

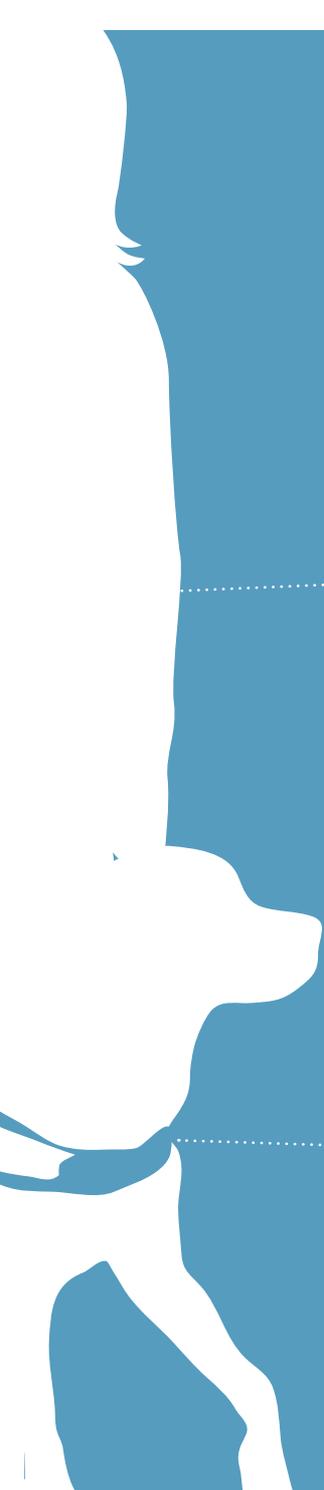
STATE BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

[re]view 2009

by ANTONETTE SORRICK, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

guide dog board





STATE BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

PRESIDENT: Jeff Neidich

VICE PRESIDENT: Tom Scott

SECRETARY: Tony Candela

BOARD MEMBERS: Belinda Barragan, Eric Holm, Lindsay Schnaidt

1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite S 202, Sacramento, CA 95834 tel 916.574.7825 www.guidedogboard.ca.gov

2009

was a busy and productive year for the State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

We held **3** Board meetings and **4** committee meetings, ratified a new strategic plan, updated licensee forms, and accomplished many other things.

Here is a brief look at our activities in 2009.

“ This year, while we were unable to attend more outreach events due to budgetary restrictions, we were able to leverage our partnerships with stakeholders to better educate law enforcement on service animal issues. We are proud to announce that the Board facilitated acceptance of the ‘Responding to Service Animal Calls’ video as Police Officer Standard Training (POST) certified training for law enforcement. Thirty-two thousand members and counting can now view the video through the POST’s ‘Learning Portal.’ The Board is proud to have worked with Assistance Dogs International and the Hotel and Lodging Association on this venture.”

Tony Candela, Chair
Outreach and Education Committee

STRATEGIC PLAN

We continued to work on a five-year Strategic Plan with input from guide dog instructors, Board members, and guide dog users. The plan was ratified at the quarterly meeting in November 2009.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Board members and staff attended the following conferences:

- 1. California Council of the Blind Spring Convention**
(Board Secretary Candela and Executive Officer Sorrick)
- 2. California Council of the Blind Fall Convention**
(Board Secretary Candela and Board Vice President Tom Scott)

LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND ADVOCACY

June 2009: We initiated a regulatory proposal that would clarify continuing education requirements for guide dog instructors. The proposal was approved by the Office of Administrative Law in November 2009 and will become effective December 30, 2009.

September 2009: We initiated a legislative proposal to make in-home training accessible to all guide dog users, regardless of previous experience training with a guide dog. The bill will be introduced in the 2010–11 legislative session.

Also in 2009: We formally supported State Senate Bill 389 (Negrete McCleod) and House of Representatives Bill 3266 (Klein). Support letters are posted on our Web site. Lastly, the Practice Task Force continues to review statutes and regulations for clarity and fairness to consumers and the profession. For example, the Task Force has recommended amending 16 CCR Section 2276 regarding client instruction. This regulation is proposed to amend the time, type, and venue for training. In the future, the Task Force hopes to address competencies for guide dogs and apprentices.

LICENSING/EXAMINATIONS

The Board held two examinations and issued five new guide dog instructor licenses.

WEB SITE

Our Web site continues to be updated and loaded with information on State and Federal laws and regulations. It includes a license look-up feature that allows employers and consumers to search for the license status of a school or guide dog instructor. Check it out at www.guidedogboard.ca.gov.

We also created an e-mail subscription service to share news and updates from the Board.

LOOKING AHEAD

In these tough financial times, the Board will continue to meet its goal of consumer protection, while providing education and outreach on issues such as guide dog consumer rights and privileges.

“It is our goal to continue to advocate on behalf of guide dog users and other stakeholder policies which improve access and better protect consumers.”

—**Tom Scott**, Chair
Legislative Committee

“We will continue to review our statutory and regulatory mandates and make changes or additions where the rules are unfair or do not promote consumer protection.”

—**Jeff Neidich**, President
State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind

