

ISSUE

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WISCONSIN
LAW ENFORCEMENT
CANINE HANDLER
ASSOCIATION

WLECHA

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WLECHA

PO Box 136
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2021 WLECHA Conference Information

Conference/Venue Details

Dates:
October 3rd – 6th, 2021

Venue:
Chula Vista Resort

1000 Chula Vista
Parkway, Wisconsin
Dells WI

(855)388-4782



The WLECHA Board of Directors is happy to announce that after our hiatus in 2020 due to COVID-19, the conference will resume in 2021! We have been able to re-book the conference location at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Thankfully, Chula Vista was very understanding with our decision to cancel the 2020 conference and allowed us to keep all our existing plans for the conference by simply bumping them out to the 2021 calendar year.

As of now updated plans are moving forward as we plan for conference and banquet venues, along with selecting menus for breakfast and the banquet. Our host agency, Wisconsin Dells PD, is also working on securing some unique training sites. During their 2020 attempt, many local contacts were hesitant to commit their locations for our use due to uncertainty about COVID restrictions and liabilities. Now that many of the unknowns and fears over COVID have come to pass, securing training sites is moving along at a much more “normal” pace.

We are excited to be moving forward with making the 2021 conference a reality! After the unprecedented obstacles that seemed to pop up at every turn during 2020, the Board of Directors hope to offer some semblance of normalcy once again in the annual training conference that so many of us look forward to. This year we are excited to be welcoming **MeierK9** to the conference as our “specialized training” opportunity. **MeierK9** has built a strong reputation in the Operational K9 industry and has worked with clients in Military, Law Enforcement, and Conservation (anti-poaching) industries. During their conference course, they will focus on teaching handlers how to design and implement training scenarios that are realistic, challenging, and beneficial to both the dog and handler.

Dr. Lisa Converse (FKA Peters) and her team will also be returning this year. Since the 2019 conference, Dr. Converse has formed her own non-profit organization that continues the mission of educating Operational K9 handlers on first-aid skills that may potentially be life-saving for their 4-legged partners. They are now operating under the name of “**Operational K9 Medical Team of Wisconsin**” and have their home office in Oshkosh. They will once again be performing physical examinations on Sunday evening and will be running a training site utilizing the TraumaFX K9 that many of you saw at the 2019 conference.

Message from Operational K9 Medical Team of Wisconsin

Great news! The Operational K9 Medical Team of WI is officially a 501c3.

What does that mean? That means we will be able to continue educating and training our OpK9 teams at a low cost. We will be offering our training classes at either our home office in Oshkosh or can come to your location! If you would like to register for one of our classes or offer to host one at your agency, please reach out to us!

Our home office is located at:

1606A Oregon Street

Oshkosh WI 54902

As we work to make our new office feel like “home”, we would love to fill our walls with photos of the K9 Teams we have worked with over the years. We currently have a few photos, but would love the chance to display as many as possible. If you would be willing to help us accomplish this, please send a photo of you and your K9 partner to us at opk9ofwi@gmail.com.

Also, please check out our website at <https://www.opk9ofwi.com>. We will be posting updates about our organization along with our training schedule, featured K9 teams, advocacy articles and other information there.

Thank you,

Lyn & the team @ Operational K9 Medical Team of WI





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Editors Notes:

Greetings WLECHA Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you all in a better place than the last time I composed this section of the newsletter. To describe 2020 as “odd” or “difficult” would be grossly understating it. I can think of plenty of other words to more aptly describe my experience, but I don’t think they would be deemed appropriate for this publication. As we move into the spring, things are looking much more positive and it certainly feels much more like the spring of 2019 than that of 2020.

During our most recent Board of Directors meeting, we discussed our plans for this year, specifically the fate of the conference. With quick, resounding, and unanimous agreement, we decided to move forward with holding the the 2021 conference. Just knowing that we are working towards getting back to business as usual for our association has refreshed my commitment to making our conference the best it can be. While I am certain that we will have new considerations to address and speed-bumps to navigate while planning a large conference/event in the “post COVID world”, I feel confident that we will still be able to provide an amazing experience for our membership.

I am very excited about the training opportunities that this conference intends to offer our membership. MeierK9 plans to present a great seminar focused on how to help our handlers step up their skill level(s) in designing and implementing training scenarios for their K9’s. Operational K9 Medical Team of Wisconsin has told me of their plans for the first-aid training site and it sounds like we should all expect an outstanding learning experience from them. The addition of the TraumaFX simulator that was donated to us last year will make this training site possible. We have also confirmed that Kinetic Performance Dog Food will also be returning to the conference and once again be offering a presentation on K9 nutrition.

I hope that as we move further into 2021 and open the conference registration that all who wish to attend the conference can get registered to do so. I have heard from several members who advised that their agencies were extremely hesitant to allow them to travel for any sort of training during 2020. Hopefully as vaccinations become more prevalent and government health orders become less restrictive, those concerns will diminish and will not prevent those who wish to attend the conference from joining us. I look forward to seeing you all this fall and making the 2021 conference one to remember. Until then: Stay safe, train hard and as always...trust your dog.

Brian and Blackjack

“Confido Fidelis Canis”