

Ruff Drafts: The Voice of DWAA™

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.
FOUNDED 1935

April 2009



This Month:
Annual Meeting
More Awards Photos
A Bit of Judging Lore



Buddy the Dog met President-elect Barack Obama on the 18th hole of Mid Pacific Country Club, in Lankai, Hawaii on December 24, 2008. The president-elect shook the hand of Buddy's mom, Liz Rizzo. Mom said he has a soft hand but a firm handshake. He pet Buddy on the head and said "What a good-looking dog." Buddy wagged his tail like never before. On December 29th, Buddy was on his walk and spotted the president-elect again and we got a few cool photos. Buddy and his mom wish President Obama and his family the best in the coming year. Buddy walks the beaches of Kailua and Lanikai. If you see him, please come by and say hello.

DWAA LEADERSHIP

DWAA Officers

President

Deb Eldredge, DVM

Vice President

Susan McCullough

Secretary

Liz Palika

Treasurer

Rue Chagoll

DWAA Board of Governors

Past President

Dr. Carmen Battaglia

Class of 2010

Elaine Gewirtz
Position Vacant

Class of 2011

Dr. Caroline Coile
Charlotte Reed

Class of 2012

Eve Adamson
Position Vacant

Committee Chairs and Members

Annual Awards Contest

Terry Albert
Kim Thornton (special awards)

Annual Banquet

Marsha Pugh
Pat Santi

Archives

Pat Santi

By-laws

Susan McCullough

Chat List

Dr. Stephanie Smith

DWAA Benefits

Deb Eldredge, DVM
Susan McCullough

DWAA / Cat Writers Liaison

Marion Lane

Forum/List Moderation

Chris Walkowicz
Committee Members:
Diane Schuller, Stephanie Smith,
Kim Thornton

Green Connections

Nancy Boyd

Hall of Fame

Bardi McLennan
Committee Members:
Terry Albert, Linda Rehkopf

Juniors

Kate Eldredge

Member Survey

Dr. Mary Burch

Member Advisory Board

Linda Rehkopf

Membership

Elaine Gewirtz
Liz Palika

Newsletter/Web Editor

Matthew Schenker
Committee Members:
Cindy Reed, Pat Steer

Publicity

Elaine Gewirtz
Committee Members:
Elizabeth Jarrell

Scholarship

Susan McCullough
Lea-Ann Germinder

Secretary's Page

Submitted by Liz Palika

Dear Members,

The transition of this office from the previous secretary, Pat Santi, to me went as smoothly as Pat could make it, especially since membership renewals were due at the same time. I thank Pat very much for all her previous hard work (what? 14 – 15 years?) and her help with the membership renewals this year. She has been a tremendous help. Thanks, Pat!

That said, if you have not yet renewed, please send your renewal to me: Liz Palika, 250 Flame Tree Place, Oceanside, CA 92057. If you don't remember whether you renewed, email me (lizpalika@gmail.com). If you renewed but have not yet received your 2009 membership card, drop me an email.

Change of Address, Phone, Email or Website:

Arnold Woolf
460 Minot Ave Apt 8
Auburn, ME 04210
Beverly Ruszel Cena
mrsmalgal57@msn.com

The following newsletters were returned with invalid addresses. If you know any of these members, please have them contact me:

T.J. Dunn, Jr. DVM
C. Sue Furman, PhD
Sarah Hoggan, DVM
Helen Sondrol

New Members:

Christy Caballero
Professional/Freelance
PO Box 1551, Rainier OR 97048
503-556-3689
7swans@earthlink.net
Brenna Fender
Professional/Freelance
2504 Krueger Lane, Tampa FL 33618
813-265-8047, c-813-928-0333
brennafender@gmail.com

The following newsletters were returned with changed addresses; the new addresses are:

Kelly Rhae
12102 4th Ave W Apt 25-105
Everett, WA 98204-6412
Dr Josephine Deubler
1635 Old Plains Rd
Pennsburg, PA 18073-2415
Kathryn Braud
1501 St S Apt 415
Great Falls, MT 59405-4570
Jill Arnel
5328 SE 41st Ave
Portland, OR 97202-4239

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President's Message

Hello all!

March has been a busy month and I hope April is as well! To update you on what your officers have been doing:

- ✓ Board and Officers are insured
- ✓ Officers are now bonded – I think for the first time ever
- ✓ Due to the generosity of Elaine Gewirtz's husband we will be getting a CPA audit in April (after tax deadlines ☺).
- ✓ We are slowly but surely working away at past bills as dues come in – that is a subtle hint on the dues!

We are looking at possible people to fill the two open Board spots – we have some names the Board needs to vote on. Contest, HOF and Banquet committees are moving ahead; Jean Fogle is working to see if we can get space at some of the Pet Expos across the country for book signings – possibly trade a few 10 min talks for free space – and yes, if you can write a book, you CAN talk for 10 minutes!

The Website group is very active – Pat Steer is trying to bring us all into the 21st century with her tutorials – I have to say, if I can figure out the forums, anyone can!



Matthew is working on the website development and Cindy Read has great ideas too.

Lately there have been some great forum threads on things like blogging and Zoinks and some amazing photos to enjoy.

Right now, we are posting our newsletters so people can access them right away but eventually this will be in a members' only area. If you are willing to simply get your newsletter via email (possibly an email reminder that it is accessible on the web) please let Matthew know at mschenker@comcast.net.

For those without a computer, I strongly suggest you check out your public library or local school system. Both of those in our town help out people who don't have a computer or aren't very computer savvy. Both places also let you print out things at a very reasonable cost. High school students can earn community service credits by helping or tutoring you.

On a personal note, we have 6 lovely Terv puppies messing up my work schedule. Despite their cuteness at 3½ weeks of age, things were going quite well until my washing machine died yesterday – naturally on a Sunday, naturally right as I was about to start on one load of sports clothes laundry and 3 loads of puppy laundry. I am quite familiar with our local laundromat now.

A local high school student spent much of the weekend helping me straighten out my computer. Classic teenager – “How can you possibly work on this slow machine? Do you ever clean or declutter this thing?” Clearly he hasn't seen my house. “Don't you want me to change the setting from Best Appearance to Best Performance?” I actually had no idea you got a choice! So hopefully my emails now work. Feel free to reach me anytime with suggestions, to volunteer, problems you have etc. My emails are debme@juno.com or debme15@hotmail.com. The phone works too but I am often in and out a bit, so email is best.

I want to thank so many of you for offering to help and for your good wishes!

DWAA is getting better all the time – thanks to you, the talented members.

Deb Eldredge, DVM, President

Summary of the DWAA Annual Meeting

Please note: This is NOT the official minutes (those will be voted on at the next Annual Meeting). It is simply a short summary of the business that took place. Any errors are mine!
Deb Eldredge, DVM - President of DWAA

Treasurer Rue Chagoll talked about the financial situation and made several suggestions on how improve the outlook – including going to digital newsletters, possible dues increases and having award monies be handled directly by the donors.

There was a discussion about election procedures (with universal agreement that the bylaws need refining). A vote on whether or not correct procedures were followed was tied so no action was taken.

The three designated tellers went off to count the ballots – Pat Cruz, Bryna Comsky and Pat Steer.

Newsletter editor Matthew Schenker gave a short talk about his plans and how the website and possibly forums could all tie in.

There was a discussion of public relations that led to a vote on supplying the Special Awards donors with the winner's name ahead of time so they could have PR ready to roll right after the banquet. This was voted in.

Election results:

Vote count:

Deb Eldredge - 141

Carmen Battaglia - 57

Susan McCullough - 120

Susan Ewing - 74

Liz Palika - 99

Pat Santi - 97

Eve Adamson - 154

Arlene Klein - 106

Joel Gavriale-Gold - 86

Formal minutes will be presented and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Board Business

Submitted by Liz Palika, DWAA Secretary

DWAA Business #8

Date: March 25, 2009

Business Presented By: Deb Eldredge DVM

Business is: Pat Santi, Banquet Chair, requests permission from the board to deposit reservation checks to the DWAA bank account directly and then provide a printed record to the treasurer. Checks would be deposited weekly so they would clear the bank in a timely manner. *This motion passed: 6 yes votes and 4 no votes.*

Board Business #9

Date: March 25, 2009

Business Presented By: Elaine Gewirtz

Business is: I hereby move to rescind the motion passed at the last board meeting to sponsor the Pet Writing Conference. Discussion: The IRS prohibits 501c6 organizations from donating to or sponsoring private enterprises. (Donations to CWA in the past were possible as CWA is a 501c organization.) This motion passed: 8 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 1 abstain.

Board Business #10

Date: March 25, 2009

Business Presented By: Elaine Gewirtz

Business is: I hereby move to have the DWAA endorse both the Pet Writing Conference and the CWA conference. *This motion passed: 9 yes votes and 1 abstain.*

Board Business #12

Date: March 25, 2009

Business Presented By: Deb Eldredge, DVM

Business is: I hereby move to rescind the earlier newsletter guidelines to replace them with: The newsletter will have an editor and also a newsletter committee to assist with proofing and gathering information, articles and graphics. The newsletter committee will consist of the editor, a Board member, and at least one member at large. If controversial issues are submitted, it is expected the committee will, in standard journalism procedure, present both sides of the issue. If there is something the committee does not feel comfortable dealing with, it will come to the board. *This motion passed: 8 yes votes and 2 no votes.*

A Message About the DWAA Online Forums

By Pat Steer, DWAA Forum Administrator

Are you part of the DWAA online Writers Community?

One benefit of DWAA membership is members-only access to our international community of writers and artists. That community meets every day using the DWAA forum:
<http://www.dwaa.org/forum>

In the DWAA forum community, writers, artists, editors and publishers participate in discussions about the many facets of our craft, and interact with each other in searchable forums categorized by topic. Topics range from research to works in progress, use of emerging technologies, ways to promote your work, online and real-world resources and contact lists.

Are you looking for news important to media professionals focused on dogs? Check out the **DWAA** and **News** forums. Interested in new work? You should subscribe to the **Opportunities**, **Book Review** and **Dog Experts** forums. Would you like to expand your design or photography skills? Post your questions and network with some DWAA experts in the **Graphic Design-Art-Photography** forum.

While every DWAA member is eligible for access to the members-only DWAA forums, each member must visit the forum page, register and set up your forum ID to participate. Members should register with the email address you include in the membership roster, and your forum name should be your real name. If online privacy is a concern, you're welcome to create a first initial(s) plus last name forum name—but remember, one of the purposes of the DWAA forum is to promote members' expertise and our work.

In addition to discussions and networking with other members, the forum makes Zoints profiles and a personal web page and blog available to registered members. Your Zoints profile and personal page can serve as your main internet presence, or can be linked to your already-established blog or webpage for a promotional boost from another source. Search engines access the DWAA forum daily, updating files that link names to key words and subjects. Registering on the forum automatically boosts your visibility to people searching the internet for a writer, artist or editor with your expertise.

Are you sure you don't have time to spend online, or participate in a forum community? While you can visit the forum every day, you can also set the DWAA forum to deliver updates directly to your email inbox. Subscribe to forums—one, a few or all of them--and when new threads or updates to existing threads are posted, you'll receive an email listing by name and linking to each new or updated thread. You decide which thread(s) to visit, and when. Like any community, you'll get out of the DWAA online writers' community exactly what you put in it—but you've got to be in it to enjoy the benefits.

Questions? Please email me at gaelen2@yahoo.com

I can help with registration, forum use and any questions about the forum's profiles, blogs and personal pages. Forum shepherds Chris Walkowicz and Diane Fuller are also part of the forum team, and we're all ready to help people new to the forum navigate posts, replies and general conversations.

The DWAA forum team would like to welcome everyone who has joined or re-visited the forum, and hopes to see more members on the boards in the coming months.

Jump right in—the discussion's fine!

DWAA Awards

The March newsletter contained an announcement of *almost* all the award winners honored at our annual banquet in February. Here are two more winners! Also, enjoy some new images of the excitement at this year's banquet. All photos are courtesy of DWAA member and photographer, Mary Bloom.



M. Christine Zink, DVM PhD, Winner of the Proplan President's Award for "The Agility Advantage," Clear Run Productions.



David Frei: Winner of the AKC Distinguished Service Award for his many achievements in written and spoken communications.

A Gallery of Banquet Images



Here Comes the Judge!

*This story is from **Tom O'Shea**, a long-time dog writer, dedicated DWAA member, and recent DWAA Hall of Fame Inductee (see March 2009 Ruff Drafts).*

A lifelong passion for purebred dogs has endowed Sari Brewster Tietjen with a pedigree of her own. In the dog world, the greatest honor that one can befall a dog judge is to be selected to judge the best in show finale at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show. That honor this year went to Rhinebeck's own Sari Brewster Tietjen. She selected the best in show dog on Tuesday night, Feb. 10, before thousands of dog fanciers at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Hundreds of thousands probably saw the event on television, too.

Tietjen and this writer both became members of the Dog Writers Association of America in 1976. At that time, I was an associate director of the Gaines Dog Research Center. Among my duties was mailing more than 4,000 ballots annually to dog club members across the country to choose the Man, Woman, Writer and Handler of the Year.

In 1981, Tietjen was named Writer of the Year. The ballot said she was being nominated "for her informative and educational articles and the challenging puzzles concocted for the AKC Gazette; for her 'Dog Judges handbook,' a primer for approved and aspiring judges."

In 1984, she was honored as Woman of the Year "for her thought-provoking weekly column in Canine Chronicle" along with "her dedication as a conscientious, considerate, thorough judge and for her overall interest in purebred dogs." As a result of the voting, Tietjen is one of very few people to have earned Gaines Fido statuettes in two different categories. The Fido awards, presented for more than 50 years, were held in high esteem because the winners were selected by knowledgeable dog people.

Tietjen's first honor in the dog world came many years earlier, in 1957. As a pre-teen, she handled her dog to first place in the Japanese Spaniel Club National Specialty. The Japanese Spaniel is now called the Japanese Chin, and Tietjen is a worldwide authority on her favorite breed.

Tietjen has judged around the world for 40 years and has judges 10 times at Westminster. She estimates that international shows have taken her to a dozen countries. This year, her schedule will take her to China, Sweden, Italy and possibly Japan. Her early 2009 shows are in Florida, Alabama, New York (Westminster), Washington, D.C., Indiana, China and Illinois.

"Traveling is the worst part about being a dog judge," says Tietjen. "I always have my bags packed and I usually fly from Stewart Airport but it's been getting harder every year, with fewer flights and fewer services. My dream is to have a dog show in my back yard and just go out the back door to judge."

Right now, her back yard holds eight "pensioners" – older Japanese Chins enjoying being senior citizens. They live in a fenced in kennel behind the Victorian house the Tietjens bought 25 years ago and have been "fixing up" since then.

"I couldn't do all the judging without the help of my husband (Rhinebeck attorney Herman Tietjen), my son Rick and my daughter-in-law Lori," she says. "They baby sit the house and dogs while I'm gone."

Why is the Westminster Dog Club show considered so important in the dog world? Primarily because all 2,525 dogs entered every year have earned the title of champion by winning at other shows. When Tietjen steps into the ring, she will see seven group winning dogs representing 170 breeds or varieties of those 2,525 dogs entered. Through the years, the Westminster winner has usually been retired as an active show dog and goes on to maternal or paternal duties.

Consider this recent conversation between Mr. and Mrs. Herman Tietjen:

She: The Westminster Kennel Club wants me to judge best in show in February.

He: That's wonderful. The best in show dog usually retires after winning Westminster. What about the judge?

She: Don't even go there!

Coming Soon: A New DWAA Web Site

A complete design makeover for our Web presence will soon bring many advantages for all members. The new site will be more informative. It will feature breaking dog news and information directly relevant to dog writing. Members will have lots of opportunities to submit articles and stories, photographs, and other media. There will be a new archive of *Ruff Drafts* newsletters, a complete history of DWAA award winners, an expanding collection of member materials, updated links to member sites and blogs, and a searchable roster. Special members-only sections will contain information to help you network and advance your career.

Watch for announcements as the new site moves towards its unveiling!

Matthew Schenker
Newsletter/Web Editor



Tom O'Shea accepting his Hall of Fame plaque at our February awards ceremony in New York.

See page 7 of this newsletter for a story by Mr. O'Shea.

Liz Palika
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