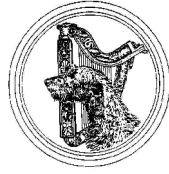


## **Message from the President**



This has been a very productive year for the club. The 2010 National Specialty was quite successful and beautifully orchestrated. The auction was well attended with over \$20,000.00 being raised to further the club's educational and health functions for the hounds. Kudos again, to Jamie Souza and the West coast contingent for a job well done. I met with the previous year's round table participants and asked for progress reports on the direction the club has taken since the implementation of their suggestions. I'm pleased to report that the club is receiving positive grades and continued constructive input on our improvement.

As a result of these discussions, your board of directors has agreed to try a different approach this year by assigning co-chair positions to all committees. One board member and one Active club member were chosen as chairmen. The thought process was to always have a chair in training and keep fresh ideas. The long time single Education committee was separated into three different committees; judges, public and member (breeder) education, each having two chairs for a total of 6 different sets of leadership skills and input. Exciting new ideas are currently in the works for each of these committees. The rescue committee now consists of an East coast and a West coast chair, working together and assisting each local IW club and individual IW rescue groups. Our Specialty development committee has completed their task of outlining the protocol for our National and the manual will be on the club's website shortly, if not already. The club now has a Specialty advisory committee. Our health committee continues to work with the IWF and the CHF in funding breed specific research projects for the welfare of the Irish Wolfhound. The club will continue to investigate and decide if co-chairs are of benefit in utilizing experienced volunteers to train new volunteers so as to have continuity in our work progress and goals.

Our secretary now sends general club mailings via email. If you are not receiving your club correspondence, please contact Judy Simon to make arrangements to receive these items. You will still receive your dues notices and ballots via U. S. Postal service. All policies have been updated and are available on the club's website. The board is currently working on job descriptions for each committee and officer. The majority of these can be found on the website, with the remainder on the agenda for approval at the winter board meeting. Please check the club news section of the IWCA website for updates on canine legislation and current club news regularly.

Another successful venture was the completion of the DVD project. This included the entire set of IWCA Annual reports beginning in the year 1928 through the Harp and Hound 2007. A set of these DVDs has been placed in the IWCA archives. The board will determine the time frame for future scanning projects and will periodically make them available to the membership. The Irish Wolfhound Club of Ireland has given the IWCA permission to scan the Hogan/Graham book and it will be included with our next scanning project.

A questionnaire concerning the bylaw revisions was sent out in the last general club mailing. Those results have been tabulated by the bylaw revision committee and made available to the board members along with member comments. The membership choices have been re-written into the current draft and have been presented to the AKC for review. Once this review has been completed, the Active membership will receive a ballot for acceptance.

Our hounds give us so much each day of our lives and have a positive effect on everything we do. Don't they deserve the best from us? It's our responsibility to make sure they have happy, long and healthy lives. It's also up to us, the current membership, to carry the torch that will light the way for our future members and breeders. More members are contributing by adding their IWs to the CHIC and Longevity Program databases. This is important information for our breed's future so please help by doing your part and entering your hounds into these databases.

We are looking forward to the 2011 National Specialty in Geneva, New York. Linda Vaughn and Marie Douches will co-chair this event. Please make your plans to attend or volunteer to help support this event in any way you can. Thank you!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, the Happiest of Holidays and a Prosperous New Year!

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