



# NPCA 2010 News Letter

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT: Terry Anderson

Greetings to all our members,

I hope this letter finds all of you in good health. If you missed the National Seminar in Delaware you missed a great opportunity for training and networking. I want to personally thank the New Castle County Sheriff's office canine unit, the Northeast regional Director, Mark Tobin and the Wilmington PD canine unit for all their hard work in hosting this event. We had a great time and met a lot of new members in this region. Also, I want to personally thank all the instructors that participated at the nationals.

NPCA is committed to providing our members with new ideas, some of the best instructors in our industry and great training/learning opportunities. NPCA is developing the Training Division. As part of the Training Division, Mark Green was tasked with assisting the host agency in preparing for the nationals and was directly responsible for all of the training. Mark worked very hard for months preparing for the nationals and learned a lot. Knowing Mark, I look forward to what develops for the training division from here. We are always open to new ideas that would improve our product so if you have any input please forward it to myself or Mark Green.

We have grown substantially and I anticipate future growth in all regions. Because of our growth, especially in the western portion of the United States, it was decided and voted on during the general membership meeting in Delaware, that the Southwest region should be split to create the West Coast region. This new region consists of California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii. The board appointed Elliot Zibli, from LAPD, to be the West Coast Regional Director for this new region. Thanks Elliot!

There is a lot going on in our world today and the economy is a big issue for departments and budgets.

Some of the changes directly involve our industry and if financial constraints have impeded your unit's ability to attend training there are options out there that are available. First, all of our regions have funds that are allocated for regional training. Any member can get with their Regional Director and Mark Green to find out ways to bring training to you with NPCA's assistance. That funding is limited so it is on you to reach out and take an active role in bringing training to your area that you might not otherwise be able to obtain. Second, for units that have EOD detection canines, the NCI course is also available to you at no expense. All expenses are reimbursed through the federal government to your department. Please, contact Katy and she will assist you in getting this training. Anyone can now go to the web site and send in detection/patrol cases to the awards committee. If the case is selected for a quarterly award then it is later considered by the board for cases of the year. If that case wins the case of the year award then NPCA pays for the recipient to attend the national training seminar.

NPCA is dedicated to our members to provide training/learning opportunities.

During the last two years it seems that violence against police officers has risen significantly. It is on you to train hard and be prepared for the fight. In our industry, Canine Law Enforcement, I see incidents all the time about canines and canine officers being shot in the line of duty. In an article written by C.B. Thompson, in the Sept/Oct issue of Police K9 Magazine, Thompson states these figures. "Recent statistics claim that one in 1,000 police officers assigned to normal street patrol duties will be in an officer-involved shooting over the course of a 20 year career. For K-9 handlers, that number increases to one in 100 in an eight year career. That means you are 25 times more likely to be involved in a shooting while working a K-9 than while working normal patrol." To me that is a staggering



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(President Anderson continued)

figure. As handlers/trainers of K-9 units we are always concerned about our handlers working the streets behind a dog. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are trained and well equipped for the fight when it happens.

In 2008, the Executive Board reviewed four cases of canine officers involved in deadly contacts with armed suspects and shootings. The Executive Board had to select one of those cases for the Case of the Year. We selected Ricky Melrose's (Goodyear Police Department, Az.) and brought him to the Nationals in Delaware to give a tactical debrief of his incident. Ricky and Zip tracked a robbery suspect for approx. three minutes and covered several blocks. Zip took Ricky and his search team into the backyard of a residence where the suspect was waiting to ambush officers. Zip entered the yard through the gate, followed by Ricky and the suspect shot Ricky three times. Zip was shot once as he was biting the suspect. Ricky and Zip survived this deadly encounter because they were well trained, equipped and ready for a fight.

These cases were life threatening and the board wanted to recognize each incident so we created the "Presidential Medal of Valor" award. NPCA awarded four Presidential Medal of Valor plaques for 2008.

Another source of information available to each of us is tacticaldebriefs.com. This web site, created by one of our members, Bill Lewis, gives debriefs of tactical and canine incidents that have occurred around the country for others to learn from. Bill is retired from Oxnard PD, CA. (Sgt.K-9/SWAT) and when he is not babysitting his grandchildren he spends his time training/educating other officers so they will be ready for the fight when it comes to them. Thanks Bill!

SWGDOG and NEDCAB. (National Explosive Detection Canine Advisory Board) They are here

and moving forward. The question is are you going to be involved or just sit by and let others make decisions that will affect you and your unit. This is not a negative connotation. Both entities are at different stages of development and their goal is to improve our industries capabilities as a whole. NPCA has representation, the President, on both SWGDOG/NEDCAB boards. But we need each of you to get involved and express your views and opinions.

NPCA is here for our members. NPCA is on the move and growing. Our mission is training/education and we also provide certifications. We want to help you be better prepared for the fight. We need you to take an active role in NPCA. Please get involved.

Train hard and stay safe.  
Terry Anderson  
President, NPCA  
PS: See you in Phoenix, 2010

## Message from Secretary: Greg Thomas

Greetings Fellow Members!

As I write this column for the newsletter, I have just recently arrived home from the National Seminar in New Castle County, Delaware. I would like to thank Northeast Region Director Mark Tobin and seminar coordinator Mark Green for a great event!

Along with some great canine training at the National Seminar, leaders of the organization spend countless hours in meetings debating the direction of your organization. This process rarely results in abbreviated meetings and generally includes a lot of cordial debate. The meetings in Delaware were no exception. Among the most interesting debates at these meetings are those



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(Secretary Thomas continued)

pertaining to certification standards. A significant topic of discussion in the October meetings revolved around the “best practices” established by SWGDOG; a federally funded research group addressing detection dogs. The first matter to consider was whether SWGDOG’s recommendations fit NPCA’s organizational goals. Overwhelmingly, the board agreed SWGDOG’s recommendations were focused on improving our industry and were something NPCA should embrace. The second matter to address was how NPCA’s current certification standards compared to SWGDOG’s “best practices” recommendations. The last issue to decide was how NPCA would morph certification standards - if it were necessary - to integrate SWGDOG’s recommendations. The last two issues have been sent to the NPCA Standards Committee for consideration, planning and an eventual comprehensive recommendation. I would urge you to research SWGDOG, review published opinions of the 55-member panel, and give input to your NPCA leadership. Each and every NPCA region has a Region Director and a Standards Committee representative to voice your opinion. If you are unsure who represents your region, visit [www.npca.net](http://www.npca.net) or contact Administrative Assistant Katy Farnsworth.

I recently received an e-mail urging more proactive communication between the membership and the NPCA Executive Board. As Secretary, this is among the primary duties of my elected position and I take it seriously. Throughout the last decade, we have tried different means of reaching the membership. After some trial and error, we are now leaning on the NPCA website and the Yahoo Groups e-mail list as the most cost effective and easily accessible means to distribute information. Please take advantage of these opportunities to make suggestions, question the direction of your organization, and keep current with the work of your elected officials. All meeting minutes are posted on the website and Katy Farnsworth does a great job keeping the site current. A new suggestion made recently involved posting the Executive Board meeting agendas on the NPCA e-mail list a minimum of seven (7) days prior to meeting. The principal objective in doing this is to give members advance notice of issues being addressed by the board. This provides members

opportunity to give input on issues *before* decisions are made. I think this is a great idea and we are incorporating it immediately! As always, your input should not be limited to matters on the meeting agenda. This is your organization and the entire Executive Board values input from the membership at any time, on any issue.

Have a safe and productive 2010!

Greg Thomas  
NPCA Secretary

## Message from Treasurer/Director of Training: Mark Green

Greetings fellow NPCA members,

Well another successful year is about to conclude and it has been a year filled with positive events for the National Police Canine Association.

The most recent success was the National Training Seminar in New Castle Delaware. I want to thank the host and the host agency, Cpl Mark Tobin and his staff at the New Castle County Police Department, for all of your hard work and effort that made the seminar successful.

NPCA is making great progress in establishing a training division. This division will be responsible for standardizing the training provided by the organization to our members. We are continuously seeking out instructors who have developed training methods and classes that can be offered to the membership. If you have a training idea or you have developed a training class or lesson plan that you would like to introduce to NPCA please contact me.



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(Treasurer Green Continued)

Another goal of the training division is to utilize fresh new instructors and fresh new ideas, if you think you have what it takes, step up and let us hear you.

We have updated the Certifying Official's class to include recent changes to our rules. As a reminder to all certifying officials, you must attend a Certifying Official's class once every 3 years and you must certify five (5) K-9 Teams in their respective field or fields in a calendar year (January – December) to keep their Certifying Official Status. Please refer to the standards posted on the web site to keep current with any changes made to the current standards.

Financially NPCA the association continues to work hard at cutting operational costs by having telephonic meetings for the Regional Directors and Standards Committee. This saves on all the travel expenses associated with face to face meetings. At the end of the year, our account has approximately \$20,000.00. Our Officer Relief Fund has \$2000.00, and our CD will mature at \$11, 510.75.

NPCA had 1050 members for 2009.

Mark Green  
NPCA Treasurer

Message from Administrative  
Assistant:  
Katy Farnsworth

Hello Members,

Remember if you pay online for your membership, I still need you to download a membership application and fax or email that back to me.

**To all Certifying Officials:** You must let your Regional Director know of all certifications that you are planning. I would also like this informations so we can get it on the web site.

Our web site has lots of information on there, so please keep watch for new items and information posted on there.

Stay safe and as always if you need to contact me, you can email or phone.

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