



THE WRITE DOG

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

Founded 1935

October 2004



Mini me and...just kidding! Liz Palika's new Australian shepherd puppy, Bashir, and Riker look so much alike. They've been "helping" Liz with the writing contest entries. Liz appreciates their help as the contest takes quite a bit of time and energy to organize, which is why these guys need a nap after helping out.

More Details on the 70th Anniversary Celebration!

Meanderings

“One of the signs of Napoleon’s greatness is the fact that he once had a publisher shot.”
Siegfried Unself

On the bottom end of my term in office, I have only four more columns to write-- one of which I’ve bamboozled your Vice President, Jan Mahood, to write to entice more of you to New York. I’ve just about run out of topics (although not quotes!) after four years as your President. So I’ve been trying to think of something I may have not covered. I write mostly articles and books, so those have been my focus. Although I’ve co-edited and written for club newsletters and magazines, I realized I’ve been a mite light in this area.

Probably the most undersung heroes in the dog writing arena, the editors of club publications spend long hours doing what they do with little gratification, except for the love of their breed. A great perk is the quote that led into this column. You’re your own publisher (usually) and have only yourself to answer to.

These underpaid (more likely non-paid) unthanked, and overworked souls (usually volunteers) have one of the most necessary jobs in a club. The newsletter/magazine editor informs the membership of decisions made by the Board, officers and/or executive body. Information about upcoming activities (shows, meetings, fun activities) is dispersed among members through the official club publication(s). Yet they are often criticized for their efforts! (Well, I guess we all can be, but at least it’s easier to take when a paycheck soothes our wounded egos.)

Putting out a Praiseworthy Publication

It helps if the editor has a committee of more than one. When I’m judging club publications for our organization or others, one of the first things I look for is original articles. Although attractive typesetting, paper stock and photos are appealing, not all clubs can afford this, and – just like when I’m judging dogs – internal structure is more important than the outside (although it’s nice to have both!)

Find others to write pieces for the newsletter – tada! Original articles!!! – not the easiest thing to do – even with a writers newsletter such as this one, (eh, Phyllis?) Or perhaps it may be even more difficult to ask writers to take the busman’s holiday and write a piece just for the joy of seeing their own names in print. It’s hard for busy people to find the time to do it, particularly because there’s no compensation....or is there? To be Pollyannaish, such a sacrifice would help other members – to give advice, to avoid mistakes, to inform about a little known subject.

So how to convince someone to do this? Pat them on the back for a job well done. How did they sell to a mainstream publication? How did they obtain a column in this prestigious magazine? They self-published a book – WOW! I’d like to know how to do that! Perhaps a member has had success with an agent or a publicist. These would be great topics. (I’m concentrating on our newsletter, here, but similar things would work in the dog club world.)

Every year at the CWA conference, the CWA/DWAA writing seminars have great topics, ones that inform, entertain and help us to understand that we are not the only ones in this (seemingly) lonely world. Why couldn't the presenters write this as an article following the presentation for either or both the DWAA's "The Write Dog" or the CWA's "Meow"? It's difficult to tape these and sell them (we need more man/woman power for one thing), but we receive requests for them every year. This would be a way to make a newsletter more informative, fulfill requests, fill pages and ease the editor's pleas.

If possible, coax someone to do a column on an expertise, whether that be obedience, herding, grooming, tracking, vet care or whatever. Better yet, entice two or more columnists. This task might be made more appealing by allowing that person to run a small ad (with club approval) in the publication.

Another way to publish a winning newsletter/magazine is to include all information about a reprint: certainly the author, his/her permission to reprint, and the source(s). And this means contacting the source the piece appeared in AND the author. Certainly we know how important this is, I hope!

Don't assume the readership is interested in only one facet of the dog game or the one you, the editor, prefer! I enjoy seeing a variety of subjects covered. This means, unless the organization is for one purpose only (i.e., health), it's good to have articles on conformation and performance events. Additional pieces on temperament, behavior or social interaction, such as therapy work, are bonuses.

Typesetting does not have to be fancy. It doesn't have to be justified (flush left and right), but print should be sharp and clear, making the type easy to read. If pictures aren't possible, graphics and borders help break items up.

Quality paper, good binding and a splash of color are all embellishments, but if we have only a little money to spare, spend it on good paper.

Avoiding Criticism

"Everyone needs an editor." Tim Foote, commenting in *Time* magazine on the fact that Hitler's original title for Mein Kampf was Four-and-a-Half Years of Struggle against Lies, Stupidity, and Cowardice.

"I have performed the necessary butchery. Here is the bleeding corpse." Henry James, following a request from the TLS to cut three lines from a 5,000 word article. (Don't ask me what TLS is...the lead surgeon?)

Enlist someone to proof the finished product before committing to print. This can be anyone – if not a member, your spouse or mother! Of course, they should know basic grammar and spelling! When we look at something over and over again, we tend to miss things. (Remember my angst when I spy a typo in a book after I've combed through it five times and two editors have as well?)

Have a few extra copies printed. It seems that someone always falls through the cracks for whatever reason, and when they write complaining they haven't received the newsletter, you 1) have a copy to send that person and 2) know they're reading it and miss it!

Happy editing (and *thank* you, to all club newsletter/magazine editors/gods/goddesses!).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fort Dodge to Sponsor 70th DWAA Banquet

Fort Dodge will be a major sponsor for our 70th DWAA banquet to be held on February 13th. We are glad to welcome them to join us for our celebration! On behalf of Fort Dodge, our members are grateful for their generous donation allowing us to discount the cost of the evening for us. Many thanks are extended to all of our sponsors.

Once again the AKC will sponsor that wonderful cocktail party to be held where we meet and greet. The Pro Plan President's Award is sponsored by Pro Plan for the best entry among the Maxwell winners, our very own "Best in Show." The award consists of a plaque and a \$750 cash grant. Another sponsor is Pet Sitters International (PSI), who just selected Holly Cook of Marysville, MI, as Pet Sitter of the Year for 2004.

Special Catalog

We are having a Special Catalog for the 70th Anniversary. If you know any businesses or friends who would like to place an ad, you can relay the following costs. These ads can be placed by all members and their friends.

Business card size ads: \$20.00 per placement
1/2 page ads: \$70.00

Please send ads to: Pat Santi, 173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320-1326. These ads must be in by December 15, 2004 and will appear in February 2005.

Silent Auction Items Sought

A silent auction at our February meeting will also benefit the scholarship fund. We need more donations of luxury baskets for the silent auction. If you'd like to provide or solicit a gift, please contact Jan Mahood at dogrose@rochester.rr.com.

Some of the donations are a gift basket of books donated by The William Second Gallery; a basket of cheer from The Southgate; a gift basket of books by Mordecai Siegal; a certificate for a seminar from Pat Hastings; a gift basket from SturdiBags and more will be added.

Raffle Tickets at February DWAA Meeting

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.00. The prize is a giclée print donated by The Westminster Kennel Club (valued at \$495.00). The print is signed and numbered by artist Misha Lenn. The giclée technique is a method of digital printing that creates reproductions that are virtually indistinguishable from the originals. The proceeds from the raffle will benefit the DWAA Junior Education Scholarship for young people planning a dog-related career.

Tickets are available now. Please send tickets (printed below, copy as many as you'd like) and check to: Pat Santi, Secretary, 173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320-1326

You do not have to be present to win.

Copy this raffle ticket

Name _____

Address _____

All members are invited to subscribe to the DWAA-PRO e-list, send a blank e-mail with no subject line and no signature to:

DWAA-Pro-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

We discuss books, articles, anything pertaining to writing or DWAA. Members can create a profile to access files of samples -- book proposal, article query, reprint permission, co-author agreement, agent advice, tax tips, and so on. Members can also create their own files w/samples of their writing and photography.

Order Your Westminster Tickets Online

David Frei of the Westminster Kennel Club says the ticket order form for the 129th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show to be held Feb 14-15, 2005 is now available on their web site at www.westminsterkennelclub.org.

Constitution and By Laws

The constitution and by laws of DWAA have been revised. The current info follows.

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA INC.
FOUNDED 1935
INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

CONSTITUTION

Name and Objects

Section 1. The Name of this Association shall be the DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC., hereinafter referred to as the Association.

Section 2. This Association shall be organized exclusively for, and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, and will not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code.

The objects of the Association shall be:

- (a) To promote the interests of dogs through news and informational channels.
- (b) To provide a medium for the exchange of ideas, methods, and professional courtesies among its members.
- (c) To promote a high standard of ethics in the writing, collecting, and disseminating of dog news.
- (d) To promote and support an Annual Writing Competition. (Adopted 2004)

Section 3. The Association shall not be conducted or operated for profit, and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from donations to the Association shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

In the event of the dissolution of the Association, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the Association nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the Association shall be distributed to any members of the Association: but after payment of the debts of the Association, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization selected by the Board of Governors. Such organization shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 4. The members of the Association shall adopt, and may from time to time revise, such By Laws as may be required to carry out these objects.

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC
FOUNDED 1935

BY LAWS (ADOPTED AUGUST 25, 1982)

article 1

Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be limited to those persons to promote the best interests of dogs through news or informational channels and qualifying fields of experience. (Adopted 1997)

There shall be the following classes of membership:

- (a) Professional Membership shall include those persons who are actively engaged, on a regular basis, in writing (or other forms of dissemination of information) about dogs and who are paid for their work. This class of membership shall pay dues, have voting privileges, and be entitled to receive the Association's Press Card.

(b) Associate Membership is established to encourage writers who are published but not necessarily paid for their work. May serve as a member of a regular appointed committee. Associate Membership shall pay dues but shall not run or hold an office and shall not have voting privileges nor receive a Press Card (Membership Card Only) (Adopted 1997)

(c) Retired Membership shall include those persons who are no longer actively writing and have reached the age of at least 65 and have had at least 15 years continuous membership in the Association. Any member may apply for Retired Membership at any age after 65 when he discontinues writing on an active or regular basis. A member may apply and, when approved by the board, shall pay one-half the regular dues and retain the same privileges he had as a Professional or Associate Member.

(d) Honorary Membership may be conferred by the Board upon any member who is retired and has been a member for at least 20 years. There shall be no annual dues and the member shall retain the same privileges he had as a Professional or Associate Member.

(e) Junior Membership for those under 18 years of age who actively engage on a regular basis, in writing and are paid for their work. This class shall pay dues, receive a Press Card, but will not hold office or have voting privileges. (If they are not paid they will receive an Associate Card). They will automatically become Professional Members at the age of 18 if paid and Associate Members if not paid. (Adopted 2004)

Section 2. Members in good standing shall not lose their classification because of change in their occupational situation: but because of a changed situation may apply for a higher classification.

Section 3. All applicants for membership must be sponsored by two members in good standing and must have the affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board of Governors and must submit three copies of their work and a resume if desired.

Section 4. Dues for the ensuing year shall be set by a vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting. As nearly as possible, notice shall be mailed the first week of January and payable by March 1.

Members in arrears after March 1 shall be notified, and failure to remit dues by May 1 shall result in termination of membership for the ensuing year. Dues notices may be included in the Newsletter. (Adopted 1997)

Section 5. Termination of Membership: A member shall cease to be a member of the Association if:

(a) Such member resigns by giving notice in writing to the secretary.

(b) Such member fails to pay dues.

(c) Such member has conduct deemed detrimental to the best interest of the Association (procedure as stated in ARTICLE V1.)

Section 6. Reinstatement of Membership: With the approval of the Board, a member whose membership has been terminated for nonpayment of dues may reinstate his membership by paying for the current year. After one year of termination, a new application must be submitted.

ARTICLE 11

Meetings and voting:

Section 1. Board of Governors: Regular meetings of the Board of Governors may be held as specified by the Association.

Section 2. Calendar year: The Calendar year shall be from the first day of March through the last day of February.

Section 3. Annual Meeting: The Board of Governors shall have at least one regular meeting annually, at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Governors. Notice shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting to all members eligible to vote.

A majority of the members present and voting can transact business.

Section 4. Conducting Business: In intervals between meetings of the board of Governors, the President or Secretary may refer and submit by mail, telephone, or telegram and fax or E-mail to the members of the Board specific questions relating to the affairs or management of the Association which, in the opinion of the President, require action on the part of the Board of Governors. The result of such referendum, if consented to in writing by a majority of the members of the Board voting therein, as specifically provided for in these By Laws, shall constitute the act of said Board of Governors and be binding upon the Association as if the approval were taken at a duly constituted meeting. (Adopted 1997)

Section 5. Voting: the Board may refer questions to the membership for their vote by mail. Unless otherwise specifically provided for in these By Laws, a majority vote of those voting shall be binding on the Association.

Section 6. Quorum: The Affirmative vote of the majority of the Board Members present at a meeting shall be necessary to transact business, providing a minimum of three members are present and the President or Vice President. If a meeting is held by other means of communication as provided in Section 4, the board members shall have 15 (15) days to respond. Those failing to respond shall be considered an affirmative vote. (Adopted 1997)

Proxy voting will not be permitted at any meeting, election, or referendum by the Board or by the Membership.

ARTICLE 111

Board of Governors:

Section 1. Number: The Board of Governors of the Association hereinafter referred to as the board shall consist of eleven (11) persons.

Section 2. Election: The Members of the Board shall be elected by the vote of the majority of those members voting.

Section 3. Term of Office: Each Board member shall hold office until his successor is elected and qualified at the Annual Meeting, or until his death, or resignation.

- (a) Officers will be elected for a term of two (2) years. Adopted 1994)
- (b) The Immediate Past President shall hold office until replaced by a new Past President.
- (c) Two (2) Board Members will be elected each year to serve for (3) year terms

Section 4. Duties: The Board shall be responsible for the control and management of the affairs, property, and interests of the Association; and for keeping the general public informed of the activities of the Association.

Section 5. Committees: the Board may create and appoint committees to assist the Governors in the conduct of the affairs of the Association.

Section 6. Vacancies: Any vacancy on the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the remaining Governors, except as outlined in ARTICLE IV, *Section 2(b)*.

Section 7. For cause, any member of the Board of Governors may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the remaining Board Members.

ARTICLE IV

Officers:

Section 1. Number. The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. If circumstances should warrant, the office of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined with the dual officer having one vote.

Section 2. Duties:

(a) The President shall preside at all the meetings of the Association and, subject to the direction of the Board, shall have general charge of the affairs, property, and interests of the Association and shall be signatory on the funds of the Association. The President shall be ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. (Adopted 1997)

(b) The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's absence, incapacity, or death. If the Office of the President should become vacant, the Vice President shall assume such office for the unexpired term.

(c) The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Board and of all matters of which a record should be ordered, cause all notices to be duly given, and perform all duties incident to the office. The Secretary shall keep the records of and coordinate new member applications and have newly elected members directory information published in the next available Newsletter. The Secretary shall keep the permanent record of all members of the Association for the Membership Directory. (Adopted 1997)

(d) The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds, securities, receipts, and disbursements of all the Association: and shall keep all books of account of all the business transactions of the Association. The treasurer shall render to the President or to the Board, whenever requested, a statement of the financial condition of the Association and of all transactions as Treasurer; and shall render a full financial report, based on the books and accounts audited annually by a qualified accountant or auditing committee, at the Annual Meeting of the Association

ARTICLE V

Committees

Section 1. Appointment: the President shall appoint the Chairman of all Committees.

Section 2. Standing Committees: the President may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Association. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the board.

Section 3. Termination: Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee: and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

Section 4. Special Committees: special committees may be appointed by the President from time to time.

Section 5. Nominating Committee: the Board shall elect a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members to prepare and submit a slate of Governors for the ensuing year.

(a) The Nominating Committee shall be named before August 1.

- (b) The Report of the Nominating Committee shall be received by the Secretary in time to be published in the October Newsletter.
- (c) Any Member in good standing may petition to run for a specific office if he sends to the Secretary, before November 1, a petition signed by ten (10) members in good standing. (Adopted 1997)
- (d) On or about December 1, the Secretary will mail a ballot to each member in good standing. If feasible, the Newsletter can be used to contain the ballot.
- (e) All ballots received by the Secretary before December 31 will be delivered unopened to the Annual Meeting where three (3) tellers appointed by the President will count them.
- (f) Those nominees, receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected.
- (g) If the election is uncontested, no ballots need be mailed.

ARTICLE VI

Termination:

A membership can be terminated by the Board if such member has conduct deemed to be detrimental to the best interest of the Association. The Board must consider the charges and inform the accused member of such charges. Said member must have the opportunity of presenting his defense in writing and or in appearing before a Board Member of his choice. If after considering both charges and the defense a majority of the Board decides on termination, said membership will be terminated.

ARTICLE V11

Amendments:

Section 1. The By Laws can be amended in the following ways.

- (a) The board of Governors can present an amendment.
- (b) Ten (10) members in good standing can present an amendment.
- (c) The members can present an amendment at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. The suggested amendment must be presented to the Secretary who will have it published in the next feasible issue of the Newsletter. In the ensuing issue of the Newsletter, pro and con discussion can be presented. In the following issue of the Newsletter, a ballot will be presented for the vote of the membership. If using the Newsletter is not feasible, direct mail can be used. Members must always have at least thirty (30) days' notice. Members will mark their ballots and mail them to the Secretary. The deadline for receiving the ballot will be set by the Board. The Board will determine the method counting the ballots.

ARTICLE V111

Dissolution:

The Association may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members; provided, however, that the Secretary shall have mailed to the entire membership a copy of the proposed resolution dissolving the Association. (the procedure for proposing amendments shall be followed).

ARTICLE 1X

Rules of Order:

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER (Revised) shall govern the DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC. in all cases in which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the By Laws or the special Rules of Order of this Association.

ARTICLE X

Section 1. We shall hold a contest at our discretion, to honor individuals for communications excellence and the benefits of dogs.

Section 2. The President shall appoint a contest chair or co-chairs who shall run the contest.
(Adopted 1997)

Book on Setters Benefits English Setter Rescue

By Gail Parker

A long time ago a rescue group asked me to write a story for them. It had to be about an English Setter and lead into their organization. Another lady was doing the illustrations. They asked what I would charge and I said I just wanted a few copies of the book, I could never charge a group that saves dogs. The book is finally available. More Publishing is the company that did it and a very nice job they did too. The back and front covers are glossy plasticized photographs of real English Setters.

It is *The Story of Max*, a Handsome English Setter. It is written for children and the pictures may be colored or left as is in black and white. The proceeds benefit **Another Chance for English Setters**. I am really thrilled to be a part of this worthwhile effort. Because I don't have to work any more, I usually write for extra copies of the magazine, donate my services to the rescue or club, or for ads which I give to the rescue groups. This is my way of donating to the dogs I love-Setters- when I could never afford to send them a large check.

Roster Changes

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Class of 2006 – Ranny Green and Amy Fernandez
Class of 2005 – Ida Estep and Paul Glassner

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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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