

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Happy New Year! We may be the last ones to offer that greeting to you but it still needs to be said because that is exactly what we are into, a happy new year. Obviously, not everyone will be delighted about everything at the same time since there are always bumps or curves in the road but when you let yourself go and take the time to smile . . . you'll feel better and you'll look better too. Who can't do with a little of that kind of medicine? Certainly not the Board! We can and do take time to smile when we receive messages that express sentiments such as this from long-time member in Japan, **Hisashi Yabuzaki, DVM**, "*I have received the honorary 25-year pin with great thanks. I am very surprised and very proud of the accumulated 25 years of membership in the BHCA*" . . . and, these words from our hardworking Florida member, **Ellen Ferguson** ". . . thank you for a marvelous club. I am proud to be a BHCA member." ☺

As a Board, we stay abreast of the membership by attending as many functions as possible. Board members try to attend events to make available their time for you as well as to participate in the particular activity. Do not pass up a chance to make your opinion heard. When you speak to one, you speak to all as Board members are in constant communication and even send in short reports to give us a glimpse of events they have attended. These messages keep the Board in tune with the membership. Below are a few snippets from some of those reports.

New BHCA Director, **Gwen McCullagh** sent this report: "*The trial (Berkshire Valley BHC) appeared to be going well . . . the runs were completed easily by lunch-time with plentiful rabbits. With the temperature then near 80 degrees the rabbits were a bit reluctant to move but the gallery was effective in routing them out. . . We're pretty well known to most of the BV membership by now and I was congratulated on my "election" to the Board. There seemed to be a general feeling that the Nationals were just not the same without all events being held together and support for the return to the usual model next year. There was also support expressed for the Hunt test, one was held at these grounds in April.*"

BHCA Director, **Ken Engle**, reported on the Basset Hound of Maryland field trial. "*They had a very nice trial, total entries 65 - 15 Dogs - 28 Champions - 22 Bitches, weather was beautiful and more than enough rabbits. Great food too! . . . quite a few members of the Maryland BHC were there to watch on Sunday . . . They were there to have a meeting and fun show after the trial.*"

At the recent BHC of San Antonio and Highland Lakes BH Association specialty events, not only was the hospitality fantastic but so too was a new idea -- two independent specialty shows and sweepstakes on the same day, same location! Necessity was the mother of invention in this case but it sure made for a quick show weekend with time left over for yard-work! BHCA Director, **Richard Nance**, wrote "*Sharon and I enjoyed the shows and liked having them on the same day.*" Richard also mentioned that there were some questions about the upcoming Nationals judges. The full results were recently published in the Nov/Dec *Tally-Ho*. From BHCA 2nd VP, **Bill Russell**, came ". . . attended the Valle del Sol BHC specialty and had a very nice time . . . we had a good time

watching **Bob Opeka** beat the dark. Also, I attended their after-show dinner at a Mexican restaurant."

While in Hawaii, I met up with **Gale and Tom Yamaguchi**. Not only did I get to enjoy their hospitality but we also discussed their local Basset Hound

concerns. Guess what? They are the same in Hawaii as they are on the mainland, not enough newcomers into the sport of dogs! A coinciding business appointment kept me from an early-in-the-day BHC of San Diego specialty but I was still able to enjoy the club's after-show dinner. Everyone welcomed the chance to get together, talk dogs and, meet new people.

These reports and observations share a common theme, that of having fun doing what you're doing and with whom you share the day. Whether its field, track, obedience, show, VST, agility or whatever . . . do it in a sportsman-like manner and with camaraderie as goal #1. Goal #2 is to do your best and goal #3, be a winner in every way you can! As some of our British friends are so fond of saying, "*All in all, it was a good day out.*" You may be tempted not to agree if your competitive spirit gets the better of you but, just believe that its more fun to have won when most everyone had a good time and is generally as satisfied as you are about the outcome than it is to be the winner and to have no one share the joy.

The 2002 competitions are about to begin . . . let's see if we can one-by-one bring everyone closer than they have ever been whether at a BHCA or at a member-club function. Showing up to sit on the sidelines is not what anyone had in mind when they invisioned the word "member". Volunteer to do what needs to be done. It matters not whether you are local club member . . . pick up a broom, volunteer some refreshments for the all-important show hospitality or, help to build a worthy entry. Also, do not forget to speak with any new persons in the crowd. Too many times newcomers are left to fend for themselves or, because they happen to be with persons that are not your particular friends . . . new Basset Hound folks are shunned through no fault of their own. We all need to make a special effort to take the high-road and to do what is best for everyone. Whatever your effort, it will be appreciated even if no one actually remembers to say the words . . . "Thank you."

Again, may we wish you and yours a *Happy New Year* . . . all the best of things to come and, wherever you may be going . . . to work, to shop, to play or, to visit, do travel safe.



Randy Frederiksen