



THE WRITE DOG

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

Founded 1935

March 2005

2004 Writing Competition Winners!



The writing contest entries stacked up significantly higher than Liz Palika's dogs. Riker and Bashir checked out the various scents on the load of entries received October 1st, 2004. And in case you thought that was all of it, that is just one day's worth of entries! Congratulations again to all the nominees.

So let's hear it once more for Liz Palika (woof woof! Click treat!) and say thanks to Terry Albert for stepping up to the plate for next year's contest.

Covering Our Best Friend

DWAA Board to Explore Ways to Cut Costs, Increase Revenue for Programs and Services

Jan Mahood, DWAA President

Thank you for electing me DWAA president. I'll do my utmost to lead our organization in advancing the interests of you the members, all dogs, and responsible owners. Let me hear from you.

The first thing I'll do as president is ask your board to find ways to cut costs and increase revenue. Our Audit Committee has reported a downward trend in net worth over the past four years. We must reverse this trend in order to continue our programs, improve our member services, and build our scholarship fund.

Some ways to boost our revenue would be to increase dues, membership application fees, and Writing Competition entry fees. We could send out a "Dear Friends" letter for the scholarship fund. We could reduce the amount of money we send to outside organizations and apply it to programs that would generate income for DWAA. Every little bit helps, and our new treasurer Rue Chagoll will raise the charges for returned checks and look into ways to reduce bank charges. There are all sorts of ways and means. Let me hear your ideas.

I'd also like to encourage informal DWAA gatherings around the country so that members can enjoy fellowship, exchange ideas, and generate business for themselves and each other. In the past, DWAA has held three meetings a year in conjunction with Westminster, Morris & Essex, and one other large dog show. We might want to try something similar, perhaps with an informal "bully session" centered on a luncheon and communications seminar. We could continue to have our formal Annual Meeting in conjunction with Westminster, and supplement that with regional gatherings throughout the year. At the very least, they'd be fun and we'd learn something. What do you think?

Finally, I've asked our Publicity Committee, chaired by Bryna Comsky, to identify and develop opportunities to increase positive publicity about DWAA. We're off to a great start with advance and follow-up releases about the 70th Anniversary Awards Banquet, the Writing Competition winners, and your new officers and board members. If you know of newsworthy activities in which members of DWAA are involved, contact Bryna.

The world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.

Nowhere is Robert Louis Stevenson's advice to young readers in *A Child's Garden of Verses* more applicable than right here in our world of dogs. As I looked around at the faces of friends and acquaintances long-time and new at the DWAA 70th Anniversary Awards Banquet, the Garden, the flapping 23 miles of orange sheets in Central Park, the festive dog-related events throughout the week, I saw how wide a range of interest is represented by our membership. The dog world is so full of a number of things, we'll never run out of topics to write about: purebred dogs, lovable mutts, the canine genome, shows, events, adoption, training, health and nutrition, the human-canine bond, search and rescue, service dogs, responsible ownership, legislation, history, gossip . . . every puppy, every discovery, every day offers us ink-stained wretches and computer jockeys fresh opportunities to tell the story of our best friend.

Winners at the Awards Banquet Sunday evening, Feb. 13, proved that DWAA members continue to tell the story well year after year. Some of the club entries — I happened to read those of French Bulldogs and Scottish Terriers — were not only beautifully written, but based on original research. In these cases, we not only write the news; we *are* the news.

A big THANK YOU to our great friends the American Kennel Club, which sponsored the reception, and to banquet co-sponsors Ft. Dodge, Purina, Schering-Plough, and Sergeant's. And special thanks to Writing Competition Chairman Liz Palika, Secretary and Banquet Chairman Pat Santi, 70th Anniversary Committee, and all DWAA members who helped make the 70th a very special occasion.

Thanks, too, to our friends who donated gifts for the Silent Auction and Raffle, which garnered \$650 and \$350, respectively, to benefit the DWAA Scholarship Fund.

The dog world is so full of a number of things and a diversity of interests, all held together at the heart by love of dogs and concern with their wellbeing.

Where Were You?

The only place I didn't see the diversity of interests we represent was at the Annual Meeting Sunday afternoon. Where *were* you? We missed you! What will it take to get you there next year so you can voice your ideas and concerns – and *vote*?

Remember those meetings of a few years ago when Tom and Ede O'Shea cooked up a storm and dozens of DWAA members flocked to the DWAA Hospitality Suite where the meetings were held? What was the difference between then and now?

I know: Food! So your board has decided that in 2006 lunch again will be served at the DWAA Annual Meeting.

Also, several Sunday events compete with our meeting, so we've moved the DWAA Annual Meeting up an hour. It will be at noon instead of 1 p.m. Lunch and a meeting at noon, during which you'll have the opportunity to participate in the future of DWAA. Then catch the AKC Open House, visit a dog art exhibit at Secord's or Doyle's, or grab a nap before the Big Event that evening, the Annual Awards Banquet. What could be better?

If you need further enticement to appear and be heard, please let me know – dogrose@rochester.rr.com – and your board will do our best to accommodate you, so we can say “The gang's all here” in 2006.

Lost: Display Sign

Contact Amy Fernandez

In the “No good deed goes unpunished” department, DWAA board member and artist Amy Fernandez generously donated a certificate for a portrait of the winner's own dog to the 70th Anniversary Raffle and provided a stand and sign to go with the samples on display outside the Banquet Room at the Southgate. Did the winner inadvertently take away the display stand and sign as well? Was it left at the Southgate? If anyone has any knowledge of who won the portrait or has seen Amy's sign, please contact her at flappy666@aol.com.

2004 Writing Contest Winners

Congratulations go out to all nominees and winners of the annual contest. This contest is truly one in which it is a real honor to be nominated.

1. Newspaper: feature or news story
Deborah Wood, Aggression Suppression (The Oregonian)
2. Newspaper: column
Sophia Yin, DVM, Pet Tales (San Francisco Chronicle)
3. Newspaper: editorial/opinion/essay
Sherry Carpenter, Courts Take Up Value (Sunbury Daily Item)
4. Magazine: all breed
AKC Gazette
5. Magazine: single breed
Basset Hounds (Popular Dogs)
6. Magazine: special interest dog or all animal
Clean Run
7. Magazine: yearbook/annual/special publication
Puppies USA
8. Magazine: feature in all breed magazine
Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, I Hereby Declare (Canine Chronicle)
9. Magazine: feature in a single breed magazine
Diane Morgan, Discover the Jewel (Lhasa Apso)
10. Magazine: feature in special interest magazine
D. Caroline Coile, Puppy Safety Quiz (Healthy Puppy)
11. Magazine: feature in all animal magazine
Jacque Lynn Schultz, Shaping Up Shelter Dogs (Animal Watch)
12. Magazine: feature in general interest magazine
Beth Ann Amico, Picking the Perfect Puppy (Woman's Outlook)
13. Magazine: feature in canine newspaper or newsletter
Phyllis DeGioia, Advances in Anesthesia (Your Dog)
14. Magazine: feature in annual publication or other
Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz, Read the Fine Puppy Print (Puppies USA)
15. Magazine: editorial/opinion/essay
Michael Rosen, Slumber Sweet (AKC Family Dog)
16. Magazine: regular column
Jean Donaldson, Behaviour (Dogs in Canada)
17. Magazine: subject related series
Jodi Anderson, Problem Solver (AKC Family Dog)
18. Internet: feature article
Kip Kirby, Agility Dogs on the Road (Agility Action Online)
19. Internet: regular column
Laurie Leach, Agility Action (Agility Action)
20. Short Fiction
Emelise Baughman, The Healer (IG Times)
21. Poetry
Lee Netzler, Twin Bedding (The Scotsman)
22. Humor: short story or humorous text
E. M. Harrington, Rex in the City (Bark)
23. Humorous Art
Darby Conley, Get Fuzzy (United Feature Syndicate)
24. Photography: color
Trina Koster, Bulldog (Dogs in Canada)
25. Photography: black and white
Laura Bostwick, Spanky and Patee (The French Bullytin)

26. Photography: series
Chet Jezierski, Crème de la Coco (2004 D Annual)
27. Illustration or Painting
Max Licht, Nature vs Nurture (Dogs in Canada)
28. Illustration: series
Phil Lang, IGs in Action (IG Times)
29. Poster or Special Publication
American Kennel Club Annual Report
30. Calendar
Jane Harding, Portuguese Water Dog 2004 Calendar (PWDC)
31. Videotape/CD/DVD
Virginia Broitman and Sherri Lippman, The How of Bow Wow (Take a Bow Wow)
32. Broadcast Journalism
Steve Dale, Pet Central
33. National or International Club: magazine format
The German Shepherd Dog Review
34. National or International Club: newsletter format
Komondor Komments
35. National or International Club: magazine: feature
Sue Jeffries, TDX GSD Finds Lost Australian Shepherd (GSD Review)
36. National or International Club: newsletter: feature
Fern and Charlie Quirnbach, Judith Ecklund, and Lorraine Brewer; Sled Dog Racing with GSDS (GSD Review)
37. National or International Club: regular column
Meredith Linn, Behavior (Australian Shepherd Journal)
38. National or International Club: subject related series
Annette Cochran, Training a Solid Article Indication (AS Journal)
39. Regional or Local Club: magazine or newsletter
Wag Tales (We Adopt Greyhounds)
40. Regional or Local Club: feature article
Curt Harler, In a Cavern, In a Canyon (Golden Tales)
41. Regional or Local Club: regular column
Kate Eldredge, Korgi Kids (Corgi Cryer)
42. Regional or Local Club: subject related series
Deborah Harper, Breeder's Forum (Corgi Cyer)
43. Book: single breed
Gayle Kaye A Century of Collies (Collie Expressions Magazine)
44. Book: single breed pet guide
Kim Thornton, The Everything Labrador Retriever Book (Adams Media)
45. Book: general interest
Claudia Kawczynska Dog is My Co-Pilot (Crown/Random House)
46. Book: general reference
Robert Cole An Eye for a Dog (DogWise)
47. Book: care and health
Susan McCullough Senior Dogs for Dummies (Wiley)
48. Book: training and behavior
Cheryl Smith The Rosetta Bone (Howell)
49. Book: fiction
Martin Greenberg and Alexander Potter Sirius (DAW Books)
50. Book: humor
Chaz Chapman and Stacy Curtis You Know Your Dog Owns You (BowTie Press)
51. Book: children's
Gail Langer Karwoski Quake! (Peachtree Pubs)
52. Book: under 100 pages
Christine Davis For Every Dog an Angel (Lighthearted Press)

Special Award Winners

The American Kennel Club is offering the **AKC RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD** for the newspaper or magazine regular column writer who consistently uses his/her public platform to educate pet owners about responsible dog ownership. The award consists of a plaque and a \$1,000 cash grant. To enter, submit a portfolio of previously published columns (minimum 3) detailing your contributions. At least one piece of this work must be entered in this year's contest in the regular categories.

Sarah Ferrell

The American Kennel Club is offering the **AKC CLUB PUBLICATION EXCELLENCE AWARD** for the best article in a national, regional, or local club publication, magazine or newsletter format. The award consists of a plaque and a \$250 cash grant.

**September Morn "Motivating Dogs Who Don't Want Nothin"
(Chuckanut Companion)**

The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation is offering the **AKC CHF RESEARCH COMMUNICATION AWARD** for the work that best informs the public about canine health research. All media and lengths are eligible. Entries will be judged for clarity and interpretation of complex science and its terminology, making research principles and products understandable and immediately accessible to dog owners and breeders. The award consists of a plaque and \$1,000 cash.

Nancy Peterson "Dogs Get Ulcers, too" (Your Dog)

The ASPCA is offering the **HUMANE ISSUES SPECIAL AWARD** for the work that best illuminates one of the following aspects of the ASPCA mission: pet overpopulation, humane education, shelter adoptions, or the prevention of cruelty. All media are eligible for this award, but preference will be given to a substantive entry that exhibits the highest level of professionalism in its execution. The award consists of a plaque and a \$500 cash grant.

Barbara Robertson "Dog is in the Details" (The Bark)

*The DWAA is offering the **DWAA JUNIOR WRITER AWARD** to writers under 18 years of age. The award recognizes and encourages young writers who exhibit talent, resourcefulness, dedication, and integrity in their writing about dogs and dog-related topics. The award consists of a \$250 cash grant and the Association's Maxwell Medallion.

Tom Eldredge, "Baloo's HT" (AKC Jr News)

The Iams Company is offering the **EUKANUBA CANINE HEALTH AWARD** for the article or book that best promotes the health and well-being of dogs. Entries will be judged for accuracy, clear writing, and the representation of a fresh view of canine health (i.e., nutrition, veterinary care, etc.). The award consists of a plaque and a \$750 cash grant.

**Rhonda Hovan "Preventive Health Care Through Risk Management"
(Golden Retriever News)**

Howell Book House is sponsoring the **Elsworth S. Howell Award** for the best article on judging, exhibiting, dog-show reporting or any other aspect of conformation showing. The award consists of a certificate and a \$500 cash grant.

Amy Fernandez "What Makes a Xolo?" (The Xolo News)

The **HSUS COMPASSIONATE CARE AWARD** is offered for the best print, audio, or video work focusing on the humane treatment of dogs, particularly those in animal shelter, animal rescue, animal rehabilitation, or individual family settings. The winner will receive a \$500 cash award and a plaque.

Diane Leigh, Marilee Geyer "One Day at a Time" (No Voice Unheard)

Merial is sponsoring the **MERIAL HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD** for the work that best highlights the special bond between people and their treasured pets. The winning work should be an exceptional entry that highlights the unique relationship between a dog and its owner, and best brings to life the concept of the human-animal bond. The coveted award consists of a \$500 cash grant, plus \$250 toward an airline ticket to accept the award.

Patti Sherlock “Letters from Wolfie” (Viking Children’s Book)

Off Lead offers \$300 and a plaque to the author of the best training article.

Barbara McNinch “Seize the Moments” (Puppy Gazette)

Pet Sitters International offers the **PSI FIRST-CANINE AWARD**, presented to the best humorous feature story or article written from the perspective of a dog. The winning entry will receive a certificate, plaque, and a \$150 cash grant.

Margaret Bonham “The Ultimate Weapon” (Yard Dog Press)

Radio Systems is offering a \$1,500 award for the best training publication in book or other bound form. The company will also provide up to \$500 toward the winner’s travel expenses and will offer the winner’s book for sale at its pet spa, PetSafe Village.

Cheryl Smith “The Rosetta Bone” (Howell)

WCFO, Inc is awarding the “2004 WFCO Excellence in Canine Freestyle Media” award plaque and \$150 check to the work showing off the sport of canine freestyle.

Mary Simpson “Greyhound, Come Dance With Me” Celebrating Greyhounds

The Bob Cole Award for Educational Writing. The Ottawa Kennel Club offers this award in memory of Mr. Robert Cole, long time Dog Judge and writer of books and articles on structure and movement as well as the fine points of breed type. The award will be presented annually for the best article in a magazine or newspaper which illustrates either the fine points of a particular breed or illustrates particular aspects of structure or movement in dogs that is intended to inform or educate the public or dog breeders. This award consists of a certificate and a \$350 cash prize.

Dr. Vandra Huber, PhD “How Do We Measure Up” (The Bagpiper)

DogWise is offering \$350 to the author of the best book. The winner will be chosen from the winners of all the book categories.

Claudia Kawczynska “Dog is My Co-Pilot” (Crown/Random House)

The Pro Plan President’s Award. Pro Plan will supply a \$750 prize and a bowl with the winner’s name engraved on it. This is the Best in Show chosen from all of the winners of the individual categories.

Cheryl Smith “The Rosetta Bone” (Howell)

*The American Kennel Club offers the **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** for extraordinary achievement and communications excellence, recognizing the person who, by word, deed, exemplary conduct, public communication and professional excellence, promotes the best interest of the sport of dogs. The award consists of a plaque and a \$500 cash grant.

Liz Palika

Thanks go out once again to our own wonderful Liz Palika, award winner and contest chair, for all of her amazing effort in making the contest work. You’re the best, Liz! The contest will be managed by Terry Albert next year.

The Post Dues-Have-Arrived Million and One Roster Changes

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Second Dues Notice

This is your Second Notice, Dues are now due. \$40.00 Professional and Associate

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

Freelance or _____

E-mail _____

Home phone: _____

Bus. Phone _____

Fax _____

Checks made out to DWAA. Send to: Pat Santi, Secretary, 173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320-1326

DWAA General Meeting, February 13, 2005

Southgate Tower Hotel, Madison Room
Chris Walkowicz, President, opened meeting at 1:15 P.M.

We had a moment of silence for our dear lost members Ede Munnecke and Bob Cole.

Ten Members were present and one guest. Jan Mahood, Chris Walkowicz, Mordecai Siegal, Deb Eldredge, DVM, Darlene Arden, Ranny Green, Amy Fernandez, Bryna Comsky, Cheryl Smith and Pat Santi. John Kleppner was a guest.

Minutes of the 2004 General Meeting were published in March 2004 newsletter, however the secretary passed out copies to those present. Minutes approved, Jan moved and Mordecai seconded M/S/P.

Deb moved, second by Darlene that the secretary cast one ballot for the new officers. M/S/P

Secretary cast one ballot for the following:

President Jan Mahood
VP Ranny Green
Sec. Pat Santi
Tres. Rue Chagoll
President Emeritus Chris Walkowicz
Board of Directors
2008 Darlene Arden – Mordecai Siegal
2007 David Frei- Debra Eldredge, DVM
2006 Dr. Carmen Battaglia- Amy Fernandez

Jan Mahood took over the meeting from Chris. Jan gave a great thank you to all our sponsors for our 70th Banquet.
Pat reported that we have 222 reservations for tonight, which is the top we've had in a long while.

Treasurer report: as of December 2004 we had \$42,523.17

Contest: no report

Special Awards: no report

Newsletter: no report

Web Site: no report

Book Signing: Amy gave a report of the book signing as of Saturday February 12. They moved from the Thompson Room to the lobby by the elevators and books were sold.

PR: Bryna gave a report of her work and how many reports she had ready to send when she returned home. Jan asked if she could do it on a laptop and Bryna said she did not have one with her. Mentoring: this slot is not filled at the moment

Chris asked Jan if Rue was planning to get bonded as Treasurer. Jan has asked him to do this.

Pat read the list of chairs for the coming term:

Contest: Terry Albert

Special Awards: Kim Thornton

Newsletter: Phyllis DeGioia

Web Site: Kathy Buetow-Bronson

Book Signings: Amy Fernandez

PR: Bryna Comsky

Legal: Ida Estep

Banquet: Pat Santi

Historian: Gerry Hayes

Scholarships: Deb Eldredge, DVM

Emcee for 2006: Darlene Arden

DWAA-PRO List: Darlene, Chris, Cheryl and Deb

Membership Solicitation: Elaine Gewirtz

CWA-DWAA Liaison: Mordecai Siegal

Pat moved and Deb second that the meeting adjourn M/S/P at 1:30 P.M.

Pat Santi, Secretary

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Class of 2008 - Mordecai Siegal (Pres. Emeritus) and Darlene Arden
Class of 2007 – David Frei and Debra Eldredge
Class of 2006 – Carmen Battaglia and Amy Fernandez

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(Please send all material for the newsletter to the Newsletter Editor)

DWAA Web Site: www.DWAA.org

When your address changes, or if you did not receive your newsletter or roster,
PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY for a copy. Pat Santi, contact information above.

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