

Dear fellow members of the IWCA,

Over the years there have been numerous challenges that the club has had to negotiate. These challenges have been dealt with utilizing the club's bylaws, the American Kennel Club regulations, of which we are a member club, and the laws of our state of incorporation, Kentucky.

It is my understanding that several of you have received a letter of grievance from an Active member of the IWCA. I trust we all understand that election time for the IWCA is an emotional one. Unfortunately, inaccurate accountings of past events have been distributed and I would like to take the opportunity to present you with the facts. While dissent is important for the growth of an organization, for that organization to remain healthy it must rest on an accurate history.

Explanations to each of the issues outlined in the letter have previously been given and can be found in the meeting minutes or on the IWCA website with exception to the issue of non-acceptance of memberships. Below, please find clarification of the allegations.

Regarding the Board term limit petition submitted at the 2009 AGM, had a "properly signed petition" been presented to the Board of Directors, the Board would have acted upon it according to the bylaws. Upon consultation with the state of KY, the petition was ruled invalid because there was no acceptable way to confirm that the signatures were in fact, from members in good standing at the time the petition was signed. The term limit issue is being addressed by Bylaw revisions currently in committee. A poll was sent to the IWCA Active members with several options for Board of Director and Officer term limits for their consideration and preference. The option favored by the majority of the respondents has been incorporated into the revisions and will be submitted to the Active members for their approval.

Concerning the Breeder Directory, the Board adhered to this ruling from the AKC: Parent club members are limited to voting on applicants not elected by the board; petitioning for special club meetings; nominating and voting for officer and board positions; participating on committees; voting to expel a member; voting on breed standard revisions, bylaw amendments and dissolution of the club. "All other matters fall under the authority of the board of directors. Motions made by the members which conflict with the Board of Directors general management power are out of order and, if adopted, are null and void." The membership at the 2009 AGM made a motion that was in direct conflict with a fiduciary board decision, thus making it null and void. In response to the spirit of the membership's desire, the Board has established a Breeder Directory, with a \$50.00 annual fee. This listing is on the IWCA website.

With respect to the production of the Yearbook, despite the Board's best effort to keep the membership up to date, the issues seem to be never ending. Donna Pitt, editor of Harp and Hound, reported to us what items were needed from each of the local/regional IW clubs during the 2010 AGM. Some items needed to complete the project have been slow in arriving, but Donna reports that she plans to have the finished product at the printers well before the National. Future issues of the Yearbook should begin to come on line within a reasonable framework.

With regards to membership applications, as much as we would like to share the Board's decision, the AKC rule that all parent clubs must abide by states "Denial of memberships must be based on a secret ballot and all procedure for processing such applications must be followed. The club can only inform applicants whether the constitutionally mandated affirmative majority vote was received." These explanations, as mandated by the AKC, were sent in writing to the applicants only. The AKC has rules and the State of KY has laws to which the IWCA must adhere in order for the IWCA to remain in compliance. The recent accusations are simply speculation and indicate lack of understanding of the club's protocols and of these rules and laws.

The official internet portal for obtaining information concerning the club is the IWCA website. For the receiving of club correspondence and business letters it is that of the club secretary. The current Code of Conduct for board members is a pledge to the membership to conduct their business with honesty and integrity; it does not bind the board members to secrecy in any manner. From Joe Pitt, the author of the Board Code of Conduct, "... no one should be expected to abandon a position if they are outvoted - but accepting the outcome of a vote should be standard procedure. That does not mean that one cannot continue to work to change peoples' minds - the thrust here is to maintain civility and honesty. I want to be able to trust my fellow Board members - And there is no compulsion to sign the Board Code of Conduct - but it says something whether a Board member does or does not." The observance of IWCA Board meetings by the membership has been welcomed, meeting information is posted in advance on the IWCA website's "Club News" and attendance continues to be encouraged.

As the club President, I ask you to please give careful consideration to *all* of the candidates running for election. Whether the candidate accepted the nomination of the nominating committee or decided to run as an additional candidate, they have all demonstrated the desire to do what is in the best interest of the club and are willing to step forward and offer their time, talents and financial commitment. Each and every one of these candidates, whether elected to office or not, will be given a job on a committee if they so desire. We managed to make it through an election last year with our integrity intact and I would very much like to see the same happen this year. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted

Jacqueline Carswell

IWCA President