

SAR Dog News

April 10, 2007

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EXTRA EDITION

Almost 300 Letters of Interest in Two Days

Norma Snelling announced that the reaction to the recent web postings has been fabulous. She said "Never in my wildest dreams did I expect almost 300 inquires in just two days". She requested that we put out a special edition because of some of the excellent comments that have been made about what the new organization is trying to accomplish. This newsletter will be devoted to comments she has received.

What's in a Name!

After much debate, we have come up with a name that we believe truly says what we are all about. We are a group from around the country coming together for the future of canine search and rescue. We believe that the definition for the word Alliance best expresses who we are, "an association to further the common interests of the members," therefore, the name National Search Dog Alliance.

We Must Be a Positive Organization

President Dee Wild has long been an advocate of only positive comments. One very well known industry expert expressed concern that great care must be taken not to become a NASAR bashing organization. Based on the tone of over one half of the e-mails, people are

well aware of their shortcomings. All of the original founders want to urge all of you who are interested in helping us to refrain from negative comments about NASAR or any other search group. Our strength must be that we focus our energies on positive activities. After all, there is much to be done.

Perhaps Sam Walton of Wal-Mart fame, expressed it best back in his earliest days. Sam was in the habit of taking his management team on trips to see competitors. After one visit his team started pointing out every way Wal-Mart was doing better than the competitor they had just visited. Sam told them he never again wanted to hear what Wal-Mart was doing better, that the reason they visited competitors was to find things the competitor was doing better than Wal-Mart so they could improve their company. Great advice!

Would we Join With Another SAR Group

As some of you know, another SAR group is in the early formation stage. We have contacted that group and suggested that we combine the two groups. So far, we have not heard a definitive answer. You may ask why we would consider combining with the support we are receiving from all of you? We believe that a few strong groups with true national recognition is preferable to many splinter groups which would be

less effective in representing SAR dog people. The individuals forming National Search Dog Alliance are not doing it so they can hold board seats or be officers, but rather so that we can have a strong organization that meets the needs of SAR dog handlers. As a result, if two groups have very similar agendas, then it would be better to combine their efforts and resources.

Eastern Weakness

Several e-mails noted that we were too weak in the Northeast. We agree, and we would welcome the names of key dog handlers from the Northeast. What often happens is that people communicate with individuals who they have known from prior searches, seminars or from other SAR groups. Many of our founders were either from the west or the south and we simply did not have the contacts in the Northeast. This is one way you could help us. Send us the name(s) of individuals who you believe could make a real contribution to our new organization.

Comments About Board Seats and Officers

Concern was expressed that we were not being open enough since we had already selected some Board members and Officers. The answer is that you cannot form a not for profit organization without having Officers and a Board in place. In

order to obtain our incorporation and 501.c.3 status, we must get through required paperwork. Therefore to get things rolling, we had to name people to interim positions, pick a name for the organization, develop by-laws and create a mission statement. Our plans are to make sure that all positions are filled by elections from members of the organization in an orderly manner, given that we will need continuity and must have an up and running organization with insurance and other necessities.

Even before we have all of our paperwork together, we have asked handlers to tell us if they are interested in being involved. We are looking to obtain valuable input from handlers as well as tap into their professional background to help us as we work through the process of putting this organization together.

We want your involvement in the process. We will be putting

out surveys to obtain your input, ask handlers to sit on committees and ask handlers for what they would like to see the organization do for them. We are doing this for you, the volunteer canine handler.

Possible Delay In Responding to Your e-mails

Norma has been answering e-mails but she will be testing dogs in Texas for several days and then she will be out of the country for three weeks. On her return she hopes to get a successful newsletter mailing list completed so you don't miss any issues. Until the end of April, if you want to either be on our mailing list or have a question, please address your e-mail to Dee Wild at dwild1@bellsouth.net. Additional contacts are: Mary Jane Boyd: Mjb5778@sbcglobal.net;

Terry Crooks: tcrooks@frontiernet.net; Lisa Higgins: dlhiggy@bellsouth.net; Sherry Scruggs: k-9tracer@cox.net.

Coming Next Issue

In the next issue we will be announcing the addition of some nationally known experts who will join our efforts and help us with standards and policies. Some of you may have guessed who we are talking about, but we will start having interviews with them next issue.

Our Thanks to Each of You

After reading so many of your responses, we are truly humbled by the responsibility that you are placing on our shoulders. Please feel free to contact any of us with your comments for improvement.

