

The Pilot Light



OPEN YOUR HEART FOR CLOSED EYES



INTERNATIONAL GUIDE DOG FEDERATION ACCREDITATION COMPLETE

At the July Board meeting, Board President Rob Murry announced that we received our confirmation that we are now an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF).

IGDF is responsible for the development, monitoring, and evaluation of the standards applied within all IGDF-member organizations. These standards are meant to ensure equity of high-quality service to guide dog users and handlers around the world. Pilot Dogs worked hard all year to make sure we met the many detailed standards in order to become a member.

In October of 2017, IGDF sent out an assessor named Lee Stanway from Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, UK. Lee spent four days with us going over every single standard. Some of these standards include administration, buildings & transport, kennel specifications, breeding, puppy raising, veterinary care, training of both the staff, dogs, and clients, and more.

This June we received a letter of congratulations on passing the test. This accreditation "means Pilot Dogs is among the best in the world in providing dogs to guide people who are blind and visually impaired."

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 Donald James Sullivan
 Bill Swain
 Jack Utzinger
 Margaret Voelker
 Eugene Bradford Wagner
 John Watkins
 Ebert & Lucille Williams
 Robert & Mary Willard

Our Four-Legged Friends

"Benny"
 "Duke"
 "Millie"
 "Sammy"

Pilot Dogs Welcomes New Obedience Trainer: Casey Barrett

Casey Barrett is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer and an Ohio native who's returned to the great city of Columbus after an eight-year stint in the south. During that time, she played Division I soccer and graduated from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia then moved to Raleigh, North Carolina where she fell face-first into dog training. She got her start with Teamworks Dog Training, LLC, a company with a positive-reinforcement, force-free philosophy, where she began as a student and worked up to becoming one of their head trainers for their Day School and In-Board training program, as well as a class instructor. Her favorite part about working as a dog trainer is getting to help people get their puppies off to the right start with proper socialization and building foundation behaviors that set puppies and adolescents up for success in life.



Above: Casey with her two dogs

Left: Casey teaching obedience to puppy raisers



In August, Casey started teaching our puppy raisers obedience. We are very excited for her to help set our puppies up for success.

Casey has two dogs of her own--a husky and a chow mix--with whom she enjoys playing agility, going for long hikes, and teaching silly but useful tricks--like how to pick up all the dirty socks her husband leaves on the floor. Fun and functionality, that's what it's all about!

STAFF & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



Staff, volunteers, and their families enjoyed a night out at the Columbus Clippers game on Friday, April 13th.

Pilot Dogs rented the beautiful indoor/outdoor Bullpen Suite which was perfect for our large crowd.



The Clippers played the Durham Bulls, while employees and volunteers munched on appetizers, brats, BBQ, and desserts. Pilot Dogs, Inc. was even featured on the big screen. Even though the Clippers lost, everyone had a great time.

*Top: Group photo in Bullpen Suite
 Bottom Left: Jumbo Screen with Pilot Dogs, Inc.
 Bottom Right: Group watching the game in our own seating area.*

Awards

Tall Tails: Paula Jordan

Longest Working Team: Truie Davis

Newest Working Team: Jennifer Finley

Obedience (Blind category):

Connie Standingclear

Obedience (Visually Impaired Category):

Rhea Dessecker

Obstacle (Blind Category):

Nita Sebastian

Obedience (Visually Impaired Category):

Renee Arrington-Johnson

Lifetime Membership Award:

Scott Miller

50 years of working Pilot Dogs:

Jane Dickard & Paula Jordan



PILOT DOGS ALUMNI CONVENTION

58th Annual Convention

Woofing, Wagging, and Winning

Wooster, Ohio June 8th- 10th 2018

Pilot Dogs Alumni Catherine Bister was the host of this year's convention. All of the activities were held at the hotel. The yearly gathering is for the Pilot Dogs Alumni to meet for fun, business, competitions, and fundraising. Twenty-four Pilot Dog Graduates and family members were in attendance along with Ray Byers, Director of Training and Mike Tessmer, Pilot Dog Trainer.

The weekend began with registration and a Friday night Picnic. They had music, games, and the "Tall Tails" contest. This is where they vote on the best story of a Pilot Dog Team. The next day they held the obedience and obstacle course competitions, followed by the Silent Auction. The money raised from the Puppy to Partnership Auction will pay for the training of a Pilot Dog and will be awarded at the 2020 convention in Columbus, Ohio.

It was not all fun and games, they held their business meeting and also took the time to elect the 2018-2019 Alumni Association Board members. Saturday night banquet dinner featured keynote speaker, L. Scott Lissner, ADA coordinator for The Ohio State University.

The 2019 Convention will be in Wilmington, Ohio. The dates are June 14th-16th. Pilot Dog Alumni Truie Davis will be the host and contact person.



Left: Renee Arrington-Johnson works thru the obstacle course
Right: Paula Jordan & Jane Dickard at the Friday night picnic



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONSHIP CHARITY TICKET PROGRAM

One of the four Finals events on the Web.com Tour offers an easy way for YOU to help Pilot Dogs. Admission is free but present our charity ticket (found on our website and Facebook page) at the entry gate August 23rd-26th, 2018. One ticket per person once a day. Every ticket presented at the gate donates \$10.00 to Pilot Dogs. The tournament is held at

The Ohio State University Golf Club
Scarlet Course
3605 Tremont Road
Columbus, OH 43221

Information on parking is available on the Charity Ticket.



Top Left: Pilot Dog Graduate Rene Emerson speaking to the group.

Bottom Left: Lion Gary Gilbert & Lion Neila Lieberman at a tasting table

Bottom Right: Alison Fleming, Lion Aaron Irwin, Lion Ed Fleming

Above: 2017 NCHC Champion Peter Uihlein

LIONS CORNER

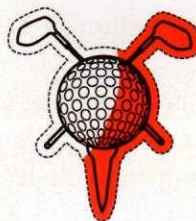
BEXLEY LIONS 2ND ANNUAL VALENTINES FUNDRAISER

On Friday, February 16th, 2018, the Bexley Lions hosted their second Annual Valentines Wine & Beer Tasting Fundraiser to benefit Pilot Dogs. They had 100 people in attendance and raised over \$10,000. Delicious Food pairings to the wine and beer were provided by Cornucopia Comestibles, Inc. There was a Jazz Trio of Musicians from the Capital University Conservatory of Music.

The raffle was "Romance" Themed that featured overnight stays with wine, chocolates, and breakfast at several elite Downtown Columbus hotels. The Silent Auction table featured several golf outings, Bexley restaurants and a variety of other items. Pilot Dogs Graduate Rene Emerson shared her story with everyone and how getting a Pilot Dog changed her life.

15TH PILOT DOGS GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

Join us for the 15th Pilot Dogs Golf Outing!
Saturday, August 25th, 2018.
Registration and Appetizers at 1:00 pm
Shotgun Start at 2:00 pm with dinner to follow.



There will be awards and prizes for both good golfers and the golf-challenged. Contests include hole-in-one, blindfold putt, longest putt, longest drive, closest to pin, and golden ball. Several sponsorships available including some exclusive sponsorships!

New Albany Links Golf Club
7100 New Albany Links Drive
New Albany, Ohio 43054



Puppy Raiser Spotlight: Lea Ann O'Brien & Family



Above: Lea Ann with current puppy Andy

Right: Daughters, April, Sally, & Erin with first Pilot Pup Traci

In the fall of 2001, my husband Pat and I and our three daughters, April (12), Sally (9) and Erin (8), began puppy raising. Our first puppy was a German Shepherd named Traci. I had been looking for a way to inspire the girls to make volunteering a way of life. We all love dogs, so what better way to introduce the spirit of volunteering to my daughters, than by raising a puppy. Puppies can be a lot of work, but the girls really liked the fact that they were helping a visually impaired person gain independence. It was hard to return the puppy when she turned one year old, even though we had talked about it and tried to prepare for the day. They were all very sad at the loss of their pup, but even so, they were ready to jump right back into raising again, so next came a yellow Lab named Roxie. After that, there came 5 more, another yellow Lab, 2 Golden Retrievers, a black Lab and a Doberman. The girls are all out of college now and living in different areas of the country. My husband and I have moved from Columbus, Ohio to Georgia. My husband and I have continued to be raisers for numbers 8 and 9 while living in Georgia. Here's our most recent, puppy number 9, as of July 2018, a 13 week old Golden Retriever named Andy.



Student Spotlight: First time Pilot Dog Graduate Shawn

I currently live in Northern California and have been going blind for the past nine years. As my vision deteriorated, I took advantage of the many programs available to the blind - O&M, daily living skills, technology training, etc. I started thinking seriously about a guide dog four years ago. It is a big decision so I researched, talked to guide dog users, and decided on a Standard Poodle. Not only are they brilliant animals, but hypoallergenic as well (my husband has asthma). I applied to Pilot Dogs because they are one of the few schools that offer Poodles.



I arrived at Pilot Dogs in April 2018 where I met my beautiful Juneau. I can't imagine a match more perfect. My husband's work allows us to travel and live all over the world. Juneau is a brilliant traveler. She is an airport pro and seems to enjoy exploring new places as much as me. I feel so much more confident and safe when I walk with her. Canes are great but they don't love you. Blindness can feel very isolating and lonely. I am never lonely with Juneau around. I can't thank Pilot Dogs enough for this wonderful gift.



Also a shout out to all the puppy raisers out there. I can't imagine how difficult it would be to fall in love with a puppy and then let it go. You are amazing people and you change lives. THANK YOU!!!



FUTURE PILOT DOGS EVENT

15th Pilot Dogs Golf Outing - Saturday, August 25th, 2018 2:00 pm Tee Time

11th Annual OSU Tailgate Party - October 20, 2018, 2 hrs prior to Kickoff

69th Annual Pilot Dogs Membership Drive - November 2018



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