

# ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .***



Wow! Some of our members that are parents of either high school or college seniors are probably wondering where all the time went and how fast it all seemed to happen. That's a question that can be placed before nearly anything and anyone at anytime. Of course, now you may have a bit more help with the kennel chores so (to quote Martha Stewart) "that's a good thing" but it probably won't last long. Just within our own hobby you can find yourself wishing for a puppy to grow up quick and then turn around after it's accomplished all that you hoped for and has been enjoying life . . . to find how quickly its no longer with you. Things happen fast but that is nothing to be concerned about as change and the management of that change is what we all aspire to take control of rather than allowing it or anyone else to control us.

The reason to control and manage change is because as the old saying goes . . . "The only thing that's constant is change." To be in control does not mean that you must state each and every rule nor be steadfast to them just because it's a great backstop against other's views. It means that you manage that change by possibly moving with the punches as long as when doing so you are being flexible yet still taking responsibility. Keeping your mind open to the possibilities of everyone and everything cannot be a bad thing. In fact, it is a part of any successful leadership concept. There are always those who will never get onboard unless something was their idea or that will object to anything because of who is presenting it but, that's the politics of personalities. At times the train needs to simply leave on schedule with or without all anticipated passengers.

Years ago I heard a speaker say . . . "Rules are answers to yesterday's questions." The next time that you are placed in a corner between rules that you know are correct yet inhibitive of what you know needs to be done for the good of the whole, you'll know what to do since its today and tomorrow not yesterday that is the concern. Being some what of a historian, I could easily argue that rules are there to protect us from making the same mistakes others did. Of course, not every situation can be foreseen so that too would be another side of any debate and a great argument for not making too many rules and instead making use of guidelines.

Within the BHCA we have rules and guidelines. In fact, guidelines are being newly formed, reshaped or suggested within every administration. Why is that? Again, to make them fit the positive conditions that arise and that could not be foreseen when they were originally written. In fact, this year we requested, reviewed and accepted as revised, new guidelines for what now seems to be a fixture within the dog game; the *Meet the Breeds* booth at the AKC/Eukanuba "national dog show". There will be changes along the way because no one can see into the future. As a guideline instead of a set of rules, it lets us keep it simple, focused, positive in nature and expecting the best yet, it allows us to be prepared to handle the worst since it, like any of our other written guidelines, can be easily revised to meet the needs of today.

Isn't that how you would wish the BHCA and for that matter our own lives to be run? Hopefully, our parents and/or teachers instilled in us a set of rules and guidelines. Every now and then we need to stop, try to remember and/or define what they are, make any needed revisions and move on. Sometimes things are just plain wrong and rules need to be quoted. At times, however, flexibility is the name of the game and adjustments made to fit the new situation as long as it is of no harm to others. When you respond to any state of affairs with these things in mind, you are managing change without change managing you. You are also respecting rules yet invoking guidelines for the reality of life's ever-changing circumstances.

Things are always changing so whether it's your state of mind, the state of the road, the price of gas or the airline schedule . . . take care and travel safe.

*Randy Frederiksen*