



**2009-2010 ANNUAL DUES NOTICE**

**SENIOR CONFORMATION JUDGES ASSOCIATION**

Web Site: [www.scja.org](http://www.scja.org)      Email Address: [scja@cox.net](mailto:scja@cox.net)

Our annual dues of \$40.00 (\$50.00 for husband & wife or those at the same address) are now due. For those members who were on the ball and sent their dues in on their own, and for our recently joined members, there will be a highlighted **“NO DUES DUE!”** line at the bottom of the enclosed dues notice. Do not send your dues in, but please return the form since it asks for other information. Please take the time to fill out the dues notice completely, responding to the questions concerning your interests in upcoming events and return it as soon as possible!!!

\_\_\_\_\_  
 LAST NAME (please print) (address label preferred)      FIRST NAME (please print)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_  
 (if it is OK to call)

ANNUAL DUES....\$40      HUSBAND & WIFE (same household)....\$50

Please send check payable to SCJA and return to: SCJA 7200 Tanager St. Springfield, VA 22150

**Change of address, phone, or email:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address (address label preferred)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone      Email Address

**INTERESTED IN OR MAY ATTEND:**

Plan to Attend      Send Info

- |   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. NEW YORK Feb. 2010   | _____ |       |
| 2. GRADUATE INSTITUTE ON ALL TOY BREEDS   | _____ | _____ |
| Wildwood, NJ February 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2010 <a href="http://www.k9education.org">www.k9education.org</a>   |       |       |
| SCJA Annual Dinner Meeting to be Held on Saturday, Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2010  | _____ | _____ |
| 3. JUDGES INSTITUTE Las Vegas, NV July or August 2010   | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Please indicate if you are a Show Chair, President, Officer or Delegate (circle any that apply)  |       |       |
| 5. IN GENERAL, I AGREE WITH THE COMMENTS EXPRESSED IN THE LETTER ENCLOSED WITH THIS FALL 2009 SCJA NEWSLETTER COMMENTING ON THE AKC JUDGING APPROVAL PROCESS (totals to be used only – NO NAMES): |       |       |

\_\_\_\_\_ YES      \_\_\_\_\_ NO      \_\_\_\_\_ Please Initial Here

**WHY NOT SEND IN YOUR DUES TODAY WHILE IT IS FRESH ON YOUR MIND?**



# Sound Judgment

Senior Conformation Judges Association, Inc.

Newsletter Vol. XXVII #1 Fall 2009

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## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**THIS EDITION OF THE SCJA NEWSLETTER HAS YOUR DUES NOTICE.** We request you take five minutes to answer the questions on the dues notice (enclosed) concerning your interests in upcoming events and mail it in with your dues. Our annual dues of \$40.00 (\$50.00 for husband & wife or those living at the same address) are now due. For those members who were on the ball and sent their dues in on their own, and for our recently joined members, there will be a highlighted "**NO DUES DUE!**" line at the bottom of the enclosed dues notice. Do not send your dues in, but **please return** the form since it asks for other information. Please take the time to fill out the dues notice completely and return it with your dues as soon as possible to: SCJA 7200 Tanager St. Springfield, VA 22150!!!

(In the past, to make it easy for you, we enclosed a self-addressed envelope to return your dues & answers. In order to save the club \$500 or \$600 and many hours of work, we are emailing this trusting that you won't mind volunteering the few minutes to address an envelope to mail in your dues and answers.)

(Just think about how many minutes it took us to put out this newsletter.) 😊 Your cooperation is appreciated. **WHY NOT DO IT NOW WHILE IT IS FRESH ON YOUR MIND?**

**WE WANT TO REITERATE ANY MEMBER IS FREE TO DISCUSS AND SEEK ADVICE ON HOW TO HANDLE ANY MATTER YOU PERCEIVE TO BE A PROBLEM INCLUDING ANY REPORT OR CONVERSATION WITH ANYONE IN AUTHORITY AT THE AKC. YOUR ORGANIZATION WAS INCORPORATED 26 YEARS AGO AND IS HERE TO HELP YOU IN ANY WAY AND ALL AREAS INVOLVING YOUR JUDGING CAREER.**

**WORTHY OF NOTE** - **NO** SCJA funds have ever been spent for office space or utilities except for telephone and fax. No members have ever received any remuneration for their services. Some of our members donate their own funds for travel and other expenses.

**IMPORTANT** – Always include a phone number with all emails. We simply do not have the staff to answer all the emails, and mainly, Col. Pedé is not known for his typing skills. The phone is another story. 😊

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **NEW YORK FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**We strongly recommend you make your reservations ASAP!**

**NEW YORK'S HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA**, 401 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., New York, NY 10001 (across from the front entrance to the Garden on 7th Ave.) 1-800-223-8585 or 1-212-736-5000. Be sure you tell them you want the "**SENIOR CONFORMATION JUDGES ASSOC. BLOCK**". Rates for Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> are \$149 for one bed and \$174 for two beds, with or without dogs. Without dogs, rates for Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> are \$189 for one bed and \$214 for two beds. With dogs, rates for Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> are \$229 for one bed and \$254 for two beds. Premium rooms with dogs are \$279 for one bed and \$354 for two beds. Two-night minimum stay required. The above rates are subject to 8.375% sales tax, 5.875% state tax, \$2.00 occupancy tax and \$1.50 state hotel tax. Check in 3PM and check out 12 noon.

**NEW YORKER HOTEL**, 481 Eighth Ave. at 34<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10001 (behind the Garden on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.) 1-800-764-4680 or 1-212-971-0101. Booking Code: CGSCJ10. Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> through Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Be sure you tell them you want the block for "**SENIOR CONFORMATION JUDGES GROUP**". Run of the House or Plaza Suite two doubles: single or double \$279; triple \$304.00; quad \$329. One queen or deluxe two doubles: single or double \$209; triple \$234; quad \$259. All rooms are subject to all taxes.

**AGAIN, WE SUGGEST YOU MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!**

Anyone interested in looking for a roommate, let us know via email but include a phone number and address. We will put you in touch with each other.

### **ACEF BUFFET RECEPTION & DANCE 2010**

Unlike just about everything else, the cost of our buffet reception has remained the same for the past 16 years.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - Valentine's Day.** COME CELEBRATE OUR 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BUFFET RECEPTION AND DANCE at the New York's Hotel Pennsylvania in the Penn Top Ballroom from 7:30PM to Midnight. Mark your calendar, and don't miss a really fun party that is well represented by a true cross-section of our sport. **Last year, we were delighted to have overseas guests from Brazil, Mexico, France, Italy, England and Australia.** Everyone agrees the ACEF Sunday night party is the place to be for a friendly and enjoyable evening. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**IF YOU WILL BE IN NEW YORK, DO PLAN TO ATTEND.** No speeches, no programs; just a short time out for a free room drawing and raffle. Dress: Semi-Formal. A few of the men wear a tux but you will be perfectly at ease in a coat & tie, and the ladies like their evening gowns but others will be perfectly at ease in a dressy dress. **The cost of our buffet reception and dance is \$50.00 per person.** There will be plenty of good food, good music for dancing, a cash bar and most of all, there will be an "across the board" representation of the Dog World from newcomers to old timers and all in between: judges, professional handlers and their enthusiastic young assistants, exhibitors, superintendents and officials. Let us know if you plan to be in New York during the Westminster week (on the dues notice form or via email [scja@cox.net](mailto:scja@cox.net)). REFRESHINGLY DIFFERENT FOR A NEW YORK

## ACEF BUFFET RECEPTION & DANCE 2010 (con't.)

PARTY, EVERYONE WILL BE ABLE TO SIT DOWN, ENJOY A DRINK AND CONVERSATION AND HAVE ROOM TO DANCE. Party form is enclosed with this newsletter and on our web site [www.scja.org](http://www.scja.org).

**DRAWING FOR A FREE HOTEL WEEKEND STAY (2 nights):** Most of you have attended the **ACEF Sunday night reception and dance** and know that we have a drawing for a free weekend at the New York's Hotel Pennsylvania or the New Yorker Hotel **for those individuals who include a donation to the ACEF with their party reservations.**

## BOX SEATS FOR WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB SHOW

The Westminster Kennel Club has placed severe restrictions on the number of available box seats, and NO ONE can purchase more seats than they had last year. The SCJA has reserved a number of box seats through the years, and priority will go to SCJA members and ACEF patrons. Checks should be made out to the SCJA and mailed to the Chief Executive Officer by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Box seats are good for both dates' admission (Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010). A reserved box seat ticket is \$130.00 per ticket. Tickets and judging programs will be sent in the latter part of January 2010. Box seat ticket request forms are enclosed with this newsletter (on reverse side of party form) and on our web site. **DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! THERE IS A LIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE.**

Every year there are a number of people looking for a decent box seat. Additional seats will not be available this year. **DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 BUT REMEMBER FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE. PRIORITY TO SCJA MEMBERS AND ACEF PATRONS FOR THE FIRST 20 DAYS.** When you send your check, **PLEASE INCLUDE A LARGE SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH AT LEAST 3 STAMPS FOR POSTAGE PER TWO TICKETS & PROGRAM (MORE POSTAGE FOR A LARGER NUMBER OF TICKETS) FOR US TO RETURN YOUR TICKETS. REMEMBER PROGRAMS ARE INCLUDED WITH TICKETS. IMPORTANT - BE SURE YOUR ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER ARE ON YOUR CHECK!!!** Checks made out to the **SCJA** for \$130.00 per box seat (good for both days). If you email us for any reason, always include a day and evening phone number.

## ACEF GRADUATE INSTITUTE ON THE TOY GROUP WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The ACEF has scheduled the Toy Group for our Graduate Institute in conjunction with the Atlantic Coast Classic cluster in Wildwood, New Jersey for Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010. No matter which Toy breed you need, it will be covered. Everyone agrees the Atlantic Coast Classic cluster and new convention center right by the ocean provide one of the very best venues in the entire country. The cluster officials, Moss Bow Dog Show staff, and AKC cooperate 100% to maintain the success it has been. All Toy breeds will be covered by parent club approved mentors. SCJA members and ACEF patrons have priority, so anyone desiring to be placed on the advance mailing list, please let us know **NOW**. **You may advise us on the dues notice that you return,** or we can be reached by email [scja@cox.net](mailto:scja@cox.net) or phone (703) 451-5656, or emailing ACEF Director of Education, Nina Sherrer, at [nina@k9education.org](mailto:nina@k9education.org). Please, when emailing us, put **2010 TOY GROUP GRADUATE INSTITUTE, WILDWOOD, NJ. Always include a day and evening telephone number with your emails.**

## SCJA'S ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Plans are to hold SCJA's Annual Dinner Meeting in Wildwood, NJ in conjunction with the ACEF Toy Group Graduate Institute and the Atlantic Coast Classic cluster of shows. The dinner and meeting will be held on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010. **Details will be sent to those indicating on their returned dues notice they plan to be in Wildwood in February.**

## ACEF'S 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL JUDGES INSTITUTE 2010

Plans are to hold ACEF's 22<sup>nd</sup> Judges Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada in July or August 2010. Anyone interested in receiving details when available, please let us know on the dues notice that you return, or by email [scja@cox.net](mailto:scja@cox.net) or emailing ACEF Director of Education, Nina Sherrer, at [nina@k9education.org](mailto:nina@k9education.org). Please, when emailing us, put **2010 JUDGES INSTITUTE, LAS VEGAS, NV. Always include a day and evening telephone number with your emails. Details will be sent to those indicating on their returned dues notice they plan to be in Las Vegas, NV next July or August.**

## AKC JUDGES DEPARTMENT, THE JUDGING APPROVAL PROCESS & QUESTIONABLE ACTIONS OF CERTAIN AKC REPS WHILE OBSERVING OUR JUDGES

Those of you who were at our Annual Meeting are aware of the detailed letter written and signed by two of our members on this subject (Enclosure #1 to this newsletter). The authors gave us authority to make it public. When we read it at the Annual Meeting and asked how many members at the meeting agreed with the contents, one member suggested that we ask those present who agreed with the letter to sign off on it. We sent an appropriate statement around the room, and everyone present did indeed sign off on it. We would like all of you who agree with the comments in general to sign off on a simple statement to this effect which will be included on the page you return with your dues. The enclosed letter covers pretty much the sentiments of others who have made their views known. Two incidents not covered in the enclosed letter are worthy of mention. Members that were approved parent-club mentors for newly-approved breeds had been denied approval to judge that breed under the adjunct system. It is OK to instruct judges on judging a breed, but the instructor judge cannot judge the breed??? The second incident involved an AKC Rep pointing to his AKC pin and saying to a provisional judge that when you see this pin, you are looking at God when it comes to getting approved for your breeds. Unbelievable but true. These are in writing. More and more of our judges are fed up and are now speaking out without being worried about reprisals. *For continuity purposes, you may want to read the enclosed letter mentioned in this paragraph at this point (Enclosure #1).* The majority of our Reps do a fine job considering the questionable parameters of their assigned duties, and some we have never received a single complaint on. SCJA's CEO has called these Reps through the years to let them know that not only have we not had any complaints on them but in fact have received favorable comments on them. We let them know at the same time that the SCJA praising their duties publicly wouldn't help their career. They are proof positive that the AKC Reps can carry out their difficult job without causing the judges to feel they are being treated unprofessionally or in an acrimonious manner. Most of the events enumerated in this newsletter happened before John Wade assumed his duties as AKC Director of Judging Operations.

**The SCJA will certainly listen to, and advise on, any problems our members have. Feel free to discuss your situation. We have been good listeners for the past twenty six years. NO NAMES are divulged nor are the letters (unless a member gives his or hers permission).**

Some of our judges often believe criticism of their judging is a true reflection of their ability and are reluctant to talk about it. Often it is the result of a report by a disgruntled exhibitor to the AKC Rep and the subsequent, sometimes questionable, action of the AKC Rep. Most of the time, it is the on-site Rep's own questioning of a judge's placements. We have actually been told officially by the AKC that AKC Reps do not question a judge's placements??? There is no doubt in our minds that all of you who call and write are not making your stories up! With all due respect to our Reps, the SCJA has taken the position, through the years, that the AKC Reps are not qualified to pass judgment on all breeds. **A recent article in the dog press elaborated on this same point.** The SCJA has, through the years, said officially in correspondence to the AKC that selecting someone within the Sport (often times a professional handler) and giving that person a week or two indoctrination by the AKC does not of itself qualify that individual to be anointed as an all-breed expert. We suggested to the AKC that if the AKC system worked for newly-appointed AKC Reps, why not offer it to the new provisional judges who would then not have to wait ten years for a Group??? It would sure save a lot of time and money on everyone's part!

## AKC JUDGES DEPARTMENT, THE JUDGING APPROVAL PROCESS & QUESTIONABLE ACTIONS OF CERTAIN AKC REPS WHILE OBSERVING OUR JUDGES (con't.)

There was a time a few years back (when a good bit of the very questionable judging approval criteria was established) when not a single person in the chain of command had ever been in the middle of a ring judging dogs, starting with the AKC Director of the Judges Department, his supervisor - VP for Dog Show Judges, his supervisor - Chief Operating Officer and his supervisor - President of the AKC. Hard to believe but true, not a single person in the chain of authority had ever had any experience as a judge. Then, too, there was the move of judges' education to the Judges Department which had the same one or two individuals acting as educator, judge, jury and executioner. Any wonder things got so far out of line? We are delighted that the American Kennel Club considered the SCJA's (and no doubt others) recommendations, and at the present time, all but one of the above positions are now filled by former judges. Worthy of note. Notwithstanding the changes, the judging approval process still needs a complete overhaul. If there is any doubt or any question in one's mind, we would like to quote a bit of history. We get a few things corrected --- a change of personnel arrive at AKC with what they believe are new ideas, and lo and behold, we are back to square one! The bit of history --- an extract from just two SCJA letters to the then AKC President, April 9<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1999, ten years ago:

"Dear Al:

We trust you and the Board will accept this letter expressing our concern, together with our comments, in the light in which it is intended; namely, to bring into focus a number of discrepancies brought to the forefront by the handling of the Lovely case. It is hoped that some of these discrepancies will be addressed and resolved in the best interest, not only of the American Kennel Club, but all individuals that could be affected in the future.

You will recall at our meeting June 10, 1998 in St. Louis when one of the judges groups brought up the subject of untoward actions by AKC Field Reps. You indicated you needed to know specifics."

"Most of the AKC Board members are aware of the problems we have had through the years with the judging approval process. In our dealings with unhappy judges in the past 16 years, we have never seen anything like this. We believe this is a low point in the relationship between the judges approval office, the AKC Reps and its judges. In our opinion, the Director of Judging Operations office, some of our AKC Reps and the entire judges approval process is out of control and needs the immediate attention of both the President and the Board. Repeated efforts on the part of the judges groups to influence meaningful changes has met with limited success."

"This seems an appropriate time to address another questionable decision reported by **Hayes in his official letter to the NATIONAL JUDGES GROUPS** dated January 22, 1999 (top of the second and third pages indicate January 13, 1999). This letter furnishes us a summation on the "status" of the topics the various national judges groups brought up concerning one of our recommendations at the joint meeting you held in St. Louis June 1998. We suggested that exhibitors sign a complaint form in minor cases concerning a judge. You may recall the reason for not adopting the idea was exhibitors would be intimidated and disinclined to complain about a judge. (Our comment was, "Wouldn't that be awful reducing the complaints against judges?") We are furnishing the appropriate extract from his letter (an actual copy of the last page with the paragraph highlighted is enclosed)."

The complete letters above, part of which have been extracted, together with other extremely relevant correspondence and documents will become part of the SCJA's historical section of our web site [www.scja.org](http://www.scja.org). This makes for very interesting reading especially for our judges. Give us a few weeks to get it all up on the web site.

## JUDGES' EDUCATION --- THE AMERICAN CANINE EDUCATION FOUNDATION (ACEF) – SCJA'S AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION

When it comes to judges' education, the latest action by AKC insisting that new judges **MUST** attend an AKC Basic Course is absolutely unbelievable. The SCJA has, for the past five years, been recommending to the AKC Judges Department that we should recognize the need for a Basic Course for new judges - that there was more to judging than just breed knowledge. When the Judges Department finally bought our suggestion, their first effort was a one and a half day Basic Course. The SCJA objected in writing to Mr. Gaeta's informing the new judges, in an official letter to the new judges, that his newly-established one and a half day Basic Course was the best thing an aspiring judge could do to start their judging career. When we learned of this letter to all new judges, we wrote an official letter asking **Mr. Gaeta's supervisors to assure themselves** that Gaeta's one and a half day course was, in fact, superior to the ACEF's then twenty-one year old, week long Basic Course. AKC's Chief Operating Officer (COO), supervisor of VP of Dog Show Judges, had personally requested SCJA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to forward SCJA correspondence addressed to the AKC Judges Department through him. We did just that with our official letter questioning the propriety of Mr. Gaeta's letter to the new judges --- to our amazement, the official AKC reply came back signed by no other than, you guessed it, Mr. Gaeta himself! In all fairness to AKC's COO, he would have had no knowledge of what had transpired until he was called by SCJA's CEO. Once the incoming correspondence passed through the AKC COO's office, he would have had no way of knowing that his subordinate, the subject of the complaint, decided to answer SCJA's letter himself having signed AKC's official reply to SCJA's letter. This will give you some idea of the difficulty working with the AKC Judges Department. They are pretty set in their ways and are loathe to criticism. No one jumps up and down with joy when they are criticized; however, there is such a thing as an over reaction, and some individuals believe vindictive is a more appropriate word. Most AKC officers and staff realize, in the dog world, they are public figures and are subject to critical comments.

In effect, by approving the "MUST" attend policy, the AKC Board has approved a proposal by the Judges Department's attempt to put the ACEF twenty-three year old, IRS approved tax-exempt organization out of business. Apparently the AKC did not like the fact that the ACEF offered their education to all judges including UKC judges as well as some of the national parent breed clubs that remained independent of the AKC at the time of their breed's recognition by AKC. One must wonder if the AKC ever heard of the FEDERAL ANTITRUST LAWS? The ACEF Board has decided not to let this one rest. We have spoken directly to some of the AKC Board members about rescinding the "MUST" and replacing the "must" with "*an approved*" Basic Course. There is no way, as far as the amount of knowledge gained, that AKC's one day course comes even close to the ACEF's week long Basic Course that started off judges' education twenty-three years ago. There wasn't a judges' education office at the AKC until the SCJA started judges' education, and now, lo and behold, the AKC Judges Department wants to put the ACEF out of business.

## DELEGATES' ROLE

We have contacted some of the AKC Delegates, who Bill Kendrick often referred to as the "sleeping giants", and have been involved with them in attempting to change a few things in need of change. The Delegates have been reminded, as has the AKC Board, that ARTICLE IX of AKC's constitution and bylaws mandates that they must comply with all the other provisions of their bylaws. Accordingly and dead-on-point, ARTICLE XIX of their constitution and bylaws entitled "**RULES**" (*not to be confused with AKC's RULES themselves*) states unequivocally, "*The Delegates to the AKC shall have sole power to make the rules governing dog shows and field trials and the clubs or associations formed to conduct them.*" So clearly, the only ones who can change the rules are the Delegates. **Not the staff and not the AKC Board.** CHAPTER 7 of AKC's RULES covers judges including the requirements to apply. Those interested in reading full details on this may go to our web site [www.scja.org](http://www.scja.org).

**THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY.** There are serious questions to be resolved regarding the Internal Revenue Service's clarification of the IRS directives concerning corporate relationships and limitations which corporations may place on independent contractors. (AKC judges are independent contractors.) There are also serious questions involving the FEDERAL ANTITRUST LAWS which are enforced by the FEDERAL TRADE

## **DELEGATES' ROLE (con't.)**

COMMISSION. The SCJA **alone** made a similar point on the antitrust violations two years ago when the AKC Board had to rescind their overreaching illegal policy stating our AKC judges could not judge for any other registry.

Your Board will not sit idly by and allow twenty three years of volunteer work by hundreds of our members and others throughout the dog world to become inconsequential by the AKC Judges Department. This proposed action is nothing more than an addition to the requirements to be a judge contained in CHAPTER 7 of AKC RULES. We have pointed out that the Delegates are the only ones who can change a rule. The AKC Board can still correct the problem, and we will, of course, work with them. It is our understanding that a few of the AKC Board members were sympathetic to ACEF's position, and some have suggested that we resubmit for further consideration. We will request an AKC Board member make a motion and have another AKC Board member to second the motion. This is necessary to have the AKC Board members vote "yes" or "no" on the "MUST ATTEND AN AKC BASIC INSTITUTE" issue. The Delegates and the entire dog world will then know the AKC Chairman and all Board members' positions on this very important issue.

## **SCJA HELP THE PROVISIONAL JUDGES PROGRAM**

Just a reminder to please let us know when your provisional status changes, i.e. no longer need provisional assignments, when new provisional breeds are approved or you have new provisional breeds. If any of your information changes such as address, phone, email, please keep us updated. The program is still active. Forms can be found on our web site at [www.scja.org](http://www.scja.org). You should resubmit a new form every 12 months since so many fail to let us know when you have completed your provisionals.

## **PLEASE CHECK OUR WEB SITE [WWW.SCJA.ORG](http://WWW.SCJA.ORG)!**

We will be establishing a historical section so our members can view firsthand the positions your organization has taken on your behalf. Our new judges have no knowledge of the history and how proactive the SCJA has been on behalf of our members. We will attempt to have our web site more active in keeping our members up-to-date.

## **FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE DUES NOTICE AND RETURN IT ASAP – WHY NOT TODAY?**

**Our members should feel free to call or write to us on any set of circumstances they feel needs addressing.**

# ENCLOSURE #1 TO SCJA FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

March 9, 2009

To: The Senior Conformation Judges Association

Attn: Colonel Pedé,

As licensed AKC judges, we are writing with a number of concerns we hold for the AKC's approval process for judges. After 13 years of judging, we are still in the process of becoming approved for the Hound Group. We have observed the judging approval process change on a number of occasions over the past decade. The most recent trends and subsequent requirements have precluded many breeder/owner/exhibitors from getting an entire group. These restrictions can be broken down to include **time, travel and money**. Unfortunately, even if someone fulfills every requirement that is set for acquiring a judging license for multiple breeds, there is absolutely no guarantee that the individual will advance at a reasonable rate. It is an arbitrary system, with very little rhyme or reason. We have experienced the following situations in our experiences with the Judging Operations Department:

- Approximately every 1 to 2 years there is a change in requirements
- Low entry breeds are generally put on the back burner for all judges striving for group level, consequently there are very few new judges for these breeds
- Requirements for low entry breeds reach the absurd, considering the infrequent appearance of these breeds and availability of breeders at any US dog shows.
- Educational experience seems to diminish with age and after a few years; we were told that it is too old to count. Since when does education go away? Does that mean our college diplomas are too old to count in a job interview? That makes no sense
- The system is entirely subjective, with little objectivity or reasons for denying additional breeds; in fact no explanation is given at all! After paying for the application per breed, the Judge should at least be given a valid reason why they did not get granted provisional status for a breed
- Who exactly is on the Staff Committee that reviews our applications? No one seems to be able to answer that question
- We were told, after being granted approval for some, but not all of the breeds we applied for, that we should feel "fortunate", since "no one gets 13 breeds", even though we were qualified for all of them.
- The process is painfully slow, with long lapses of time from when the application arrives at Judging Operations to when it is actually published and approval granted to accept assignments - as much as 5 to 6 months being quite common. Considering that many Clubs hire 2 years in advance, this can cause a hardship for advancement.
- One bad review by an AKC Field Representative can seriously affect the advancement of a judge, whether it is justified or not
- It is not an equal playing field. It is common knowledge among judges that some individuals are on a "fast track" while most individuals advance at a snails pace - whether they are excellent judges or not. It seems to matter who you are and who you know.

Another concern we have are the AKC Field Representatives. Although we have found many of them to be professional, helpful and excellent representatives of the AKC, several have not. In fact, we have found the behavior of several Field Representative to be negative, accusatory, and fault finding. Most provisional judges quake at the thought of saying anything, because of the fear for repercussions, so these individuals continue with their behavior with no reprimands. There is definitely an abuse of power among several Field Representatives. Several examples that we have actually experienced are:

- You didn't put up "Handler \_\_\_\_\_" and he is a very good friend of mine. I'll have to wait at least an hour before going into the grooming area to talk to him...he's that up-set"
- We have a "Problem"...

- You're not going to like what I have to say...
- You needed to place them in this order...
- I would have switched third and fourth...

These are just a few examples of what some of the Field Representatives have said over the years. Of particular concern is the treatment of women, by a particular Field Representative, who appears to go out of his way to be rude, demeaning and unapproachable to women. This is absolutely wrong! We have heard several other female judges express exactly the same sentiments regarding the behavior of this individual. What kinds of reviews are done for the job performances of Field Representatives?

We like to compare the judges approval process to going to College in order to get a "degree" in dog show Judging. This includes, **time** (since several years can elapse while the individual prepares to judge a new breed), **travel**, since there is not just one classroom or College. The entire country could be a classroom - Kennel visits, Dog shows observing, Mentoring, Judging Sweeps, Matches. Finally, **money**, "tuition" which includes the high cost of flying all over the country and paying to attending shows, seminars/Institutes and National Specialties. The \$25.00 per breed fee is also part of the cost. When all the requirements are met (enriching experiences), the applicant fills out an application for additional breeds, to be reviewed by the Staff Committee, and pays for each breed. If all components were successfully fulfilled and the individual is deemed "qualified", then that individual should receive his/her diploma (granted provisional status). Unfortunately, this does not always happen, and not only are breeds denied, but the AKC keeps the application fee with no recourse, no explanation and no recommendations!

We are hoping that the AKC will initiate a new process that is equitable and allows qualified and dedicated judges to advance at a reasonable and rate.

Sincerely,

Kalen M. Dumke

Parson Russell Terrier Assoc of America Judges Ed Chair

Former Vice President/ President of the PRTAA

Former BOD Borzoi Club of America

Approved breed Mentor Borzoi Club of America and Parson Russell Terrier Club of America

Karen A. Dumke

Former BOD Midwest Borzoi Club

Approved breed Mentor Borzoi Club of America and Parson Russell Terrier Club of America



# NEW YORK PARTY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

NEW YORK'S HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA  
7th Ave. & 33rd St. across from the Garden

DANCING 8:00PM - MIDNIGHT

BUFFET 7:30PM - 9:30PM

\$50.00 Per Person

CASH Bar

Dress: Semi-Formal

**A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THE ACEF MAY BE ADDED TO YOUR CHECK AND WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. FOR THOSE MAKING A DONATION, THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE DRAWING FOR A FREE WEEKEND AT EITHER THE NEW YORK'S HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA OR THE NEW YORKER WHERE WE HAVE A BLOCK OF ROOMS.**

\*\*\*\*\* CUT HERE \*\*\*\*\*

## 2010 NEW YORK PARTY

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# OF PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 @ person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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DO NOT BE CONCERNED THAT YOUR PLANS MAY CHANGE AT THE LAST MINUTE. REFUNDS  
WILL BE MADE AS LATE AS FEBRUARY 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. A CALL WILL SUFFICE FOR NOTIFICATION OF  
CANCELLATION: (703) 451-5656.



# REQUEST FOR WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB BOX SEATS 2010

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: DAY \_\_\_\_\_ EVENING \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF BOX SEATS \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$130.00/ticket CHECK TO SCJA ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BE SURE TO ENCLOSE A LARGE ENVELOPE STAMPED AND SELF ADDRESSED. LEGAL SIZE ENVELOPE (4 X 9 1/2) FOR 2 BOX SEATS (3 STAMPS) APPROPRIATELY LARGER ENVELOPES AND POSTAGE REQUIRED FOR MORE TICKETS. (TICKETS ARE HEAVY STOCK PAPER AND ALSO INCLUDES A PROGRAM.) Send to SCJA at 7200 Tanager St., Springfield, VA 22150. Any questions, please call (703) 451-5656.**