

## TVKC April President's Message

Greetings to all:

It is so nice to see that spring has finally arrived and the show and trial seasons are getting very busy. First a big "Thank You" to Dawn Darr and all of her helpers for putting on another successful agility trial last month in Harriman.

There is truly a lot of activity going on now within the club and I will do my best to keep everyone up to date. Steve Merritt and the nominating committee have put forth a slate of officers for the upcoming year. Nominations from the floor will take place at this month's meeting. Please remember if you wish to nominate someone from the floor the person must be present or you must have a written acceptance from that person. Please remember it is everyone's club so please feel free to nominate someone if you feel that they would be a qualified asset to the board and the club. If you are nominated please be sure you are willing to commit to attending the majority of both board and regular meetings. At the close of nominations those people that have opposition for the position will be given an opportunity to provide a short written resume to be published on the club's website so all members will have a chance to evaluate each candidate. We will also allow for a couple of minutes of introduction at the May meeting before the election so all candidates can be heard by the members.

This year has been one of hard work and numerous accomplishments and the current board has worked very well together to identify the goals of our club and to have honest and open debate in getting things done. It has been a pleasure as president to work with this wonderful group of people and see the progress we have made together.

The upcoming cluster is coming together very well. All of the judges have been hired and the cooperation between TVKC and ORKC has been outstanding. Toys, Terriers, Non-Sporting and several individual breeds will be shown inside of the Jacob's building with the balance outdoors under the permanent covered buildings on the North side of the park. Obedience will have 4 judges and 4 rings each day in the Golden Gloves building. Both the TVKC and the ORKC have agreed to hire stewards in the event enough volunteers do not come forward.

We have also made arrangements for numerous food venues at the cluster. There will be a vendor either right inside or outside of the Golden Gloves Bldg. The Jacob's Building will have the regular stand along with a "Quick Soup and Salad bar." And there should be at least two vendors outside of the north buildings in the park.

The cluster has also agreed to host a "Stewards training program" at a date closer to the show to help people that would like to steward learn the ins and outs of both conformation as well as obedience and rally stewarding. If you are one of the people that plan to apply to become a judge in any of the venues ring stewarding is a requirement of AKC as a prelude to the application process. So stewarding for the upcoming cluster will give you 4 opportunities.

If you have not been to our website lately now is a good time to check it out. Beth White has done a great job and would like to put everyone's photo on the site so we can all put a face with a name.

It is also time for our clubs awards. If you completed an AKC title on one or more of your dogs between January 1, and December 31, 2009 please get with Jeanne Ring so she can have your award made.

Unfortunately at the last minute the Red Cross had to cancel the K-9 CPR and medical emergency program but they say they will be here for the April meeting so please plan to attend.

For those of you with access to 'Show Sights' magazine there is a very good article on club membership it is well written and makes numerous observations both good and bad on the state of many dog clubs. If you get a chance read it, I think you will agree with many of the points made in the article.

One of the failings of the club as of late has been getting conformation classes going. It is something we will continue to work on, but I understand there are classes on Monday near Gallagher view rd. and on Tuesdays at ORKC so for those of you looking there are opportunities available for you and your dogs.

Your dues for the upcoming year are due now so please get them into Jean Dinkins as soon as possible.

I believe our membership stands at around the 65-70 number yet our monthly attendance for meetings has been around an average of 25 per month. I realize that not everyone can make each meeting but I urge everyone that is a member to try to attend whenever possible. Our club is made up of a diverse group of interest we have people that do conformation, obedience, agility, lure coursing, field trials and the like. Because of this we need to all be working together to build up a membership that is willing to become invested in these areas. The future of not only our club but also that of shows and trials depend upon have enough volunteers to put these events on. In all clubs there are people that don't attend meetings or become involved in the work of the club. Unfortunately many of these people are the same ones that complain about the shows, trials, and management of the club.

There are numerous jobs and positions available to work for your club. Please don't wait to be asked. If you wish to become more involved please let someone on the board know so we can help to get you more involved.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Walter J. Sommerfelt  
President, TVKC