

MACA News First Quarter Edition, 2021

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MACA Prepares to Offer First Virtual Mini-MACA Course

The MACA Board approved offering its first online Mini-MACA training program to enable members to have a COVID-safe training venue. The specific class has not yet been chosen, however the Board will make the announcement via the MACA website and Facebook pages in the coming weeks.

Once available, members will register for the class through the MACA website, then pay for the training via the website's PayPal. The tuition will be estimated to be \$25 to \$35 depending on which class the Board chooses to offer. Once registered, the enrolled member will receive an email from Midwest Animal Services Academy with the link to ACO University. The member will then enter the access code and be able to take the class any time during the month of May.

According to JT Taylor, who will be presenting the training program, Association members can sign up for the class and take it at their convenience, even having the ability to pause the presentation and come back to it later. He described the class as being similar to taking an online college class where there will be different presentation formats, questions and answer segments and a final exam. CEUs will be offered for class completion which can be applied to a member's certification requirement.

The Board felt offering this form of virtual training would be better than cancelling Mini-MACA training again this year due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. By making the online class available throughout the month of May, the Board hopes to make the training as convenient as possible for members interested in participating.

Look for further information on class topic, tuition and registration coming soon!

MACA traditionally offers up to two mini-MACA trainings a year. It remains to be determined if the second offering will also be virtual or if it will be returning to traditional in-person format.

MACA Joins Animal Control Officer Coalition as a State Association Member

The Missouri Animal Control Association has signed up for a free membership with the newly formed Animal Control Officer Coalition, a branch of Code 3 Associates.

According to the Code 3 Associates website, Code 3 Associates is excited to introduce the program that empowers individual career goals as well as essential agency goals. They are dedicated to supporting animal control officers through a professional and interactive coalition. The Animal Control Officer (ACO) Coalition offers exceptional education and resource development, as well as access to collaborate with a network of specialized professionals. The program is 100% built by ACOs to serve ACOs, their partners, and their communities. The goal is to provide animal control officers with the support, training, and resources to allow them to thrive in their career.

Janee Boswell, the ACO Coalition Branch Manager, says the coalition was formed on January 5, 2021 and has already had many accomplishments, such as disbursing 4500 3-ply masks and 500 medical masks as part of their grant program to aid in COVID response. She said there are also grant opportunities for members in need of masks and ballistic vests.

The ACO Coalition program provides individual members with officer training, such as Essential Animal Services Training (EAST), animal cruelty investigations training, dangerous dog investigations, and more. They provide a national level ACO certification which provides the ACOs accredited credentialing for officer training, They can assist in program development for programs such as field training, community outreach and school programs; and offer state organization support and networking, and equipment exchange program, and disaster planning for a members community, including consultation and FEMA/NFPA compliant training, and subject matter experts.

According to Boswell, the goal of the State Association Affiliation is to provide direct benefits to the state association, such as encouraging ACO's to join their State Association.

“There are many ACO's that Code 3 comes across in our training endeavors that are not members of their state associations. We recognize there are tons of benefits for ACO's to join their state associations like, training, networking, support, etc. and we want to support and promote that,” Boswell said.

Additionally, state associations will also receive promotion for their conferences and training programs through the coalition webpage and Facebook; prioritize affiliated State Associations for sponsorship at conferences, and providing a network of other state associations' leadership. At the current time, membership is free. Links to join are available on their website <https://code3associates.org/aco-coalition/>.

Shuffling of MACA Board Continues

Kyle Shafer and Anita Waller resigned their positions as President and Secretary respectively, to pursue careers outside of the animal control field. We wish them luck in their future endeavors!

Before resigning, outgoing President Shafer appointed Former Vice President Holly Bowie to fulfill his term, which expires at 2021 Conference. JT Taylor was appointed to fill Anita Waller's Secretary position, also expiring at 2021 Conference.

This created two vacancies in the Board of Directors, which were appointed to be filled by Steve Norman (city of St. Joseph) and Casandra Mosholder (Humane Society of Missouri). Both of these terms also expire in 2021.

At the 2021 Conference/Annual Business Meeting, elections will proceed as in the past, with the positions of President, Secretary, and four Directors positions to be filled.

Are you or someone you know interested in running for the Executive Board? Follow the "Board Nomination Form" link on MACA website Board Members page or contact Nomination Chair Casandra Mosholder at CMosholder@hsmo.org

Madam President Bowie Outlines Executive Board Goals, Encourages Membership Participation

It is both an honor and privilege to serve as your President for the remainder of the 2021 term. I look forward to serving you and working with the board to provide high quality, accessible training and resources.

Our current Executive Board members offer a variety of experience and are very motivated to grow our membership and organization. We kicked off our board meeting on February 18 by setting goals for the 2021 year. Our focus will be planning the October conference with the challenges of the pandemic, offering additional resources and membership benefits, and continuing to develop standard operating procedures for the board and committees to ensure a seamless transfer for future board members.

MACA's success as an organization relies on our members. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with questions, suggestions, or concerns. You will find our contact information on our website at <http://www.maca1.net/Board-Members.html>

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Best regards,

Holly Bowie

Spring Certification Class Coming in April

The Spring Certification Class is quickly approaching. The class will be held Wednesday, April 21 and Thursday, April 22 in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Training will take place at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center. Hotel reservations can be made by contacting the hotel by March 30 to secure MACA rate of \$99.00. Ask for “MACA Certification Training” while securing reservation.

Tuition for the training is \$150. The cost includes materials, test fee, certification dues for two years, and lunch/snacks for both days.

Register through the MACA website.

Annual Training Conference Registration is Now Open

Check the MACA website for the Registration link to the 2021 Annual Training Conference being held October 13-15 , 2021 at Camden on the Lake Resort.

The Board is excited about the diverse range of topics shaping up for this year’s event. More details on topics coming soon.

A limited number of full and partial scholarships are available. Apply via the MACA website. Deadline for scholarship applications is May 31 at 8:00am.