

ISSUE

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LAW ENFORCEMENT
CANINE HANDLER
ASSOCIATION

WLECHA

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2022 WLECHA Conference Information

Conference/Venue Details

Dates:
September 18th – 21st
2022

Venue:
Madison Marriott - West
1313 John Q
Hammonds Drive
Middleton, WI 53562



The WLECHA Board of Directors is happy to announce that registration for the 2022 conference is now open! As always, please register as soon as possible; as attendance is limited and spaces fill up quickly. Below, you will find some information about this year's training conference, specifically a few items that may be new or have changed from years past.

- Due to high attendance demand for the past several years, we have chosen to offer two “specialized training” courses during the conference. By offering these courses, we will be able to expand our attendance capacity to 150 K9 teams.
 - This year, we are pleased to be offering:
 - “Scent Specific Man Trailing for Patrol Dogs”, which will be instructed by Carren Corcoran of *Canine Search Solutions*. Carren has taught this course at prior WLECHA Conferences and received high praise for the training and methods.
 - “Teufelshunde (Devil Dog)”, instructed by Nick Meier of *MeierK9*. Nick presented this course at the 2021 conference, and due to high demand, he will be returning to present it for the 2022 conference.
 - As always, these specialized courses will be filled “first come, first served”.
- You will also notice that this year's conference is being held earlier than normal. Historically, we have attempted to hold the conference during the first weekend of October. Due to venue availability, we had to move the conference up several weeks and it will run September 18th – 21st.
 - The venue for this year's conference will be at the Madison Marriott – West. This venue is a beautiful newer construction and has outstanding conference and banquet facilities. Our Host Agencies are working hard to secure local training sites for unique training opportunities and have been receiving good support in their efforts. Expect to see some amazing training sites/locations that can only be found in a metropolitan area such as Dane County.
- You will also notice that the Board of Directors has clarified or updated some policies regarding attendance of the conference and/or training sites by guests or other “non-handlers”. These changes come after review of responses received via the post-conference survey for the past several years. After review of these surveys and discussion by the Board of Directors, we have made several changes to try and best serve our membership.
 - Please note that moving forward, only K9 Handlers, Site Supervisors/Trainers and Law Enforcement Supervisors will be allowed at training sites. Over the past several years, we have received criticism regarding sites becoming backlogged or K9 Teams encountering safety concerns due to excessive numbers of people at training sites. We hope that this change will help reduce delays at training sites, as well as decrease safety concerns and liabilities.
 - Any requests for anyone outside of these categories to attend training sites must be approved by the Board of Directors.
 - Anyone who wishes to attend the conference as a Decoy/Helper must be a law enforcement officer, and attending in an “on duty” capacity. Board Member Brian Noll will once again be coordinating the Decoys/Helpers and will work to properly screen registrants.
 - As a reminder, Decoys/Helpers attend the conference **free of charge**. Room and Board, Conference Fees and Meal Costs are waived and covered by WLECHA. If you are aware of anyone who is interested in attending, please be sure to forward this information on to them.

K9's IN THE NEWS

Operational K9 Medical Team of Wisconsin (OpK9) has published an article on their mission and K9 first-aid. This article is featured in Issue 87 of *Police K9 Magazine*. If you or your agency have a subscription, be sure to look for it in their most recent issue! Individual copies of this issue, along with other back issues can be purchased [here](#).



K9 Riggs survives gunshot to head

In October 2021, Deputy Terry Tift (Kenosha County Sheriff's Office) and his K9 Riggs were assisting with the arrest of a suspect wanted in connection to several murders in Chicago. During the apprehension, Riggs was shot in the head by the suspect. Riggs survived the gunshot and was released from the veterinary hospital several days later.

Portage PD mourns sudden Loss of K9

Sgt. Ben Neumann and the rest of the Portage Police Department are mourning the unexpected loss of K9 Ares on March 22nd. K9 Ares was on-duty when he suddenly became ill and had to be rushed to an emergency veterinary hospital. Tests and diagnostic imaging revealed an incurable heart condition. K9 Ares was released from the hospital, and passed away at home several days later.





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Editors Notes:

Greetings WLECHA Members,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all healthy, training hard and successful on the streets of Wisconsin. I am sure that most of our members are seeing the trends of: high volume in calls for service, frequent requests for K9 assistance, and alarmingly low interest in recruitment into our profession. Now more than ever, it seems we find ourselves and our agencies trying to do more with less. The K9 community continues to be a small and tight knit one. One that we should all be proud to be a part of.

Blackjack and I continue to patrol together and recently reached our 6-year anniversary as a K9 Team. Blackjack did however have an unplanned break from service for the past several weeks, after having to undergo unexpected surgery. In March, Blackjack suddenly became unable to urinate and was taken to the UW Veterinary Hospital for treatment. He was diagnosed with having developed Bladder Stones which had obstructed his urinary tract. The next day, he underwent surgery to remove these stones, and I also elected to have him neutered due to his age. Needless to say, it was a stressful couple of days for both of us.... especially Blackjack. He spent the next few weeks both healing and trying to recoup what was left of his dignity. I'll take this opportunity to remind you all: NEVER dismiss health problems with your dog, even if they seem minor. We know our K9's better than anyone else, so if you hear that little voice telling you "Something is wrong here", listen to it. I will also take this opportunity to sing the praises of the staff at the UW Veterinary Hospital in Madison. They were incredibly accommodating, willing to help in any way possible and unbelievably kind to both Blackjack and I. As a side note, the hospital also offers a 50% discount on services to Police K9's, so long as your agency has an MOU in place with them. If you are anywhere near UW and may use them for services in the future, I would strongly suggest that your agency get an MOU in place. Your K9 will receive top-notch care at a vastly discounted price.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask our membership to help support me in the publication of this newsletter. Finding new, relevant and stimulating topics to write about is many times easier said than done. The Law Enforcement K9 world is vast and many times just deciding on a topic to start writing about is difficult. With that being said, if you had any topics that you would like to see featured in future publications, please reach out to me! If you would like to write an article, review a piece of equipment, feature a new K9 team, share a big bust, or anything else.... PLEASE let me know!

Despite the fact that the 2022 conference is still five months away, just writing the first newsletter fills me with anticipation. Five months seems like a long way off, but I have no doubt that time is going to fly by and suddenly the Board of Directors will be exchanging a flurry of e-mails and text messages in last minute preparations for the conference. While the continued growth of our organization and high demand to attend the yearly conference has been wonderful to see, it has also challenged the Board of Directors. We have had to get creative and innovative in trying to find ways to offer a high-quality training conference, while trying to make it as accessible as possible to all K9 teams that wish to attend. The line between "enough" and "too much" is a very fine one and we often find ourselves in long discussions trying to find the best answer. Despite these challenges, I still find serving on the Board of Directors to be extremely rewarding and I once again thank you for the support in allowing me to maintain this position.

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

Brian and Blackjack

"Confido Fidelis Canis"