



### **Richard Walter, Board Member**

Richard Walter is retired from the insurance industry where he worked in sales management in central California. Richard received his AA in Agriculture from Delhi A&T, and his LLB from Southwestern Law School (Los Angeles).

Since 2006, Richard has been a Hearing Dog client of Dogs for Better Lives. Now with his second Hearing Dog Noni, a 3 year old yellow Labrador, Richard is able to be alerted to the phone, smoke alarm, oven timer, alarm clock, name call, and door knock. Noni does this by tapping Richard's leg with her nose and then leading him to the sound.

In addition to being a Dogs for Better Lives' client, Richard also serves as a *National Ambassador* for DBL, presenting about the organization to local and regional community groups, such as Rotary. In addition, Richard has also gone out on behalf of DBL and interviewed prospective clients for the nonprofit.

More recently, Richard has become interested in DBL's *Volunteer Canine Recruiter* (VCR) program, helping the national nonprofit with advance survey and notification of prospective rescue dogs that might be suitable for one of the organization's Assistance Dog programs. Currently this program is just working with animal shelters in California.

Richard is excited about Dogs for Better Lives' development of their Autism and Program Assistance Dog programs for people who experience Autism and other disabilities. Serving as a Board Member for Dogs for Better Lives is providing Richard with a wonderful opportunity to speak with community groups about the value of an Assistance Dog and how they better people's lives, including his own.

Richard and Noni live Bass Lake, CA, near the southern entrance to Yosemite National Park, where they enjoy boating, fishing and the outdoors.

