

AWMA President's Message
July, 2013

This message will provide our members with an overview of the important developments since the first of the year. A number of events have been held, policies created, and there are plans for new activities under development. I encourage all of you to follow the club business by visiting our website (www.workingmalinois.org) via the discussion forum link on the lower left of the page. Under 'news' on the forum you can find information on pending and passed motions and other club information. For example, the minutes from the November annual meeting are available there for you to read. We are also posting new information on the AWMA Facebook page.

AWMA competitors demonstrated strong showings this year in national and international events. We had two IPO competitors at the FMBB, and both did extremely well. Congratulations to Susan Miller and Axa for their ninth place overall and David Greene and Luigi for their eleventh place finish. Considering that most of the talented Europeans have the ability to drive to these events with their team coaches and helpers, our team's placements are even more remarkable knowing they endured long transatlantic flights, major time zone differences, and the need to rely on others for coaching and training. We also had a good group participate in the AWDF Championship and Team Challenge. Once again we had nearly 10% of our entire membership out on the field; the AWMA had more competitors than any other organization except USCA. It was wonderful to talk with those of you who competed or attended and to watch everyone who put themselves on the line by participating in the event. There were several people who had the courage to seek new titles and many who were seasoned competitors. In the end, AWMA won the team challenge, Ivan Balabanov and Ebor were 5th place IPO 3, Susan Miller and Axa tied for high tracking and received the high female and high XX trophies, and Fabian Robinson and Boker were high obedience.

Several of our top competitors will also be representing us on the 2013 FCI IPO team. Congratulations to Fabian Robinson and Boker, Susan Miller and Axa, and Pablo Varela and Garm for their selection as three of the five team members. This strong showing is a testament to the high level of training and trialing that these teams have accomplished over the past years. All the best to each of you and the entire AWDF team, here's for high scores at the event.

I hope that many of you are planning to participate in the 2013 AWMA National IPO Championship to be held this year in St. Anne, IL and hosted by the Midwest Working Dog Association. Event dates are November 15-17. The tracking judge will be Kristiaan De Sweemer and obedience/protection is Hartmut Beckman. All of the details can be found at www.awma2013.com. Help the club out by making a trophy donation or volunteering to help with the myriad of details that require attention to create a first-class competition. And of course, consider sending in your entry!

I'd also like to thank several of our local clubs for hosting past and future trials. Since January we've had competitions hosted by the Spirit Working Dog Club in Florida, Midwest Working Dog Association in Illinois, and Cache Valley Working Dogs in Utah. Pending trials will be hosted by the Cascade Belgian Shepherd Club, Midwest Working Dog Association, Three Mountains Working Dog Club and the Sacramento Valley

Working Dog Club. You can find details on these events on the AWMA website (www.workingmalinois.org) under upcoming events.

Other important news is related to scorebook policies and the AWDF. Changes in the policy have been posted on the AWMA website under scorebooks and scorebook FAQs and also on our Facebook page. The decision was made to reverse the policy enacted in 2009 by which individual breed clubs were responsible for issuing scorebooks for their individual breeds, with all other dogs listed as a mix. The sport organizations (US Mondioring Association, DVG) were allowed to list the dog's breed provided that proof of FCI recognized registration could be provided. The current policy is that all organizations can issue scorebooks to all of their member's dogs provided that proof of FCI recognized registration is provided. What this means (for example), is an AWMA member with a Rottweiler or German Shepherd Dog will not need to obtain scorebooks from the respective breed clubs (USRC, USCA) if documentation of FCI recognized registration is provided with a scorebook application and proof of membership in AWMA to our scorebook chair. These scorebooks are accepted at all AWDF member club events, including the AWDF Championship, as AWDF scorebooks are no longer required to enter the AWDF Championship. This change will allow for dogs imported with FCI recognized breed club scorebooks to adhere to the FCI rule of one scorebook per dog. Lastly, USCA will no longer require scorebooks from other organizations be submitted for stamping.

When you received your membership renewal, you also were sent information about the AWMA using the services of Zooza to manage our membership list. The board decided that it was time to move past the days of keeping membership information in three ring binders toward an electronic system that was integrated with on line payment information. After considering the costs of developing and maintaining a custom program, we decided to work with Zooza. Our membership has come in at an amazing rate and Zooza has been great at keeping things organized and ensuring everything is received. Although the end result will be a considerable improvement in efficiency, implementing the Zooza system has been a slow learning process. We are manually setting up many of the settings so it is configured to work best for our membership. Due to the implementation of Zooza, memberships are running about 8 weeks versus the normal 4-6 because of this learning process. Consequently, if you need a membership card sooner, please contact the membership chair directly with the name of the member and date it is needed. In the next few weeks we will phase in the ability to order scorebooks, IPO Club memberships, and facilitate event hosting. When those updates become available the information will be released to you. If anyone has any questions about Zooza or their membership please contact the membership chair directly at schhrotts@hotmail.com.

There is also some sad news that I need to share. On July 7, Warren Jones, the AWMA's former Director at Large and chair of our Judges Committee and By-Laws Committee lost his battle with brain cancer. The AWMA and dog sports in general greatly benefitted from his fairness, collegiality, and willingness to serve. As a USCA judge, he was respected for his impartiality and encouragement of everyone, but especially new handlers. As a Malinois owner and trainer, he completed IPO 3 titles on two dogs, Harley and Lexi. I first met him in 1986 and had the honor of working with him as a fellow faculty member and colleague as well as in dog sports via our local training group and the AWMA. Although he appreciated the competition aspects and the

working abilities of his canine friends, he was above all a true 'dog man', just as happy to be throwing the ball or having one of them curled up on the couch next to him. He leaves behind his wife of thirty years, Samie, and his son Derek. Hold his love of family, music, teaching, and his dogs in your thoughts. These memories will keep him with us all.

As we enter the dog days of summer, I wish you all the best with your training. Please consider entering or attending the AWMA National Championship in November. And as always, if you have recommendations, suggestions, or comments I would appreciate hearing from you.

Anne Camper
AWMA President