

2017 MACA Annual Conference on September's Horizon

The 2017 MACA Annual Conference in Springfield is rapidly approaching, but it is not too late to register. Located once more at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Oasis Convention Center in Springfield, the annual conference will take place Wednesday, September 20, concluding Friday, September 22. Anyone still wishing to attend and needing to make hotel accommodations should contact the Ramada and should remember to say the reservation is to attend the MACA Annual Conference.

The August Board meeting will be held Tuesday, September 19 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Bora Bora Boardroom. Members are welcome to attend and observe. Conference check in will be from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the Fiji Ballroom. Many of the Executive Officers and Board members will be available throughout the evening to meet and greet association members, and to help with any issues that might arise.

The conference will open Wednesday morning in the Fiji Ballroom with a welcoming address by Vice President Nycole Griffin and brief introductions by President JT Taylor. Training will begin with *Animal Welfare and the Law*, followed by *Rabies and Other Zoonotic Concerns*. The afternoon sessions include *Disaster Preparedness and Response*, and *Shelter Cleaning and Sanitation*. Following the training day, the conference social, sponsored by the ASPCA, will begin at 5:30 p.m., and will include hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and an entertaining scavenger hunt.

Thursday's training agenda will include classes on *Humane Wildlife Conflict Resolution*, an *ACFA Update* and *Officer Survival*. The annual business meeting and Board of Director's Elections will be held Thursday during the lunch break, with a cash bar and social planned before the awards banquet begins.

Training on *Trap-Neuter-Return* will begin training on Friday, followed by training on being *Fit for Duty*. The conference will conclude Friday at 12:30 p.m. After the conference closing remarks, there will be a brief board meeting.

As always, there will be a vendor's area open Wednesday and Thursday throughout the day and attendees are encouraged to visit with the vendors and displays. Drawings for door prizes will be an on-going event throughout the conference as well as a new event, Conference Bingo. Prizes will also be available for bingo winners.

Plans for the 2018 annual conference are already underway. Participants are encouraged to complete the conference evaluation form before leaving this year's conference and to make any requests or suggestions of training topics for the 2018 Annual Conference.

Two Resign from MACA Board

Two members of the MACA Board, Director James Donovan and Director Shawn Walker, resigned from the Board of Directors in August. Donovan, whose term of office was to expire in September, will be replaced during the Annual Conference elections.

Shawna Walker was elected to the Board in 2016, for a three-year term. Her vacated seat will be filled during the Annual Conference elections for a two-year term to complete Walker's original term.

Certification Training coming to Harrisonville in October

Harrisonville Animal Control will host the fall Certification Training Program at the Harrisonville Fire Department, October 25th and 26th. Registration is \$150.00.

Lodging is recommended at the Comfort Inn and Suites, 2304 Commercial St in downtown Harrisonville. Be sure to request the MACA room rate before October 10th to get the association room rate of \$80 a night.

Festus Animal Control Officer Faced Possible Rabies Exposure

Animal Control Officer Tim Mullins faced a scare following a minor bite received from a dog brought in to Festus Animal Control. According to Mullins, a couple brought a dog into his facility as an owner surrender. The dog nipped at his hand, penetrating his glove, and making a small puncture in Mullins finger. Several days later Mullins learned that the dog had come from Illinois, where it had been in a fight with a wolf and sustained injuries. The wolf had tested positive for rabies.

Mullins immediately began the post exposure rabies vaccinations. Oddly enough, according to Mullins, the news of the wolf testing positive came on what would have been Mullins' last day as an Animal Control Officer. After years of dedicated service, first with Jefferson County Animal Control, then with the City of Festus since 2009, Tim Mullins had decided to hang up his catch pole and start a new career. Under his leadership, Festus Animal Control had earned the shelter of the year award from MACA and he had been nominated for the Animal Control Officer of the Year several times. His efforts in working with animal rescue groups and promoting adoptions had resulting in drastic increases in Festus Animal Control's live release rates.

Despite repeated attempts to get them, Mullins had never been given the approval to undertake the pre-exposure anti rabies vaccinations. And now, on the very edge of leaving the threat behind him, he was forced to start the post exposure vaccinations. Fortunately, Mullins learned a few days later that the dog that bit him had not contracted the disease from the wolf.

News of Mullins' situation spread rapidly through the animal control profession via social media. Mullins said there was a lot he would miss about the job, but the dangers of being bitten, or exposed to a zoonotic disease like rabies is not something he will miss. He said in his departure from the career field that he hoped that others would learn from his situation and get their pre-exposure vaccinations. Municipal governments and humane organizations alike should make arrangements to have their employees protected from this fatal disease.

From the Desk of the President... The Business of the Association

The Missouri Animal Control Association is a state-wide organization with more than 150 members. Conducting the business of the association is performed by a group of volunteers. These volunteers accepted the challenges, accepted the nominations, and let themselves be elected to the MACA Board of Directors by the rest of the members of the association. Why? Because they chose to serve. They chose to do the *work* of MACA.

Some people think being on the Board of Directors is a prestigious thing, but what it really is, is a lot of hard work.

For years the Board has conducted the business of the association through the efforts of various committees. While several committees have existed since MACAs earliest days, others have been created to serve specific purposes and were then eliminated when the work was done.

In 1999, there were committees for awards, certification, emergency preparedness, historians, new members, mailing list, newsletter, membership, nominations, the scholarship committee, vendor committee and the webpage committee. By 2003, committees such as the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Merchandise Committee had been added, while the mailing list, new members, and emergency preparedness committees had been discontinued. Today, there are committees to monitor and work on recommendations related to state legislation, for developing the Board's standard operating procedures, and one for developing MACA's position on a variety of subjects. Next year, it has been proposed that the President establishes a Grant Committee to work hand in hand with the Vendor Committee to secure grants to support the association's training programs.

The moral to the story is that the business of the association is conducted through the executive officers and through the various committees. Typically, Board members chair those committees and perform the lion's share of the work. I think it is important to know, before someone expresses an interest in serving on the Board of Directors, that being on the Board takes a lot of time and effort. In short, serving the association requires a lot of work.

With elections to the Board coming up in September, I hope to see enthusiastic nominees ready to plunge into the work of conducting the business of the association. See you at the conference!

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the Bora Bora Boardroom of the Ramada Inn Hotel and Oasis Convention Center.

Historian Collecting Animal Tags

MACA Historian Mark Hastings in collecting rabies tags and animal tags from Missouri jurisdictions to display during the Annual Conference. Anyone attending the conference willing to donate a tag two the association should look for Hastings display and add their tag.