TVKC President's Message October 2013

Dear Members:

There are a lot of exciting things going on right now within the TVKC. I would like to take a few minutes of your time to update you on a number of items.

The Cluster:
Our show as part of the Great Smoky Mountain Cluster is just around the corner. Our shows this year fall on Friday and Sunday and as always we can use your help. Those of you that are willing to help out please contact Carol Sommerfelt at 865-986-1614 or Pat Hodges at 865-643-2369 or 865-458-0597 they are our show chairmen and would appreciate all of the help they can get.

Cluster Donations:
Once again we are having several events to assist in raising funds for various charities. On Friday we will again be having our Bake-A-Wish Bake sale with the proceeds to go to "Take the Lead". If you can bring bake goods for sale that would be great, If not but you wish to help please get your monetary donations to Jean Dinkins, Linda Pitts or Walter Sommerfelt. Make the checks out to the Great Smoky Mountain Cluster and put a notation on them for Bake Sale.
Cluster Donation Requests: Along with this message there is an attachment for cluster donations. Please open and print out as many of these as you might need. It is a three page package with page one the request letter, page two the AKC economic Impact on our community letter and page three is a Tax Credit letter that can be given to those individuals or business that need one for their tax records. PLEASE ASK YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR A DONATION EITHER IN AN ITEM, A SERVICE, GIFT CARDS OR EVEN CASH OR CHECK. We can use anything you can help out in obtaining to make our raffle another great success.

October Program:
Plan now to attend our October meeting as we will have Mary Dukes, AKC field Rep here to present a program on how to conduct a proper Bench Show hearing. This is a very unique opportunity for all of us to understand not only conducting the hearing but what type of situations call for such hearings. As a member and also as an exhibitor everyone needs to know the ins and outs of these hearings. When they can be called, who can call for them, just what happens with the penalties etc? Many people do not even understand that they can be subjected to these hearings even at the hotels in which they stay. Plan to be there it should be a very informative program to everyone that competes at any AKC events.
Conformation Class:
The TVKC has been given permission to start our conformation classes at the new Facility at the UT campus. Classes will start on Monday October 14th at 7:00 PM. Please go to the TVKC web site for directions to the new location. This is a brand new fantastic facility and we are grateful for the opportunity to use the facility. A big "Thank you" to Keith Bailey for staying on top of this project and working with UT to get it done.
AKC Special Disaster Relief Trailer:
Those of you that have been attending our meetings lately have heard about the new program initiated at AKC to furnish the emergency management people in all counties in the U.S.A. with

special “Emergency Trailers” to assist in taking care of peoples beloved pets when various disasters take place in their community. This is a fantastic program and in the coming months we will be starting an effort in our community to start raising funds for several of these within our general East Tennessee area counties. Judy Hart is heading up our clubs efforts and should you wish to be involved please contact Judy and let her know.

Agility Trials and “B” Match:

Beth White and her team are working hard on our upcoming agility trials in December and a sanctioned “B” Match with a date to be determined. As most of you know our club has been making a significant effort to grow the performance side of our club. We still have a long way to go in gaining more active members that are involved in performance events. Please let your friends that have an interest in the performance side know that the TVKC would love to have them as members of our club. Beth would also love to hear from anyone that is willing to help out in the upcoming events.

Christmas Party:

Our annual Christmas party will be held on Tuesday December 17 at 6:30 PM at the club meeting room at the Emergency Vet Clinic. It will be a “Pot Luck” function with the club providing the main dish, Beverages, and dinnerware and everyone bringing a dish. Paula Smiddy is in charge of this event and she will update you on what other special things she may have planned.

Meeting Room:

The Board at its last meeting reviewed our meeting room and the various needs of our members. The board reviewed our membership and the great variance in locations of our members as well as the clubs need to serve “all of our membership” with that in mind the Board has made the following proposal to be voted on AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING. It is proposed that in the future our meeting sites and schedules be as follows. ***Meetings to be held at the current emergency Veterinary clinic in October, November, January, February, and March. Meetings to be held back at the UT vet school in April, May,July,August and September with our annual awards picnic to be held in June and the Christmas Meeting Party to be held in December.*** This proposed change we feel is a great alternative way to serve all of our members. With the spring and summer meetings at UT this would eliminate the parking issues that have existed during basketball season. Remember this will be voted on at the NOVEMBER meeting. This is your opportunity as a member to be heard on our meeting location.

I would like to congratulate Trula Dinkins on her being voted in as an honorary member, Express the clubs Sympathy to Grant Howard on the recent loss of his wife Linda. The upcoming cluster is dedicated to her memory. I would also like to offer best wishes to Catherine Bell in a quick recovery from her recent medical setbacks.

I am sure I have forgotten to mention something but this an exciting time in our club. Again please solicit donations for our cluster events. Plan to help at our shows and upcoming agility trials. Make plans to participate in our conformation classes, attend the October meeting as well as plan to attend and vote at the November meeting. I look forward to seeing all of you at this month’s meeting.

Walter Sommerfelt
President, TVKC