



Dogs For Life Veterans Training Veterans program introduces veterans to what is involved in training service dogs to assist other veterans with hearing, mobility, or psychiatric disabilities. Dogs For Life is preparing the veterans in our program to help pave the way for the next generation as well as past generations that have served our country and are now looking for faithful dogs to fill their needs.

See Story on Page 3

Dogs For Life Mission

A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and veterans, through training hearing/service dogs, and owning an off-leash dog park.



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Member International
Association of
Assistance Dog Partners



Founder & CEO Insight

by Shelly Ferger

As we prepare for our second Veterans Training Veterans Workshop, 67 veterans who have applied for hearing and service dog training at Dogs For Life, Inc. in 2017 will be invited to attend.

These are local veterans who have contacted DFL for information, asked for applications and are testing the waters on how a service dog can benefit them. With the record number of veteran dog teams graduating from our program in April, our Veterans Training Veterans program is full steam ahead. I continue to be in awe of the willingness of one veteran to help another and this is exactly what makes this program work!

The Board of Directors are grateful to Mark Poziomek who has joined our Board. Mark's dedication to our program and veterans is proven through his dedication to training his own service dog.

A grant received from the Indian River Community Foundation has given our small organization the ability to charge into 2018 ready and willing to train more dogs for veterans. We thank you for your confidence in our programs.

The transition puppies are a joy to have around the training center and we are having so much fun taking them out into the dog park. Thank you to Mrs. Kathi Schumann for donating these bundles of golden joy. And, a grant that Mrs. Schumann bestowed last year, continues to allow DFL to partner with other non-profit organizations in Vero Beach and Indian River County. This effort has made our organization stronger and gets the word out to the veteran community about our programs.

Memberships are up at the off-leash dog park. This season has seen an increase in members with wonderful dogs and we are grateful for their support. Thank you to our Corporate Philanthropist of the Year, Jeff and Suzy Gomez, who have for over 15 years taken care of our four-acre piece of property.

And finally, a thank you to the volunteers and staff who keep things moving day to day at the DFL Training Center. Phone calls and walk-ins keep us busy as we continue to hand out information, schedule training classes and dog park orientations, and answer questions on how to obtain and train service and hearing dogs right here in our community.

The healing at DFL happens because of caring people like you and your financial support. For this support, I sincerely thank you. **Please give today with the enclosed 2018 Annual Appeal envelope and share in the joy.**

From The President

by Kathi G. Schumann

There are veterans living in our midst whose stories amaze us, whose dedication and loyalty to our country is absolute. They have faced more than can be imagined, have overcome more than should be possible. Look at their hands; calloused from never giving up, no matter how tired they were. Look at the soles of their boots, completely worn from taking the next step in front of them no matter how treacherous it was. Be at the forefront to help these brave men and women who have given so much to protect all of us. Your support helps make our Veterans Training Veterans program possible. Be a ray of sunshine that makes the difference in the life of a soldier and his/her dog.



Veterans Training Veterans

by Michelle Dale,

Vice President, Indian River and St. Lucie County Chapter Gold Star Mothers
(from Cover Page)



“After hearing about the Dogs For Life Veterans Training Veterans program at a monthly meeting of the Veterans Council of Indian River County, I wanted to attend and do whatever I could to help veterans with disabilities in honor of my son, CPL Dale J. Kridlo, who was KIA in Afghanistan in 2010. The experience opened my eyes to the vast range of problems a properly trained service dog can solve for a veteran who is disabled. I recommend attending this workshop to anyone who wants to help veterans with disabilities. It is an experience I will never forget.”

Dogs For Life’s second Veterans Training Veterans Workshop will be held April 18, 2018 at 10:00 am through May 23, 2018. Our first training workshop, held in April 2017, was a huge success. The Veterans Training Veterans Workshop will introduce veterans in attendance to what is involved in training service dogs to assist other veterans 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with hearing, mobility, or psychiatric disabilities. Because of the fast-growing need for service dogs in Florida, as our population of brave military men and women is growing, DFL is preparing the veterans in our program to help pave the way for the next generation as well as past generations that have served our country and are now looking for faithful dogs to fill their needs.

The workshop is a six-week program meeting one day a week for an hour and a half. Attendees will be welcomed and receive an overview of the program consisting of brochures and volunteer applications, a handbook and a tour of the facility and dog park. Basic dog obedience will be discussed, as well as dog communication with dogs, and selection of dogs to be trained. Dogs and volunteers will be present and dog obedience demonstrations will be held. Laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Florida State Statute (FSS) 413.08, Air Carrier Access Act (ACA), Fair Housing Act (FHA), and the Department of Veterans Affairs will be discussed. Assistance Dogs International and DFL Minimum Standards & Ethics for Administration and Organizations, as well as Ethics for Dogs and Clients/Partners will be covered.

All classes include active participation among speakers, demonstrators, trainers and dogs in training. Classes are evaluated and future training options are discussed. To sign up for this class which is free for veterans, please contact Shelly at 772-567-8969 or office@dogsforlifevb.org.

DFL Veterans Training Veterans Workshop

April 18, 2018
Wednesdays at 10 AM

Six Week Course
Free to Veterans



Welcome to Our New Board Member

Mark Poziomek became a member of our Board of Directors in January, 2018.

Mark and his wife, Lisa, are longtime residents of Vero Beach. Before moving to Vero Beach, the couple lived in Virginia, where Mark served the Commonwealth as a fire fighter, paramedic and police officer. Mr. Poziomek is currently employed at Sun Aviation as a flight services manager.

Mark’s K-9 partner, Ranger, was adopted from the Humane Society of Vero Beach. He received his service dog training at Dogs For Life.

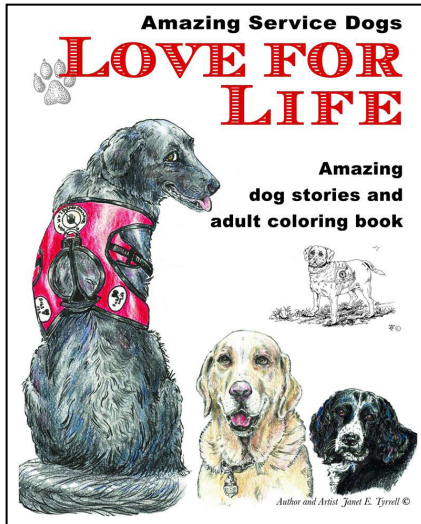
Mark brings his experience, the training of his service dog, and his attendance at the Assistance Dog International PTSD Trainer Symposium to the Dogs For Life Veteran Dog Training Committee.

DFL Awarded Grant from the Indian River Community Foundation

In February the Indian River Community Foundation awarded Dogs For Life a \$50,000 grant from their Community Enrichment Fund to support our Assistance Dogs for Veterans program. Since 2015, DFL has serviced approximately 150 veterans and rescued more than 75 dogs from local shelters. Something magical happens when these animals and veterans come together and we are grateful for this support.



DFL Assistant Trainer and USMC Veteran Tracey Higginbotham with Tucker, DFL Founder and CEO Shelly Ferger, with the Indian River Community Foundation CEO Jeff Pickering.



Love For Life

Do you remember Janet E. Tyrrell's creation of two beautiful series of notecards that included Dogs For Life Service dogs as her subject? Now, Janet has donated her talent to developing a wonderful coloring book called "Love For Life: Amazing Service Dogs". This coloring book is being sold on Amazon.com. This is a fun way to spend your time and create your own work of art. A portion of all proceeds from the sale of "Love For Life: Amazing Service Dogs" will benefit Dogs For Life.

Dogs, Donors & Awards Service/Hearing & Veteran's Dog Teams Graduation Ceremony

2017 Award Recipients

- Kathi G. Schumann AwardRichard & Jane Manoogian
- Service/Hearing Dog Team AwardJessica Jacobs & River
- Veteran's Dog Team AwardRichie Keller & Gigi
-Perry J. Martin & Sassy
- Volunteer of the Year AwardThe Chris Taylor Family
- Individual Philanthropist Award.....Kathi G. Schumann
- Corporate Philanthropist AwardJeff & Suzi Gomez
- Coast to Coast Landscaping
- East Coast Tree Service
- Seal Rite Pavers
- Media Marketing Award.....Citrus Three - Social Media
- Marketing & Consulting

Graduates

Congratulations to a record number of six veterans graduating!

- Al Cabral & Coco • Mark Eaker & Shadow
- Tracey Higginbotham & Tucker • Jessica Jacobs & River
- Richie Keller & Gigi • Perry J. Martin & Sassy
- Joe Sperry & Chlowie

Jewelry Show Fundraiser

Maria Nelson from Premier Designs hosted a Jewelry Show fundraiser at the Dogs For Life Training Center on March 6, 2018. Proceeds from the show will benefit DFL's Service Dog Training Program. Thank you Maria and to all who participated in this fundraising event.

Taylor Foster Family



Perry J. Martin with Sassy and Taylor Foster Family, Joe, Sheri, Chris, Harry and Richie Keller with Gigi.

Quilts of Valor will be presented to Veterans

Bridge Tournament Fundraiser

DFL's annual Bridge Tournament fundraiser was Co-Chaired by DFL Vice President Eleanor Bengyak and President Kathi G. Schumann.

John Colmey & Sonya McGowan joined other bridge players for lunch and a silent auction on February 20th at the Vero Beach Country Club. The event raised over \$25,000 for our Veterans Training Veterans Program.



John Colmey and Sonya McGowan, 1st Overall Winners out of 94 players.



DFL CEO, Shelly Ferger and DFL Vice President Eleanor Bengyak.



Committee Members DFL Director Linda Liss and Volunteer Toni Gibson.

Annual Appeal

Help Dogs For Life touch the lives of veterans; whether they are facing a hearing, mobility or a psychiatric issue, they all come to us seeking to improve their quality of life. Our veterans know they will be treated with respect by dedicated, compassionate professionals in a caring and safe environment. Your generous contributions have helped make Dogs For Life the leading regional provider that it is. Accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI), Dogs For Life is one of only five organizations in the State of Florida to hold this distinction.

Please send your gift today toward our **2018 Annual Appeal**. Our veterans are counting on your support. Thank you!



Service Dog Teams join DFL President Kathi Schumann for a group photo.

2017 Bengyak Legacy Society Luncheon



Lots of friends and supporters came to honor Eleanor and her untiring work with DFL at the Eleanor Bengyak Legacy Society Luncheon held in November 2017 at the DFL Training Center.

Left: Eleanor Bengyak greets Bengyak Legacy Society member Jean McIlwain.



Right: Eleanor pictured with Hearing Dog Tigger at a DFL Annual Meeting.

DFL Partners

In an effort to continue growing partnerships with other like-minded organizations such as veterans, first responders, and law enforcement, Dogs For Life, Inc. was awarded a grant to help sponsor the following fundraising events:



DFL Sponsors the Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club.

2017-2018 Events

- American Legion Post 39 – Golf Tournament
- American Security Council Foundation – Meet, Eat & Skeet Tournament
- Indian River County Youth Livestock – Indian River County Fair
- Indian River County Sheriff’s Office – Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranch
- Indian River Woodcarvers – Purple Heart Cane Ceremony
- Vero Beach Veterans Next Generation – Ruck March
- Vero Beach Veterans Next Generation – 70’s Prom Night
- Victory Center Military Store – Bowling Tournament

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| April 12, 2018 | Indian River County – 4-H Foundation |
| April 12, 2018 | Vero Beach Dog Park – Cocktails at Costa |
| May 20, 2018 | Humane Society Vero Beach & I.R. Co. – Cause for Paws |
| June 16, 2018 | Veterans Council of Indian River County – Golf Tournament |

Indian River Woodcarvers Purple Heart Cane Ceremony

DFL sponsored the Indian River Woodcarvers Purple Heart Cane Ceremony at the Navy SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce on January 20, 2018. Richie and his service dog, Gigi, along with Perry and his service dog, Sassy, handed out literature and informed the participants of DFL’s programs.

The National Navy SEAL Museum recently added three new sculptures to its Memorial Garden including a modern canine warrior made of bronze. World-renowned sculptor, Pablo Eduardo, is the artist responsible for the life size statues honoring Navy SEALs, their predecessors and their canine warriors.



Richie & Gigi



Custom Carved Purple Heart Canes



Navy SEALs Memorial Sculptures



Perry & Sassy

Vero Beach Veterans Next Generation Ruck March

Vero Beach Veterans Next Generation is a group of veterans who have recently served. The Next Generation Veterans held a Ruck March on March 10, 2018 with DFL as a sponsor, in order to raise awareness of PTSD.

PTSD is a complex disorder that is often misunderstood and can be life threatening if left untreated. If you or someone you know is in a crisis, call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline/Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255.



Indian River and St. Lucie County Gold Star Mothers installed their officers during the Give a Ruck Ceremony.



Indian River Veterans Council Director of Operations Bruce Cady with "Good Boy" at the Next Generation Give a Ruck event.



Telly Antona, Next Gen member visits with "Good Boy" at Veterans Memorial Island.



Eli Osbourne, DFL Dog Park Assistant and Next Gen member keeps an eye on "Good Boy".



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Veterans Council of Indian River County Annual Golf Tournament



L to R: Linda Paulisin, 2017 Tournament Co-Chair; Kathy Allston, Director of UAV, Raffle Prize Coordinator; Shelly Ferger, DFL CEO; Michelle Dale, Vice President, Gold Star Mom's & Military Mom's Prayer Group; Kryse Manson, Director of Veterans Outreach; and Gary James, Golf Committee volunteer

Do We Have A Dog for You?

Yes, DFL rescues dogs when possible for training as service dogs. However, the temperament must be sound, the dog must have a good work ethic, be in good health and between the age of two to four years.

Imagine my surprise when I received a call from an owner who said this dog is everything DFL needs in a service dog. It was true! His name is Bentley and he is a Lab with yellow fur.

We met at the DFL off-leash dog park and it was love at first sight for both of us. Since this handsome dog, Bentley, was donated, he has been the perfect nanny for Golden Retriever pups, Good Girl and Good Boy while staying at the Dogs For Life Transition Training House.

Bentley has now been placed with Judy, a U.S.A.F. Veteran. More to come ...



L to R: DFL Administrative Assistant Joan Freeman with Daisy, Assistant Trainer Tracey Higginbotham with Tucker, Judy Schmidt with Bentley, Perry J. Martin with Sassy, Richie Keller with Gigi, and Assistant Trainer Cassy Ford with Good Boy, serve doggie ice cream at Sassy and Gigi's 1 year Birthday party.



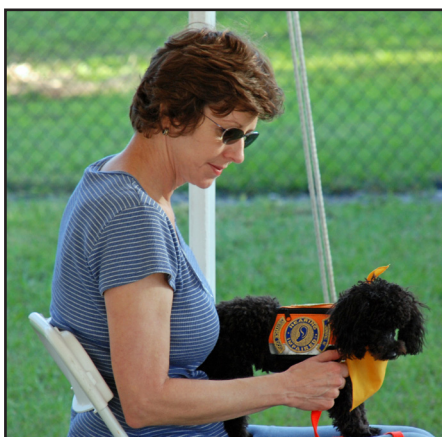
Bentley and Lil Sis share a toy while in transition training.



Harmony with Gunny, Corinne with Aya and L.A. with Darel

Teams Re-certified

Each year graduated teams are re-certified to assure that their obedience and task training are still up to DFL & Assistance Dogs International standards. DFL meets these teams in their homes as well as in public places. We are extremely proud of these teams, some whom have been in our program for up to 10 years.



Beth with Tigger



Bob with Bo



Gunny re-certifies with flying colors.

Transition Training

DFL is very grateful to a group of small dog park members who gave a gift at Christmas to help purchase and train a service dog for a veteran.

Fortunately, we had just received two Golden Retriever puppies, temporarily named Good Boy and Good Girl, so the funds were being put to work right away.

Puppies are a lot of work. A typical day starts with housebreaking, crate and leash training. Then we feed them breakfast and put the pups down for naps. Then it's inside and outside. Nap time is over. Now we play with toys. Then it's inside and outside. Lunch time. Then it's inside and outside, followed by more leash training and playing with toys. Now it's time for another nap. It's dinner time. Then it's inside and outside, followed by some more playing with toys. Then it's inside outside. WHEW!!!

Oh yes, then there's tomorrow...

Thank you to Sponsors who help us with the expenses of our service dog puppies in training, our foster homes who help with raising them and our Volunteer Trainers who help with training.



Kathi Schumann, DFL President with Harry and Joe Taylor, foster brothers, with their hands full of puppies. (8 weeks old)



Bentley shows Good Girl the ropes around the transition house.



Good Boy and Good Girl chill under a table at the transition house.



Two pooped puppies take a nap during an outdoor event. (3 months old)



Two pooped puppies after training class. (5 months old)

Dog Park Renovations

Dog Park Members have expressed their approval of various renovations and recent maintenance at the dog park. Each year the gravel pathways need to be resurfaced. Rocks need to be put on the water stations and rust stains need to be cleaned off the sidewalks and fences. Trees are trimmed, and dead shrubs are replaced. The Memorial Garden was also spruced up to include a rock surface, so it would be easier to maintain.



Front row: Monica Bush and Henry, Eleanor Renuart and Beau
Second row: Betty Bankert and Tori, Fran Devitt and Bailey, Kathy Frazha and Tyler, Beth Sexton-Stryker and Hearing Dog Tigger

Social Media and Dog Park Play Dates

SSgt Tracey Higginbotham, USMC, Ret. came to work for Dogs For Life part-time in December 2017 as the Social Media Coordinator and an Assistant Dog Trainer. He attended our Veterans Training Veterans Workshop and recently graduated our Veteran Dog Training Program with his service dog, Tucker.

Tracey has been a great asset in his role as an assistant trainer as well as boosting our presence on social media and the web. Working with Citrus Three of Vero Beach, Tracey has been coordinating the videography of classes and interviews to share the story of Dogs for Life and our clients.

Additionally, Tracey has implemented a play date calendar on our website at www.dogsforlifeVB.org. Dog park members can now log in using their email address as their log in and their gate code as their password. Once logged in, they can setup play dates by hovering over "Dog Park Calendar" and then clicking on "Add a Play Date".

A group of small dog park members gather at the dog park each day, enjoying the beautiful Florida weather while their dogs exercise and socialize.

To keep current on all of our news and updates, follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DFLVB or on the web at www.dogsforlifeVB.org.

Beech Annuals

Nursery

*1300 9th Street SW
Vero Beach, FL 32962
772-567-2033
Beech1300@att.net*

*Coast to Coast
Landscaping*

562-6249
East Coast Tree
772-564-8914

Honorarium Memorial Gift Listing

What type of gift do you get for the person who has everything? Make a tax-deductible donation to Dogs For Life "In Honor" of someone you love for any occasion: anniversary, birthday or "In Memory" of a lost loved one. Every donation helps fund Dogs For Life programs.



In Memory of Ann Ford, True Friend to Dogs For Life

Like many of Dogs For Life's (DFL) founding members, Shelly became friends with Ann Ford in the 1980's while at the Humane Society of Vero Beach. Ann started the first wine and cheese fundraiser which is now known as the famous "Cause for Paws" Fundraiser. She and Shelly found homes for many homeless dogs over the years, placing most as service dogs, including a dog named Daisy who was placed with a 4-H Dog Master Club member. Ann's interest was truly with service dogs and when Dogs For Life, Inc. applied for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, she paid the bill.

Ann and Bob Ford have continued to fund Dogs For Life over the years and we are forever grateful for their support as well as for Janet Riley who helped DFL during their humble beginnings.

DFL has lost a true friend who will never be forgotten, and our heart goes out to her husband Bob, who continues to guide DFL.

Tribute Gift Listing 9/01/2017 to 3/21/2018

In Memory Of

Ann Ford

Ferger, Shelly

Tetley Boatwright

Ferger, Shelly

Daisy Bullock

Bullock, James

Carol Hartwig

Bankert, H. J.
Blair, Mary
Clinton, Elinor
Conklin, Robert
Devitt, Francine
Dunn, Walt
Ferger, Shelly
Haaland, Wanda
Meisler, Yael
Patti Schell Pet Sitting
Stryker, Beth
Zappis, Frank

Irene L'Homme

Desmery, Margaret

My Best Friend Laki

Saucerman, Robert

Sara Lee & Garcie Marshall

Ferger, Shelly
Patti Schell Pet Sitting

Mikey

Riley, Janet

Francis Sprout

Clinton, Elinor
Ferger, Shelly

Kathryn Walson

Schultz, Don

Elizabeth "Betty" Walters

Massimino, Joseph & Jennifer
Tropf, Doris

Watson Gibson

Gibson, Toni & Randy

Valerie Washburn

Ferger, Shelly
Washburn, Al

In Honor Of

Eleanor Bengyak

Balph, Judy
Bracken, Judy
Buckle, Nece
Cavanagh, Jeffrey
Clinton, Elinor
Cornell, Allen & Judy
Daly, Mary
Desmery, Margaret
Dunn, Mim
Ferger, Shelly
Ferrari, Linda
Freeman, Joan
Gibson, Ginger
Hatley, Julie
Hatten, Paul & Dell
Higginbotham, Tracey
Hunter, Martha
Kay, Jean
Keller, Richard
Lind, Karen
O'Brien, Lisa
Partenheimer, Gail
Schultz, Don
Schumann, Kathi G.
Sparks, Nancy
Stott, Heidi
Taylor, Beverly
Taylor, Chris, Sheri,
Sofie, Joe & Harry
Vergara, Julie

Linda Liss

Ferger, Shelly
Poziomek, Mark
Schumann, Kathi G.

Kathi Schumann

Cabral, Al
Ferger, Shelly
Garrett, Mae Frances
Haaland, Wanda
Keller, Richard
Martin, Perry
Poziomek, Mark
Ricard, Judith
Schumann, Donovan
Schumann, Gene & Martha
Schumann, John III
Schumann, John Jr.
Schumann, Mark & Cheri
Waggaman, B.A.
Wyatt, Barry & Vickie

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Vero Beach, FL 32960

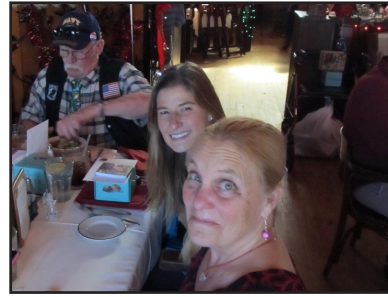
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Where We've Been ...

Christmas Luncheon 2017



Our largest group ever attended the Kathi Schumann Christmas luncheon held at the Ocean Grill in early December 2017. Eleven service dog teams joined DFL Board members and staff, then stayed for this group picture.



DFL Administrative Assistant Joan Freeman, DFL Assistant Trainer Cassie Ford and Veteran Bob Cheshire enjoy the luncheon.



Jessica Jacobs with Wanda Haaland and hearing dog Lola.



Veterans Michael Bores and Al Cabral attended the party.



DFL President Kathi G. Schumann poses with Veteran Richie Keller.

Champions of Freedom Appreciation Luncheon

In honor of Veterans Day on Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 at 11:30 am more than 100 area veterans came together for the first annual 'Champions of Freedom Appreciation Luncheon' hosted by Cox-Gifford Seawinds Community Outreach. The event took place at the Vero Beach Country Club. DFL Founder and CEO Shelly Ferger was one of five honored at this luncheon in recognition of local community members who supports veterans and their families was appreciated by the veterans in attendance.



Pictured from left to right: Philip Lundy, Manager and Funeral Director, Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home; Honoree Lloyd Lasenby who spearheaded the Purple Heart Cane Project as a member of the Indian River Woodcarvers Club; Honoree Shelly Ferger, Founder; Director of Training Programs and CEO of Dogs For Life, Honoree Barbara Sharp, co-artist of Veteran Council's buses; and Diane Saunier, Community Outreach Coordinator, Cox-Gifford Seawinds Community Outreach. (Missing is Honoree Mike Jaholkowski.)

American Legion Post 39 Presentation



DFL Service Dog Teams, Al & Coco, Jessica & River, and Richie & Gigi give a presentation to the American Legion Post 39 and receive a donation in return.

IRSC Presentation



Al, Tracey and Bob give a DFL Presentation for the Indian River State College Continuing Education Program.

Foxy Lady Presentation



Marty Sandham of the Foxy Ladies, Bob Cheshire, USN Veteran with Bo, attend the Foxy Lady presentation.

Village Green Presentation



Left: Veterans Al Cabral, Tracey Higginbotham and Bob Cheshire assist Shelly with a DFL Program Presentation at the Village Green Swan Lake Clubhouse.

Right: Bob Cheshire tells the group at Village Green how Bo alerts him to someone knocking on the door, the alarm clock ringing or the smoke alarm.

