



Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handler Association

*P.O. Box 136 Germantown, WI 53022
<http://www.wlecha.org>*

2020 AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Please complete this form and submit with your nomination letter to (email preferred):

WLECHA
c/o Award Nominations
PO Box 136
Germantown, WI 53022
wlechatreasurer@gmail.com

Handler Name: Troy Deiler
K-9 Name: Leo
Agency: Marathon County Sheriff's Department

Category (Please circle one per form)

Handler of the Year - Rookie Handler of the Year - Meritorious Apprehension - **Meritorious Article Find**
Meritorious Track with Apprehension - Meritorious Track - Meritorious Narcotics Find

Nominator: Dan Wachowiak
Title: Deputy
Agency: Portage County Sheriff's Office
Phone: 715-321-1100
E-Mail Address: wachowid@co.portage.wi.us
Hours of Work: Various

*****Membership must be current to be eligible for an award*****

*****All nominations must be postmarked or submitted by e-mail by August 15th, 2020 to be accepted*****

Canine teams may be submitted for multiple awards.

Please submit separate nominations for each category.

To: WLECHA Awards Committee

I would like to nominate Marathon County Sheriff's Department Deputy Troy Deiler and his canine partner, Leo, for the Meritorious K9 Article Find. As a result of this find, a handgun was located that was involved in a shooting, resulting in the death of one person and serious injuries to two other citizens.

On October 3rd, 2019, the Everest Metro Police Department responded to an apartment complex to investigate a possible structure fire. The tenants also reported there was a very strong odor of gasoline within the complex. Upon arrival, officers and firefighters began to evacuate residents from the complex. While doing so, they located two make-shift bombs in one of the tenant's rooms. It was later learned this room belonged to the suspect in this case. The area was evacuated and the Marathon County Bomb Squad contacted to disable the explosive devices. Approximately 20 minutes after the fire call, the Wausau Police Department received a call of a shooting at the Pine Grove Cemetery that involved multiple victims. Two of the victims were shot in the head and the other was shot inside a car while driving away from the area. From their investigation that day, Officers subsequently arrested the suspect in this incident who attempted to flee the scene on a bicycle and then on foot. At the time of arrest, the suspect did not have a firearm in his possession. Deputy Deiler was contacted to have K9 Leo conduct an article search for the weapon.

Deputy Deiler arrived and met with Wausau Police Officer Mark Jaeger, who briefed him on the incident, adding no firearm was located. Officer Jaeger described the area where the suspect was located, and it had been approximately 90 minutes since the suspect was arrested. After exiting the wooded area, the suspect ran across two soccer fields, then was arrested. It was unknown where the suspect was while in the wooded area. Deputy Deiler weighed his options and placed K9 Leo on 30-foot line. Deputy Deiler followed K9 Leo into the wooded area where he transitioned K9 Leo into an article search. Working the downwind side of the area where the suspect was, K9 Leo worked a heavily wooded area. Thick pine trees with low hanging branches made it difficult to move. The terrain now was complicated by a heavy under growth of tall weeds and vegetation. Recognizing the difficult terrain, Deputy Deiler shortened K9 Leo's lead to five feet to ensure and provide K9 Leo with the best opportunity to locate any anomalous odor. While conducting the search, Deputy Deiler recognized a change of behavior in K9 Leo by him lifting his head high and his breathing becoming rapid. K9 Leo pulled hard and then placed his head into an area of thick brush/vegetation. The lead was tight and K9 Leo did not leave the location. Deputy Deiler moved the brush and vegetation aside and observed a handgun on the ground. It was secured and seized as evidence. During the investigation, The Wisconsin Crime Lab confirmed the gun K9 Leo located was the actual weapon used to shoot all three victims by matching shell casings and even locating trace amounts of one of the victim's blood on the gun. The suspect was charged with: First Degree Intentional Homicide, 11 counts of Attempted Homicide, three counts of Attempted Arson, one count of Arson, and Resisting an Officer.

For this article find, I would like to nominate Deputy Deiler and K9 Leo for the Meritorious K9 Article Find. It was Deputy Deiler's determination, training, and taking into consideration the terrain, wind speed, set time, and adjusting to a shorter lead, that lead to the successful outcome. It is this type of dedication that will lead to a successful conviction of the suspect.

Thank you for your consideration.

Deputy Daniel Wachowiak
Portage County Sheriff's Office
Stevens Point, WI