

# PATRIOT ASSISTANCE DOGS NEWS



## Rescued Dogs Rescuing Veterans

Issue 10, January 15, 2019

## C.P.T. ????

What is C.P.T? It stands for Certified Professional Trainer. The P.A.D. Board of Directors is making a major investment in the future by sending both of our dog trainers to the Master Trainer Course at the National K9 Learning Center in Ohio. This is a 6 week course leading to trainer certification. Patriot Assistance Dogs will provide tuition (as a forgivable loan), mileage, housing, and per diem in order to facilitate this. Most exciting, each trainer will take a "green" untrained dog with her to train during the program. This certification will move the P.A.D. program forward in its mission to provide highly trained psychiatric service dogs to eligible veterans. Stay tuned for updates!

## **BOARD BITS**

### **AUGUST, 2018**

- Discussion of keeping the P.A.D. website updated in order to honor memorial gifts.
- New office phone in place. The direct program number is 218-850-2425.
- Discussion of training opportunities for volunteer leadership and Board members.
- 14 young dogs are currently in foster care. 11 are being prepared for the next Veteran class.
- Requirement of a team working together for 6 weeks before taking the Public Access Test may be waived on a case by case basis, as requested by the veteran handler.

### **SEPTEMBER, 2018**

- Veteran handler Derek Briggs raised roughly \$5,500 for the program by a golf tournament he arranged in International Falls. He plans to run it again in 2019.
- The new Administrative Assistant has already been a great help.
- 4 dogs have been career-changed and need to be placed in homes.
- P.A.D. needs volunteers to take dogs through obedience classes.
- Review of events at which volunteers, staff and Board members are making presentations and/or promoting the program.
- Classes are currently full up to December, 2019, meaning a wait of about 15 months for some veterans to get a dog. It was decided to suspend processing applications until the wait drops below 12 months.

### **OCTOBER, 2018**

- P.A.D. has 22 viable dogs to place with veterans.
- The Board member who was the Event Coordinator has resigned. The Board will look for a replacement.
- P.A.D. Challenge coins are available to sell to veterans.
- Discussion of the well-being of P.A.D. service dogs, both active and retired. The handler is responsible for check-ups, medications, vaccinations and weight management. The handler is also responsible to keep P.A.D. informed of these items in regards to their dogs. Consideration being given to change the 2 year period at which a dog becomes the property of the handler to 5 years. This would allow better follow-up and work with those handlers who are perceived to be neglecting their dogs' upkeep. The Board will explore how other programs handle this.

### **NOVEMBER, 2018**

- 21 dogs are now in training.
- Efforts will be made to publicize and re-home 4 career-changed dogs.

- Quote of a computer and networking system for the office came in at \$2,500. Detroit Lakes Area Foundation has awarded the program \$2,500 which will be used for this.
- 2 corner workstations have been requested for the trainers to use.
- Accepted the "Square" point-of-sale software system for both program sales and inventory.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

Completing training in the P.A.D. October class were:

Jeff Zylka (U.S. Army) and Kobe Bear  
Heather Kolschefsky (U.S. Army) and Louise

Frank Brownlee (U.S. Marines) and Bear III  
Paul Douglas (U.S. Army) and Comrade

Completing training in the December Veteran-owned class were:

Tamara Dahlager (U.S. Navy) and Haku  
Kenneth Nelson (U.S. Army) and Gunther  
Julie Saatoff (U.S. Army) and Cooper

Byron Kester (U.S. Army) and Parker  
Harold Roettger (U.S. Navy) and Stella

Completing Public Access testing and Skills testing in December were:

Paul Douglas (U.S. Army) and Comrade  
Anne Krystosek (U.S. Army) and Olive Drab

Sandy Klaksvik and Mason  
Charles Bell (U.S. Air Force) and Buster

**Patriot Assistance Dogs now has 166 fully certified teams!!**

## WATCH FOR IN 2019

January 21-25	P.A.D. Class
February 15	Public Access and Skills testing
March 14	Veteran owned dog clinic
April 13-14	RRVM Bike Show, Grand Forks
April 13	Airport Training, Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport
April 22-26	P.A.D. Class

May TBD	Veteran Owned Dog class
June 1	Airport Training, Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport
June 15	Derek Briggs Gold Tournament
June TBD	Patriot Ride, Blaine, MN
July TBD	Tee It Up For The Troops golf tournament
July 22-26	P.A.D. Class
September 21-22	Graduation and Fun Shoot
October 5	Airport Training
All year:	Sponsorships of dogs available. Some wonderful well trained dogs don't make the service dog cut but would make great pets. Inquire today about availability!

**HEAD TRAINER:**

Linda Wiedewitsch

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Patriot Assistance Dogs does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or age. All veterans must have served in the United States Armed Forces.