

# The Neighborhood News

By  
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Edited by  
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Halloween Edition



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## **### 1. Greetings From Patty and All The Campbell Kingdom**

Hi, Patty and King Campbell here! Back with what we hope is another fun and fact filled edition of The Neighborhood News. We've had more computer issues, so we missed September all together, but we're back at least in a fashion, and for that we're grateful.

What do I mean "at least in a fashion"??

Well, unless an individual copy of The Neighborhood News is requested, we will from now, until further notice be publishing only here, on my blog.

I'm sorry but due to computer issues I do not at the current time have access to subscription information. I am hopeful of getting this resolved, but when that may be, is still an unknown. For now, we invite you to enjoy The Neighborhood News in its entirety and if you've any questions, comments, or submissions, please send them as always to the email shown for me in Administrative Details.

In the meantime we have a newsletter here for you filled with news, recipes, reviews, and more... We have Halloween treats, early Christmas shopping ideas, and great articles to galore! So make a snack, or a favorite drink, and curl up in a comfortable spot so you won't be disturbed while you read, learn, and think.

As always we thank you for continuing to visit The Neighborhood, and NOW... The October Halloween Edition of The Neighborhood News.

## **### 2. Treat of the Month...**

This month I have two short writings to share. The first is a great reminder of what taking a time out can do for us.

As we go into the holiday season, and stressful situations come at us one by one, keep the following in mind.

### **Bring Peace to Your Soul By Jane Powell**

*"Stop the world and take in the beauty around you."*

Most of us are so involved with the tasks that must be accomplished by Tomorrow that we miss the beauty of today. Loveliness all around us gets taken for granted. We rarely look up from our daily tasks to appreciate the treasures of our environment. Take a moment from your hectic schedule, and smell the flowers. Watch the graceful soaring of a kite or even marvel at the stars. You'll be surprised by the freedom you feel and the peace that it brings to your soul.

*Hi, Patty back again with the second part of our treat. In this we are shown just how very important a small kindness can be to another.*

*Just as the holidays can stress us out, so can they cause some, major problems with depression. As you read think about a time when you have had an opportunity to show a kindness to another, or a time when you were shown a kindness that made a difference of some kind in your life. As always we invite and encourage you to share your experiences with us.*

## **ONE OF THE BEST THINGS I CAN DO WITH MY LIPS**

I am told that the muscles of the face are capable of over 250,000 different combinations of expressions. And one of the most useful is a smile. And though I'm a fan of kissing, I appreciate that smiling is still one of the best things I can do with my lips.

Sometimes I hear or read something that is so true I know I will never forget it. One of those gems is an observation from Fulton J. Sheen, who said, *"A smile across the aisle of a bus in the morning could save a suicide later in the day."* Over the years, I've come to realize the magnitude and truth in that statement. People NEED the healing medicine of the heart that just a smile, even from strangers, provides. In fact, we all need it. And for some folks, that medicine can save a life.

One psychiatrist puts it like this. Dr. Thomas Malone, of Atlanta, Georgia, says, *"In my practice at the Atlanta Psychiatric Clinic, people sometimes ask me what psychiatry is all about. To me, the answer is increasingly clear. Almost every emotional problem can be summed up in one particular bit of behavior -- it's a person walking around screaming, 'For God's sake, love me!' Love me, that's all. He goes through a million different manipulations to get somebody to love him."* (Thanks to Dr. James Moore for the quote.)

I think he says something I need to hear. He is saying that at the core of our being is a need for someone to care. And if that itch is not scratched, we go to great lengths to satisfy it. But I've noticed something else, too. It appears to me that some of the healthiest people around seem to spend less time trying to scratch an itch to be loved, and more time looking for people to reach out to. These are the ones who are most likely to smile across the aisle of a bus. They understand that everyone is fighting some kind of battle, even if they hide it well. And if they were to express their personal life mission, it might include something like, *"I try to always love the people I encounter along life's path."*

They never say they can't make a difference. They never say they have nothing to contribute. They always know that, even if they have nothing else, they can always give a smile, spontaneously and sincerely. A smile may not seem like much, but it can be a warm blanket on a cold night. And for a while, anyway, it can soothe the itch to be loved. My smile may not save a life, but it might save a day. And if not, it's still one of the best things I can do with my lips.

**Steve Goodier**

### **### 3. Neighborhood News...**

Recap...

Hi, just a quick reminder, we have books out at I Love Books in the Kingsport Town Center, better known as the Fort Henry Mall. Please make sure to visit them in person, or online soon. Due to the fact that the books at Dillys Curiosity weren't selling I have removed them, but I still very highly recommend their shop. They are friendly, their products are first rate, and their prices are great. For Dillys Curiosity visit <http://dillyscuriosityshop/> And for I Love Books see <http://KingsportBookstore.com>

## **Hey! All! You! Facebook Fans??**

Looking for a group to join? Like dogs? Need a place to talk about what you're doing, to vent your frustrations, or just say hey to a friend, for no other reason than to have someone say hey in return? Campbell's Corner: The Comfort Zone is the place for you! We laugh, cry, and love with you!

We are always happy to accept new members, and having a dog is not a requirement. It is just something lots of us have in common.

Dogs not your deal, but you still want a fun filled place to come and chat if for no other reason than to just say hi? Need a place to share a special happening in your life? Want to Share a sorrow, or vent a frustration? We at Patty and Pals would like to invite you to join. We have lots of fun so give us a try today.

Although Bob Cat has gone, his group Bob Cat and Friends is still up and alive. I'd thought about getting rid of it, and well, first off I cannot figure out how to get rid of any group on Facebook, and secondly, I still love cats, and want to provide a place for people who have them to gather and talk of them, so how about it cat lovers? Want to join?

Go to Facebook and search in groups for Bob Cat and Friends. Let us keep it alive in his honor. He would have thought that was a PURRFECTLY awesome idea!

If that is not enough social media to satisfy you, then how about Twitter? Not on a lot, but we're there. Check us out at: @Bubbalee04 today!

On July 6 2016 Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life was added to the BARD.LOC.gov website provided by the National Library for the Blind and Physically Handicap, and on July 9 it had hit the most popular downloads list. This is to me the most exciting thing to have ever happened, and I am proud and very honored to be able to make this announcement to you. I hope that you will visit the site, and download it today, and if you are not a site user, then by all means call your library and request a copy be sent to you. Be sure and let us know what you think when you're done.

Another awesome thing that has happened here over the summer is that King Campbell AKA Bubba has decided I need not be the only author in the family, and so it is with great pride I tell you of...

## **Bubba Tails from the Puppy Nursery at The Seeing Eye Written by Patty L. Fletcher Told by, King Campbell Lee The Seeing Eye Dog AKA Bubba Spring and summer 2016**

In this magical and love filled tail, King Campbell AKA Bubba travels to the puppy nursery at The Seeing Eye to help ready a group of puppies who are just about to embark on the fabulous journey of learning to become Seeing Eye dogs. Just as he is about to finish his tail, a wee pup becomes very frightened of all that lies ahead, and one frightfully stormy night she runs away! Will King Campbell hear the urgent call from the puppy nursery in time? Will they find her and save her so she can fulfill her destiny? Find out by signing up to <http://campbellsworld.wordpress.com/>

## **What's New?**

School is back in session, and so is 'Stop and Read On Campbell's Corner. Campbell and I have been given a weekly volunteer position at one of our local elementary schools. We are proud to announce, that each Friday we will go to Andrew Johnson Elementary. There we will visit with children who need to improve their reading skills. King Campbell has graciously offered to allow the children who wish to, to read to him while they pet. Our only rule? No reading, no petting. The kids love it, and so do we.

We will be providing them with copies of our Bubba Tails series as well. Our mission? To assist children with becoming better readers, and to educate about Service Animals, and

disAbility and how we are all different yet we all have much to offer. We are very excited about this, and would like it if you'd help spread the word. It is our hope to find our way into other schools as well.

We're also happy to do one on one reading so if you've a child who is being home schooled, or that you'd like to have someone spend a bit of extra time with outside of school, give us a shout. We're happy to help.

### **Coming Soon...**

Campbell and I are job hunting. Yes, Yes! We know, we have a job telling tails) tales but to continue our work, we must have funding. So we're on the hunt for work. To help us with this we will be going to the Johnson City Career Center starting October 14 to take a computer class designed to upgrade my skills in the hopes that it will help to make me more employable.

I have some concerns about this class. I am concerned that the instructor will not know how to teach the interface of JFW with the Microsoft applications. I am concerned that I'll be the only person in the class using the screen reader technology and that it will be disruptive to the rest of the students. I am hoping that all my concerns are for not, but we will see. Stay tuned to The Neighborhood News to learn how we do.

### **### 4. Literary Submission...**

This month's Literary Submission comes as a result of my folder cleaning process. I was going through folders seeing what should go and what should stay when I ran on this article I'd meant to put in months back.

It brings up some great points that many folks probably don't ever think much about. Since we are coming upon the holiday season, and there will be many gatherings where food will be served, I thought it was pretty cool that I came across this article at this time. So even though it comes from a summer article written long ago, I think it is rather appropriate. Enjoy, and as always let us know what you think. Especially concerning this subject.

*Hello Patty,*

*You may use this column for your paper. My monthly column is to give encouragement to the blind and to show the sighted that being blind doesn't make a person of less value. I am fortunate to have kept this monthly column running 12 years.*

*Blessings with your paper, may it also give help to those struggling with some disability.*

*Have a great day,*

*Ernie Jones*

### **June Different Views Eating in the Dark**

Finding your chair beside the large, heavily loaded table, you take a quick glance around the room at your friends before settling down for what you know will be a grand feast. The aromas floating up from the food — a mixture of spices, sweetness and savory dishes — are tantalizing, causing your salivary glands to engage. Several large casserole dishes are too large to pass around the table — you hold your plate out for another to serve you. Slightly smaller dishes of vegetables, breads and salads find their way, as if by magic, around the table. You help yourself to these foods and send them on to the next person waiting. You have your fork grasped firmly in your hand, ready to stab some delicious food that is just begging to be eaten... when suddenly the room goes black.

Confusion reigns as people stare into the blackness. With the fork in your hand, it is now time for you to eat. What are you waiting for? Are you a little concerned because the lights are out? Or are you afraid you might have to leave this delicious meal and help fix the problem? You hear a jumble of whispers as others ask, “What happened?” Then you hear your host speak — his voice suggesting he is struggling to not burst forth into peals of laughter.

“Folks, this is a minor situation. It has happened before — just go ahead and eat your food and I’ll go fix the problem. You are in no danger, so enjoy your food. The lights will be back on shortly.”

Are you concerned about what caused the blackout? Or are you more worried because you can’t see your plate filled with tempting food? But remember, you know what food you have on your plate. It’s not as if someone else has filled your plate with what they thought you wanted. And be assured, you will still be able to find your mouth.

You dip down and take a bite of food; not knowing what it is until it enters your mouth, when suddenly the room is again ablaze with glowing lights. In astonishment you stare first at your food, then, looking up, at the grinning host — and you understand what had caused the blackout. There had not been a power failure — just a host playing a prank on his dinner guests.

But consider what would happen if, because of an accident or some eye disease, the world suddenly turned black. This new dark abyss can be very difficult to pull yourself out of, and just the thought of sitting around a table with many other people, whether they are friends or strangers, can be frightening.

The newly blinded person finds others serving him or her, and a feeling of helplessness descends over them. It may be hard for this blind person to once again really be comfortable dining out with friends. The fear of making a mess is real, so they are extra careful. But given time and experience, these people will soon feel almost at home in a crowded dining room.

It is not always easy to allow others to serve you. In a way you are giving up some of your independence by having a helper fill your plate with what they think you might want. As you start to eat, you really don’t know what you have on your plate, especially as foods mix with other foods; Delicious Jell-O salad begins to melt as the hot roast placed against it warms the Jell-O, causing little rivulets of sweetness to slip under the roast, potatoes or other vegetables.

Today, I refuse the Jell-O salad, not because I don’t like it but because I don’t like it mixing in with all the other foods. Usually each bite placed in my mouth is a mixture of at least two different foods. But as we blind know, it is not hard to get the fork or the spoon to our mouth.

With this in mind, I was taken aback one day while eating at a large potluck. A man sitting next to me asked, “How much can you see?”

“I can’t see anything,” I told him.

“But you have to be able to see,” he responded, “you are feeding yourself.”

I was tempted to ask, “Can’t you feed yourself when in a dark room? Haven’t you ever eaten popcorn or other snacks while watching some movie in the dark?” But I resisted this remark and continued actually feeding myself. Why not give it a try? — enjoy your meal with lights out. You might be surprised at how easy it is.

Have a great day.

*Patty back to say that I think this was a fabulous article, and I hope Ernie sees that I have finally gotten round to using it. If I’ve used it before, I could find no evident of it, so yall can bark at me if you see I have. It is of no matter though. I feel that its timing here is perfect. I for one shy away from eating in public lots. Sometimes I even turn down family gathering invitations because the crowded table and confusion make me a bit uncomfortable. Nothing personal folks, that’s just how it is for me.*

Between the fact that I am blind and have trouble at the table, and that I also have a Guide Dog that is a Labrador who believes he is dying of starvation it can be an anxious time for me.

### **### 5. Link of the Month and In the Hood With Tips, Tricks, and More...**

#### **Up first, our Link of the Month.**

I got no link of the month submission for this month's newsletter, So, I decided that since we're coming upon the winter months, and because for some they can be rather difficult for many reasons the following link is appropriate. If you find yourself needing a bit of financial help, in need of extra food, or you feel you might just need someone to chat with give this link a click. Here you will find Information and Referral Services, a listening ear, and more.

To learn more visit

<http://CONTACTCONCERN.org>

This is a nationwide nonprofit organization. You can get or give help by just picking up your phone and giving them a call. So make certain to check them out today! I worked with them both as a volunteer, and paid employ for nine years, and I gained experience there I could have gotten no place else in the world.

#### **### In the Hood**

This month GDUI has a special announcement they'd like to share. In light of Hurricane Matthew I urge all to read very carefully, and even if you don't need this now, you might want to save it for future reference.

A Special Announcement Concerning the GDUI Disaster Assistance and Preparedness Program (DAPP)

October 6, 2016

We want to share this information about GDUI's Disaster Assistance and Preparedness Program with all of our members and friends – and all of their guide dogs – who are living right now in the path of Hurricane Matthew. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers, and if, as a consequence of this, or any natural disaster, you need our help to provide care for your dogs, we want to be there for you.

The new chair of the DAPP Committee is Will Burley. The best way to reach the committee is to call GDUI's toll-free number: 866.799.8436.

Because we know that adversity can befall any one of us, leaving us with few resources and even fewer places to turn for help, Guide Dog Users Inc. offers the Disaster Assistance and preparedness Program (DAPP). The Disaster Assistance and Preparedness Program is available to GDUI members who are teamed with a guide dog. The DAPP fund was created in June 2011 with the funding provided by a private donation.

GDUI members with working dogs recovering from a catastrophic event can apply for a stipend to purchase dog food and other essential supplies on behalf of their working dogs.

We encourage all GDUI members who are currently working with guide dogs to read the instructions outlined below carefully; if you find yourselves facing financial crisis in caring for your dog as a result of a natural disaster or catastrophic event, please call or e-mail and ask us for help.

Who can apply

- Once the application is submitted, the proposed funds shall be issued only to a current GDUI member with a current working guide dog.

- Guide dog and handler must have been directly and negatively impacted by a recent Disaster and in need of financial assistance for the well-being of the working dog.
- GDUI's Disaster Assistance and Preparedness Program funds will be available for three (3) weeks from the first date of a known and declared disaster.
- Each GDUI member with a guide dog will be allowed a onetime monetary assistance grant of \$50.00 after the application is processed.
- Prior to releasing any funds, the applicant's required information and qualifications will be verified and approved by the DAPP committee.
- Upon approval, the funds will be issued by GDUI 'Treasurer (or designee), to the applicant or directly to a vendor such as a pet food store or veterinarian depending on each circumstance.
- An applicant must live in the affected area and have been negatively impacted. Additionally, the working guide dog must be in immediate need of resources to ensure proper daily care, food, medicine, veterinary intervention and/or to meet other needs.

#### How to Apply

Please note, in the event the handler does not have any means of contacting GDUI due to the present disaster, he/she may have one of the following individuals or organizations communicate on his/her behalf: family member, friend, veterinary hospital or clinic, Humane Society, Red Cross/hospital, Salvation Army, religious institution, local or acting police or fire department or similar agency.

Depending on the individual circumstances, additional assistance may be requested by the applicant, based upon prior approval by the DAPP committee for possible additional funds.

- The approved funds may be issued in the form of a gift card from a known store which carries pet/dog supplies or tendered as a pre-paid credit card. Funds may also be directly transferred to a Veterinarian or Veterinary hospital or clinic. The monies may also be issued by a GDUI check or money order, wire transfer or other means depending on the handler's circumstances. The means of issued funds will be determined by the treasurer (or designee) in consultation with the applicant.
- All information submitted to GDUI by the applicant may be used by the GDUI Board of Directors or committee of the Board for purposes of determining approval of the application. All information will be held in the strictest of confidence. A news release may be issued but the name of the recipient and/or guide dog will be kept confidential per applicant's request.

**\*\*\*Exceptions of Eligibility\*\*\*** The Disaster Assistance & Preparedness Program is not available for a retired guide dog, a puppy in training and / or puppy raiser or any household pet.

**\*\*\*APPLICATION Process\*\*\*** All necessary information is required before any funds will be issued. Required Information: The following information may be provided by telephone, text message, or e-mail before eligibility is determined. We are sympathetic to the high stress levels experienced by both guide dog handlers and their dogs, and we will do our best to

secure all the required information so we can respond quickly. Please have the following information ready when making initial contact:

- Handlers full name, home address, city, state, zip code and phone number(s), at the time of the disaster.

- If applicant's living situation is unsustainable, i.e., homeless/shelter/family/friends, GDUI require the following information: the name of the shelter, the name of the shelter director, and phone number of the shelter. If staying with family or friends, please provide the name, address and phone number of new location.

How to Contact GDUI DAPP Volunteer Staff: Applicants and/or those assisting the applicant should call or Email GDUI's Office Manager at this Toll-Free Number: 866.799.8436. Our office manager will follow up quickly with the DAPP Committee and GDUI's treasurer so that you can receive the help you urgently need as quickly as possible.

### **### Recipe**

No matter how you celebrate Halloween, and no matter what you do or don't believe, the following is a delicious treat, and a must have at any Halloween party. Thanks to Terri Johnson for allowing this awesome and creative recipe to find its way into The Neighborhood News.

### **Samhain Blessings Checks Mix**

Makes 4 quarts

Best time to perform the spell:

On Samhain

### **Ingredients and tools**

A small bowl

A spoon

A roasting pan

6 cups wheat checks, for success

4 cups Chereos, for love

3 cups gold fish crackers, for luck

3 cups slim pretzel sticks, or small twists, for protection

2 cups salted peanuts, for fertility

2 sticks butter, for abundance

3 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce, for mental clarity

1 Tbsp. Tabasco sauce, for passion and zest

1 Tbsp. onion powder, for healing

1 tsp. garlic powder, for purification

Create a circle in the area where you will do your spell. In the roasting pan, combine the cereal, pretzels, crackers, and nuts. As you add each of these things to the pan, focus your mind on their individual properties. Use the list above, or create your own list to reflect the blessings that you would like to receive in the coming year.

Melt the butter in a small bowl. Add all the seasonings and mix well using a clockwise stir. Focus your mind on the properties of the ingredients as you add them to the bowl. Pour over the cereal mixture. Stir until all the pieces are coated. Slide the pan into the oven, and then recite the following.

*"Success, love, good fortune, protection, fertility, abundance, mental*

*clarity, zest, health, and purity:*

*I invite you into my life this magickal day/night.*

*Come, and bless me with your presence throughout the coming year.*

*So mote it be."*

Open the circle, and bake at 300 for about 40 minutes; stirring every 10 to 15 minutes.

Note: Fertility, in this instance, can refer to bodily fertility, or a fertile mind, which ever you desire. Also, a few of the ingredients have more than one property. This is particularly true of the wheat checks, the onion powder, and the garlic. Feel free to call on those properties you need in your life, and the ones that feel right to you.

Happy Samhain, and Blessed be.

*Patty back with a note, keep in mind the word spell is simply another word for prayer. You can adapt this into anything you wish.*

### **### Tip**

Wackydoodle Ground Beef Dan Thompson's Friday Finds

#### **\*2) Whacky Doodle Ground Beef**

Years ago I made a terrible mistake. I froze ten pounds ground beef. That big block of frozen hamburger languished in my freezer for years. What was I thinking? I should have browned it first then frozen it in usable portions. But browning beef in a skillet can be so messy! A few weeks ago I came upon another cheap ground beef opportunity. The expiration date was nearing and my supermarket needed to get rid of—you guessed it—ground beef. Ten pounds. I almost walked by. Then I decided to try something different, albeit a little weird.

I put the entire ten pounds of raw ground beef into my big stock pot, added enough water to cover and set it over high heat to come to a boil, no cover, no salt. After about 5 minutes I gave it a stir to break up the big clumps, which were few. The hot water was doing all of my work for me—no splatters, no mess. When all of the pink color disappeared I knew it was done, even though it had not started to boil.

I placed my large colander into a big bowl in the sink and poured the now cooked beef into the colander. I did this in batches because my colander would not hold all of it at once. This drained off all the liquid into the bowl including the fat, leaving uniformly fine-textured ground beef in the colander. No clumps! I could have done the same thing scooping the meat from the stock pot with a large sieve, transferring the drained beef into a large bowl. (Whendone draining I put the beef broth in the refrigerator. Later I skimmed off the fat and will use the broth for soup.)

I measured 2 cups of cooked beef (the equivalent of about 1 pound of raw ground beef) into each gallon-size zip-type freezer bags, pressed out the air and zipped.

Then I laid each one on the counter to flatten it thin; stacked them like sheets of paper and popped the stack into the freezer.

Because my bags of beef are so flat I can use them frozen—no microwave required. I take one of these flat frozen packages of ground beef, whack it on the side of the sink to break it into pieces, unzip and pour the contents into a non-stick skillet. It's ready for all uses. Here's the best part: This method removes most of the fat, leaving the ground meat virtually fat free.

Here are a couple ways I enjoy the convenience of my Whacky Doodle Beef.

**BURRITO FILLING:**

Two bags of boiled ground beef whacked and dumped into skillet (equivalent of 2 pounds raw ground beef), two packets of Lawry's Burrito Seasoning mix (or any brand will do), 2 1/2 cups of water. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and allow to simmer uncovered for 10 minutes. Done! Wrap in warm flour tortillas with grated cheese. Serves 8.

**SLOPPY JOES:**

Two bags boiled beef (equivalent of 2 pounds raw ground beef) whacked and dumped, 1/2 cup chopped onion, 1 cup chopped celery, 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed tomato soup, 1/4 cup ketchup, 1 tablespoon white vinegar, 1/4 cup packed brown sugar, 1 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder and 8 hamburger buns.

Place ground beef in a large non-stick skillet over medium heat. Add onion and celery, cover the pan and cook over medium heat until beef is thawed and onions and celery are tender, about 5 minutes.

Stir the tomato soup (undiluted), ketchup, vinegar, brown sugar and Worcestershire sauce into the beef mixture. Season with salt and garlic powder. Simmer over low heat until thoroughly heated, stirring frequently.

Spoon the hot beef mixture onto buns, which may be toasted first.

Serves 8.

By Mary Hunt on 09/30/16

[www.everydaycheapskate.com](http://www.everydaycheapskate.com)

*Now that's a neat tip for sure. I have always hesitated to buy large packages of meat because I found them hard to store. This, however is a great idea, and one I'll be trying soon. It is my experience that meats bought in larger quantities are less expensive than smaller packs, and if you're anything like me you already have more month than money.*

*I also like the recipes shared here. For those who have small kids going Trick-Or-Treating this year there's dinner!*

\*\*\*FYI\*\*\*

*Before we move on to the Products and Services portion of The Neighborhood News, I want to share a very interesting article with you. I want to tell you that this article is a bit long, but given the very important nature of its content I am as the creator of this newsletter making the decision to add it. Even if you do not have a Service Animal of any type I encourage you to read and comment on this article.*

*The fine folks at GDUI have provided us with this information and I feel it absolutely necessary to share.*

**Dear GDUI Members and Friends,**

The information included in Jenine Stanley's update below will be interesting to everyone who travels via U. S. air carriers with their guide dogs. I thank Jenine Stanley for sharing this update with our members. It will also be included in GDUI's upcoming PawTracks issue.

Please don't hesitate to contact Jenine, or me, or Tony Stephens with any concerns or suggestions that you may have. We're closing in on the date of the final committee meetings, by which time we will either succeed in improving the regulations that guarantee our civil rights when we fly or the RegNeg process will end in a stalemate. I hope that the disability community succeeds in improving the regulations which implement the Air Carrier Access Act. Making the kind of progress that will diminish the number of encounters with untrained pets we may have to endure while traveling through airports and flying is especially important to those of us who depend on our guide dogs and service animals to improve our safety and comfort in all environments, whether on the ground or in the air.

## **An Update Regarding the Air Carrier Access Act Regulations-Negotiations Process Jenine Stanley**

[GDUI President's Introduction: Early in 2016, the U. S. Department of Transportation announced and convened a formal process for negotiating changes in the regulations which implement the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA), the law that guarantees certain civil rights protections to people with disabilities who wish to fly on American air carriers, and allows people with disabilities to acquire the accommodations they need in order to fly safely. Although GDUI applied for membership – as a stakeholder – on the formal committee which is negotiating changes in ACAA regulations, the Department did not grant our request to participate as members of the formal committee. Fortunately, Anthony Stephens, Director of Advocacy and Legislation for the American Council of the Blind, and Jenine Stanley, a former president of GDUI and an employee of the Guide Dog Foundation, have been representing our needs and our positions admirably at formal committee meetings and during the negotiations process. I have been participating as a member of the Service Animals Working Group, which meets via conference call in-between formal committee meetings and which serves to advise committee members.

The first formal ACAA RegNeg Committee meeting was held in early May, and the Committee has been meeting for several days each month since then. The U. S. Department of Transportation ruled, from the very beginning, that all negotiations would be completed in October. The next and final committee meeting will take place on October 12-14.

Below is Jenine's summary of the negotiation process that has taken place thus far. GDUI appreciates hers and Tony's active participation and advocacy on our behalf. By the time you read this article, the negotiation process will have ended, and hopefully, we will be able to anticipate changes in the regulations regarding Service Dogs, Psychiatric Service Animals, and Emotional Support Animals that will make flying safer and more comfortable for us and for our guide dogs. Below you will find Jenine's update. I encourage you to contact me or Tony Stephens or Jenine, or the U. S. Department of Transportation, with any concerns that you may have about the negotiations or their outcome. Thank you, Jenine, for your hard work on our behalf and for providing this update for PawTracks readers.]

Several people have asked about the meetings I'm participating in regarding the Air Carrier Access Act changes. Here's the long and short of this process which began in May.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) put out a call for representatives of the disability community, organizations and airlines to take part in a Negotiated Regulation process called, strangely enough, a "*Reg-Neg process.*" This system is designed to pull together experts in the subject matter to craft proposed regulatory language for the DOT to review and use in its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for given issues. This particular Reg-Neg is unusual in that there are 3 separate issues being discussed, access to In-Flight Entertainment (IFE), provision of accessible lavatories on single-aisle aircraft (Lav) and definition of

Service Animals (SA). The reason I'm using abbreviations here is that this is how we refer to the 3 groups.

In this Reg-Neg, 25 people have been convened to form the ACCESS Committee. I represent the Guide Dog Foundation and America's VetDogs and in essence, the organized service animal training community. Other representatives include American Council of the Blind, National Federation of the Blind, Psychiatric Service Dog partners and National Alliance on Mental Illness, among a host of others from the airline industry. If anyone would like a link to the site established for this committee, let me know privately. I do not think I have the authority to post it here.

In the beginning of this process we assembled based on several factors. DOT recognizes that the system of defining service animals under the ACAA is not working in practice. As a result, safety concerns regarding service animal handlers, fraud by members of the public who either do not have qualifying disabilities or just want to fly their pets at no cost, and the erosion of civil rights for people with disabilities who work with service animals are rampant.

Our goal on the 19-member Service Animal Working Group (that's 19 voting members) is to come up with a proposal that changes the definition of service animal in ways that eliminate as much risk of fraud, while minimizing damage to our animals and our civil rights. The Working Group (SAWG) is made up of voting members of the ACCESS Committee and many others from the service animal community. The list of SAWG members is available. There are 5 people serving as co-chairs of this committee from the "Advocate" side, me among them. The groups represented besides mine are: Paralyzed Veterans of America, Psychiatric Service Dog Partners, National Alliance of Mental Illness and Independent Association of Canine Professionals. (We've been working from a list of around 15 points involving this definition for the past 5 months now. Below, I will try to explain the key, or tent pole issues of this list and why it's taking so long to do something you'd think was not rocket science.

Before we get started, let's get one thing clear. The ADA does not apply in any way, other than for comparison, to what we will discuss. The Air Carrier Access Act is the set of regulations to which we refer. OK, got that? Got it.

So, why is the ACAA service animal definition broken you ask? Right now it allows for animals of a wide variety of species to be recognized as service animals. This means turkeys, birds and yes, even pigs, fly...free...as service animals, if the passenger says they are service animals.

That's at least true for the majority of animals trained to do work or perform tasks to help with someone's disability. This training also includes public exposure or access training so the animal not only does things for us but also is accustomed to behaving properly in public places and chaotic environments like airports and airplane cabins.

There are 2 subcategories of the broad definition of service animal that some people may not understand. Each of these has different requirements.

Psychiatric Service Animals (PSAs) are exactly like my guide dog in that they have been trained to do work and perform tasks to help someone with a psychiatric disability. They have also had public access/exposure training as part of their ability to be with their handlers in public places. Nowhere else in civil rights access law are people who work with dogs that perform such functions forced to provide the proof they are under the ACAA. PSA handlers must provide the airline with a letter, on the letterhead of a mental health professional, which includes a stated diagnosis from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-V (DSM5) as a justification for the animal.

This same letter must be provided if someone has the last category of animal, and Emotional Support Animal or ESA. ESAs have no formal training to do work or tasks and though some may have degrees of public access/exposure training, not all do. ESAs do though help their users through their presence, keeping the person calm, grounded, etc., during the stressful time of flying or during activities at their destination.

Given those definitions, you can see how confusing this is already. Add to that a growing industry of on-line providers of vests, certificates, medical letters and more to be able to get your pet deemed a PSA or ESA or even a standard service animal, to avoid the \$150 and up fees for bringing pets aboard air carriers, and you have a recipe for disaster. There is also very little ability to enforce control over animals that misbehave either at the airport or on the plane due to fear of social media reprisal against the airlines.

We've identified 3 tent pole issues in this situation. A tent pole issue is one that is critical to continuing the process, i.e., we can't go to sleep until we put up the tent and we can't put up the tent until we find and work together to erect the tent poles. Hope that makes sense because many people aren't familiar with that term in a process like this apparently.

Our 3 issues are: Species limitations, whether or not to even include ESAs, and what type of documentation/verification/justification people would provide to claim their accommodation of having an animal travel with them.

Species limitations sounds like a simple thing on which to agree. Not so. There have been several proposals put forward by both airlines and advocates. Both industry and advocate groups agreed initially that Psychiatric Service Dogs (PSAs) should be melted into the general definition of service animal without documentation requirement. Both sides also agreed that there should be 2 distinct and separate definitions, one for "service animal" and one for Emotional Support Animal (ESA). This would allow for different treatment of each type of animal and lessen the confusion and stigma associated for ESA and PSA users. DOT also provided us with "springboard language" from which to work. Unfortunately, DOT did not see our distinction of separating the definitions but does say that if this is something both sides support, it can't be ignored.

All of these proposals limit the types of animals to dogs. Some proposals add cats as there seem to be some advocates who can cite examples of service cats.

The side that opposes adding cats does ask for a specific timeline for DOT to review the use of other species. DOT can review aspects of regulations any time it wants but by making a specific request to do so within a time period, it's more likely to happen.

I'm on the no cats for now side and base my logic on the 2010 update to species in the ADA. The Department of Justice chose dogs for a number of reasons. I can say with a fair amount of certainty that most service dog training programs agree with this view.

We have also given handlers of miniature horses some access similar to what is done under the ADA definition, because it has been done. We included Capuchin Monkeys as having similar limited access so they may fly with their handlers. Such monkeys are professionally trained to provide disability mitigation in a person's home. The monkey \*must\* remain in its carrier throughout the flight though as they do not have public access/exposure training.

OK, that's issue

1. We all seem to agree on service animals having the ADA type definition, doing work and performing tasks and having public access/exposure training, and also being at the very least, dogs, miniature horses and Capuchin monkeys.

Emotional Support Animals, should they be included and if so, what species should be allowed? The species question is, in part, key to the initial question, should there still be a category of ESA?

Early in this process we asked the airlines to show us the scope, from their data, of problems or incidents involving any type of "service animal". We learned several things from this information. 1. Airlines do not keep records of incidents involving service animals of any stripe. They need to tease this information out of all incident reports in many cases, which is why we don't call it data.

2. Airlines often don't distinguish or even know the difference between an ESA, a PSA and a service animal. They specifically have difficulty between the first two types of animals as they both require the same level of documentation, something the gate and flight crews rarely see.

3. The number and severity of incidents involving "ESAs" was significantly higher than it was for traditional service animals. Incidents primarily involved arguments about proper documentation but also involved animal misbehavior, including biting flight crews and other passengers. People with traditional service animals report having their animals growled at, lunged at and yes, attacked by animals whose owners claim they are ESAs.

This would tell many people that ESAs are a bad idea and should be removed from consideration. Many airlines and advocacy groups have this view, based on the fraud or lack of education of ESA owners.

The SAWG though wants to be sure not to penalize those who truly do need an ESA and handle their animals responsibly. We are including them but under a separate definition. In our first straw pole on the issue, it appeared the airlines agree with this point. Where we all disagree is in the number of species represented and the restrictions placed upon ESAs that are not placed upon traditional service animals. Remember, we've pretty much agreed that Psychiatric Service Animals are now included in the traditional service animal definition.

There are several positions among the Advocates about species and containment of ESAs. I'll outline them here with the designation AP1, etc., as they are in our materials.

AP1. ESAs are dogs, cats and rabbits. All ESAs must fit into FAA-approved pet carriers and must be in those carriers unless providing disability mitigation. When doing so, they must be on the person's lap and connected to the person by a leash or tether. If the animal is not behaving according to the behavior standards laid out in the ACAA (which are already there by the way, the flight crew can require that the animal be put back into the pet carrier for the remainder of the flight.

AP2. ESAs are dogs, cats and rabbits. Cats and rabbits must be in FAA-approved pet carriers but can come out for disability mitigation. They also can be required by the flight crew to be put back into the carriers if misbehaving. Dogs have no size limitation but if they are well-behaved, they can enter the aircraft and remain outside a carrier. If they are knowingly not well behaved, they must remain in the carrier, with the same rules as for cats and rabbits.

AP3. Only dogs that can fit into FAA-approved carriers are ESAs. ESAs cannot be removed from carriers.

The DOT has a position in its "springboard document" similar to AP3 but dogs have no size limitation and no carrier restriction.

All animals, service or ESA, must be under the control of their owners and must have leashes or tethers unless providing disability mitigation that prohibits them, such as distance retrievers. (This is taken almost directly from the 2010 ADA wording on control, by the way.)

Now, guess which position I hold? Yes, AP1. It makes little sense not to allow animals whose purpose is to assist through their presence, i.e., being able to hold and pet them. The rules for pet carriers are the same as those for baggage that goes under the seats, so the animals would not be available during the most stressful parts of the flight. Requiring them to remain in carriers defeats their purpose and stigmatizes them as "pets who fly free" or "fakes".

AP1 also allows for the animal to be returned to the carrier if it is not providing a service to the person. Since most incidents we've heard involve ESAs, we want a means of controlling them and removing them from other service animals, passengers and flight crew. This cannot be done for larger dogs if allowed.

Honestly, this particular aspect of the regulation definition has split the Advocates in several directions. I'd urge anyone considering commenting to remember why this Reg-Neg was convened. Safety for service animal teams was one of the paramount concerns expressed by advocates. Given that fraud, either intentional or through lack of education, is also an issue, particularly with ESAs, we regret that AP1 limits access for those with larger dogs as ESAs, but something has to give to achieve the goals here. We do appreciate your support for AP1.

#### Documentation/Verification/Attestation

This is by far the most controversial part of the entire definition. The current state of play is that if you have a traditional service animal, you are not required to do anything, other than possibly answer the two questions allowed under the ADA as well as the ACAA, which are:

*"Is that a service animal required because of a disability?"*

*"How does that animal assist you with your disability?"*

These two questions can be asked by airline staff. They cannot ask, however, anything specific, such as "What is your disability?", "Can you demonstrate the dog's work?", "What's the dog's breed, weight, size, training provider,

If you have a PSA or ESA, you must provide a letter, 48 hours in advance of your flight, stating your diagnosis and that the animal is necessary. This letter must be on the letterhead of a licensed mental health professional and must include their name, address and license number. The letter is good for 1 year.

In theory this sounds good enough to prevent fraud. In practice, it's just the opposite. Many reading this post can show lots of examples of where to get credentials for your pet on line to transform it into either an ESA, with a real doctor's note, or a traditional service animal.

AP1. Since the airlines feel more secure with some type of assurance that we are who we say we are and that our animals are what we claim, traditional service animals or ESAs, we have come up with a decision tree concept. This is a form that goes something like this:

I am traveling with an animal. Yes/No

If yes: My animal is a Pet/ESA/Service Animal

If Service Animal, then some language would appear that says you attest to the fact that you do have a qualifying disability, not what that disability is, but that you have one, and you require this animal to assist with said disability. You will also attest to the fact that the animal has been trained and will remain under your control, and that you are responsible for damages caused by the animal.

This short data form would be filled out as soon after your ticket purchase has been confirmed as possible. Just how that will happen is not yet clear but suggestions include the form being part of the ticket reservation process on an airline's web site or 3rd party ticket seller's site, an email being sent with the confirmation of ticket purchase with a link to the form on the airline's entry site, etc.

This data form would need to be completed by anyone traveling with a service animal or ESA no less than 12 hours prior to the flight. If you don't get it done prior to the flight, you may be required to do so at the airport, may be asked for additional documentation or may be asked to take another flight, giving you time to complete the form.

If you have done so ahead of time though the airline cannot ask you anything else about your animal (dog in most cases). This does not apply to any other type of assistance requested or offered by the airline involving your disability, such as meet and assist. It just means you won't get questions about your dog from the airline staff.

Arguments on this point are quite vehement. People with traditional service animals have not been asked to do anything extra to gain access to flights with their animals. Many people feel that this is discriminatory and that identifying themselves ahead of time to the airlines as a person with a disability primes the staff for inappropriate and often infantilizing treatment.

I can't argue that. It happens.

Unfortunately we are at the point though where the regulations involving animals on flights have come to a tipping point of safety. Cabin space is at a premium. In order to secure our rights, sadly, we are going to have to start notifying the airline of a need for the accommodation of having our service animals with us.

The airlines would rather we \*all\* got a 3rd party to verify that we have disabilities and that we need our animals for said disability mitigation.

What do we get by checking boxes on this form? Good question.

We, not a 3rd party, are responsible for the accommodation request. The airlines can deal with us directly if there is any question about our animals. Completing the form holds someone who is fraudulently representing themselves or their animals to a legal standard for which they can be punished by law if found guilty. For many people that threat is enough to stop them from completing the form and taking their pet, who has never been out of their yard, on an airplane.

The airlines do truly want to stop people who \*are not disabled\* from claiming accommodations designed for those who are. Yes, there's a financial component on their side but the people we deal with on the ACCESS Committee and SAWG are very angry that people would disrespect people with disabilities and the work that goes into maintaining the training of a service dog, just to get something free. They see much more of this rampant fraud than we do directly.

My final word on this is that we need to realize, unfortunate as the "group slap" mentality is, that we are going to have to justify our need for our animals in some form, across the board. People who use other assistive devices have to do so as well under certain conditions. No, a national registry of "legitimate service dogs" will not work.

The airlines are looking into ways of voluntarily keeping your information about your animal in some type of passenger profile, be it your frequent flyer account or other information so you don't have to check every box, every time. They are also looking at how you would deal with canceled flights or stand-by situations, even switching airlines during a trip. Trust me, thanks to discussing this with many different people, we've tried to think of everything.

Finally, if we don't agree to this concept in some form, it will be forced upon us by DOT. That's not necessarily a threat. It's just a reality.

I appreciate any questions regarding this process. the final meetings for this Reg-Neg will take place October 12 - 14 in Washington, DC. The public is welcome to attend.

Jenine Stanley  
<Jeninems@icloud.com>

NG

\*\*\* My thoughts...

*First off I totally admire these persons taking on the task of seeing to our rights as blind persons, and I am grateful that they're doing so.*

*Now I want to speak to some of this...*

*While I have a hard time questioning any animal's ability to be a 'Service Animal' we absolutely must draw a line. I agree on the "No Cats" I cannot see anything good coming from a cat out of its carrier during an airplane ride. Cats are volatile creatures by nature. Skittish and at times rather hard to handle. I also have a bit of a problem with rabbits. While I am sure they're calm and all I cannot imagine being shut up in the cabin of an airplane with one and Campbell doing anything but making it well known that he is rather grateful for the special snacks being served on his flight, and then partaking of said snack. Well trained as he is he is still a Labrador and having that scent all closed up like that would absolutely send him into over load. In short, his Labrador would show itself and his Dog Guide would disappear. I for one don't want to deal with that. So I also say "No Rabbits"*

*Personally I think dogs and miniature horses are quite enough to deal with, are the most trainable and the easiest for our Dog Guides to get along with.*

*I also like the idea of the form that is spoken of here. I know there are some who are going to protest, and say that this is discrimination, but before you do think about this. People have to have a driver's license to drive. We all have to show Identification when we drink, or vote. I don't think it is too much to ask to fill out a form when buying a ticket for a flight, and I believe that it might even speed up the check in process at airports.*

*While I know that it is easy to fake an I.D card, if we're filling out a form that the airline itself provides, have a printed copy within our possession when boarding they cannot possibly deny us access and Wowe be unto them should they do so.*

*It is in short, our protection.*

*So, Neighborhood News Readers, what say you? Sound off in the Twilight Bark, or in the comment section of this blog.*

*We really want to hear from you. Make sure to follow us here for updates as they come in concerning this issue.*

## **### 6. Products and Services**

The mission of The Neighborhood News is to bridge the gaps that separate and cause negativity and strife for us all. Gaps such as disABILITY, both physical and mental and Ethnic Background! Gaps that if only we could close could be turned in to awesome ways to improve the communities in which we live! As well as to educate and inform.

If you'd like to help this awesome work continue you may donate to The Neighborhood News by sending a donation of any amount via PayPal.com and use address [patty.volunteer1@gmail.com](mailto:patty.volunteer1@gmail.com)

We here at the Neighborhood News wish to continue to provide you with a fun and informative Newsletter, and any help you're able to give is appreciated. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Patty, and Campbell

### **\*\*\*Sponsored Ad of the Month\*\*\***

Hi there!

Are you looking for a way to build a business and work together as a team?

Let me and those on my team show you how it works!

Please, contact me at either: [knitangelpm@yahoo.com](mailto:knitangelpm@yahoo.com)

Or, (323) 335-8181

#### **Portia**

### If you are looking to promote your products, services, no matter if it is training, a book, a website or a blog, new or used items, a podcast or an app, feel free to register as a user at the Bizviz Network.

One part of the site is a blog with regular posts on relevant information, including the VIP Blog Log, which is a growing list of blind bloggers, as well as recommended resources, assistive technology and helpful information for the community in general.

The other part of the site is a free classifieds section with many different categories, where users may browse through, or place and manage their own free business or personal classified ads.

To subscribe as a user go to <http://bizviznet.com> and click on the menu and widgets button at the top of the page to find all the site has to offer.

You may also subscribe by simply sending an e-mail to [info@bizviznet.com](mailto:info@bizviznet.com) with "subscribe" in the subject line and your name and e-mail address in the body of the message.

### **\*\*\*Sponsored Ad of the Month\*\*\***

#### **### Word Matters! – A Glimpse of the World**

*Word Matters!* Is a blog that combines journalism and news gathering with thoughts and opinions as well as informative and entertaining shorts. Edited by Ernest Dempsey, it is the site that inspires, entertains, sometimes shocks, and of course informs people on current issues as well as past glory or misadventures. Visit [www.ernestdempsey.com](http://www.ernestdempsey.com) to read and maybe share your opinion or thoughts, or suggest what topics you want to see on the site.

### Unemployed and actively seeking work? Underemployed and searching for a job that makes better use of your skills? Entering the workforce for the first time?

Having a job promotes dignity, helps with a sense of purpose, and hopefully brings in some money to buy the things we want. For many blind people, finding a job can still be a long, frustrating journey that can drain the self-belief of even the most positive person. If you're looking for a blindness-specific guide, written by a successful blind professional who has helped many others realize their dreams, Bonnie Mosen's book, "It's Off To Work We Go," contains practical advice, examples and anecdotes, all from a blindness perspective, drawn from her years of experience as a successful vocational rehabilitation counselor. From

improving your chances of landing an interview to the all-important question of when, if ever, to disclose your blindness, it's all covered. It's written in a chatty, easily readable style, with many real-world examples of strategies that work and strategies that don't. To purchase the book or for more information, visit [mosen.org/work](http://mosen.org/work). Bonnie Mosen can be contacted at [bonnie@mosen.org](mailto:bonnie@mosen.org).

### **### My Ideal Partner: How I Met, Married, and Cared for the Man I Loved Despite Debilitating Odds**

by Abbie Johnson Taylor / C 2016

For sale in e-book (\$3.99) and print (\$11.95) on Amazon, Smashwords, and other buying sites.

Summary:

In September of 2005, Abbie Johnson married Bill Taylor, who was blind and 19 years her senior. Three months later, Bill suffered the first of two strokes that paralyzed his left side and confined him to a wheelchair. In *My Ideal Partner*, Abbie Johnson Taylor, once a registered music therapist, uses prose and poetry to tell the story of how she met and married her husband, then cared for him for six years despite her own visual impairment. After she made the painful decision to move him to a nursing home in September of 2012, he seemed to give up on life and passed away a month later.

About the author:

Abbie Johnson Taylor lives in Sheridan, Wyoming, where she writes full time. She holds a BA degree in music performance and worked for 15 years in a nursing home as an activities assistant. This is her fourth published book. Her others are a romance novel and two books of poetry. Her work has appeared in *Serendipity Poets Journal*, *Emerging Voices*, and *Magnets and Ladders*. For details, please visit her website: <http://www.abbiejohntaylor.com>

## ***My Ideal Partner***



***How I Met, Married,  
and Cared for  
the Man I Loved  
Despite Debilitating Odds***

***Abbie Johnson Taylor***

### ### THE PADDY STORIES, BOOK ONE

by John Justice (C 2016)

Blind Paddy Flynn, orphaned at age eight, travels by train from Philadelphia to California in 1947 to live with his childless aunt and uncle. Part One tells of his mother's death, his time in a children's home, and then his eventful journey to California.

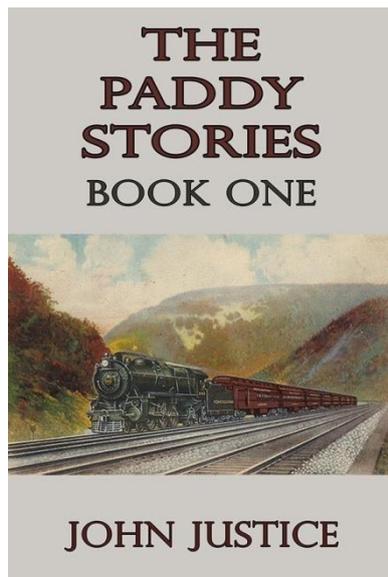
In Part Two, Paddy and his closest friend from Philadelphia, Lucy Candelaria, are reunited in California. Their unusual and loving relationship and their special form of communication make up a major part of the story.

The cast of characters includes the residents and staff of the children's home, the family Paddy stays overnight with in Chicago, the train staff, the several adults who accompany him on different legs of his journey, his welcoming relatives and their wonderful dog, and various neighbors there in California.

With his loving nature and can-do spirit, Paddy brings joy and inspiration to many others. He even stands up to two bullies, one in Philadelphia and one in California. But how will he adjust to life at a school for the blind? Book One of *The Paddy Stories* ends with Paddy once again having to face an uncertain future.

To be continued in Book Two.

In e-book and print. Full details: <http://www.dvorkin.com/johnjustice/>



### ### ABOUT BOB BRANCO

Website plus contact information: <http://www.dvorkin.com/robertbranco/>

Robert T. Branco is the author of three books:

*As I See It: From a Blind Man's Perspective* (C 2013)

*My Home Away from Home: Life at Perkins School for the Blind* (C 2013)

*Weighing Things Up: Essays on Trends, Technology, and Present-Day Society* (C 2014)

All three books are available in e-book and print formats on Amazon.com and several other online buying sites. Full details about the books, plus text previews, are on Bob's website, listed above. He also compiled a cookbook, *What We Love to Eat*. All the recipes were submitted by blind contributors.

Bob is also the publisher of a monthly online newsletter, *The Consumer Vision*. A typical issue would print out to about 30 pages. He has several regular contributors, but is always looking for new ones. He accepts essays, short stories, poems, ads, and much more. Contact him for more information.

Bob also hosts a weekly telephone conference program, *Branco Broadcast*, which began in 2014. His guests, many of whom are blind, most often speak about their jobs or their books. Contact him to learn about how the program works and how to become a guest.

### ### DUST NET – The Future of Surveillance, Privacy, and Communication:

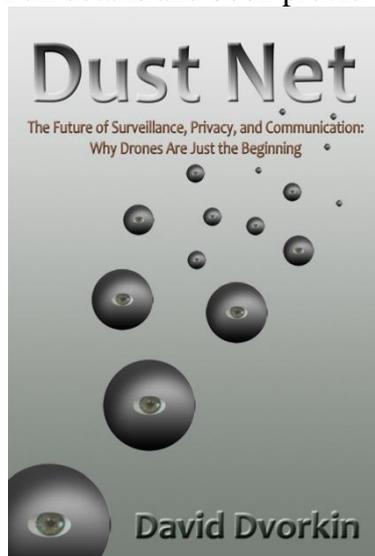
#### Why Drones Are Just the Beginning by David Dvorkin, C 2013

This is a work of nonfiction plus some speculation. It's largely about drones and their very rapid miniaturization, their present and coming use in law enforcement and war, and a potential future in which spy and communication equipment will literally be the size of dust motes, almost impossible to see and impossible to escape. It's also about the complete lack of privacy that is coming in the future.

Parts of the book are encouraging, detailing how such devices will help rescue people after disasters, help people escape the control of repressive governments, and simply communicate more easily with one another. But most of the book is chilling, portraying a future that will be very, very different from our past.

What's really important is that this is *not* a work of science fiction. Many of the devices described here either exist already or are in the development stage. No matter where you fall on the political spectrum, you need to read this book, because to know the future is to help yourself prepare for it.

Full details and book preview: <http://www.dvorkin.com/dn/index.html>



### ### Calling all Coffee Lovers

Are you a coffee lover? Do you enjoy delicious food? If so, I have just what you are looking for! I am an Independent Kat's Coffees Representative, and I carry a large variety of coffees, teas, dessert mixes, bread mixes, and so much more. All products are made to order. So, there is no wondering how long a product has been sitting on a shelf before you order. See

all the high quality and delicious coffees and other edibles at [www.katscoffees.com/ourproducts.html](http://www.katscoffees.com/ourproducts.html)

I can be contacted at [inahurrycoffee@gmail.com](mailto:inahurrycoffee@gmail.com) or 816-977-9434 with any questions or to place an order. All payments are made via PayPal and are sent to [inahurrycoffee@gmail.com](mailto:inahurrycoffee@gmail.com) Please also give a like to my page on Facebook, Independent Kat's Coffee Representative, Jordan Gallacher, to find out any news about products or any specials that are going on!

Thanks,  
Jordan Gallacher

### **### Wonderful Christmas-Themed Books by Two Authors**

#### 1. Christmas on Valley View Farm

C 2012 by Brian K. Nash

In e-book and print on Amazon and other online selling sites.

This third story in the Valley View Farm series, suitable for children 9 to 12, has everything a young reader could desire. Christmas is coming, and Daniel Riggs is dreaming of what might be in store. But a kidnapper has plans for Daniel's feline friend Midnight. Helped by the talkative farm animals, Daniel faces a bloodthirsty panther and rides a thrilling ghost train, then revels in holiday magic. Review quote: "Like a great story told to friends next to a crackling fire over several nights, this book will stay with you long after you read it." – Reginald George, on Amazon

Details of this and Brian's five other books for children and adults:

[www.dvorkin.com/brianknash/](http://www.dvorkin.com/brianknash/)

ChristmasValleyViewFarm

#### 2. It's Still Christmas

C 2015 by John Justice

In e-book and print on Amazon and other online selling sites.

Once getting by financially, the Gleasons have become homeless and close to hopeless. But their faith in God and His mercy has never wavered. Now Christmas is close, and their lives are about to undergo a drastic change. The lifesaving aid they give to a stranger, an elderly Jewish widower, is soon repaid in ways they could never have imagined. Enjoy this touching story of mingled hearts, trust, and faiths.

John Justice is also the author of The Paddy Stories: Book One, C 2016.

Details:

[www.dvorkin.com/johnjustice/](http://www.dvorkin.com/johnjustice/)

### **### Butterfly Knitting**

Looking for an awesome birthday or Christmas gift? Maybe you have a new baby coming? Here's the lady to call. Becky and her sidekick Jake can hook you right up. Give her a shout-out today!

Becky Frankeberger

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Custom Knitting

360-426-8389

[becky@butterflyknitting.com](mailto:becky@butterflyknitting.com)

*An added comment from Leonore Dvorkin: For those readers who cannot see Becky's website and her products, I can assure you that they are flat-out gorgeous and they appear to be of the highest quality. She is very talented indeed!*

Patty here with a special announcement. Becky sent me a token of her appreciation and I love it. She made for me a clip on carrier for my cell phone and other goodies that somehow always end up at the bottom of my bag. I have to tell you it has come in very handy.

I even use it round the house. In fact that has turned out to be where it is the most helpful. Due to the fact that I have short term memory loss I am always laying things down and forgetting where I put them. With this, I can just hook it to me and ramble round never having to circle round and round the house looking for a forgotten object again. Unless of course I forget where I put the carrier. (Smile)

### **### Want to make new friends? Want to participate in fun and challenging games? Then join Games Galore and More.**

GGM is a Voice Chat site where people talk to each other in real time. This site and its rooms are for everyone who is interested in interacting with a variety of people in a friendly environment. We offer activities and events of interest to the blind community. Everyone is welcome.

You can join our site at no cost. All you need is a headset to fully participate. Once you have signed up and received your username and password, you can chat with people from around the world and participate in games, seminars, and presentations on a variety of topics.

To register with Games Galore and More, go to: [www.gamesgaloreandmore.com](http://www.gamesgaloreandmore.com)

Enter on the Join our Site link, and follow the prompts.

If you have any issues or questions, please feel free to write James Gagnier or Shelley Gagnier at:

[james@jgagnier.com](mailto:james@jgagnier.com) Or [shelley@jgagnier.com](mailto:shelley@jgagnier.com)

*Patty here to say that I was on a show with the fine folks at Games and Galore and they were awesome hosts. If you missed that event, contact the site owners James and Shelly to see if it was archived. Their games are lots of fun, challenging, and at times rather educational.*



### ### The Orchid Keeper.

A short novel, by Jennifer Deese has been called inspirational fantasy. Born and raised in the Northeast United States. Miss Deese developed a deep love for books at a very young age. As she grew older, she knew her place in the world was in writing. After beating her own addictions years ago, she began to take steps to make that dream come true.

The Orchid Keeper takes us along on a fantastical, yet difficult journey, of an addict and alcoholic named Cora. In a fast downwards spiral and drowning in denial and projection Cora gets an amazing, and wondrous opportunity to change the path she is on. With the aid of Sol, an orchid keeper of Osipia, will she be able to defeat her demons?

Miss Deese is currently working on another book in The Osipian Chronicles, called The Fading Light. In this second book, we will once again see the effects of addiction; this time on a race of beings from another world. You can follow her progress on any of the sites listed below.

Jennifer has also had a horror short story published in an anthology, The December Awethology: Dark Volume. Her story, Jingle Jars, is featured on the cover. In this story Karma takes its toll on a fellow for whom payback is way overdue. A demon is the hero of this story, and when you read it, you will surely understand why.

Deese is always open to interaction with her readers, so feel free to follow her or contact her, via the site's below, with questions about her writing, her characters, and the world she has created.

<http://www.amazon.com/Jennifer-Deese/e/B00N2URD14>

### ### The Blind Post news

From and for the blind

What can be published in the Blind Post News. New and used. Wanted and to Give away any Services and training. Announcements. Business and job opportunities.

Want to subscribe? Send Lori AKA Food Lady a message with your name and email address to: [foodlady@theblindpost.com](mailto:foodlady@theblindpost.com)

Read the news at

<http://www.theblindpost.com/>

### ### Books by Abbie Johnson Taylor

For detailed descriptions, excerpts, and ordering information, visit <http://www.abbiejohnsontaylor.com>

We Shall Overcome. Lisa, visually impaired, is afraid of policemen because of an incident that happened to her brother years earlier. When she meets John, a bicycle patrol officer, she must re-evaluate her apprehension.

How to Build a Better Mousetrap: Recollections and Reflections of a Family Caregiver. The poems in this collection were mostly inspired by the author's experiences while caring for her late husband, totally blind and partially paralyzed by two strokes.

That's Life: New and Selected Poems. In this book, the author gives advice to teenagers, shares more memories of her younger years, and touches on other life-changing events, including her wedding and her late husband's death.

All three books are available on Bookshare, and you can download a recording of 'That's Life,' in mp3 format from the author's site.

### **### For those of you who have been waiting and waiting, it's finally here! Meagan Green's**

First album is out! Many people who have listened to it already have really enjoyed it, so check out the samples at; <http://www.musicspring.net>

The album is called, The Flow of Your Blood.

Eight of the songs are originals by Meagan herself, including the title cut which is a favorite of most who have heard the album. There is one well known hymn with a great arrangement by Chris Belle of Affordable Studio Services, Meagan's producer.

The other song is written by her dear friend Stephie Belle, Chris's wife and co-owner of the studio. You can either get a CD in the mail or download it on the computer. The cost for a download of the entire album is \$13. If you'd like to download by the song, they are \$1.50 each. You will be taken to paypal through my shopping cart. Or you can enter the following email address;

[mgreen@wvi.com](mailto:mgreen@wvi.com)

For a CD hard copy the cost is \$15 which includes shipping.

Send check or money order to:

Meagan Green

1410 Westfall Place

Stayton, Oregon 97383

Enjoy!MeaganGreen

### **### The Blind Perspective**

For a fun-filled, informative online magazine, check out The Blind Perspective: <http://www.theblindperspective.com>

### **### Unity Church of the Tri-Cities**

423 W. Walnut St., Johnson City, TN

423-975-9159 /

[www.unitytricity.org](http://www.unitytricity.org)

Sunday service at 11:00 a.m.

All are welcome at Unity Church of the Tri-Cities, where you will find an atmosphere of love, acceptance, and empowerment. is a Christ-based teaching that emphasizes spirituality over

religion as we embrace our own spiritual growth and development. We strive to apply Universal Truth Principles to improve our own life experience as well as to bless our planet and all humankind through selfless service.

### **\*\*\*Sponsored Ad\*\*\***

Hey, Beautiful Patty and Handsome Campbell,  
Per your request:

The show is “AM Tri-Cities” (the show has been around for over 60 years—long story☺) and is on the Holston Valley Broadcasting WKPT/ESPN family of stations. It can be heard at AM 1400, 1490 and 1590 and on FM 94.3, 97.7 and 97.9. Yes, those are six transmitters covering East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, a bit of eastern Kentucky, and Western North Carolina, and it’s also streamed live on the internet at <http://espntricity.com> . I prefer to be contacted—initially, at least—by email at [dave@wkpradio.com](mailto:dave@wkpradio.com) . Non-profits, entertainment, regional heritage, things to do, and topics of general interest that enhance the quality of life in our region are our usual fare.

Many thanks for all you do. Give yourself a pat on the back and Campbell a hug for me.  
Dave Light

*Patty and Campbell back to say this is a great bunch of ads, and we are glad to have them. We'd love to hear from those advertising in our neig*

### **### 7 Administrative Details**

Advertising in or subscribing to The Neighborhood News!

Cost is now \$15.00 per year for an advertisement with a 200-word limit with or without photo. One time ads can be gotten for the price of \$5.00

All submissions must be sent in by the 30<sup>TH</sup> of each month without fail.

The email address to send subscription requests, advertising, literary submissions, or PayPal Payments to is: [patty.volunteer1@gmail.com](mailto:patty.volunteer1@gmail.com)

To place your Ad, please send your information including contact info such as email address, phone or website. (One link per Ad)

Font & Size: - Times New Roman, size 12 and a 200-word limit with or without a photo.

Payments may be sent to me via PayPal or if you like you may email me to find out how to send a money order.

We are currently looking for literary submissions. We do not charge for literary submissions. If your submission is going to need editing you may contact *Claire Plaisted* at the below link [plaistedpublishinghouse@gmail.com](mailto:plaistedpublishinghouse@gmail.com) Literary Submissions can be short stories, narratives, or poems. They're not to accede 2000-word count.

Thank you for your business.  
Patty L. Fletcher

## ### 8. Author's Corner...

This month I am delighted to present my very own Claire Plaisted. I wrote her the other day and asked if she would provide us with a sample of her own writing. I have no idea what she is going to provide, as I write this I have not seen it yet. I told her to simply add it when she did the edit. So as you see it for the first time, so am I.

Let us read and enjoy together.

Take it away Claire!

Well I thought with it been Halloween Edition I would present something dark and scary. This is from one of my muses who doesn't appear very often which is why I have never really published a thriller, though I do have several part written. This is the first chapter of a Work In Progress (WIP) called Devils Own

### **Devils Own by Claire Plaisted – Copyright October 2016**

The wall was wet against her naked back. The rattle of her steel cuffs around her wrists could be heard as she raised her head, letting her lank dirty red hair fall across her eyes as she stared into the darkness. Her eyes were dull with the horrors she'd already suffered at the hands of her kidnapper.

Her wrists were rubbed raw, her emaciated body shivered.

Crimson felt her heart stutter with growing dread. She wasn't alone. Her body tensed at the fetid smell of the air as it swirled around her. Moaning softly, she blinked her dry eyes.

"Please." She begged through dried cracked lips

She gasped, her eyes widened as red eyes bored into her soul, hateful, and malicious. A finger scraped over her breast, the nail cutting through skin making her whimper. The beast flicked out it's long black tongue, lapping at the blood eagerly.

"Let me go," she muttered hoarsely.

Its hand stroked her face softly, slowly moving over her starved naked body, down to her feet which were splayed apart by another set of cuffs. The beast sucked one of her toes before biting down hard, tearing it off. The girl tried to scream for mercy. Standing up, the beast slowly ate her toe, spitting out the nail and sucking the meat off it until he held the bones. Slowly the beast shaved the bones to thin point with his claw like fingernails, and with a harsh laugh he forced the spear like bones through her ears, lapping up the drops of blood making her shudder

"You are mine for ever," he whispered.

Her head dropped, sobs escaping her lips, her eyes so dry, no tears were to be had.

The beast touched her again, its nails slicing down her body from between her breasts to her belly button. He supped her blood, slurping with gusto until it felt her body relax into unconsciousness.

"Nearly time for a replacement," he muttered.

He picked up her face, knowing her end was near. Letting her head drop down he left the dungeon in disgust, slamming the steel door. Drawing his hood up, hurrying into the maze of dank dungeon corridors in the castle. His evil chuckle echoed back terrorising those who lived upstairs, beyond his control.

~~~~~

Setting his trap, the beast crouched down to wait, wincing in the rain which was acidic to his skin. He loathed the rain, each drop made him hiss in pain as it burnt away a layers of skin. The forest stopped most of the rain touching him, along with his black cloak. He waited quietly, knowing she would wander into his trap soon enough.

The beast had watched her for days, saliva dripping from his mouth in anticipation of feasting. He loved young flesh, so tender to eat, their blood sweet, regenerating his ugly skin.

A twig snapped, his attention was caught a small evil smile curved his mouth. He watched the leaves shudder, a small delicate hand pushing them out of the way. His eyes widened in delight as she stepped into view, her long blonde curls touching her waist, her cornflower blue eyes alight with mischief. Her gown fell to her ankles, the colour matching her eyes.

“Tis beautiful here,” she smiled and began to sing.

The forest stilled enjoying the trill of her voice as she stepped closer to her fate. She twirled around, picking flowers, bringing them to her nose as her voice soared. Birds listened, rabbits stopped for a moment watching her enjoy the spring day.

“Another,” he muttered, rubbing his hands on his cloak. “Two more steps... Got you.”

A sudden scream rent the air, the girls arms flailed as a rope caught her feet. She found herself swaying in mid-air. Hearing a noise, her head twisted around until she was looking at a dark chest.

“Let me down this instant,” she ordered. “My father will...” her gasp of horror was silenced as their eyes met and a gag was stuffed in her mouth.

“You are mine now,” he whispered, his tongue washing over her face, enjoying the freshness of her skin. “I will enjoy you after the other has gone.”

He cut her down, tying her arms and legs, slinging her over his shoulder he made his way deeper into the forest towards his hidden dungeon in the castle he called home.

### **### 9. The Twilight Bark**

Folks there are lots of different topics covered in this month’s Neighborhood News. I would like to encourage you to let us know what you think about them. What did you especially like that we can provide more of? What do you dislike, that you’d like to see us get rid of?

Is there something that we don’t provide for you that we could be doing? Let us know. You don’t know till you ask if we can do it or not. So come on! Bark at us, and let us know what you want.

The Neighborhood News is for you! I do this for those of you who read us each month so it is as much your newsletter as mine if not more. Don’t be shy. If you don’t want your name published we can keep it out.

If you would rather have your thoughts kept between me you, and the dog house I’m OK with that. I just want your feedback.

The below are some of the comments sent by readers.

Reader... Patty I enjoy your newsletter. It is friendly, fun, and informative. Keep up the good work. Tasha Halpert.

Reader... Hi! I love that you take the time to answer when your readers write you. So many times I write to authors and never get more than a digital reply.

Signed Ohio.

*Hi, Ohio, Patty and Campbell here to say, I hope I never forget from where I come. I know that authors get tons of letters, and I used to say that you simply could not expect them to write to you. That was, until one day I read the Dark Tower series by Stephen King. I wrote to the publishing company's contact person. Turned out that letter got all the way to King himself. I'd written and told them how much that series had helped me through a dark depressing lonely winter. I told of how, because I was getting them from my National Library For the Blind and Physically Handicap that I had to wait on the mail. (Yes I am that old.)*

*Anyhow, he actually wrote me back. It was not a long letter, but it was not a form letter. It was from him, and I had included in that letter how much I wanted to one day be a writer. He encouraged me to write and write and keep writing. I have done that, and so because of that gesture from him, I have vowed that I will as much as is possible write back to all who write me.*

*It is, after all, you that I write for. Without you I may as well just be keeping a journal.*

*Thanks all of you for reading The Neighborhood News.*

Reader... I wanted to write and say that I truly enjoy the positive and informative content in your newsletter. Not only do I learn a ton but I actually enjoy doing it. Even when you're dealing with subjects that are controversial you put a positive spin on them. In a world so filled with negativity and strife, I find it a refreshing change.

From a reader in Nashville TN.

*Hi, Reader in Nashville TN! Patty here to say thanks for the kind words. I try even when topics are hard ones to be as positive and upbeat as I can. I figure there are already enough folks complaining in the world. I feel that folks need a place to go where they can gain good and useful information and enjoy themselves while doing it.*

*In short, "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down."*

### **### 10. Wrap Up, and Notes from the Editor.**

Before I go, I want to share something with you that will soon appear on my blog. The below is something that I would love for you to please pray for the highest good on. I would very much one day love to write and let you all know that what is for now only a hope is a reality.

#### **The Possibility By Patty L. Fletcher October 2016**

Hi All Readers!

Patty and King Campbell Seeing Eye Dog AKA Bubba here to tell you of an awesome possibility that has come our way. Now, we don't have any guarantee. Of course there never are 100 percent guarantees, but this is such an experience I had to write of it.

As you who read my blog know, I have written a 6 part series called Bubba Tails from the Puppy Nursery at The Seeing Eye. What you may or may not know is that it is being considered for a children's play. Of course I think it is a story for all ages, but if they wish to classify it as a children's play, I'm OK with that.

Let me tell you how this all began. First, I don't think I have ever said why or how I began Bubba Tails.

I began the Bubba Tails series on Mother's Day of 2016. I was having a rather hard day, due to continued estrangement between my daughter and myself, so I wanted something productive to help me through the day. Something I could focus my loving and magik on. After a hot soak in the tub, and some of what I call, "Stop Think, then Act" time I decided that I would sit down and try to imagine how Campbell felt while growing up and learning to be a Seeing Eye Dog, and see if I might be able to give that voice. Soon I found I was truly entering "Campbell's World" and the next thing I knew I'd written the first 2 issues of what has turned into a series, and as hoped it had helped me through what otherwise might have been a very difficult day.

Since that time I have written the complete 6 part series, and have also written a stand alone, the King Speaks. The King Speaks deals with discrimination issues, and the need for change.

Anyhow, after the Bubba Tails series took off, I got thinking about it. I wondered if it might one day be possible to turn it into more.

I asked Campbell, I said, "Bubba, this is your story, what do you think we should do with it?" As I did he came to me, and as we loved together I wondered what it might be like if Bubba Tails were turned into a play. Next thing I knew I was touching up the document I'd copied and pasted all the finished product into, and sending it off to our local Kingsport Theater Guild. Now, I have to tell you I did not expect more than a "We'll take a look" note, and so I did not think too much about it. To my delighted surprise I received an email just a few days later from the director there letting me know that she had forwarded my story to a local Children's Play Write and that they'd get back to me. Well, I have to tell you, if it had gone no further that would have been plenty satisfying. It is by far the most attention anything I've written has gotten in quite a while.

I wrote back to show my approval, and again tried to put it out of my mind. I have to say, that has been hard. Why? Well, because if it weren't enough that the story was sent onward, the one it had been sent to, Wrote me herself to say how excited she was to be reading my work, that it was very good and she'd get back with me. She said that she and the powers that be at the Theater Guild were very interested. I have to tell you that has been a great highlight in my writing career, and one that I am not taking lightly.

I am currently waiting to hear back from her to see if she indeed thinks this is something we can do.

What is my goal? My goal is to have this turned into a play. The Kingsport Theater Guild would have the right to perform the play for any reason. My only request would be that I be allowed to attend any of these events, and hand out information concerning The Seeing Eye, and my book, Campbell's Rambles: How a Seeing Eye Dog Retrieved My Life which is what started the Bubba Tails series, and have people give a donation of \$10 or higher for a copy of the book. A portion of those proceeds would go to The Seeing Eye and its Breeding, and Puppy Raising programs.

It is my belief that without those two programs the rest could not be. It is my opinion that those programs are the foundation for all the rest.

Think about it... If the breeding program doesn't remain as vital as it currently is, the quality of our dogs will go down. If we do not continue to have fantastically dedicated Puppy Raising Families our dogs cannot get the strong start in life they so very badly need.

I know from how Campbell's behavior was from the very start that he had a family who loved him, and cared for him as if he were their very own forever, and they did all this with the knowledge that one day someone would take their boy from them, and that he would

hopefully go onward to do great things. Well, first family of Campbell, he has done great. He is happy, healthy, (All be it a bit overweight) and I love him with all my being.

I have of course written The Seeing Eye to ask what my legal obligations to them are considering their name would be used etc. I have not as of yet heard back from anyone, and that is OK. When the time is right, and if a decision is made to use my work in the production of a play I am certain I will be able to find out what if anything other than the standard mention of their trade mark is needed.

For now, that's the scoop. I hope those who have not read our series will visit us in Campbell's World soon to have a look. As always we would love to know what you think.

When you read, if you should be so moved, the link at the bottom of this writing will take you to their home page, and there you will find their click to donate link.

Should you decide to donate it is our hope that you will donate in the name of the Bubba Tails series, and that you would ask for the money to go to either the Breeding or Puppy Raiser program. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Until next time this is Patty, and King Campbell saying...  
May harmony find you, and blessing be.

This ends the Halloween edition of The Neighborhood News. Thanks for reading, and have a fabulous month!

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