing committees all met and reported at the business meeting. The formal meeting minutes were to be sent to the membership in February.

The last day of the conference sixty people traveled by bus to tour the Canine Companions for Independence Southeast Training Center in Orlando and then on to free admission to SeaWorld. A big thank you to Conference planners, Suzi Hall and Robin Dickson.

The following ADI members were elected to the ADI-NA Board of Directors for 4 year terms:
Nancy Fierer, Darlene Sullivan, Sandy Turney and Cabell Youell

The views and articles appearing in the ADI-NA Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the attitudes or policies of ADI, its members or officers of the Board of Directors.

Sandy Turney, Canada





Recognition of organizations receiving their accreditation or re-accreditation. Photo may not include everyone.

DON'T FORGET:

The fee change for the accreditation procedures will go up \$250 on July 1, 2009 so organizations need to get there pre-packets submitted and approved by June 30, 2009.

Dogs for the Deaf Sponsors Airport Pet Relief Area

We are proud to announce that the Medford/Jackson County International Airport in Medford, Oregon is in compliance with the new law requiring a pet relief area at every airport. The area is right outside the brand new terminal and when the tarmac is completed there will also be an additional relief area inside security!

The airport approached Dogs for the Deaf about sponsoring this area and for a minimal monthly fee we have a sign and brochure holder with information on Dogs for the Deaf for everyone to see. We hope this will bring more travelers to our facility for tours and we are pleased that our airport is in compliance with the new rules.



2009 ADI Trainers Conference
Hosted by Freedom Service Dogs

October 5 & 6, 2009 at the Aspen Lodge Ranch
Resort in Estes Park, CO

The conference theme is "Creating the Connection...Canine to Clients". The program is designed to interactively inform and educate on topics ranging from client and dog evaluations to stress reduction strategies. You will leave the conference with the great information on how you can make a difference for both clients and dogs. The conference agenda features keynote speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin, bestselling author and consultant on animal behavior. She is widely noted for her work in autism advocacy, having a form or high-functioning autism herself. Dr. Grandin's current best seller is Animal in Translation.

The Aspen Lodge, only ninety minutes from Denver-is worlds apart, yet easily accessible. The Ranch Resort is situated in the Tahossa Valley on Twin Sisters Mountain across from Longs Peak and the Rocky Mountain National Park. Whatever the season, the majestic views of the east face of Longs Peak and Mt. Meeker are breathtaking.

Freedom Service Dogs is looking for presenters to speak on a variety of topics including:

- Service dog commands
- Evaluation dogs for service
- Puppy raising
- Shelter selection

In addition, there are panel discussion opportunities on the following topics:

- Dog stress reduction strategies
- Positive training techniques
- Tools for the trade
- Exposing dogs to public access

If you are interested in participating as a presenter or being part of a panel discussion, please contact Sharan Wilson, Executive Director of Freedom Service Dogs at 303-922-6231.

Register today at www.freedomservicedogs.org



2-2009 ADI-NA FACTS

North America Members.....81

Accredited through ADI.....34

Please update email contact information by providing;

Name of the ADI member organization

Name of the contact person/title for ADI email

Correspondence

Email address

Send info to assistdogsintl@sbcglobal.net

80th ANNIVERSARY FOR THE SEEING EYE

Morristown, NJ. - The Seeing Eye, Inc., pioneer and innovator of dog guide services, celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2009. It is the oldest existing school to train dog guides and to instruct people who are blind in the use of those dogs.

Founded in Nashville, Tenn., on January 29, 1929, The Seeing Eye kicked off the year by ringing the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange on January 6. Events throughout the United States and Canada are planned for the remainder of the year. The school also expects to match its 15,000 dog with a blind person sometime during 2009. The organization moved to Morris County, NJ, in 1931 and has been in its current location, just outside Morristown, since 1964.

“Since it’s beginning, The Seeing Eye has relied on the public’s generosity in order to fulfill its mission: to provide specially trained dogs that enhance the independence and dignity of people who are blind,” said Seeing Eye President and CEO Jim Kutsch. “For 80 years, the amazing dogs have helped thousands of people transform their lives as they experience greater mobility and self-confidence. None of that would be possible without the ongoing support of our donors.”

Nashville resident Morris Frank was a college student when he read an article about dogs trained in Germany to guide blind veterans of World War I. Mr. Frank wrote the article’s author Dorothy Harrison Eustis and convinced her to train a dog guide for him. In return he would spread the work of these dogs across the United States.

Since then, The Seeing Eye has matched almost 15,000 dog guides with blind men and women from all parts of North America. Up to 24 students at a time, in 12 separate classes each year, arrive in Morristown to train with their dogs.

Students are asked to pay \$150 for their first visit to The Seeing Eye and \$50 for subsequent visits. This is applied toward the cost of the dog and its equipment; round-trip transportation from anywhere in the U.S or Canada; and meals and lodging during the training period. The actual costs to breed, raise and train a dog, and instruct a student in its use is more than \$50,000 per partnership. The difference is made up through philanthropic gifts to The Seeing Eye. No one has ever been denied a Seeing Eye dog because of inability to pay.

About 1,800 active graduates of The Seeing Eye lead productive, independent lives with their Seeing Eye dogs at their sides.

Future plans for anniversary events include a reunion of current Seeing Eye dog users, dedication of a historic marker at the school’s original Nashville location and number of regional fundraising events across the U.S and Canada. If you would like more information on The Seeing Eye, please visit www.seeingeye.org or call 973-539-4425



Charity Navigator Rates National Education for Assistance Dog Services / NEADS A 4-Star Charity for the 7th Consecutive Year

NEADS 7th consecutive 4-STAR evaluation, is “based on the most recent financial information available, and indicates that NEADS consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way and outperforms most other charities in America. Only 1% of the charities Charity Navigator rates have received at least 7 consecutive 4-STAR evaluations. This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates NEADS from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust”, according to Ken Berger, President and CEO of Charity Navigator.

“With the economy impacting donations, managing our resources has reached historic levels, and we are deeply honored and proud that Charity Navigator recognizes NEADS for our outstanding fiscal management”, says Sheila O’Brian, CEO of the NEADS organization. “Every day we strive to deliver on our mission to train service dogs to assist children and adults, including our wounded Veterans, who are deaf, autistic or physically disabled in leading more independent lives at work, at home and at school.”

You can visit the Charity Navigator website to see the NEADS profile at www.charitynavigator.org

ADI WEBSITE

Check out new member information and other changes at www.assistancedogsinternational.org

2008 Placement Goals Surpassed

Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) is pleased to announce our highest number of team placements in one year, with 206 placements in 2008. In addition, CCI performed 685 follow-up visits with graduates to ensure the ongoing success of its active, working teams.

“2008 was a banner year for CCI, including the placement of our 3000 team since our founding in 1975,” states Corey Hudson, CEO of CCI.



Canine Companions for Independence Receives Jefferson Award

The Jefferson Awards Program is a national recognition system designed to highest public service in America. The Jefferson Awards began as part of the American Institute for Public Service in 1972 and was established by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, US Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beard, a staffer to Bobby Kennedy.

CCI is pleased to be honored with the Sonoma County 2009 award. CCI was recognized for outstanding service to the community, exemplifying the spirit of the Jefferson Award for public service in their Excellence in Community Leadership and Civic Engagement.

Sonoma County’s Board of Supervisors shook hands and paws as the honored CCI on March 24, 2009.

Robin Dickson, CEO Dogs for the Deaf

I was born in Santa Monica, California, and became involved in animal training at an early age. From 1955 until the mid 60's, my father, Roy Kabat, was manager and part owner of Jungleland in Thousand Oaks, CA. Jungleland trained and supplied animals for the movie and TV studios. Living right on the Jungleland compound, I grew up learning how to train horses, dogs, and exotics. I had a lion cub that lived in our house for a year, trained the baby elephants as they began to learn their routines, and also trained a liberty pony act and a dog act for the small circus my father had that traveled on the West Coast.

My mother and I moved to Wisconsin, where I graduated from high school and college, with a degree in English Education and Business. My mother had a dog boarding and grooming business and raised Standard Poodles, and I helped her with this. Also during this time, I trained and showed Quarter Horses and was active in the local sports car club, competing in hill climbs, rallies, and gymkhanas. I still have the 1956 Austin Healey that I bought while I was in college. After graduation, I got married, had children, and taught high school English for 12 years. I got away from the horses (too expensive and not enough time), but still stayed active with the sports cars. My husband and I owned a service station (remember those?) and Black Labs were our dog of choice at this time.

In 1980 my husband died unexpectedly at 35 of a heart attack. After a year of reflection and seeing the direction that public education was going, I decided I wanted to do something different with my life. My father had started Dogs for the Deaf in 1976 after he had "retired" and moved to Oregon. In 1980 he went on kidney dialysis and knew his time was limited, so he asked me if I wanted to move to Oregon and join him in Dogs for the Deaf, taking it over when he died. I had the animal training background and the business background, so I packed my family up in 1981 and moved to Oregon—little knowing the adventure and blessings that would ensue.

At the time, DFD was very small and operated from a couple of buildings on my father's ranch. I started as a trainer and trained and placed many Hearing Dogs and also did a lot of public relations work. As we grew, I began taking on more and more responsibilities, and became the Assistant Director. When my father died, in 1986, the Board appointed me to the position of Pres./CEO. Since 1986, DFD has grown tremendously. We purchased 40 acres and built a wonderful facility and campus that has served us well for over 20 years. We are getting ready to expand, as we have now run out of room. We have been able to maintain our vision and mission of rescuing dogs and helping people in so many wonderful ways.

DFD has been involved with ADI from the very beginning—even with the first Hearing Dog Symposium in San Francisco in 1985. I greatly value the friendships I have made in ADI and the contributions that I have been able to make to the Assistance Dog field through my involvement with ADI. I have been honored to serve on the Board of Directors as Secretary and as President and now as Secretary again. I have also edited and published the ADI Newsletter for three years and will starting to do that again later this year. I chaired the Testing Committee for many years, and with the hard work of many faithful committee members, we were able to develop the Public Access Test and the Trainer's Tests. We have had some really fun times and have been able to make tremendous strides in improving the entire spectrum on the Assistance Dog field.

I am a diehard Green Bay Packer fan—life is so much better August through January during football season! My faith and my family are the two most important things in my life. I now have three grandsons, ranging in age from 9 years to 4 months. I'm planning on semi-retiring in three years, continuing to do some work for DFD remotely (including continuing to work with ADI) as I hope to move to Utah to be closer to kids and grandkids.