

President's Message – 1st Quarter 2006

Spring is the harbinger of change and rebirth and so it is with the ARC. Diane Garnett resigned as Secretary in early February in order to be eligible to run for the office of President in the upcoming election. Diane has been an energetic and organized force behind the ARC Board for several years, and I deeply appreciate not only her past service, but her willingness to take over the leadership of the club at a very critical time in our breed's history. I am very grateful to Becky Sumner for stepping in as interim Secretary until the Board could appoint Deborah Shibley. Thank you, Deb, for coming forward to serve the remainder of the term in this critical position.

I must also thank Cindie Swaim for her many years of service as Chair of New Memberships. This position is time consuming and critical to our organization. We are very fortunate to have Deb Haldeman volunteer to serve in this capacity. In addition, we are saying "Goodbye" to Sandy Kinsman who has served as our Carting Test Coordinator for the past few years. Sandy will be missed. Her replacement is Dr. Tommy Caisango. Please join me in welcoming Deb and Tommy; you will find their contact information on the "Committees" page of this issue. We appreciated the number of members who volunteered for these positions.

Annual Election: By now you have received, and hopefully returned, your Ballot for the 2006 ARC election of Officers and Directors. I want to thank each of the ARC members who accepted their nomination and have agreed to step up to serve if elected. As Chairman of the Nominating Committee, I could not have succeeded in filling the slate without Leslie Fried and Lori Gach-Scalf who assisted with selecting and contacting candidates. The Nominating Committee made a concerted effort to put forward a slate that provided representation for a majority of the Regions throughout the U.S. We also selected members with skill sets, knowledge, and local club service/experience that will be critical to ARC in the next two years. In particular with the AKC developing a Working Dog Sport and the ARC looking forward to offering a National Seiger event, we felt Amanda Hoskinson and Juan Griego would bring needed experience to the Board in those areas. Jeanette Tonini, a long-time fancier, represents innumerable years of service to the Rottweiler clubs in northern California, both as officer and show chair. Cindy Earich-Leibert has demonstrated leadership on several critical ARC committees and tasks since joining the ARC Board two years ago. Cindy's energy and "can do" attitude has made her a highly valued Board Member. I am very pleased that she accepted our nomination to run for Vice President. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on May 11th. Be sure to return your ballot by May 6, 2006

I am disappointed to say that although the names of the Nominating Committee members were published on pg. 42 of 3rd Qtr ARK, very few members contacted us to volunteer or to provide suggestions for potential candidates. Another disappointment was the number of members who turned down our invitations to run for positions on the Board. Remember my friends, as a wise soul once said, "if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." The best way to ensure change is to lead it.

Breed Standard Revision: If you have not already received the Ballot on language revision of the tail portion of the standard, it will be in your homes shortly. Please be sure to follow instructions carefully when voting your ballot and return it to the ARC Secretary by deadline. Results of the Ballot will be announced in the 2nd Qtr ARK and on the ARC website. If a proposed wording is approved by 2/3 of the votes cast, that wording will be presented to the Board of Directors of the AKC for final approval. The AKC process for ratification will take approximately 6-9 months. The process includes publication in two issues of the Gazette, reprinting of the Breed Standards packets and mailing to judges. If neither proposal on this ballot is approved by our members, the club must decide whether to continue with the process of developing wording our members can support or inform the AKC that we are withdrawing our request to revise the tail portion of our standard at this time. Should the club choose to withdraw; no 5-year moratorium will be imposed. If we continue, the moratorium does not go into effect until AKC has approved a change to the standard.

I feel it is important to address the concern voiced by members that the ARC Board violated the Constitution & By-Laws by not submitting a ballot within 90 days of receiving a member petition containing alternate wording. Please read the February 23, 2006 letter from Michael Liosis, AKC Director of Club Relations, published in this issue of ARK. He states, "**The standard revision process may be commenced either based on a recommendation of the board or via petition from the membership, but not concurrently.**" The ARC Board consulted with two Registered Parliamentarians when the petition was received last September to determine proper process. Both made it clear that the Board was not required to set their process aside, but could, if they chose, add the wording of the petition to their ballot. Mr. Liosis states, "*Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, which is the club's parliamentary authority, would lead us to conclude that the petition, which was received on or about September 1st is improper until the board's proposal is "...finally disposed of ...". The Board chose to include the petition wording on the ballot. I hope Mr. Liosis' letter will make it clear to all that the ARC Board of Directors is not in violation of the Constitution & By-Laws. This Board has made every effort to ensure that all ARC members have a voice in this very critical process. **Please exercise your right to vote!**

Well, this will be my last President' Message. I am looking forward to reclaiming my life and my dogs are looking forward to long walks and renewed training...they are tired of entertaining themselves while I clack away on my keyboard. Many of my dogs have grown old and died while I sat answering phone calls, responding to email or writing letters, articles and policies. I will miss my friends on the Boards I have served and being "in the thick of things". I will NOT miss the stress, the frustration and disappointment! I do look forward to seeing many of you at local events and future Nationals. God Bless the creatures large and small. Namaste,

Pam