

# PATRIOT ASSISTANCE DOGS NEWS



Rescued Dogs Rescuing Veterans

Issue 6, October 1, 2017

## WE ARE APPLYING FOR ADI CANDIDACY!!

OK, what is that? ADI stands for Assistance Dogs International, a non-profit coalition of organizations training assistant dogs.

**WHY IS BECOMING AN ADI MEMBER IMPORTANT?** We would have our name and contact information listed on the ADI website. We may attend ADI conferences, seminars and regional events to increase our knowledge and training abilities. ADI has very strict standards and requirements for programs, including Ethical Standards for the treatment of both handlers and dogs. Although preparation for the application and then the year-long process to finally be certified is rigorous, it will strengthen and improve our program. Finally, if P.A.D. ever hopes to be funded at all by the Veterans Administration, we will need to have ADI certification.

**WHAT IS INVOLVED AND WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?** P.A.D. actually applied in 2015 but through some mishaps on the part of ADI, our application was lost, then our prior acceptance was rescinded. We have now been cleared to reapply. The Board has set a goal of completing and submitting the application by November 1, 2017. A committee has been working throughout most of this year to set the standards and requirements in place to qualify. Ms. Pamela Standing, a former ADI North America board member, has generously agreed to help us in this process and in our efforts to make our program the very best it can be.

The P.A.D. Board of Directors has approved a new **Mission Statement**:

**Patriot Assistance Dogs provides highly trained, certified psychiatric service dogs to qualified U.S. Military Veterans.**

They also approved a **Values Statement**:

**We believe that veterans and dogs are entitled to be treated with respect and care for their emotional and physical wellbeing. This results in highly trained, competent dogs and confident teams who continually improve their quality of life.**

## SUSPENSION OF APPLICATIONS

In keeping with our efforts to continually improve our program and service to veterans, the P.A.D. Board of Directors has issued the following statement:

The P.A.D. Board of Directors has determined that the current wait time of approximately two years to receive and train with a service dog is unfair and unacceptable. Therefore, P.A.D. has temporarily suspended the acceptance and processing of new applications to the program. If your application was received prior to September 12, 2017, P.A.D. will continue processing your application. If received after September 12, your application will not be opened or processed until P.A.D. is actively accepting applications again. Moving forward from this point, preference will be given to applications submitted from Minnesota and the border states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Please check back after January 1, 2018 for updates on our progress. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we serve those who are already accepted and waiting.

Please check our website: [www.patriotassistancedogs.org](http://www.patriotassistancedogs.org) for updates.

**WE STILL NEED YOU- PLEASE CONSIDER FOSTERING!** More information is available at 218-847-4100.



## CONGRATULATIONS!!

The following teams have passed the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 Public Access Test and are now fully certified:

Lisa R. and Miqua

Michael A. and Willow

Richard T. and Thor II

Isaac S. and Midnight

**These veterans and dogs were paired and completed P.A.D class July 24-28, 2017:**

Jerome A. and Miika

Richard T. and Thor II

Michael A. and Willow

"Charlie" O. and Henry

Jerry K. and Kacie

Joseph K. and Dolly

Scott G. and Sarge

Patriot Assistance Dogs now has 128 fully certified teams!!

## WATCH FOR

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2018 P.A.D. calendars will be out soon!

10-19-17

Veteran owned dog clinic

10-23 to 27, 2017      Next P.A.D class  
11-18-17                Chili and Fudge fund raiser for Marshmallow Foundation  
12-13-2017             Next Public Access testing  
1-22 to 26, 2018      P.A.D. class  
All year:                 Sponsorships of dogs available. Sponsor a P.A.D dog and do something great!

**ALL FUNDS DONATED TO THE PATRIOT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ARE USED DIRECTLY FOR THE P.A.D. program!**

**Patriot Assistance Dogs is a non-profit 501c3 Organization**

All donations are tax deductible

**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.