

# The Pilot Bight



OPEN YOUR HEART FOR CLOSED EYES



## Incoming Board President, Steve Sherer

On Wednesday, March 13th, 2019, we held our Annual Joint Board meeting where Steve Sherer took over as our 46th Board President. Steve graduated from Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School and has a BS in accounting from the University of Akron.

He spent 36 years in governmental accounting and the last 25 years as the chief financial officer of the New Philadelphia City School District retiring in 2015.

Steve has been a member of the Dover Lions Club since 1980, and served as District Governor in 2000-2001, earning the 100% Governors Award. He also served as Council Chairman from 2001-2002 and a two-year term on the International Board from 2006 to 2008.

Steve lives with Mary Ellen, his wife of 40 years, in New Philadelphia, Ohio. He and Mary Ellen have two children and four grandchildren.

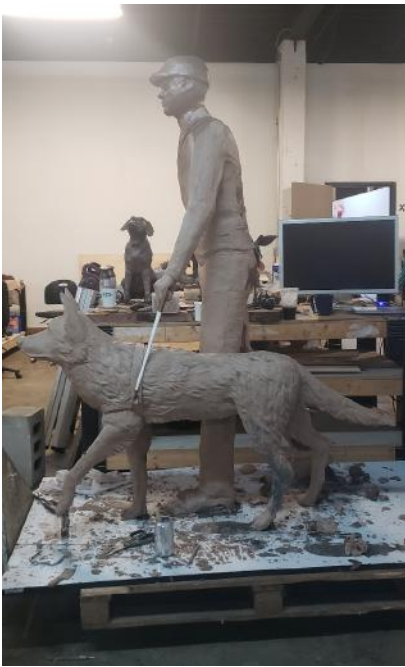
He's been a supporter of Pilot Dogs since he first became a Lion and was pleased when the opportunity came to serve on the board. Not only has Steve been on the Pilot Dogs Executive Board for the last two years, but he also serves as a board member of the Echoing Hills Village Inc. and the Appalachian Business Group for Health. We are excited to have Steve's expertise as our new Board President.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

PID STEVE SHERER, PRESIDENT  
PDG ROB MURRY, PAST PRESIDENT  
MEGHAN ZENKO, VICE PRESIDENT  
MELISSA BLACK, TREASURER  
BRENT SOLLER, SECRETARY  
J. JAY GRAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## GENERAL BOARD

PDG SONNY BARKER  
PDG SHERRY BINGAMON  
TIM CIOLLI  
STEFANIE LYNN COE  
KATHRYN COMELLA  
LION RAY DELLMORE  
MARK FAZZINA  
LION LILANE FOX  
LION ED FLEMING  
DR. LAURIE GOODCHILD  
JANICE GRESKO  
PDG JEFF HATFIELD  
LION JUDY HACKER  
JACKIE LYNN HAGER  
BETH KELLOGG, DVM  
PDG DAVID LUTTRELL  
DAVID MCGUFFIN, DVM  
LION ROBERT MEDLEY  
PDG CT. BILL NIEJADLIK  
JP O'DONNELL  
PDG DAVID STOCKUM  
CHRIS WHITEHEAD



## STATUE PROJECT

### "The Team"

Earlier this year, Andrew Lundberg of Lundberg Industrial Arts, approached Pilot Dogs about creating a statue that embodies the slogan "With every step we become a team." The six-foot statue of a man with our first guide dog "Tobi" will reside in front of our kennel building on West Town Street.

This statue project, "The Team", will have a limited number

of personalized smaller replica statues that will be given to those who donate \$500.00 or more towards our general fund. These donations will help offset the cost of the project.

We hope to have a dedication ceremony in September. Remember to like us on Facebook to keep up to date with all that is happening at Pilot Dogs.

## 16TH PILOT DOGS GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

Join us for our 16th Pilot Dogs Golf Outing.

Saturday, August 17th, 2019  
7 AM Registration  
8 AM Shotgun Start  
Lunch and Awards to follow

Westchester Golf Course  
6300 Bent Grass Blvd  
Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110

Individual Golfer: \$80.00  
Foursome: \$320.00  
Non-Golfer Lunch Reception: \$20.00

Golf, Contests, Raffles, and fun!

Sign up via phone or website:  
614.221.6367  
[bit.ly/2019PDIGolf](http://bit.ly/2019PDIGolf)

## PILOT DOGS OSU TAILGATE FUNDRAISER

Come tailgate with us at Pilot Dogs for the OSU at Indiana game.

OSU at Indiana  
September 14th, 2019  
Kickoff at Noon  
Doors open at 10 am

Featuring: Delicious catered lunch, Kennel Tour, Blindfold walks with Pilot Dogs (Prior to kickoff), Music, Raffles, Prizes, Silent Auction, Drinks, & Snacks provided throughout the game.

Ohio State for the Blind Band Students to perform prior to Kickoff.

Advanced Tickets Only!  
\$35 Per Person  
\$250 for a Table of 8

Register via Phone or Online  
614.221.6367  
[bit.ly/2019PilotTailgate](http://bit.ly/2019PilotTailgate)



*Top Left: The beginning stages of the statue*

*Top Right: The smaller replica, limited supply*

*Above: Fun from the 2018 Pilot Dogs OSU Tailgate party*

*Below: Blindfold Putting Contest from 2018 Golf Outing*



# Staff Spotlight: Ray Byers

Director of Training Ray Byers announced his retirement at this year's Pilot Dogs Alumni Convention. Effective August 31st, 2019 Ray will hang up his training harness. Through Ray's 57 years, there have been many changes at Pilot Dogs; from the small training kennel in '75; the addition in '78; the student park in '02; the administration/banquet addition plus training kennel in '04; and finally the new kennel in 2017. Ray has been here thru them all.

Ray grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was involved in training and showing flat-coated retrievers. He began working at a dog boarding and training facility when he knew he wanted to continue working with dogs. So he applied to three guide dog schools. He'd been at the boarding kennel for 8 years when he got the call for an interview at Pilot Dogs.

In 1967, Ray joined the Pilot Dog team as an apprentice trainer. The job included cleaning kennels, caring for and training the dogs. When he completed the apprenticeship, he graduated to Instructor/Trainer which meant he started instructing the student classes.

Ray stepped into the role of Director of Training in 1994 when Wayne Mathis retired. He continued instructing student classes until 2004.

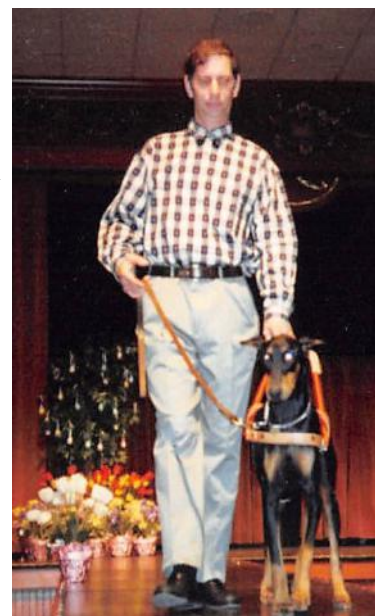


Working with the students is Ray's favorite aspect of the job. He has met so many interesting people over the years and made long-lasting friendships.

While he has always enjoyed training the Dobermans, the Labrador Retriever is his favorite breed. He likes how laid back they are and ended up bringing two Pilot Dog Labradors home. One was used as a stud in our

breeding program, and then there was Tori. She was a retired guide dog, who would sit by the door in his office and would often be used as our demo dog for talks.

Ray is sad to leave but also excited for his next chapter. He and Sherry hope to do some traveling and relax. He says he will miss the work but not working outside in all the different kinds of Ohio weather.



*Above: Ray working  
Doberman Guide*

*Left: Ray (far right) Instructor of  
class in '71*

*Below: Trainers at O&M field trip*

## O&M FIELD TRIP



In January, several trainers were able to tour Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB) for continuing education hours and a tour. The focus was on Orientation and Mobility Self-Familiarization Skills.

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) training teaches safe, efficient, and effective travel skills, often with a white cane. The six trainers were divided into three pairs and each worked with an O&M Specialist. As soon as they arrived, they

had to put on blindfolds and were given a white cane. The three groups broke off taking different routes to a room where they had to explore using their cane and trailing with their hand. The objective of the exercise was to create a mental map of the room with no prior knowledge. They spent about thirty minutes in the room, then went to a different room to take their sleep shades off. The groups were given paper and markers to draw what they perceived in the room.

After the exercise, the trainers were given a tour of the facilities. The O&M specialists talked about the students that attend OSSB. They mentioned that the O&M instruction that most people across the nation receive is very little due to a shortage of instructors, large case-loads by instructors, or budget cuts to blind rehabilitation centers.



## Puppy Raiser Spotlight: Kathy Scully

I didn't set out to raise puppies. I was just looking for something to do to fill my days after my retirement. A good friend of mine raised two Pilot Dog puppies and was currently raising a third. She also volunteers walking the puppies that are raised in the prisons. She volunteers once or twice a week. One day, I joined her, after that, I was hooked. I started walking every chance I got.

I grew up fearing dogs, especially big dogs, but these pups were different. Even the Dobermans and German Shepherds were gentle and well-behaved. I volunteered walking the prison dogs for 2 years before I started thinking about actually raising a Pilot Pup. My husband and I were empty nesters, so I thought I had the time it would take. The family didn't agree at first, so I put it off. Then I walked Kona. A sweet, energetic yellow lab that was being raised at a prison with her two sisters because there were no private homes available. She came home with me the following Tuesday. Simply stated, we all LOVE her. Kona has been with us since December, and I find myself counting down the days we have left with her before she goes into training. I knew going into this that she was only temporarily mine, but it doesn't change the fact that I will miss her terribly when she goes. I just remind myself that she has a higher calling. I've made a lot of mistakes, and often wish I could start over her training. However, she is a great puppy with some awesome qualities and quirks. I am so proud of her. Like I did with my children, I worry about her and I have high hopes for her future. It's a lot of work but I would do it all again in a minute!



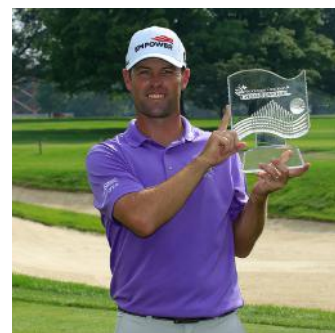
Above: Kathy with Kona  
Below: 2018 NCHC Winner  
Robert Streb

\*We currently have a full waiting list for Volunteer Prison Dog Walkers, but please contact us if you are interested in possibly becoming a Furlough Family, a co-raiser, or a full-time puppy raiser. Furlough Families bring prison puppies home with them for short periods several times a year to help them get exposure to the outside world and home life. Some Furlough families do one weekend a month, a full week a month, or a full month several times a year.

## Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship

Help Pilot Dogs by attending the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship. Print the Pilot Dogs Charity Ticket and turn it in when you go to the NCHC at Ohio State Golf Club.

Thursday, August 15- Sunday, August 18th, 2019  
The Ohio State Golf Club, Scarlet Course  
3605 Tremont Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43221



The NCHC is apart of the Korn Ferry Tour, which is a tour for professional golfers that have yet to reach the PGA Tour. The top 25 at the year's end are given PGA Tour Membership for the next year. The tour stops in Columbus on Thursday, August 15th thru Sunday, August 18th. Admission to the tournament is FREE, but if you print and turn in our Charity Ticket, Pilot Dogs receives a \$10 donation per ticket. 1 Ticket per person per day. Gates are staffed from 7:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

Go to [bit.ly/2019CharityTicket](https://bit.ly/2019CharityTicket) to download the charity ticket.

# Awards

Tall Tails: Melvin Reynolds  
Longest Working Team:  
Mariann Slavik  
Newest Working Team:  
Laura Mattucci  
Obedience :  
Renee Arrington-Johnson  
Obstacle (Blind Category):  
Billy Dalrymple  
Obstacle (Visually Impaired  
Category):  
Renee Arrington-Johnson



## PILOT DOGS ALUMNI CONVENTION

### 59th Annual Convention Wilmington, Ohio June 2019

This year's alumni convention was held in Wilmington, Ohio. With the help of the Wilmington Lions Club, the weekend was a great success. The majority of the weekend was spent at the Hampton Inn, where Pilot Dog Alumni held their business meeting, silent auction, contests, and reconnected with old friends.

The live auction was officiated by Nial, a Wilmington Lion, and all funds raised went to the "From Puppy To Partnership Fund." The Alumni had the pleasure of presenting Nial, with the "You Make a Difference" award, which he accepted on behalf of his club.

An outing to Trail M Boarding and Guest Farm for the horseback riding event was a highlight for many Alumnus.

Next year, the 60th Annual Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio during the last weekend of June 2020. Stay tuned for more details. Incoming PDI Alumni President, Catherine Bister is in charge of the planning.

For more information about the Pilot Dog Alumni Association, please visit [pilotdogsalumni.org](http://pilotdogsalumni.org).



Above Left: Renee Arrington-Johnson with Obedience award  
Above Right: Billy Dalrymple with Obstacle award  
Left :PDI Alumni President Melvin Reynolds riding Coco  
Right: Julie Miller on Coco





## FUTURE PILOT DOGS EVENT

16th Pilot Dogs Golf Outing - Saturday, August 17th, 2019 8 AM  
12th Annual OSU Tailgate Party - Sept 14th, 2019 Doors open at 10 AM  
"The Team" Statue Dedication Ceremony - September 2019 TBD  
Calendar Sales - November/December 2019



### JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

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newsletters, and event information  
delivered to your inbox.

Text the keyword PILOTDOGS to 22828 and  
follow the prompts!



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everytime you shop.

Register online at  
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enrollcommunityrewardsnow](http://www.kroger.com/account/enrollcommunityrewardsnow)  
or call 1-800-KRO-GERS  
Select PILOT DOGS INC as  
the recipient organization or  
us #LU467



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