



# ruff DRAFTS

*Spring 2019*

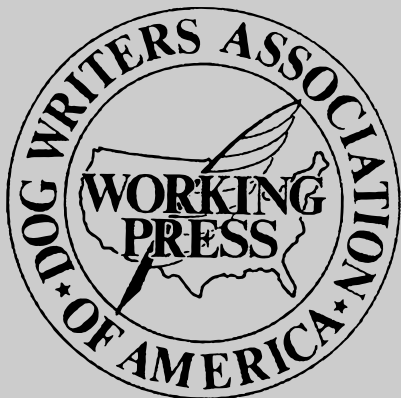
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# DOGS

# AND SPORTS





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# President's

# COLUMN

By **Carol Bryant**

[FIDOSEOFPREALITY.COM](http://FIDOSEOFPREALITY.COM)

My heart beats dog®, and now in the next step of my dog-loving, dog-living, dog-writing career, I am proud to announce I have accepted a two-year term as your President.

For as long as I can remember, dogs and writing have sustained me and helped me survive in life. On December 25th, 2018, I turned a half-century young and more than ever, I finally embrace who I am: a dog writer-blogger. Taking the torch from past immediate president and esteemed writer colleague, **Jen Reeder**, is an incredible honor.

The DWAA awarded me the Distinguished Service Award sponsored by the American Kennel Club in 2018, and I am a long-time Maxwell medallion finalist and attendee to the annual banquet and awards. I've been writing for decades, so this is a natural next step for me, and yes, a real dream come true. My face is a familiar one in the online dog park that is the Internet.

Of course, a President is only as good as her incredible team, and I am excited to announce that **Maggie Marton** and **Kristin Avery** have agreed to join me in their respective roles as Vice President



**Carol Bryant, President of the DWAA**

and Secretary. **Marsha Pugh**, who has been treasurer since 2009, will most graciously remain in that role, with **Ida Estep** providing legal counsel.

Join me in welcoming my better half, **Darlene Bryant**, as Banquet Chair, and **Bryn Nowell**, who has stepped up as Contest Chair.

I look forward to serving the current roster of DWAA members, escalating the role of the pet blogger and social media influencer, and always improving on the written and spoken word in the name of dog.

*See PRESIDENT'S COLUMN pg 19*

*“In an entire life of being with, around, and in the company of dogs, it is this writer's observation that joy unites dog to human more than any other emotion.”*

**—Carol Bryant, DWAA President**

# LETTER

By **Merrie Meyers**

Dear Members;

Recently, I met some friends for lunch. Our rendezvous point was a sports restaurant, one I'd never been to before. It was a typical sports pub, with multiple TVs mounted in every nook and cranny, running various sporting events. Even if you're not consciously paying attention to these programs, the movement on the screens engages your subconscious.

To give my eyes a rest, I looked below the screens, to the collage of black and white photographs, memorializing even more sporting events. In between the pictures of trophy presentations and championship rings, I was surprised to find a picture of a man playing golf, his clubs caddied by a large, black, hairy dog. Turns out canine caddies were actually a thing in the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1956, Bee Bindery, a printing company, sponsored the first National Dog Caddie Contest at Chicagoland's St. Andrews Golf & Country Club. Golf Digest magazine covered the event. Pictured below is contest winner, King, a large, mixed breed, shown here with his owner, **Don Colucci**. Although I am familiar



**Merrie Meyers, Editor of Ruff Drafts**

with many canine-human competitive sports, this was a new one for me.

For this issue, we asked members to contribute stories about dog sporting and obedience events. So, I wondered, was finding that picture coincidence or fate? I have some feelers out to find out more about the history of Canine Caddies; maybe someone in DWAA knows? In the meantime, please enjoy the stories in this issue addressing other sports in which dogs figure prominently.

In addition to our theme-based issues, we are adding some new features that will run on an occasional appearance. We welcome your contributions to these as well.

**ABOVE AND BEYOND** – Recognizing DWAA members who are doing a great job supporting the profession

*See EDITOR'S LETTER pg 19*



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### ISSUE DEADLINES

Spring, March 1  
Summer, June 1  
Fall, September 1  
Winter, December 1

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# TREASURER'S 2018 REPORT

by **Marsha Pugh**

1/1/2018 THROUGH 12/31/2018

Description	Memo	Category	Amount
<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>			<b>\$16,346.21</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>51,088.89</b>
total membership application			\$1,562.37
total awards banquet			\$6,690.67
total contest entry fees			\$18,861.72
total dues			\$10,112.44
total Junior Writer donations			
	DONATION	DWAA Junior Writers Award	\$50.00
	DONATION	DWAA Junior Writers Award	\$1,200.00
Total Restitution			\$2,476.24
Total Special Award Sponsor			\$10,135.45
<b>EXPENSES</b>			<b>-37,141.27</b>
total bank fees			\$(59.90)
Banquet expenses			
	Hotel New Yorker	Hotel	\$(6,130.00)
	Hotel New Yorker	hotel charge	\$(1,115.16)
	Marsha Pugh	reimbursement - gift pens, supplies	\$(699.10)
	Hotel New Yorker	deposit for 2019	\$(1,500.00)
	postage	reimbursement	\$(39.50)
	Hotel New Yorker	2nd deposit for 2019	\$(300.00)
Computer expenses			\$(7,579.22)
Contest Chair			\$(3,000.00)
Contest Expenses			\$(1,187.80)
Donation	Arbor Day Foundation	In memorium	\$(40.00)
Insurance			
	Mourer Foster	Officers liability	\$(729.00)
	Mourer Foster	dishonesty bond	\$(508.00)
Balance Adjustment		Misc	\$0.18
Balance Adjustment		Misc	\$(5.00)
Postmaster		Postage	\$(13.65)
<b>Description</b>	<b>Memo</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
total print charge			\$(662.48)
total 2017 Special Award winners			\$(13,250.00)
total web hosting			\$(161.32)
	Web hosting		\$(15.99)
	Web expenses	DOMAIN NAME	\$(145.33)
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>			<b>\$30,293.83</b>

# Tips for the Show Ring

## A Cavalier's Tale



Photo provided by Barbara Magera

By **Barbara E. Magera** and  
**Elaine L. Mitchell**

Preparing your starlet for the show ring starts long before entries close. Before show day, your Cavalier should be socialized and trained. Strive for optimal conditioning including musculature, coat and weight. Broken matted hair cannot be repaired in two or three weeks, rather this takes several months of careful grooming.

It is extremely important that you fully comprehend the breed standard. Bear in mind, interpretation of the breed standard may vary amongst Judges. Judging results differ generally based upon the Judge's experience with the breed. By watching classes before yours, you can gain an appreciation of which specific attributes the Judge feels are most important.

Give yourself plenty of time to arrive at the show. Be sure you have time for final preparations and allow for unexpected occurrences. Allow time for your dog to relax and become comfortable with the new surroundings. Nothing will unnerve a dog more than a handler who is short on time and therefore is fussing and fidgeting. Remember to exercise your dog and put on that last final polish.

Prepare your dog as best as possible for each show. Meticulous grooming is mandatory. Prior to entering the ring, study the catalog to gain information about your competition. Envision how your Cavalier measures up. Take time to lay out a plan before you enter the ring and decide which of your dog's virtues you wish to feature.

Know your dog's reaction to the show ring as this will determine when

you should arrive at ringside. Some dogs are ready to go into the ring immediately while others need a little longer time to settle into the show pace. Super high energy dogs may require a few laps outside the show ring to work off excess energy. In some cases, it is preferable to have two people, one as exhibitor and the other as your helper. Some dogs are in hyper excitement mode at dog shows. The mere sight of their handler sends them into 'I want to enter the ring this very second' mode. In this case, the dog should arrive with the helper who hands the dog to the exhibitor just minutes before entering the ring.

When you are at ringside, size up the competition. Evaluate the condition, temperament and conformation of the

*Continued on next page*

competing canines as well as the mood and abilities of their exhibitors. Understand the faults of other dogs including yours and compensate appropriately. Through knowledgeable and experienced handling, it is possible to compensate for the competition. A competitor's dog has a fabulous head and outstanding expression but your dog's assets are a great topline and movement. Then, you need to position yourself to feature your dog's virtues.

When the Ring Steward calls your number, be prompt and prepared to enter the ring. The Ring Steward can be your best friend but your behavior determines this relationship. Follow the directions of the Ring Steward exactly. If the directions are unclear or the acoustics of the building impairs your ability to hear, ask to clarify or repeat the directions. This is not the moment to visit your friends at ringside.

Once you are in the ring, the Judge is in control. Follow the Judge's directions precisely. Study the pattern the Judge sets forth in classes prior to yours. You should already be familiar with normal ring patterns i.e. triangle, down and back, diagonal, gaiting in a full or half circle.

Upon entering the ring, leave plenty of space in front of you. When gaiting around the ring, leave enough room for your dog to move at its optimal pace. In the lineup, leaving enough space between you and the dog in front gives you room to move should the person behind you inadvertently crowd your dog.

Don't waste time as the Judge must adhere to a time schedule. When the dog in front of you gets off the table is when you should set up your dog. When putting your dog on the table, the key elements are placing the feet in proper position "four square," keeping the head



upright and positioned forward and maintaining a perfect level topline.

To bait or not to bait depends upon the dog. Do not have your dog munching on bait when it is time for the Judge to evaluate your dog's bite. Remember the bait is used to encourage specific behavior not to feed dinner. Gaining in popularity is for the exhibitor to show the dog's bite to the Judge. This means that the mouth must be closed. If showing the bite becomes a struggle, try having your dog sit.

Move your dog at the appropriate speed. Cavaliers should not be raced around the ring. Try not to run with your dog; however, each dog sets their own pace and you should keep up with your dog. If you are petite or short, you might need to widen your stride to keep cadence with your dog. This does not mean your dog should be allowed to drag you around the ring at top speed.

Particularly with large classes or a small ring, crowding or loss of space in front of you can occur. What's crowding you is not the person ahead but the person behind you. Try to let the dog in front of you 'go ahead' so that you have created more space in front of you. If that doesn't work and the per-

son behind you keeps crowding into your space, then try this: Turn around so you are facing backwards in the ring. At least the person behind you will step on you instead of your dog. At the last minute, you can turn your dog around. When the Judge comes down the line, your dog now is facing in the correct direction. If you should get stuck in a corner, then step out forward. You want the Judge to see you and your dog at all times.

A common mistake is to show on too short a lead usually in an attempt to keep the dog's head up. As you pull upwards the dog's natural instinct is to pull downwards. This maneuver results in poor front movement and a poor topline. With the exception of very well trained dogs, using long leads can result in loss of control.

Be aware of all activities in the ring. You should pay attention to what your canine competition is doing and how they are or are not progressing in the ring. Pay close attention to what catches the watchful eye of the Judge. Know what attributes the Judge notices on a competitor's dog and try to counteract this. An astute exhibitor keeps an eye on his dog, an eye for what else is go-





*“The satisfaction is in the process knowing you and your dog completed your tasks to the best of your abilities. Hopefully, then the points and ribbons will follow.”*

ing on in the ring and a third eye on the Judge. You never know when the Judge will pull you and your starlet out of the lineup for the ‘final cut’.

### **FIXING PROBLEMS THAT MAY OCCUR IN THE RING:**

In the ring, do not allow anything to interfere with the concentration between you and your dog. You must be focused on showing your dog to its full potential. If an exhibitor keeps encroaching into your space, or runs up on you or your dog, then directly but politely inform them of their behavior. Often, in an attempt to get the Judge’s attention, a handler will step out of line. The natural tendency is for all the other exhibitors to do the same. Before long, the entire entourage of exhibitors and dogs shrinks into a crowded circle. An astute Judge will direct the group to move back and spread out, leaving plenty of space between each dog so the Judge can easily evaluate the dog’s movement.

Frequently, an exhibitor becomes nervous in the ring. It is important to remember that anxiety directly translates down the lead and is quickly perceived by your dog. It is hard for your dog to confidently perform expected maneuvers when you are too anxious to give clear directives.

A vicious cycle is initiated: An anxious exhibitor sends confusing messages to their dog. The dog makes a mistake and the exhibitor becomes frustrated. Now, the dog is totally confused as to what type of behavior is expected. The exhibitor tries harder to maneuver the dog. The confused and now anxious dog may revert to out of character behavior such as sitting, refusing to stand, walking in any which way but straight, or even whining. It may be time for a little time out. Talk to your dog. Encourage your dog to jump on you. Give your dog treats to relax. You may sing your dog’s special little song. Try to remain calm, confident and in control of yourself and

a well-trained dog will usually do what you ask of them.

If things are still not going well or your dog appears frightened or scared then continue to comfort your dog. Try to remain calm. If your dog is distracted by something or someone in the ring, try to refocus his attention on you. By rewarding treats for desired behavior you can get your dog to redirect his attention on you.

We ask a lot of our canines and they happily comply with our commands. Trying to keep your dog attentive and perfectly stacked the whole time you are in the ring is unrealistic and uncharacteristic of our breed. This is especially true of puppies and youngsters who get easily tired or bored with an uninteresting routine. The show ring should be a fun place for your dog; a place of excitement where your dog wants to return to over and over again. Keep your dog happy with tail wagging in the ring. Your job is to ensure your dog looks his best and gives his best performance. Hopefully, the Judge will award your starlet a ribbon for his optimal efforts.

The satisfaction is in the process knowing you and your dog completed your tasks to the best of your abilities. Hopefully, then the points and ribbons will follow.

Be gracious to all exhibitors and particularly to the Judge. Too often in the intense desire to win, exhibitors may accept a ribbon of lesser stature begrudgingly. Be generous with congratulatory salutations to the winners. Good sportsmanship is appreciated but bad behavior is forever remembered. 🐾

**Elaine L. Mitchell (Cambridge) is an international professional handler and a breeder of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.**

**Barbara E. Magera, M.D. (Caracaleeb) is a Cavalier fancier who lives and practices medicine in Charleston, South Carolina.**

# DOCK DIVING



A competitor stretches to make the mark.

By **Bryn Nowell**

What do dogs, gigantic tanks filled with water, and enthusiasm have in common? Dock diving! It's a sport that any dog can participate in and is an absolute blast for humans to watch. While you might think it's a sport that can only happen in the warmer months, there are opportunities to participate or watch when it's colder outside, too. Tanks can be held indoors, protecting dogs and viewers from the elements.

Two years ago, I was convinced to attend a Dock Diving event in upstate New York by a couple who happened to have their own dog treat business and were event sponsors. I was supposed to be a third set of hands to assist with manning their retail location for treat sales. I wound up frequently wandering, camera in tow, and standing a bit too close to the dock diving tank to not

get splashed every other jump. I put my camera at risk, and I didn't care. I was mesmerized.

I had never seen this kind of competition (or agility, for that matter, so that's next on my list). All I can say, honestly, is WOW. These dogs pack a punch and they are having SO MUCH FUN! They can't wait until it's their turn to show their stuff. They simply soar in pursuit of a floating toy which they happily retrieve and head out of the pool to do it again. I kind of reminds me of little kids who are going down slides, who bound up stairs to slide back down over and over and over and over.

Let me tell you a bit more about the mechanics of the competition. Dogs, in a variety of sizes, breeds, and ages are registered for the event (humans who bring their pups to observe can register their dogs to join in on the fun on the

spot). The event begins with trial runs. It helps to determine what level the dog is currently competing at based on the length of their jump. This distance range will be the category they compete under for the remainder of the weekend, kind of like weight categories for wrestling. From that point forward, their distances jumped are recorded. Dogs can advance to the final rounds based on how they fair in their specific distance category versus their competition. Finals take place on the final day.

There's also a height competition, where a toy is lifted above the pool for dogs to jump towards and attempt to grab and a speed competition, where the length of time it takes for the dog to jump and get out of the pool are recorded.

Handlers and their dogs are a part of a team. Each handler has their own



unique way of tossing the toy for the distance jump along with their own unique way of encouraging their dog to take a leap. Some will walk to the edge of the dock, toss the toy, scope it out, head to the back and run together. Others will hold their dog back at the very end, yelling enthusiastically, and releasing them as they run across the

dock. There's no right or wrong, provided the dog isn't pushed into the water.

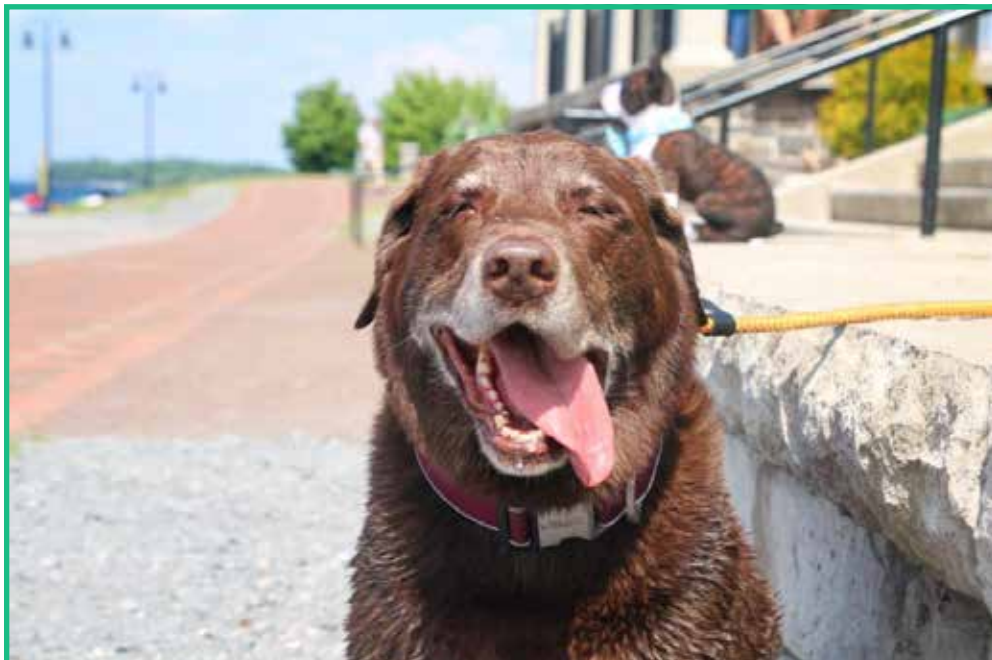
I was able to see quite a few young handlers who had dogs advance to the finals. Children as young as seven can be a handler and their youthful enthusiasm is contagious. The crowd often hopped to their feet and yelled loudly in encouragement as the young

handler climbed the stairs with their dog. I had a soft spot for an eight year old boy who worked with his eight year old yellow lab best friend. They advanced to the finals and his mother was incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication. Perhaps the cutest part was their matching t-shirts (mother and son) and coordinating dog bandana.

These diving dogs, and their humans, travel to competitions far and wide, which means many of them know each other and are friends. I frequently observed these "competitors" hanging out with each other, sharing food and drinks, laughing, and even watching each other's dogs. It was evident that the friendships between the humans and dogs was a valuable and appreciated aspect of their participation.

If you're curious about dock diving, typing "dock diving calendar" into a search engine will take you to the dates and places where upcoming competitions are taking place. There are a few different organizations that host dock diving, so you might see a variety of options to view an event near you. It's an amazing spectator event that was entertaining and fun for children to watch. Some people brought their own dogs to watch, too and used the "free jump" option offered throughout the weekend to test out the sport. Not all dogs loved the idea, with one dog only jumping in after his human took a leap in the tank first. It's a nice way to see if your dog may enjoy dock diving in the future without making a financial commitment first.

I hope to see you at a dock diving event in the future. The photos don't fully capture the energy and excitement you'll experience when you attend as a spectator or participant. It really is a "you had to be there," kind of an event. 🐾



At the end of the day, it's all about a happy, tired dog.



A competitor returns the floating toy to the dock.

# Master Woodstock

By **Patricia Daly-Lipe**

AS PUBLISHED IN *MESSAGES FROM NATURE*, BY THE AUTHOR

We will never know where he was born or how he came to Woodstock Farm in Albemarle County, Virginia. A little ball of fur, a starving pup, he was following the heels of grazing cows. Hoping for a drink? The cows kicked him away; he persisted. He was a survivor. We brought him home, fed him, took him to the vet, and now he has become a yacht pup, one loving, loyal, and smart sailor.

Becoming a yacht pup did not happen overnight but it did not take long. As soon as he was on board the boat, he acknowledged it as home. Sure-footed, there was no question of his falling overboard, nor did he make any attempt to jump. The first day, he learned to swim with a life vest. We dropped anchor out at sea and had to literally drop him in the water. Yes, he was frightened, but I was swimming along to coax him along. Then we hauled him up the steps onto the swim ramp protruding behind the boat, disrobed him, and both he and the vest were hosed off before he could climb up to the main deck. This became a daily ritual.

Our sailboat, 42foot Jeanneau, has an engine but it has not worked since we left the Dominican Republic. We rely entirely on the whim of the wind. Captain Alexander and I had sailed seventeen hundred miles without the engine. We were glad to finally reach the mainland of Florida. It was much longer than we anticipated and we needed to be in U.S. waters before we could retrieve Woodstock.

As we left the channel of Cape Canaveral, the so-called 'wind' diminished.

What had taken a half hour the day before took three and a half hours today and this just to get out of the channel to the ocean! It was dark. As we sailed through the night, I worried about Woodstock. He must need to go to the bathroom. He treated the boat like his home and would not allow himself to make a mess. In vain, we tried to encourage him.

By morning, it was clear: he would have to be taken ashore. Thus began the pattern which would cause us to take weeks instead of days to travel up the East coast. We could not get on the 'Atlantic Express' (the Gulf Stream) and ride it north because we needed to hug the coast to accommodate Master Woodstock.

Our sailboat has a draft of six and a half feet. This limits just how close we can sail to the shore before dropping anchor. The first morning, the distance to shore was quite far. We learned a lot that first day.

We put Woodstock's vest on, a converted child's coast guard approved life vest placed upside down and strapped over his back. Not pleased, he was none the less tolerant. Alexander pulled in the dingy, which had been bobbing along behind the boat. We threw in the oars and I got in. Alexander handed over the bewildered pup. With Woodstock in the middle, I sat at the bow with an oar and Alexander took to the rear with the other oar. We untied the line and started



Painting of Master Woodstock as a pup from the author's book, *Messages from Nature*.

rowing. Now keep in mind that we are rowing to the shore; therefore, we could almost ride the tide and surf onto the beach.

And surf we did. The little white foam we had seen from the boat became very large, serious waves as we approached our destination.

"Keep rowing," yelled Alexander over the roar of the surf. I looked back over my shoulder. There was a huge wave descending upon us. "Row!" he yelled again.

"But look ..." I attempted. The wave crashed down and we went under. The dingy flipped over. "Where's Woodstock?" I sputtered after coming up for air.

"Under the dingy!"

We lifted the dingy even as the waves pounded down on us, the surf pushing us ashore. Poor little Woodstock. In the

See *WOODSTOCK* pg 14



# MEMBER NEWS

## New Book Offers Teachers Curriculum-Based Dog-Centered Programs

A new professional development program, launched in 2017 by AKC's Education Resources department, offers teachers access to hands-on activities and curriculum-aligned lesson plans for grades K-12 in the subjects of math, science, social studies and language arts. Recently, the program was expanded to include Book Studies. In collaboration with children's book authors, the department provides curriculum-aligned lesson plans based on dog-centered children's books. Lesson plans are available on the AKC's website. In order to purchase books, links to the authors' sites are also listed.

One of the newest lesson plans is based on the nonfiction, pet therapy picture book, *Because of Bentley* written by DWAA member and long-time animal book author, Loren Spiotta-DiMare. Bentley, the star of the book, is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. Bred for centuries to be lap dogs, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels like nothing better than to snuggle and cuddle. Because of their endearing personalities, soulful expressions, silky coats and diminutive size, many Cavaliers excel as Therapy Dogs. And, so it was with Bentley.

"I've always admired the breed," Spiotta-DiMare says. "Several years ago, I had the opportunity to write a reference book about Cavaliers for TFH Publications. I interviewed numerous breeders and really clicked with Diane Zdrodowski of Evanlake Cavaliers. For months, we were in daily email communication. I often joked I was becoming her new best friend."

When the project came to a close, author and breeder decided they'd like to collaborate on another project and chose to create a children's book based on Zdrodowski's first Cavalier. "From the day, Bentley came into her life, Diane knew he would be special," Spiotta-DiMare says. "Together they took the dog world by storm competing in numerous dog sports. But the Blenheim (chestnut red and white) Cavalier truly found his calling as a "Therapy Dog."

"I was so proud of Bentley," Zdrodowski says. "He loved everyone – adults, children, other dogs. And though breeding champions and winning titles is very enjoyable there is nothing as rewarding as visiting a nursing home patient or sick child and brightening their lives with the presence of your dog."

Bentley won numerous awards over the course of his life, including the first ever Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club USA, Inc. – Cavalier Therapy Companion Award and the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association – Therapy Dog of the Year Award.

Zdrodowski and Bentley had so many wonderful experiences on their therapy visits because of Bentley that the title for the book easily popped into the author's mind. In one scene, a very



Loren Spiotta-DiMare

sick child begins to paint again because of Bentley. In another, a lonely little boy starts to make friends. In yet another, a young boy speaks for the first time in months. All because of Bentley. So taken with Bentley, Zdrodowski eventually became a Cavalier breeder. 🐾

**Spiotta-DiMare has been writing about animals for over forty years and has received numerous recognitions from DWAA, HSUS and other organizations. Because of Bentley is her 20th book. To download lesson plans for the book visit: <https://www.akc.org/public-education/educator-resources/book-studies/> To learn more about Spiotta-DiMare's other animal books visit: [www.LorensReadingRoom.com](http://www.LorensReadingRoom.com)**

# Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show

## And the Year of the Senior (Veteran)



Daly and her pal Rosebud, featured in her article, "Full Circle"

By **Ted Slupik**,  
WITH COMMENTARY FROM  
DALY DODSWORTH

Attending the Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) Dog Show has always been on my wish list. This year I went with my wife, my friend Gail, and an amazing 13-year-old author (with her parents) named Daly Dodsworth, who had recently won the DWAA 13-14 Junior Author Award. All five of us were excited to attend the DWAA banquet and the WKC Show.

Our interest was in following senior dogs, or veterans as they are referred to. This stems from the fact that I am on the Board of Directors for Lizzy's Fund ([www.lizzysfund.org](http://www.lizzysfund.org)), a charity that benefits senior dogs. Only three dogs over the age of seven have ever won Best in Show (BIS) in WKC's 143 year history. The WKC catalog wouldn't be

made available until Monday morning so it would be a scramble to identify senior dogs that we wanted to see. We were hoping to one or two that would be winners in any category.

The perspective of a 13-year-old's first time in New York and first time at the dog show made the whole experience that much more fun. Daly told me that when you are in New York, you need to be prepared for meeting just about anyone and be ready to talk to them. Daly met many great people at the DWAA Awards Banquet on Sunday night, and gave quite an eloquent acceptance speech upon receiving her Maxwell Medallion. She spent time with Jen Reeder, Laura Coffey, Mara Bovsun, Carol Bryant, and the guest speakers Jill Rappaport and Steve Dale. Everyone was impressed how thoughtful and personable Daly was.

After watching Saturday night's

Agility Finals, we were ready for the main events to begin. We started out at 8:00 a.m. at Piers (92/94) on Monday morning. The Piers are where the Best in Breed (BIB) events are held during the day. Ultimately, the BIB competes for Best in Group (BIG) on Monday and Tuesday nights at Madison Square Garden. The BIS competition is decided last on Tuesday night.

If you were keeping score, you might think there was only one winner in almost 3,000 dogs, the Wire Fox Terrier named King. But there were many more winners as the fans all shouted out their favorites. Just making it to the show is a win for many owners and handlers. Certainly, winning BIB or BIG is a very high honor in itself.

Some breeds have never been awarded BIS, including the Dachshund and Schipperke. A Rough Coated Collie has only won once, in 1929 as a nine-month-old puppy, the youngest dog to ever win at WKC. The dog nicknamed Dan, won BIS by outmatching nearly 3,000 dogs.

With our intent to focus on senior dogs, we first met George Burns (the long haired Dachshund) and his handler, Carlos Puig, even before the start of the Dachshund BIB competition. We learned that seven-year-old Burns had accumulated the most points of any Dachshund in the history of the breed. Carlos handled Burns for the last 3 years, and also Burns' great grandfather 21 years ago. Carlos said Burns was a dog that just loved kids. When he misbehaved, Carlos called the dog Georgie which the dog didn't like. Both Daly and I thought we had met the BIS winner early Monday morning. This would be



Burns last run at competition. He'd be retiring after this show, no matter what. Well, Burns easily won the dachshund competition, and then went on to easily win the hound group on Monday night. He was the first dog in the "pool" for best in show. So, we managed to find the best dachshund and best hound within the first 5 minutes of the competition at the Piers.

The crowds, noise and traffic of NY can be overwhelming to human visitors, let alone dogs. Unbelievably, they remained calm in the bench areas given the chaos around them. Most of the owners permitted us to interact with the dogs during the day. In a benched show, you get to meet the dogs, owners, breeders, handlers, groomers, coaches, and family members. Some of these dogs had six to eight people as a support team traveling with them.

My personal favorite breed in the show was the Rough Collie. In the herding group, two senior blue merle rough coated collies placed first and second in the collie group. The first-place winner nicknamed Marilyn was the #2 dog in Canada. Marilyn's half-brother, Saxon finished second. Daly and I thought that Marilyn had a chance in the final herding group competition. Marilyn made the first cut but did not place for BIG. Collies have been advancing slowly over the years. In another 10 years, it will be 100 years since first winning BIS. Reminds me of the Chicago Cubs, but then again, anything can happen.

The final round for BIS consists of seven breed groups: Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding. Four of the seven dogs this year were veterans. In addition to Burns and King, two other seniors made it to the final group. They were a nine-year-old Sussex Spaniel nick-named Bean and a seven-year-old Schipperke nick-named Colton.



So what I thought the event was going to be the year of the senior (dog) also turned out to be the year of the junior (human, 13 year-old Daly). Seeing a kid going to the show for the first time, watching her photographing the competition, seeing her talking to the owners and handlers was a fabulous experience. After BIS, Daly told me

that her favorite dog was Emily, Mara Bovsun's dog that she brought to the DWAA banquet. I reminded her that Emily wasn't in the WKC show but Daly said that that didn't matter to her. As we left New York on Wednesday, I told Daly she had become a rock star. She smiled at me and said, "I know." 🐾

# Meet our

# NEW MEMBERS

## Bryn Nowell

Bryn Nowell is an award-winning pet and lifestyle blogger for her site called A Dog Walks into A Bar. She features dog-friendly breweries, wineries and distilleries along with pet ownership insights and stories.

## Lester Aradi

Lester Aradi retired and moved to the North Georgia Mountains where he and his wife, Diane, opened a rescued animal sanctuary. To help cover the expenses of animal care, they operate a one bedroom, farm-stay bed and breakfast. Proceeds from their bed and breakfast, along with sales of their true life



Lester Aradi

children's book "Tricycle and Friends," go to the care and feeding of their rescued dogs, horses, llamas, alpacas, miniature donkey, and all the other animals under their care.

## Sharon Dianora

Sharon Dianora is the voice, creator, and passion behind the website and blog; <https://www.dog-care-knowledge.com/>. She writes articles and social media posts advocating a natural approach to health and healing in dogs and encourages positive methods of training.

Sharon is certified by the Animal Care College and is currently studying natural and holistic health care for pets. She is the founder and previous owner of K9 to 5 Doggie Day Care and is a keen competitor in nose work trials. She is a lover of all breeds of dogs but has a special place in her heart for German Shepherds.

## Woodstock

*Continued from pg 10*

dark under the shell of the dingy, he was paddling frantically, looking miserable, but afloat with the help of the vest. Not a whimper or a yelp. Once on shore, off came the vest and off went the pup. Relief at last!

That was one happy dog. Forgetting his ordeal instantly, he scampered off, found some birds, and, tail extended, ran up and down the beach in hot pursuit.

Eventually it was time to return to the boat. But how? We tried pushing the dingy with Woodstock inside through the waves. However, one look at the white frothy mountains descend-

ing on him, he leaped out of the dingy into the water front feet paddling like a windmill at full speed and headed for shore.

Next, Alexander took the dingy beyond the waves leaving me to swim out with Woodstock. He was petrified and I was not strong enough to hold him up as the waves crashed down on the two of us. We retreated to the beach. Poor Alexander had to return with the dingy. Exhausted, the three of us sat on the sand, staring at the waves, the sea; the boat anchored beyond, and tried to devise a plan.

Finally Alexander came up with an idea. He would take the dingy back to

the sailboat; get a small anchor, another vest, and a long line. It was a tough trip negotiating the waves again and rowing alone against the tide out to the boat.

This plan worked. We attached Woodstock to the second vest at the end of the long line. The dingy was anchored behind the waves. It was arduous but successful. Woodstock flopped over the side and into the dingy and then the long row back to the boat. This day's expedition lasted over four hours.

And our star of this story is a young pup from Albemarle County, Virginia. Just don't let anyone tell you a country pup can't become a great sailor! 🐾



# Tellington TTouch® Method

## A Gentle Approach to Dog Training

By **Christy Powers**

Sage Lewis is a Tellington TTouch Advanced Practitioner for Companion Animals and People.

Ms. Lewis presented a daylong session featuring the many and magical benefits of the Tellington TTouch® Method for addressing behavior, wellbeing, relationships and performance. Twenty five people and 19 dogs sat in a large circle eager to learn about and apply the Tellington TTouch® method. We were all ready to learn how to improve our communication and relationship with our dogs.

“Tellington TTouch can help you understand and influence your animal with your heart and hands in a way that develops trust, creates a harmonious relationship and changes unwanted behaviors,” writes Sage.

Tellington TTouch® was developed in the 1960's by Linda Tellington Jones as she learned a gentler and more meaningful way to work with young horses, “gentling” them rather than “breaking” them. From that early work with horses, she went on to develop this method that is now used in several countries. The Tellington TTouch® Method is based on cooperation and respect for all animals and their people. No fear and no force.

This was not a normal and easy environment for our dogs, being in close quarters with strange dogs and unknown people, while being encouraged to learn to relax. Being next to their very own person, the dogs and people did amazingly well. While discussing the signs of stress in the dogs, we were told to watch for yawning, licking, blinking and scratching as well as tension patterns in the body.

Sitting in our circle, we practiced the circular TTouces on ourselves and on our dogs. Using a gentle, versus vigorous, touch on our own arm, we were encouraged to feel the reaction throughout our body. And we watched while our dogs relaxed as we applied the TTouces on various parts of their bodies.

There are a variety of methods for using the “TTouch”. The basic TTouch is created by gently pushing or moving the skin in a small 1 1/4 clockwise or counter clockwise circle. Depending on the part of the hand or fingers used and the path, some specific touches are the Abalone, Llama, Lying Leopard and the Clouded Leopard.

The Ear TTouch is beneficial for reducing many types of stress. Sage taught us to “stroke the ears like they are a feather or a butterfly”. Mouth TTouces are beneficial for reducing fear and aggressive behavior. By slowly and gently doing the circular TTouces around the muzzle, eventually and without distress, one can work the fingers under the lips and around the gums.

While petting the dog, it is easy to incorporate these gentle TTouces. Sage calls it “Petting with intention”. TTouch is a great way to relieve stress in both animals and humans. Stress can be caused by mental, physical, emotional or environmental imbalances. It can be caused by losing a loved one, moving to a new home, travel or a change in the routine. It can occur through hearing, seeing, smell or taste. It is our responsibility to pay attention, be observant and be a better partner, to be aware of the stress and help relieve it.

Besides the basic TTouces, there are TTouch Body Wraps made with elastic



Sage Lewis demonstrates the TTouch Half Wrap on her very patient pup, Rhonda.

bandages and used on the bodies of our dogs. These wraps can be very comforting and relieve tension for dogs in a variety of uncomfortable situations, such as a thunder storm, a visit to the vet or flying in an airplane. They can help with mobility issues and bring the body into better balance and grounding resulting in better behavior. The basic wrap is the TTouch Half Wrap where the elastic bandage is wrapped loosely around the dog in a figure 8 pattern.

“This gentle touch, Tellington TTouch® Method, is currently being used by animal guardians, trainers, breeders, veterinarians, zoo personnel and shelter workers on four continents.” Lewis stressed.

Visit Sage's website at [www.DancingPorcupine.com](http://www.DancingPorcupine.com). 🐾

**Christy Powers is a freelance writer whose passion is studying and writing about pet health, nutrition and training. She can be reached at [cpowerspak@gmail.com](mailto:cpowerspak@gmail.com).**

# DWAA Now on Instagram!



## FOLLOW US

<https://www.instagram.com/dogwritersassociation/>

DWAA proudly welcomes our new Instagram Manager, Hannah Zuleta.

Hannah is a DWAA member and dog mom to Maggie and Orbit - two high energy Boston Terriers residing in San Diego.

Hannah believes dogs are family. They are weaved into their daily lives and their world is a shared place. Daily life includes the two pups, no matter the activity or the destination. They believe in nurturing this relationship. They honor the language of dogs. They value respecting them as their canine companions over anything else. For them, a shared life is an inspired life.

She shares their lives on Instagram: [@maggielovesorbit](https://www.instagram.com/maggielovesorbit) as well as on their blog [www.maggielovesorbit.com](http://www.maggielovesorbit.com). Daily training, wellness and community service in the form of pack walks are common stories.

Before the dogs, Hannah spent 20 years in travel sales and marketing.

This career took her away from home so she pivoted and decided to build a new career around her dogs.

Hannah is excited to be part of the DWAA team and helping share the

story of our wonderful association to new members as well as building community on Instagram among existing ones. 🐾



Hannah Zuleta



# DWAA Annual Meeting Minutes

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019

4:00 P.M. ET

THE HOTEL NEW YORKER

**Present:** Jen Reeder, Laura Coffey, Marsha Pugh, Joel Gavriale-Gold, Kristin Avery, Maggie Marton, Babette Haggerty, Steve Griffith, Susan Willett, Nancy Monson, Sherri Telenko, Bryn Nowell, Bryna Comisky. Carol Bryant arrived late due to traffic.

*Meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m.*

## I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Welcome new officers: Carol Bryant, President; Maggie Marton, Vice President; Kristin Avery, Secretary.
- B. General introductions of all present.

## II. PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- A. Recap of programs instituted during tenure
  - 1. Editor insights and sample query letters for pitching magazines.
  - 2. Revived the blog with regular posts.
  - 3. Young Writers On The Web for writers 17 and younger. Articles are published on the website and eligible for contest. Four winners this year, each receiving a \$400 sponsored award.
- B. Writing contest
  - 1. \$15,950 in special awards for the 2018 competition.
  - 2. Expanded awards program with additional sponsors. New awards in 2018.
    - a. The Heroes for Health Pets Award - \$1,500
    - b. The Rio Award - \$300
    - c. The Sleepypod Pet Safety Award - \$500
    - d. The Walter R. Fletcher Memorial Award - \$300

- e. GNFP Digital Canine Companion Award - \$1,000 (doubled)
  - f. An anonymous donor matched \$400 Junior Writer Award allowing winners in four age categories.
- C. Banquet
  - 1. The banquet almost broke even with less than a \$1,000 loss.
  - 2. Royal Canin and Eukanuba may be interested in sponsoring next year.
  - 3. Attendee Nancy Monson said Freshpet might also be interested and she would send contact info to Jen.
- D. Website
  - 1. The DWAA website continues to be a huge challenge. The site is patchwork with secretary, treasurer and website all maintaining separate lists
  - 2. Jen suggested hiring a web designer to build a new site.
  - 3. Attendee Susan Willett is a web strategist and offered assistance. She can do an assessment to help determine DWAA site needs and create an RFP for hiring a web designer.
- E. Germinder + Associates thank you
  - 1. Leann moving on to focus on paid client work.

## III. VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- A. Laura is thrilled about getting Jill Rappaport to deliver the keynote speech for free. Discussion about Jill's amazing advocacy for rescue dogs, senior dogs, and the Puppy Bowl.
- B. Discussion about the Young Writers On The Web program and its life-changing impact on young writers. One of the winner's will be in attendance at the banquet and should be celebrated.
- D. DWAA is hosting a business card exchange again this year. The person who collects the most cards will receive a prize.

## IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- A. Membership continues to grow and is especially popular with bloggers, social media influencers, and freelancers.
- B. 47 new members in 2018, compared to 23 in 2017.
- C. 532 followers on Twitter.
- D. 2960 page likes on Facebook, up from 908 when Lauren took over as Secretary.
- E. Average monthly post reach 36.6K, up from 1500.
- F. The increase in page likes and monthly reach is probably the result of the quick response time to comments and messages.
- G. Special thanks to the social media volunteers for keeping DWAA accounts engaging and interactive.

## V. TREASURER'S UPDATE

- A. Marsha passed out the 2018 Treasurer's report.
- B. DWAA finished the year with a \$30,000 balance.
- C. Sponsorship invoices sent out in October, but note that they pay at different times throughout the year, some right away and others early in the year.
- D. Former Treasurer, Rue Chagoll continues to pay \$190.48 a month towards his debt. Balance as of February 2019 is \$55,372.56.
- E. Discussion of spam email asking for money. A reminder that expenses over \$500 need board approval.

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Contest Chair
  - 1. Over 800 entries in the 2018 Writing Contest.
  - 2. Chair recommends using only electronic entries next year.

*See MEETING MINUTES pg 19*

# OP-ED

## The “ME” in Medallion

by **Kate J. Kuligowski**

It was the “ME” in MEdallion, as in Maxwell Medallion, that was conspicuous as the only disappointing occurrence to spoil the otherwise perfect camaraderie and ambiance in this year’s well-produced DWAA Awards Ceremony. Yearly it commends the talents of those journalists, authors, bloggers, photographers and artists and newscasters for their media technique, accuracy, relevance, and inspiration to educate, thus make a positive difference in how our dogs are perceived, treated and respected, both by their owners but also by our legislators. Tradition holds that this awesome,

annual celebration also recognize those outstanding and selfless individuals who have upheld and promoted the professional and ethical standards of DWAA by their actions.

No, the writing competition and subsequent announcement of Maxwell Medallion winners is not the only reason the banquet is held, although after the medallions were awarded, we noticed a sizeable percentage of the attendees had left. Did they not wish to also be a part of honoring and thanking the recipients of the twenty-five or so special awards to those outstanding members, who went the extra mile to excel

at making their readers more aware of the importance of responsible pet ownership, microchipping, heartworm prevention, disease awareness, rescuing and re-homing, veterinary care, the human-canine bond and military dogs just to mention a few? Aren’t the topics of these special awards the reason we write? Aren’t they the backbone of Westminster Kennel Club, the founder of our esteemed DWAA? By remaining at the dinner to congratulate those recipients of special awards and acknowledge their sponsors: all of us can put the WE, as in WEstminster, back into our behaviors at the annual awards dinner? 🐾

## DWAA Hall of Fame Acceptance Speech

By **Deborah Wood**

I am a heart-broken that I can’t be with you in person tonight. Unfortunately, genetically I am pretty much the human equivalent of a puppy mill dog, and a cross-country trip just isn’t possible with my current health issues.

While I am sad I wasn’t able to join you, being inducted into the DWAA Hall of Fame is truly one of the great thrills of my lifetime. I cannot express how joyful and grateful I am.

Receiving this honor has made me think a lot about the importance of what we do as members of DWAA. One of the truly extraordinary social changes of my lifetime has been the appreciation and understanding that people have for dogs. It is the dog writers who have created and shaped that change.

Whether you write practical advice or write fiction, whether you tell the stories through photography or on the radio, it all comes down to the same thing. It is the people in this room who have taught America – and the world – about the importance of kindness to pets. You are the ones who changed society’s view of an animal lover from someone who is weird or even pathetic to someone who is to be admired. You are the ones who will continue to shape attitudes in the decades to come.

DWAA makes us a community. It gives a chance for our writing to be seen and our voices to be heard. It allows us to become friends with people whose work shaped our own writing.

Because of the respect I have for DWAA and for the writers who make up



Deborah Wood with Esmeralda

its members, I treasure this honor with all of my heart. Thank you so very much. 🐾



# Meeting Minutes

*Continued from pg 17*

## B. Hall of Fame Committee

1. Deborah Wood will receive award at the banquet.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Incoming Executive Committee Officers: Carol Bryant, President; Maggie Marton, Vice President; Kristin Avery, Secretary; Marsha Pugh, Treasurer; Jen Reeder, Immediate Past President.

B. Board of Governors; Martin Deeley vacancy filled by Laurie Williams.

C. Ida Estep, Esq. Remains Legal Counsel

D. Steve Griffith of Vizion Group PR gave a presentation about The National Dog Show's new Dogs Until 2 program. The idea is to engage people who love dogs and dog shows before 2:00 in every time zone on Thanksgiving. Potential ideas include:

1. Meme contest with a \$500 prize. Pet Life Radio may sponsor.
2. NBC and Purina are not interested so looking for other sponsors.
3. Therapy Dog Symposium with David Frei during the week leading up to The National Dog

Show. They are hoping for 2019, but definitely in 2020. Currently looking for sponsors. An endorsement and presence by DWAA would be most welcome.

## E. Other comments

1. Fewer people here covering Westminster as NYC is expensive in February. Discussion of changing date and location in future.
2. Jen thanked Laura, Marsha, Lauren, and Sue for all their hard work.

*Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. 🐾*

# President's Column

*Continued from pg 2*

Finally, I challenge you, fellow DWAA members, to embrace your dogs. The next time you see your dog, be super happy. Send a shot of exuberance into the universe and make your dog a part of it. In an entire life of being with, around, and in the company of dogs, it is this writer's observation that joy unites dog to human more than any other emotion. Joy comes in many forms, and dogs take it all in. Tails tell tales, even those with nubs or none at all. A dog lets you know

when he's happy. Be calm with your dog, be at peace with your dog, spend quality time with your dog, and not just for one day, but for always. If it takes a national proclamation to shine a spotlight into a dog's soul, then let it be this moment. May the world echo a big "aroooooo" for all those dogs we have loved and lost: past, present, today, and tomorrow.

Dogs are more like us than not but they are not humans. Dogs are the best of us when the worst of us breaks our hearts and lets us down.

I embrace a passion for dogs and that passion somehow in this crazy, messed up universe so very perfectly found its way to me. A little girl once lost found her forever home in dogs.

Those who love and have learned to love more richly because of a dog carry a light in their soul. We have hope when the world goes crazy: Dogs want us in it. We are welcome in their worlds. They celebrate our existence. The circle of life is pretty darned special with a dog in it. Thanks for welcoming me to the pack. 🐾

# Editor's Letter

*Continued from pg 3*

– journalism or PR and/or the animal welfare community. We'd love to know what you're doing, but it would be really phenomenal if you could nominate a fellow member who is an unsung hero and deserves recognition.

**GUIDEPOSTS** – People who served as mentors to a member (for example, my high school journalism teacher) and why. We've had some of these profiles

in the past. But there's always room for more recognition of the coaching we give and receive from others. Mentors do not need to be DWAA members. For example, without my high school journalism teacher who turned me on to writing, I probably would have become an elementary school teacher and spent 30 years crawling around on reading carpets.

**TIPS OF THE TRADE** – Small ideas from writing coaches, professors and

professionals that can make a big difference in your work. Tips will offer support for writers at all levels, from strategies for a "Cold Pitch" to "Managing Relationships with Editors/Clients." Everyone is encouraged to share their *secret sauce* for success!

Congratulations to all of the contest winners. Your names are prominently displayed on our website. 🐾



RENEW ONLINE!

Use our website to pay online:

[www.dogwriters.org](http://www.dogwriters.org)



## Payment of dues, \$50

Dues are renewable by March 1st.  
The DWAA yearly membership runs from  
March 1, 2019–February 29, 2020.

Please use our website — Payment is accepted by credit card, check or Paypal:

<https://dogwriters.org/product/renew-membership/>

If you prefer not to use the website, please fill out the required fields below  
and mail this form with your check to Marsha Pugh, Treasurer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Please use your current e-mail address. It is used for all DWAA online services)

Website \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you are:

☐ Professional  
(Paid)

☐ Associate  
(Not Paid)

Freelance \_\_\_\_\_ Or employed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable in US Funds to DWAA and send along with this page to:

*Marsha Pugh, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 787  
Hughesville, MD 20637*

Questions to Marsha Pugh, Treasurer [marsha\\_pugh01@comcast.net](mailto:marsha_pugh01@comcast.net)

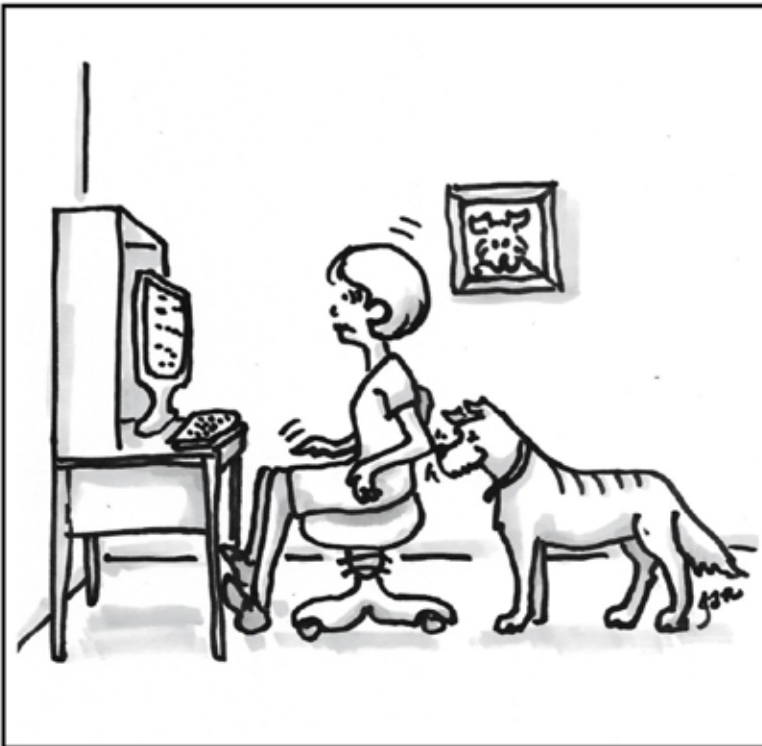




Kristin Avery, Secretary  
17 Salem Lane  
Evanston, IL 60203

## ***Roxie***

*By Janice Biniok*



*Nothing like a cold nose to stimulate a burned out writer! Hee, hee!*