

STATE BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

PRESIDENT: Eric Holm

VICE PRESIDENT: Tom Scott

SECRETARY: Joe Xavier

BOARD MEMBERS: Belinda Barragan, Jeff Neidich, Larry Grable

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2012 IN REVIEW

2012 was an exciting year for the State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind. The Board held two meetings and two committee/task force meetings; updated resource materials, including best practice etiquette tips for guide dog teams in restaurants, and held Guide Dog Day 2012, at which the Board announced a partnership with the California Restaurant Association.

HERE IS A BRIEF LOOK AT OUR ACTIVITIES IN 2012

“ In 2012, the Board published a donor statement for use by the guide dog schools and Better Business Bureaus to promote donation to licensed guide dog schools; embarked on an etiquette campaign in partnership with the California Restaurant Association to help educate restaurateurs about guide dog teams; and provided overall outreach to our licensees and consumers.”

—Joe Xavier, Chair
Outreach and Education Committee

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Board members and staff attended the following conferences:

California Council of the Blind Spring Convention

(Board Secretary Joe Xavier)

National Federation of the Blind California/California Association of Guide Dog Users Fall Convention

(Board Secretary Joe Xavier)

Accessible World — Web-based Interview

(Board President Eric Holm and Executive Officer Antonette Sorrick)

“Curb to Curb — Crossing Communication Street” — Guide Dog Day 2012

(Speakers included Anne Touloukian (puppy raiser), Teal Knapp (guide dog instructor), Jay Harris (guide dog user), Daniel Conway (California Restaurant Association), and Assemblyman Michael Allen. All Board members and staff attended.

“ This year, the Board prepared for sunset review. We acknowledge sunset review as an accountability feature to keep regulatory boards honest, efficient and responsive to its stakeholders. We look forward to working with the Committee in the coming months. ”

—Tom Scott

Chair, Legislative Committee

“ As a Licensed Guide Dog Instructor and Chair of the Practice Task Force, I have appreciated the opportunity to be involved with the process of recommending changes to statutes and regulations that allows the guide dog profession to continue to be current with international training standards and responsive to the needs of our consumers. ”

– Kathy Kelly

Chair, Practice Task Force

LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND ADVOCACY

April 2012: The Board promulgated regulations to establish a citation-and-fine program for licensed schools and guide dog instructors and clarified practice definitions, including adding definitions for the terms “guide dog,” “client,” “guide dog team,” “instructor,” “apprentice,” and “instruction.” The regulatory action was made effective on May 16, 2012.

September 2012: A regulatory package seeking to amend sections 2268.2 and 2271 of the Business and Professions Code was submitted to the Office of Administrative Law. These amendments would add verification of submission of requisite documents be sent by the guide dog school to the Office of the Attorney General and make more specific requirements for the conditions of a guide dog school dormitory and dog kennel.

Also in 2012: The Board submitted its Sunset Review report to the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Committee. A copy of the report is available online at <http://www.guidedogboard.ca.gov/about/index.shtml>. The Board also submitted a legislative proposal to make non-substantive changes to Business and Professions Code section 7206, eliminating the Board Members from the guide dog instructor examination review panel and removing reference to “seeing eye dog” (section 7210).

LOOKING AHEAD

“ In 2013, the Board looks forward to its ongoing etiquette campaign with the California Restaurant Association. We also look forward to the results of the sunset review process. We will continue to strive to better improve the Board’s functions and maintain excellent customer service to our stakeholders.”

– **Eric Holm**
Board President

LICENSING/EXAMINATIONS

The Board held two examinations resulting in three new guide dog instructors.

WEB SITE

Total Web site hits for 2012 equaled 348,656 with tips on dog attacks on guide dogs as the most viewed page at 8,525 hits. Our Web site continues to be updated with information on State and Federal laws and regulations. It includes a license lookup feature, which 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 continue to update stakeholder-specific pages for consumers, applicants, apprentices, and licensees.