

# The Caring Canine Chronicle

Volume 2 Issue 1

May 2002

## Board of Directors for 2002

President

Mark Cohen

Vice President, Director of  
Volunteer Services

Margo Bechtel

Secretary

Michelle Cohen

Treasurer

Burton Goldstein

Director of Delta Relations

Marlene Truesdell

Director of Training, Facilities

Linda Solano

Director of Communication

Julie Rosenthal

Director of Public Relations

Harvey Eisen

### Inside this issue:

<i>Delta Society Holds Awards Retrospective</i>	2
<i>The Lines of Communication</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Open Floor</i>	2
<i>Delta Society Annual Conference</i>	3
<i>NIH Events</i>	3
<i>NCTD Brochure Distribution Campaign</i>	3
<i>Important Info</i>	4

## Stepping Up To The Plate

by Mark Cohen

When Marlene Truesdell asked me to take over as NCTD President, I was hesitant at first. After all, I work full-time, have a family, and have enough trouble finding time to visit! How could I possibly find even more time to lead a growing organization like NCTD?

Then I began to think about why I became an NCTD volunteer. The answer was simple: to make a difference in people's lives by visiting with my dog. Then I thought about home much more I can do as president. As NCTD president, I can contribute to the organization and help hundreds of people. So, I "stepped up to the plate."

Realizing that I do have other commitments, I knew I couldn't do everything myself. I needed everyone on the board to "step up the plate" with me to make 2002 a success. As a result, starting this year, everyone on the board is responsible for a particular part of the organization. We have a lot of great things happening in the organization— we are expanding, we are working with volunteers in other locations to establish affiliate organizations, and we're improving our internal communication and training program.

Now I'm asking you, our volunteers, to "step up to the plate", too. We can use as much support as

you can give. This includes help with day-to-day administration, assisting at NCTD sponsored Pet Partner workshops and screenings, or even filling an outstanding board position. We need your help!

I also want to thank the board for their support. I think we are off to a great start. To those who are already helping, thank you so much. We can't do it without you! If you have questions or can volunteer, please feel free to contact anyone on the board or me directly: markcohen@cablespeed.com or 301-776-4742. Thank you in advance!



## Summer Picnic

Summer is here! Time for sunshine, barbeques, wiener-bobbing... wiener-bobbing? Yes, a big hit with the canines last year will be repeated this year at the NCTD Volunteer Picnic! So mark your calendar and

plan on a whole lot of fun!

Here are the details:

When:

June 29, 2002, 1:00 pm  
(raindate June 30, 2002)

Where: Truesdell Home

RSVP: 301-854-6231  
or marlene@nctdinc.org



## Delta Society Holds Awards Retrospective

On April 24th, 2002 Delta Society held an awards Retrospective, "A Salute to America's Service and Therapy Animal Champions and Their Contributions to Human Health and Welfare" at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, DC.

Shari and Wayne Sternberger, Mark and Michelle Cohen, Marlene and Bart Truesdell, Julie Rosenthal, Margo Bechtel, and Burton Goldstein (all with their respective partners, of course!) attended. They assisted with the event including regis-

tration, welcoming guests, and directing guests to the reception area.

NCTD teams met Linda Hines, President of Delta Society, actress Ali McGraw who served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening, and several key Delta



Society Board Members.

The awards program included the honoring of several groups including the Capital Police K9 Corp, and a K9 Landmine sniffing team from the Marshall Legacy Institute. They were followed by a video of a Service Team and Therapy Teams who then spoke.

A therapy team that volunteered at Pier 94 in New York after the September 11 attacks was honored and presented an award.

## The Lines of Communication

As NCTD has grown, board members don't always get a chance to see everyone, keep everyone informed personally, or to personally solicit feedback.

In order to keep volunteers informed in an effective, timely manner, the board uses email and our website as a key method of communication.

Please check for NCTD email regularly and log on to the website regularly to check for new information.

This is not a one-way street! Feedback from volunteers is important and email can be a quick and easy method to give us suggestions, comments, tips, or ask questions.

Consider also keeping in contact via email with those you visit with regularly.



If you have not been receiving any NCTD-related email, please call Mark Cohen at 301-776-4742.

## Upcoming Open Floor

Mark your calendars for the Open Floor on June 1, 2002 at the Florence Bain Senior Center in Columbia, MD.

New teams come at 8:30am, experienced teams come at 10:15, and we will end at 1:00pm.

Bring a comfortable mat for your partner. Teams must use Delta Society approved equipment.



There will be lecture, games, and hands on activities. Attendance at one open floor per year is mandatory for NCTD teams to continue visiting. Contact Linda Solano at linda@nctdinc.org or 410-547-8035 with any questions.

# Delta Society Annual Conference

NCTD is going west!

National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc. will be represented at Delta Society's 21st Annual Conference. The conference is entitled, "The Healing Effects of Companion, Service, and Therapy Animals on Human Health."

It is also marks Delta Society's 25th Anniversary. Here are some of the details of the conference and who's going:

- **Where:** Hilton Seattle Airport and Conference Center; Seattle, WA.

- **What:** Delta's 21st Annual Conference, Beyond Limits® Awards retrospective Banquet, and Post-Conference Courses.

- **When:** Saturday, May 18 - Sunday, May 19, 2002. Post conference courses on Monday, May 20, 2002.

Mark and Michelle Cohen are going and will take the Pet Partners Instructor course.

They would like to begin teaching Pet Partner Workshops.

Marlene Truesdell is attending and teaching.

Shari Sternberger is also planning to attend and teach.



*They would all like to thank National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc. for the financial assistance provided.*

## NIH Events

The NIH Volunteer Appreciation luncheon was held April 23 at the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. NCTD was represented by Sue Patrick, Burton Goldstein, John Burrows, and Harvey Eisen, each with their Pet Partner. Holly Parker, coordinator of our activities at NIH, introduced us.

NIH Take Your Child To Work day was on April 25. Holly Parker organized two half-hour sessions in the activity room for visiting parents and children. She described the animal assisted therapy that NCTD does at the NIH. She then had several of our members demonstrate various activities. Harvey Eisen demonstrated some simple com-

mands with Suchie, Sue Patrick and Molly demonstrated brushing and petting, and Burton Goldstein and MG demonstrated agility.

Many of the children came up before and after the program to greet and pet the dogs.

## NCTD Brochure Distribution Campaign

Our Director of Public Relations, Harvey Eisen, has launched a NCTD Brochure Distribution Campaign.

In an effort to educate the public about NCTD and also to attract new member teams, we have

embarked on a project to display our brochures at as many sites as we can. These could include vet's offices, pet shops, training facilities, and others.

Harvey has purchased a number of plastic display holders and custom-

ized them with our business card and a card that will say whom to contact to refill the holder.

If you are willing to be responsible for placing and filling a brochure holder, please contact Harvey at 301-530-5463.



**National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 234  
Highland, MD 20777  
Website: <http://www.nctdinc.org>  
E-Mail: [info@nctdinc.org](mailto:info@nctdinc.org)  
Phone: 301-585-NCTD (6283)

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- ✓ **NIH, Sibley, and Roland Park need more volunteers.** Please contact the facility coordinator if you can help.
- ✓ NCTD Gear is available to volunteers at cost. Items include denim shirts, polos, tees, and sweats. Order Online at [www.nctdinc.org](http://www.nctdinc.org).
- ✓ If you and your animal need to be **recertified**, please call Shari Sternberger at 301-854-0403 or email [shatzy@aol.com](mailto:shatzy@aol.com).
- ✓ Remember to check your information in the roster! Contact Michelle Cohen at 301-776-4742 or [therapybeagles@cablespeed.com](mailto:therapybeagles@cablespeed.com) for corrections/updates.
- ✓ Mark your calendar for the **Open Floor June 1, 2002.** See Page 2 for details.
- ✓ Mark your calendar for the Picnic June 30th, 2002. See page one for details.
- ✓ Check the website regularly for updated schedule information.
- ✓ **Have you hugged your dog today?**

### ***Did You Know...?***

- We currently have 36 active teams.
- You can now order NCTD Gear Online.
- NCTD was mentioned in the latest issue of Delta Society Pet Partner newsletter, *Interactions*.

### ***Condolances***

Losing any pet, especially a Pet Partner, is a terribly sad time.

Our hearts go out to:

Sue Patrick and Mezzy MacKenzie for the loss of their partner Skooter, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

### ***New Volunteers***

Terry Cook and "Chelsea"

Penelope Longbottom and "Cassie"

### ***Congratulations***

Linda Solano and Jessie announce the birth of 8 Whippet puppies whelped on April 10th, 2002.



Julie Rosenthal and Tori announce the birth of 3 Polish Lowland Sheepdog puppies whelped on December 26, 2001.

