

# Meet the TDV Officers

## STEVE REIMAN—FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Steve founded TDV in 1992 and has been a driving force of the organization ever since. **Steve's lifelong love of dogs and the desire to volunteer his talents to make this a better world through their use is what started TDV.**

Responsibilities:

- Focal point for TDV presence to the community
- **Chairperson for general membership/officer's meetings**
- Point person for special projects, guidelines, insurance
- Advisor in all matters related to TDV
- Maintain TDV website and member database
- Manage annual membership renewal drive
- Coeditor of the newsletter
- Maintain email connection with TDV members
- Support all TDV correspondence

Passion for TDV: Through my dogs, I have had the great joy to make differences in the lives of many people. I started TDV (and helped start similar organizations around the world) to allow others to share in this joy with their dogs. It is with great satisfaction that I hear about the many accomplishments of TDV volunteers.

## DEB HELFRICH—VICE PRESIDENT

Deb joined TDV in 1996 after being inspired by a Steve Reiman lecture; shortly after, she mentored under Steve, working with one of his GSDs, and TDV founding dogs, Jordan. Since then, she has been working with her own GSDs and has served as an officer since 2000. **She has recently assumed responsibility of TDV's testing and training programs and has launched TDV's first puppy prep training class.**

Responsibilities:

- Perform public relations duties, such as public appearances
- **Manage TDV's operational communications, and policy research/documentation tasks**
- Support strategic planning efforts and special projects
- Oversee therapy dog certification program, working with a team of testers/evaluators throughout Vermont

Passion for TDV: **There's much I enjoy about TDV: the organizational/management challenges; helping new teams through the evaluation process; collaborating with fellow officers, members, and other organizations. At the heart of it is volunteering in the service of others and working with dogs.**

**I've had the privilege to visit with many special people—in their happiest, darkest, joyful, fearful, best, or worse moments—leaving me with profound life lessons, inspiration, understanding, and sometimes sadness.**



## CHRISTY & ANDY HOLLSTEIN—MEMBER & FACILITY SUPPORT

Andy & Christy have been involved with TDV since 2005. They have been active volunteers at Northwestern Medical Center with their Bullmastiff Tyson and English Mastiff Emma. Andy & Christy have served as the TDV Member Support Coordinators since 2007.

Responsibilities:

- Connect New & Existing Members with Teams at facilities.
- Address any members questions or concerns
- Assist with the Annual Membership Renewals

Passion For TDV: With Tyson & Emma being such large gentle dogs, we wanted to share them with others. So when we met Steve & Deb at the 2004 Shelburne Museum Goes to the Dogs, we instantly knew that we wanted to be a part of this organization. Little did we know by volunteering at NMC and TDV Events that our dogs would become so well known in the community. has been a very rewarding experience and we look forward to being with TDV for many years to come!

## STARR JEWELL—MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Starr joined TDV in 2007 with her Bernese Mountain Dog Cassie, volunteering at retirement and assisted living facilities, and most recently the FAHC Pediatric Ward. **In the spring of 2008 she became an officer for the TDV's Board of Directors.**

Responsibilities

- Responsible for the overall image/identity of TDV
- Manage marketing, public relations and collateral materials
- Support strategic planning efforts
- Manage presentations and newsletters
- Proof TDV correspondence

Passion for TDV: With my lifelong love for dogs, and a Bernese Mountain Dog who loves everyone, I felt that TDV would be a terrific fit. With Cassie being such a loving, **sweet dog (that never gets enough attention...in her opinion)** – and my passion for visiting with the residents of retirement and assisted living communities, I felt it would be perfect for both of us. Since these visits, we have seen many **faces light up...including Cassie's...that we now make regular visits to the FAHC Pediatric Ward and a local retirement home. I truly believe that dogs make a difference in the lives of all individuals...one wag at a time!**

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## LINDA SAMTER—TREASURER

Linda has been involved with TDV since 1992 as an active volunteer at FAHC with her Border Collie, Cheyenne. Linda also served as TDV Vice President from 1992-1996, VP and Treasurer from 1996-2001, and as Treasurer from 2001 to present.

Responsibilities:

- Oversee all TDV financial affairs
- Manage TDV accounts and payment of expenses
- Maintain financial documentation
- Develop annual financial statement

Passion for TDV: Cheyenne and I have visited patients at FAHC for over eight years, and have enjoyed this experience immensely. I have not only seen the great benefits of these therapy dog visits for patients, hospital staff, and visitors alike, but have also benefited personally from these experiences. **The lessons in humanity I've learned from all the wonderful people I have had the opportunity to meet will stay with me always.** Being involved with TDV has been a valuable way to offer community service, and, I get to do it with my four-legged best friend!

## SHERRI BUSHEE—SECRETARY

Sherry joined Therapy Dogs in 2008 with her German Shepherd Holland, volunteering at Northwestern Medical Center. My goal is to become an Evaluator as I have been dog training for many years. Holland has conformation show titles, German obedience and endurance titles. There is more to a working dog than just working dog titles, and I wanted to explore helping people with Holland due to her excellent temperament. I would like to work with the Department of Children and Families Foster Children program, and adopted children. Sherry became an officer in TDV in June 2009.

Responsibilities:

- Maintain TDV organizational files, officer forum, and key TDV documents
- Support a wide range of TDV operational needs
- Inventory/ordering of member and organizational supplies
- Special projects as needed/interested in

Passion for TDV: I always love working and training with my GSD, Holland. When I saw TDV at Shelburne Museum **Goes to the Dogs in 2008, I thought” this is for us!”** Holland is the type of dog you want to share with the world. She is a **dog who can bring a smile to someone’s face by her happy, friendly presence.** I have longed for an organization where I could volunteer with my canine partner, to make a difference in people’s lives. I feel the positive effects Holland has on my life every day- **it’s no wonder Therapy Dogs help those in great need.** I am very passionate about this work and

how we affect people positively. I want to spread the word about Therapy Dogs of VT, and continue to spread the joy **a dog can bring to someone’s life. Cheers to all!**

## STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT

### **OPEN POSITION!**

This critical, challenging position involves:

- Focusing on where TDV is today and where we want to be in 5 years
- Overseeing, spearheading, and organizing strategic planning initiatives
- Create a sustainable TDV for many years to come

## FUNDRAISING AND GIVING

### **OPEN POSITION!**

This dynamic and challenging position involves:

- **Developing and Maintaining TDV’s fundraising plan and strategy**
- Managing volunteers in support of fundraising tasks and projects

## EVENT COORDINATOR

### **OPEN POSITION!**

This fun, task-oriented position involves:

- **Organizing and managing TDV’s own events such as the annual member meeting and several smaller ones at the team’s discretion**
- **Organizing and managing TDV’s attendance at several dog-events each year (such as Shelburne Goes to the Dogs, Canines and Company, Derby Line day, and more!)**
- Managing volunteers in support of events

Email [admin@therapydogs.org](mailto:admin@therapydogs.org) if **you’re interested in joining the team!**

