

HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response

President's Message

May 19, 2008

Dear HOPE AACR Members,

I trust this email finds each one of you well. The spring season always brings new growth to our gardens, and I am excited to report that HOPE AACR will be experiencing new growth this year too. Your dedicated participation with HOPE AACR is vital for making growth possible. We have screenings and workshops scheduled in the EUS and PSW regions this year. The EUS region just completed three screenings, the first ever in Atlanta, Georgia! It will be exciting to see how the southeast area of the country develops over time. Adding new teams to the southeast part of the country is just the beginning. The PSW region may have 30+ teams try screening later this year! WE NEED YOUR HELP!! Please check out the [Event Calendar](#) on our web site to see when the next screening will be held. *Please* consider helping at the screenings and workshop if at all possible.

Board of Directors Election

I am pleased to report that our board of directors election was completed on schedule, ending May 1, 2008. This was the first election conducted completely online, and it was a great success thanks to our 2008 elections committee. Please join me in thanking the 2008 Election Committee members: Lois Abrams (chair)(PSW), Nancy Dodd (RMR), Howard Shore (EUS), Karen Hathaway (PNW), and Noreen Yoshida-Peer (PSW). I also want to thank all of you that voted.

Please join me in congratulating all the candidates! Bill Hatherley, Richard Lowy, Amy Rideout, and Eric Rynar were reelected to the board of directors. Serving on the board of directors takes commitment in many ways. The board of directors *is not* an elite group members but are members just like you who care deeply about fulfilling our mission, bringing comfort and encouragement to hurting people. Please give serious consideration to serving along side the board by volunteering on a committee, or by volunteering to help your regional director. Thank you!!

I would also like to give my sincere thanks to Lori Jacobs for serving on the board of directors and for being the first Rocky Mountain Regional Director. Thank you Lori!! Lori passed her Regional Director hat to Vicki Lee, with the approval of the board. Congratulations Vicki and thank you for taking on this very important role!

Annual Meeting Update

We are just four weeks away from our Annual Membership and Board meeting. I am really looking forward to meeting many of you for the first time, and to sharing a great weekend together. If you haven't made plans to attend, please reconsider if at all possible. It's well worth your time and resources to attend. If you are planning to come to the meeting, any you have any ideas for round-table discussion topics, please let me know by email at: president@hopeaacr.org

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Some field trip opportunities are being developed for members on Saturday. (Not you, board members!)

Shop Online and Support HOPE AACR

We have an exciting new way for you to support HOPE while you shop!! We are now linked to an organization called nonprofitshoppingmall.com on our website. If you go to either the home page <http://www.hopeaacr.org/index.htm> or the donation page http://www.hopeaacr.org/hope_donation_page.htm you will see a new icon that says, “Our World”. Clicking on this icon will connect you to an online shopping mall where you can make online purchases from many of the same stores you now shop at. When you do this from our website, you will be helping raise funds for HOPE!! They have some of the top stores in the country setup to donate a percentage of your purchase to HOPE AACR. A great example of this is Target, who will donate 5% of every purchase to HOPE. *Please* consider using this new feature when you are making an online purchase. Here’s a suggestion: put a post-it-note on your computer to remind you this feature is available.

Marketing HOPE AACR to you communities

Soon after joining HOPE in June 2004, Diane and I began to realize we not only need to respond when a crisis strikes, but we need to reach out to agencies in our community to let them know about our work. Waiting for the phone to ring isn’t going to work when it comes to putting your AACR training to use! Thankfully, large national or regional disasters are few and far between. However, local crises happen almost everyday. If you are waiting for you regional director to find AACR work for you, forget it! Our regions are just to big for RD’s to cover alone. You must reach out in your local community and let them know you are ready to help when trouble strikes. If you need help learning how to do this, please let your RD know. Please let your RD know what you are doing to develop contacts in your area.

Comments, Concerns, & Suggestions

From time to time I receive emails and phone calls from members with comments, concerns, and suggestions. I sincerely appreciate hearing from *YOU!* Your thoughts and ideas are important to me. Feel free to contact me anytime. My door is always open!

I hope to see you in Portland!

Sincerely,

Dave Valentine

President, HOPE AACR