

AWMA President's Message
Summer, 2012

In the interest of keeping our members up to date with AWMA news while reducing the time needed to prepare a conventional newsletter/e-magazine, the AWMA board recently voted to move to a schedule of quarterly president's reports and an annual newsletter. This is the first stand-alone quarterly president's message prepared as part of this new process. Along with our website where we post our trial results and voting records and our Facebook page, these reports will provide you with timely, important AWMA information. The comprehensive yearly e-magazine will be provided the first quarter of each year. We sincerely hope that this process and schedule will meet the needs of our membership for information.

Welcome to two new AWMA local clubs, Tarheel Protection Sports Club in North Carolina and Metro-Detroit SchH and Police K9 in Michigan. Contact information for both clubs can be found on our website under 'find a club'. We are pleased that these groups have chosen to become affiliated with the AWMA and to offer performance events for handler/dog teams.

With the addition of these two new groups I would like to point out the potential advantages of forming an AWMA club. One emerging advantage is that AWMA organizations can bring in approved judges from any AWDF organization or those who have FCI licenses. We are not restricted to those who are affiliated with only one breed or breed organization. Please do note that if you wish to use an FCI judge that the approval must come through the AWDF secretary. Another is that our membership fees for clubs and individuals are much less expensive than many of the other organizations. We do not charge stamping fees for scorebooks and there is no penalty for members from other organizations to participate in our trials. Our intention is to be as inclusive as possible while still retaining our overall goal of promoting the Belgian Malinois as a working dog.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind our local clubs that as per our by-laws your club rosters are due to the AWMA secretary, Donna McGinnis, on September 1. Each club will receive a notice in the near future. Please help Donna by promptly providing this information; it will minimize her follow-up requests.

By now you should all be aware of the efforts underway for our 10th annual AWMA National Championship (<http://2012awma.com>). The event is being hosted by Motor City Working Dogs and John/Mohawk Wiitanen and Paula Daigle in Bowling Green, Kentucky. From all of us, thanks so very much to MCWD, Mohawk and Paula for making this event happen. The venue, judges, helpers and many of the details have all been handled and information is provided on the website. You can show your support by stepping forward to sponsor a trophy as an individual or for your organization/company, or by becoming an overall sponsor. Sponsorship has been made easy by offering a package price for a link on the homepage of the event, a page in the catalogue, and a vendor spot. The club is looking for volunteers to help with the field (group, tattoo check, changing equipment, etc.) so if you are planning to attend consider stepping forward to lighten the load. Hope to see you as a spectator/volunteer, vendor, or competitor – we will have a great time celebrating ten years of national championship events!

As we prepare for the championship, remember that we also hold our annual meeting in conjunction with the event. We strongly encourage all member clubs to send a delegate so we can conduct our business with a quorum present. Each year we ask for the name of club's delegate in advance, so please

discuss this with your group so you have someone identified to participate and vote at the general board meeting. That being said, note that our bylaws allow your club to be represented at the annual meeting by presenting a signed nomination form from the club – see Article VI, Section 1 (g) of the by-laws. If you have any issues or ideas that you want to have addressed at the annual meeting, please send them to our secretary, Donna McGinnis, at dgmfelise@yahoo.com as soon as possible. The agenda must be to the delegates no later than thirty days before the meeting, so don't wait until the last minute to have something of interest included.

This year the general board will be electing the officers (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, membership director, director of judges and director at large). The executive board will also be selecting one additional director at large to serve on the Executive Board. As per our by-laws, "to be eligible for election, each member of the Executive Board (whether at-large or as an officer) must have titled a dog to at least an IPO 1, VPG 1, FR 1 or MR 1." We will also be electing people to participate on our standing committees. This year's elections include three members of the Auditing Committee, three members and alternate(s) for the Board of Inquiry, and two members of the National Events/World Championship Committee. If you are interested in running for office or serving on a standing committee, please send your name to Christopher Smith at thedogtrainer@gmail.com. This is your chance to get involved and help the organization. Note that nominees for officers, directors at large and standing committees must either be present at the meeting or provide the secretary with a written statement of agreement to be a candidate.

Again, I hope to see many of you at the upcoming championship and annual meeting. Until then, I wish all of you success with your training and don't forget to have fun in the process.

Anne Camper
President, AWMA