

## **STARTING A DISTRICT OR REGION IN THE USPCA**

The USPCA currently has 23 Regions and 2 Districts in the US and Canada. We can offer so much more to you as a member of a district or region than we can with just a membership in an area that is not close to a near-by established district or region.

The current boundaries are usually state lines but Interstate highways and even rivers have divided some larger states into separate areas.

In many parts of our great country we find interest in the USPCA, but too many miles to the nearest region or district. The USPCA realizes that with anything new some help is needed in getting established. The association is committed in assisting areas in establishing working USPCA membership and making the benefits available.

### **THE FORMING OF A REGION OR DISTRICT**

<b>REGIONS NEED 25 OR MORE MEMBERS</b>
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<b>DISTRICTS NEED 10 OR MORE MEMBERS</b>
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The only difference is; the name region/ district, as both receive the same benefits:

1. They elect their own officers to serve as the governing board of the region/ district. The region/ district president is a member of the national executive committee and has the same 1 vote as the biggest or smallest area on matters discussed and voted on at the national level. Things like rule changes, by law additions, and other matters have direct input from your representative.
2. Dues for USPCA membership are currently \$40 dollars a year (January 1/ December 31) by forming your own region or district you will receive \$15 dollars of each membership returned to your own region/ district. The money received is used as the region directs.
3. Currently the nationals pay all travel expense for a national judge of your choice to travel to the area of a scheduled PDI (patrol) certification in your region/ district to sanction your trials. The cost is available twice yearly. Region/ district can also schedule as many certifications as they wish in a year. But will have to cover travel cost if a patrol certification (chief judge) for over two certifications yearly, over the twice yearly the nationals pay. Patrol certifications require a minimum of 3 judges.
4. Detector and Tracking Certifications do not require an outside region chief judge as the PDI trials do. Detector certifications require 3 judges and Tracking certifications require 2 judges. Both require a minimum one certified judge on each event. Your members can obtain these certifications upon meeting the requirements.
5. Districts or regions can schedule PDI and Detector Certifications at the same time.
6. Participant numbers are limited by several things and depend on the judges, number of days, and the number event that can be done at the same time. Tracking can also be done at the same trial, it demands more area and time and is usually held at a separate time and location.

7. The region or district can choose their chief judge from the list of qualified judges to invite to be the outside region chief judge of their PDI certification.

A new area (if you elect to establish) with no current judges now, the USPCA will help get you established and educated in the requirements and protocol of certifications. The first year can see judges supplied if needed, their only cost would be motel room(s) while there. The nationals will cover the transportation. The time needed to do these certifications will depend on the number of teams attempting certification, we should be able to cover 10/15 teams in a 2/3-day seminar and trail. The number of certifications offered Patrol, Detector, Cadaver, Tracking also is a major determining factor in the time needed.

Certification trials go in rain or other inclement weather. Electrical and heavy down pours would see the trial stopped until hazardous weather clears the area.

## **BENEFITS OF A USPCA MEMBERSHIP**

Members are covered by line of duty death benefit \$500 for K9 and \$1000 for any member.

The association also has a legal defence fund available to members in event court action that resulted in the legal use of deployment or use of a police service dog.

This association has also joined in court actions as a friend of the court to provide expert testimony in cases that would restrict the K9 teams if ruled against the use of the dog. We continue to monitor courts and their decisions to support police service dog programs.

Our trade magazine is the Canine Courier and is a wealth of information on what is happening in our membership and K9 issues worldwide. The Courier comes out 4 times a year and also has training articles in every issue. Not available by subscription but is a membership benefit that is mailed to every member.

The USPCA offers a professional staff that is available to assist with whatever concerns or questions the membership has. Communication is always available on important issues. The web site [uspcak9.com](http://uspcak9.com) is available to anyone with Internet access and is a wealth of information on issues important to our profession. The message forum a part of the web site is an open discussion list available also to anyone and an open exchange of ideas and information.

Members only can subscribe to the USPCA E-mail list and it is restricted as much as possible. This list has discussion on sensitive issues of training and areas of law enforcement not generality available to the general public.

To get you started if you still want to pursue a region / district I will gladly mail you some material to pass out to interested members. Just give me a mailing address.

## **HOW TO PROCEED**

You will need to collect membership applications with \$40 dues from each member that joins you in the formation of a region/ district. The 10 plus district memberships or the 25 plus region memberships to be presented at the next scheduled USPCA executive meeting, there are two a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Your proposal will also list a tentative board of officers for the purposed region / districts (President, Secretary or Secretary Treasurer or a separate office of Secretary / Treasurer). The area of your proposal will also have to be detailed, the state of, or the area defined north of Interstate #, etc, etc. If the area of your proposal is currently in an established area of

a region or district, that current controlling region or district will be required to respond to the desirability of the new area proposed. This requires you or a national officer contacting that current region or district of the purpose new effected area. On accepting and hearing the proposal and any objection(s) the executive board will open a discussion from those present and vote to accept / reject or table for more information. If granted a new region or district status you will be a assigned a number and then schedule elections for a permanent board of officers. The national treasurer will return \$15 for each membership submitted and future memberships of the new area.

Again please feel free to contact any of the national officers or myself we will assist you further if needed.

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