

Helpful Tips to Annual Conference Attendees

The Annual Training Conference is fast approaching. After cancelling last year's event due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are looking forward to gathering for training and networking once again. Whether this is your first conference, you are a conference veteran, or you are still on the fence about attending, the following tips can help make prepare you for being prepared for an enjoyable conference.

1. Enjoy the MACA member conference registration rate. If you haven't already done so, sign up to be a MACA member. MACA members enjoy a \$25.00 savings on registration for the conference.
2. Call Camden on the Lake to make your lodging reservations. Be sure to mention group code "ANIM1021" to secure the conference room rate. Reservations need to be made September 12, 2021. After this time, group rates/reservations may be accepted based on availability.
3. Remember your Tax Exemption Letter, if applicable. This does not exempt from lodging tax or resort fee.
4. Consider bringing some cash for raffle tickets and the MACA store. Attendees are given two raffle tickets for chances at prizes and drawings. Additional raffle tickets are available for purchase for \$1 each, \$5 for six tickets, or \$10 for twelve tickets. The MACA merchandise store will also be set up with various items including shirts for sale.
5. Consider dressing up for the Awards Banquet and dinner Thursday night. The Awards Banquet is our chance to recognize our peers and those who support what we do on a daily basis while enjoying a nice meal.
6. Visit maca1.net and familiarize yourself with the "Missouri Animal Control Association Training Etiquette" link located at the top of the Training page. Let's follow these guidelines out of respect for our peers, presenters, and our profession.
7. Come ready to learn, attend the scheduled events, and have fun!

Lastly, if you are unable to attend this year but hope to in the future, remember partial and full scholarships are available to MACA members. Scholarship applications can be submitted online through the MACA website, but must be submitted by May 31 of the calendar year.

First Annual Gabby Evans Memorial Scholarship Awarded

Gabby Evans was a longtime MACA member who could often be spotted tending to the Petlink/Datamars exhibitor booth at many past MACA Conferences. Yvonne “Gabby” Evans spent much of her career working with animals. She was the Executive Director at Sikeston Area Humane Society from 1996-2004. Then, she served as the Director at Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter from 2004-2011. Finally, in Evans served as an Animal Welfare Representative with Petlink/Datamars since around 2013, which is when many of us were introduced to her at MACA Conferences. Gabby passed away in early December 2019.

Shortly after her passing, Steve Wilcox, Vice President of North America Petlink Sales, expressed his desire to establish a recurring scholarship in Gabby’s honor. This full-tuition scholarship award covers conference tuition (including meals) and lodging for one lucky winner each year.

At the July Executive Board Meeting, the Executive Board selected Wendy Combs, from Nodaway Humane Society in Maryville as the first winner of the Gabby Evans Memorial Scholarship. When notified by President Bowie of her selection, Combs said, “I am honored and so thankful for this opportunity! I have never been to the MACA Conference and am so excited.”

In addition to the Gabby Evans Memorial Scholarship, MACA awarded three additional full-tuition scholarships to this year’s Conference.

Distinguishing between MACA Certification Dues and MACA Membership Dues

MACA individual membership dues are \$20.00 annually. Dues can be paid via Paypal at maca1.net under the membership tab or by printing out the Membership PDF and mailing payment to: MACA, PO Box 847, St. Peters, MO 63376.

With your paid individual MACA membership you will have voting privileges for all general member votes, you will be eligible to serve on the MACA Board of Directors, and you will have access to our “MACA Members Only” Facebook group. Paid MACA members are also eligible to apply for MACA training scholarships, and to receive discounted MACA member pricing for Mini-MACA Training and MACA Annual Conference Training.

MACA is also an Affiliated State Association Partner with the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA). This gives you access to even more benefits through NACA including being eligible for a discounted NACA individual membership. If you have questions about the status of your membership, reach out to Sandy Alexander, Membership Chair via email at salexander@lamarmo.org.

Certification dues are \$10.00 due at the time of your Certification Renewal, which must be paid every two years. The tuition for Certification Training also includes two years certification dues. Once Certification is obtained, 20 Continuing Education Units must be submitted over two years to keep current. If Continuing Education Units lapse, re-testing for certification will be necessary.

A Letter from Madam President Bowie

It is hard to believe our annual conference is a short three months away. Matt Allen, MACA Vice President, has been working diligently with the board to bring you a high-quality conference. Matt, JT, and I visited the conference venue in May and were very pleased with what they have to offer. Please watch the MACA Facebook page and MACA website for conference updates as the event gets closer.

We have received multiple award nominations for the conference. Thank you to those of you who have submitted nominations, and for those who have not please consider nominating someone worthy of an award. I cannot wait to see you all in October!

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

MACA featured on upcoming episode of The Humane Roundup Podcast

This animal welfare podcast dives into lives of animal control, animal service, and humane officers. According to their website, their focus is to provide an entertaining resource for animal welfare professionals. One of the podcast hosts, Daniel Ettinger, will be a presenter at the Annual Training Conference. Check out their website humaneroundup.com for ways to listen and episode descriptions. Expect the MACA episode to drop sometime in August discussing the association as a whole and upcoming training opportunities. Particular episodes of note also include Episode 83 featuring Mark Kumpf, another presenter at conference and Director of Detroit Animal Care and Control. Lastly, Episode 83 features Carole Baskin, and her work with Big Cat protection.

Fall Certification Class Coming to O'Fallon

The Fall Certification Class is approaching.. The class will be held in O'Fallon, Missouri on November 2nd and 3rd 2021.

Tuition for the training includes materials, test fee, certification dues for two years, and lunch/snacks for both days.

Be on the lookout for registration details coming soon on the MACA website and Facebook pages.

Deadline quickly approaching for mini-MACA and Awards

August 1 is the extended deadline to access the mini-MACA virtual training through the MACA website.

The deadline for submitting award nominations through the website is also August 1.