

ISSUE

02-22

September

2022



WISCONSIN
LAW ENFORCEMENT
CANINE HANDLER
ASSOCIATION

WLECHA

Executive Board

President, Todd Skarban

Oconto County Sheriff's Office

todd.skarban@co.oconto.wi.us

Vice President, Curtis Goens

Franklin Police Department

cgoens@franklinwi.gov

Secretary, Craig Orlowski

Adams County Sheriff's Office

K9craigo@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Joshua Morgan

Brown Deer Police Department

wlechatreasurer@gmail.com



WLECHA Board Members

Robert Zill

Winnebago County Sheriff's Office

rzill@co.winnebago.wi.us

Craig Rekoske

Shawano County Sheriff's Office

Craig.rekoske@co.shawano.wi.us

Eric Guse

Glendale Police Department

e.guse@glendale-wi.gov

Casey Cox

Prairie Du Chien Police Department

ccox@prairieduchien-wi.gov

Josh Czys

Town of Campbell Police Department

czys@townofcampbell.org

Johnathan Parker

Fitchburg Police Department

Johnathan.parker@fitchburgwi.gov

Brian Noll

Marquette County Sheriff's Office

bnoll@co.marquette.wi.us

WLECHA

PO Box 136
Germantown, WI 53022

President's Message for WLECHA



WLECHA President and Oconto County Sheriff, Todd Skarban

I hope this message finds all of you well and ready for another great training conference. Another record setting year with registration closing about two hours after it opened! Please know your Board of Directors is trying to figure out different ways to offer inclusion and attendance to the training conference.

Soon we will hear about the successful deployments and pay tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of members and their respective agencies. I've said this before-train hard, be vigilant and take pride in what you do every single day as it goes by fast. As a canine handler, you are in the wheelhouse of your career. Never forget, your community loves and appreciates what you do for them!

See you all soon and please take a moment to thank your Board of Directors for the excellent work they do for all of you. I am truly humbled to be part of this great organization. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Todd

2022 Conference Updates

With the conference coming up in less than a week, please review the following information regarding some items specific to the 2022 agenda:

Sunday's arrival, registration and membership meeting will go on as normal. OpK9 Medical Team will be attending the conference again this year. Dr. Lisa Converse and Dr. Becky Johnson along with the rest of their team, will be offering free tip-to-tail medical exams of our K9's from 4pm – 10pm.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL K9 TEAMS:

They will also be providing each K9 team with a medication called **Clevor** which is an eye-drop type medication that will quickly induce vomiting in your K9. This medication is invaluable, as it allows us to induce vomiting quickly and easily without the need to force-feed your K9 a Hydrogen Peroxide solution. For K9 teams to receive this medication Dr. Converse or Dr. Johnson **MUST** physically examine your K9. They cannot legally prescribe this medication to any animal that they have not examined. As such, you **MUST** have your dog examined sometime between 4pm and 10pm. Any K9 team that is not examined will not receive their dose of Clevor.

The cost of purchasing this medication was covered by the *Emma Loves Dogs* foundation, and we cannot thank them enough for their continued support of WLECHA.

Also attending this year is Dr. Karin Bilyard who is a Dental Specialist. She will be offering free dental examinations as well, as just like in human medicine, proper dental care and screening is often one of the most overlooked items in our K9's. She will also be offering these examinations from 4pm-10pm. Dr. Bilyard will also be one of our guest speakers this year, and will be giving a lecture on Wednesday morning regarding dental care and dental trauma specifically seen in Operational K9's. Please plan on attending this lecture, if possible, as many times training/behavior issues in our K9's may be the symptoms of underlying dental problems that we do not recognize.

OpK9 will also be running another training site utilizing the TraumaFX dog which was graciously donated to WLECHA several years ago by "Bark 'N Blue" in the wake of the stabbing of Green Bay K9 Pyro.

Officer Howard Statz of our host agency, Middleton PD, and his associates have been working very hard to put together this training conference. They have been able to secure many unique training venues and due to their use of them in the past, they have been able to design most of the training scenarios in advance based on their experience at these sites. Please take a moment to thank Officer Statz and his colleagues for all their hard work on this conference. Obtaining access to 14+ training sites that will allow over 100 K9 teams to go through them is no small undertaking.

Wednesday morning, we will have several guest speakers who will be performing lecture presentations. Tara Jenswold and Emily Thompson from the Attorney General's Office will be presenting a Legal Update. Following that Dr. Bilyard will be making her presentation regarding K9 Dental Health & Trauma as was referenced above.



Editor Contact Information

Sgt. Brian Noll

Marquette County Sheriff's Office

67 West Park Street

Montello, WI 53949

608-297-2115

bnoll@co.marquette.wi.us

Editors Notes:

Greetings WLECHA Members,

As always, I hope this newsletter finds both you and your K9 partners healthy and successful. While writing this newsletter, that very idea hits especially close to home for me and leaves me with a heavy heart. 2022 has been a very emotional year for me when it comes to the K9 community. Many of the K9 teams that I worked closely with as a decoy and later as a fellow K9 handler are retiring, with many unfortunately beginning to cross the rainbow bridge. Most recently my coworker, mentor and friend Captain Mike Kowalski lost his K9 Axel at the age of 12. I worked with Mike and Axel since 2011 and the loss of Axel is truly tangible for our agency, myself and especially for Mike.

As I sit here writing this newsletter, I can look over and see my own partner, K9 Blackjack, laying on the floor sunning himself in the setting sun as it casts a golden hue all over his ever increasingly gray fur. It's no small realization that he will be 9 years old this December and out time together is finite and closer to the end than the beginning. You may recall at a last year's conference, WLECHA Secretary Craig Orlowksi talked about the loss of his K9 Meika and reminded the membership "It goes fast. Take a lot of pictures". Looking back on the past 6 months of my own experience, I can't echo this sentiment with enough emphasis. I've heard many times over the years "The only time our dogs break our heart is when they have to cross that rainbow bridge"; and I have to say that maxim is undeniably true. Cherish every minute you get with your K9 partner, as the time we get is never enough. Take pictures, give them those extra treats and let them sleep on the bed once in a while... they deserve it.

With the conference coming up in less than a week, I'm already feeling the pangs of excitement both internally and being echoed during many recent conversations with other members. The conference is always something to look forward to and I have to say that with it being in the Madison area this year, I'm especially excited to see what training sites we will be able to access in one of Wisconsin's largest metropolitan areas.

Unrelated to the 2022 conference, I was recently provided with some great research studies regarding topics that are very applicable to Operational K9 handling. I look forward to writing an article or two regarding these studies in an upcoming newsletter. Should anyone else have any data or studies that they would like to pass along, or even write their own article about, PLEASE reach out to me. Trying to publish a newsletter that remains relevant and interesting to our broad membership is often challenging and I am always looking for items to include.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you all soon! The conference always seems like that great party where you end up running into friends you haven't seen in months and you pick up right where you left off. Over the years, I've made so many friends and contacts because of the conference that I can't even to count them. The networking and friendships are truly half the reason I think we all look forwarding to attending. Being assigned as a K9 handler is truly the best job in all Law Enforcement and is an incredibly small group in the grand scheme of things. We should all feel supremely blessed to find ourselves in this position and enjoy the company of others such as ourselves.

As always: Stay Safe, Train Hard and Trust (and take care of) your dog.

Brian and Blackjack

"Confido Fidelis Canis"