

GUIDELINES FOR MULTIPLE-DISTRICT AND DISTRICT LEADER DOG CHAIRPERSONS

These guidelines are provided to assist Leader Dog Chairpersons in better understanding their responsibilities. We strongly suggest that you visit our web site at www.leaderdog.org and become familiar with the information available there. You will find the latest data on Leader Dog programs such as puppy raising, applying for a Leader Dog, Trekker training, and much more. The people you talk with will expect you to have many answers and our web site can be a valuable resource for you.

Position Summary and General Responsibilities: To promote Leader Dogs for the Blind programs through public relations with both Lions and non-Lions civic and professional service organizations within their areas of service. The District Leader Dog Chairperson will be directly responsible to the person who has appointed them, i.e., the Multiple District Leader Dog Chair and/or District Governor.

Purpose of Leader Dogs for the Blind: To minimize the challenges of blindness by =

- Providing safe and independent travel through guides dogs, and teaching our clients to use the dog guide effectively;
- Offering services of the Accelerated Mobility Program (AMP);
- Training in the use of assistive technology to enhance travel and increase employment skills;
- Providing education to future employers as well as orientation and mobility professionals

Goals for Leader Dog Chairpersons:

1. To educate both Lions and non-Lions in their areas of service with the Leader Dog program and ensure that they:
 - a. know the Leader Dog mission “to enhance the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired
 - b. have a good understanding of the value and availability of Leader Dog programs
 - c. seek out and offer the Leader Dog programs to individuals who are blind or visually impaired
 - d. advise such persons on the procedure for obtaining services through Leader Dog
2. To keep Lions aware of the need for funds to operate Leader Dog Programs.
3. To keep Leader Dogs for the Blind aware of local activities on its behalf.

Methods for Achieving Goals: Establish district wide educational programs to promote Leader Dog. These may include arranging seminars, workshops and speakers for conferences or conventions using Graduate Field Representatives and Leader Dog personnel to present the program when invited and available.

Early in the Lion year it is helpful to send a letter to each club's program chairperson, offering to present a Leader Dog program for their club. Include a "General Information" brochure and information about contacting you to conduct a program. The Leader Dog program makes an excellent subject for special Club functions; i.e., Christmas party, Spouse Night, Charter Anniversary, etc.

Prepare a 10-20 minute presentation on the Leader Dog program using the videos, DVD's and other materials available.

Local Leader Dog graduates are often willing to talk about experiences with their Leader Dog. When choosing to use a local Leader Dog graduate, always check with the Director of Community Outreach and Education Services at Leader Dog prior to inviting them to participate. We suggest that you visit with the graduate before asking their help to determine that their involvement will be positive. Lions enjoy hearing Leader Dog graduates who have positive attitudes toward the Leader Dog program as well as life in general.

Encourage local Lions Clubs to solicit graduates as members and encourage them to become involved in every aspect of the club administration as well as projects. Seeing a graduate become an active member of their Club makes Lions aware of the benefits of Leader Dog programs.

Many chairpersons take advantage of local celebrations, fairs, etc., to set up a booth and pass out Leader Dog materials. The local White Cane Day event is a good time to distribute brochures to acquaint the general public with the program. Use local and Lions Club media (newsletters, etc.) to promote the program. Materials from the school may be used including current brochures, the Update newsletter and mailings from Leader Dog.

Some districts plan Region/Zone wide meetings for a Leader Dog rally. Check with Leader Dog for possible speakers. Often Graduate Field Representatives are able to visit clubs, Zones and Regions in an area immediately prior to or following a convention. Where Multiple-District/District wide fund raisers are not possible, encourage individual clubs to participate with a local effort.

At Multiple-District/District conferences and conventions have a time for donations to be made public, i.e. "Parade of Green" when each club presents a check to the Leader Dog Chairperson.

Possible fund raisers might include golf and bowling tournaments, Walk Your Dog a Thon, races (car, boat, turtle, crab, etc.), garage sales, fashion shows, raffles, auctions; etc. Visit our website to learn more about hosting an event for Leader Dog for the Blind and download a third party event application or contact our Special Events Manager. Be aware of the various Leader Dog awards available for donations. The Founders Tribute award is available for a donation of \$500.00. The 100% District award is given to each District Governor and Leader Dog Chairperson when every club in the district gives a donation in any amount. A banner patch is given to clubs contributing \$1,000.00 or more in a year. Various other awards are available.

Support and materials: Leader Dog will work with you to arrange representation from the school for your conferences and conventions. Please contact us as early as possible if you want to have a Graduate Field Representative, Puppy Raiser or staff member at your event. This will give us the best chance of filling your request at the time needed.

You may call the school toll free at 888-777-5332 for DVD's, brochures covering information on the many programs offered (AMP, Student information, General information, Trekker, Puppy Raising, Founders Tribute) and various promotional materials, such as placemats for use at meetings and conventions as well as a number of giveaway items currently available. The receptionist will take your order and mail information Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call early to ensure receiving your materials when needed (allow 3-4 weeks for delivery).

We hope that these guidelines will be beneficial to you in your position as a Leader Dog Chairperson. Your commitment is extremely important to the people who are blind in your community, to your clubs and to Leader Dogs for the Blind. Please accept our sincere appreciation for taking time to serve. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.