

## **Delegate's Corner #5**

**Don James**

### **LCA AKC Delegate**

The quarterly AKC Delegate's Meeting was held June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Once again, the Parent Club Committee and Health Committee meetings were held at the same time. Under the current schedule, 4 committees meet between 9:00 and 11:30 AM and 5 committees meet between 1:00 and 3:30 PM. Because there have been numerous complaints from Delegates who wish to attend both meetings, a new schedule has been developed that will place these two meetings at different times (one morning and one afternoon) in seven of the next nine scheduled meetings. Although I stated during the Delegate's caucus that we could have 3 different sessions per day by simply starting our day at 8:00 AM rather than 9:00 AM and rolling back the lunch period from 1 hour to 45 minutes, not too many people seemed very interested in getting up earlier than they normally do at these meetings.

In addition to the Parent Club meeting, I was able to attend a committee meeting that I had not attended prior to this meeting, the Delegate Advocacy & Advancement Committee. This committee is charged with to the review and recommendations on issues and proposals affecting the future structure of the Delegate Body, Delegate empowerment, changes relating to Delegate meetings and Delegate eligibility.

I enjoyed participating in this meeting. Since it's very difficult to gain a position on my first choice, the Parent Club committee (it's been 8 years since the makeup of that committee has changed), I've now set my sights on a position with DAAC.

I'll go over the highlights of the various committee meetings.

The AKC Board is expected to approve electronic voting or E-Balloting for its member clubs. I will be writing an article in the upcoming issue of Perspectives, the Delegate magazine, which explains in detail how this works. We'll have that article posted on the LCA Web site.

On Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Eukanuba Tournament of Champions in Orlando, Florida, AKC will present, free of charge, a Breeder's Symposium. The presentation will be made in the morning and repeated in the afternoon. Moderators will be veteran AKC breeders. The forum will be a roundtable and Q&A on such topics as genetics, whelping and litter evaluations. Please check the LCA Breeder's List or LCA Web site for updates on this seminar.

AKC is beginning a massive initiative in concert with its member clubs to build and equip a series of disaster relief trailers which will be placed in areas all over the country. Clubs can contribute as little as \$500 which would bring with it a club logo placed on one or more of those trailers. Trailers would be dispatched to areas affected by manmade or natural disasters to help the dog and cat population in those locations. More information will be forthcoming. A trailer similar to the ones that will be built was on display at the host hotel in Raleigh. It was an impressive piece of gear.

AKC is also preparing an award called the Parent Club of Excellence Award, to be given to AKC member clubs who satisfy a lengthy list of requirements. If this is something the LCA wants to pursue, I believe we might be in pretty good shape to attain that designation.

At Tuesday's general meeting, a vote was taken on an initiative sponsored by the Lewiston-Auburn (Maine) Kennel Club to amend Section 1 of The Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club. This amendment would preclude any former AKC employee from serving on the AKC Board of Directors. After a number of speakers pro and con, the measure was soundly defeated by the Delegate body.

The Tuesday Delegate's Forum included presentations from two Illinois attorneys. Peter Canalis, whose firm includes specialists in animal law, and Debra Vey Voda-Hamilton a licensed professional mediator provided an overview of the process involved in creating legally viable pet trusts or pet protection agreements as part of an estate planning process. There should be PDFs of each presentation added to the AKC Delegate Portal in the next few weeks. As soon as those are available, they will be republished on the LCA Web site.

The next Delegate meeting is scheduled for September 9 & 10 in Newark, New Jersey.