

Schedule

9–9:10 am Welcome

Board President Jeff Neidich

9:10–9:20 am Opening Address

DCA Director Carrie Lopez

9:20–9:35 am State of the Board Address

Board Secretary Tony Candela

9:35–10:05 am Guide Dog Schools Update

Bob Wendler, Guide Dogs of the Desert
Dave Ponce, Guide Dogs of America
Keith Tomlinson, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.

10:05–10:55 am Consumer Organization Update

Ken Metz, Guide Dog Users of California

10:55–11:30 am Keynote Address

Aerial Gilbert, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.

11:30am–1 pm Break

1–2:30 pm Panel Discussion:

Service Animals & ADA Regulatory Changes

Moderator: Board Secretary Tony Candela
Bonnie Bergin, EdD., Bergin University of Canine Studies
Rick Boggs, Guide Dog user
Corey Hudson, Canine Companions for Independence
Ken Metz, Guide Dog Users of California
Glenn Gregos, California Canine Companions
for Independence Graduate

2:30–2:45 pm Break

2:45–3:30 pm Roundtable Discussion: Emerging Issues

Moderator: Antonette Sorrick,
State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind

3:30–3:45 pm Closing

Board President Jeff Neidich

4–6 pm State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind Meeting*

*Meets in Room 321

Participants

We thank the following organizations for their participation in today's event:

Guide Dogs of America

www.guidedogsofamerica.org

Guide Dogs for the Blind, Incorporated

www.guidedogs.com

Guide Dogs of the Desert

www.guidedogsofthedesert.org

Guide Dog Users of California

www.gduc-cal.org

California Association of Guide Dog Users

www.nfbcal.org/cagdu/

California Council of the Blind

www.ccbnet.org

National Federation of the Blind, California

www.nfbcal.org

Canine Companions for Independence

www.cci.org

**Bergin University of Canine Studies,
Home of the Assistance Dog Institute**

www.assistancedog.org

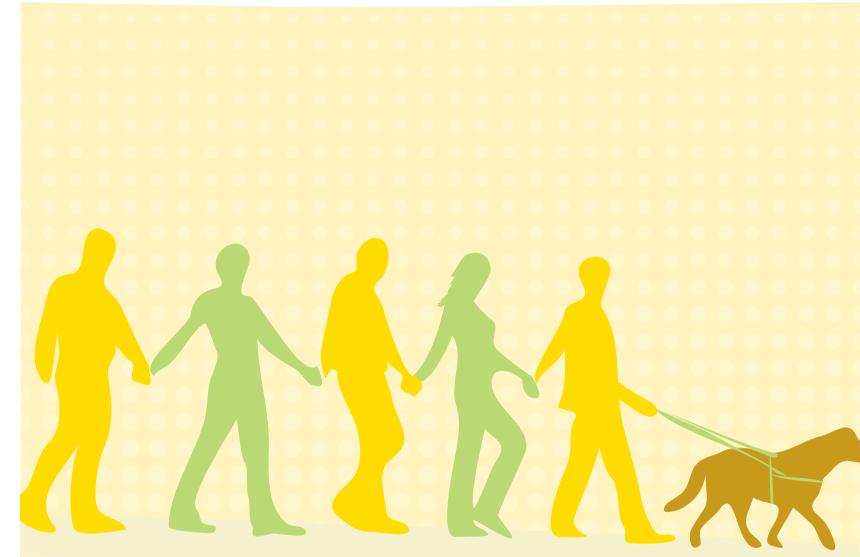


GUIDE DOG DAY 2008
HARNESSING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP



DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

PDE 08 _ 126 / 11.08



GUIDE DOG DAY 2008
HARNESSING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Westin Los Angeles Airport
5400 West Century Blvd., Room 315
9am–6pm

guide dog board
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Speakers



Bonnie Bergin, Ed.D.

Bonnie Bergin is the originator of the service dog concept. She is president of Bergin University which awards master's, bachelor's, and associate degrees in dog studies. She also served as CEO of Canine Companions for Independence and is the founding president of Assistance Dogs International.



Tony Candela

Tony Candela has worked as a rehabilitation counselor, supervisor, manager, and administrator for more than 30 years. His primary interest is in the employment of people with disabilities, specializing in the employment of blind and visually impaired people.



Aerial Gilbert

Aerial Gilbert is the Outreach Manager for Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., and has a German shepherd guide dog named Splash. She is an active member of the American Council of the Blind and Guide Dog Users, Inc., and is a registered nurse with a bachelor of science degree in biology.



Corey Hudson

Corey Hudson served as the CEO of Canine Companions for Independence for 18 years. He has a master's degree in education and several teaching credentials. He has served with and for people with disabilities for 38 years at three California State Developmental Centers and State Hospitals.



Carrie Lopez

Carrie Lopez was appointed Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs in April 2007 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. She was formerly executive director of the Coro Foundation, a civic leadership organization in Los Angeles, where she was responsible for guiding the program and development strategies.



Ken Metz

Ken Metz received his first guide dog in 1963 at the age of 17. He has worked as a rehabilitation counselor for the blind, and as director of the Davidson Program for Independence at the Junior Blind of America. He and his wife, Pamela, are guide dog users. They have five children and nine grandchildren.



Jeff Neidich

Jeff Neidich has a passion for advocating and enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities. He was appointed to the State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind on December 1, 2004. He has been a small business entrepreneur, has worked for the federal government and for nonprofits.



Dave Ponce

Dave Ponce is a guide dog instructor with Guide Dogs of America in Los Angeles. He apprenticed for three years and received his license this year. He said one of the best parts of being an instructor is when the guide dogs he has trained ignore him to bond with their new, blind partners.



Antonette Sorrick

Antonette Sorrick is executive officer of the State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Prior to that, she was deputy director for Board Relations for the Department of Consumer Affairs. She also served as DCA's assistant deputy director for the Consumer and Community Relations Division.



Keith Tomlinson

Keith Tomlinson is a licensed instructor and certified O&M Specialist. He was named Instructor of the Year Award in 1995 by the State Guide Dog Board and the Guide Dog Users of California. He and his wife, Patty, live in Topanga Canyon where they own and operate a private pet resort.



Bob Wendler

Bob Wendler began working with dogs as a dog handler in Vietnam in 1969. He began working with guide dogs in 1976. Over the past 30 years, he has learned from his dogs, his students, and graduates from all over this country. His goal is to share that knowledge with fellow staff and future students.