



# Sound Judgment

Senior Conformation Judges Association, Inc.

Newsletter Vol. XXV #1 June 2007

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## THE RIGHTS OF OUR MEMBERS TO SEEK ADVICE FROM THE SCJA ON ANY ASPECT OF THEIR JUDGING CAREER

Reference SCJA letter dated May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to the AKC President, Chairman of the Board and all AKC Board members published on the home page of our web site [www.scja.org](http://www.scja.org). We suggest you read it.

## SCJA ANNUAL GENERAL & BOARD MEETINGS MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007

A synopsis of the subjects that came up at our Annual Meetings follows, but first we want to announce that the SCJA Board elected Dr. Peter P. Emily as President of the SCJA. We owe a vote of thanks to Dr. Richard Hilderman who stepped in as SCJA President when we lost our longtime President, Patrick Doniere a few years ago. Richard will be extra busy in preparation for his retirement. Dr. Emily has been very active in SCJA's sister organization, the American Canine Education Foundation (ACEF), and has lectured on Anatomy & Movement at the ACEF Annual Basic Judges Institute the past three years and will do so again this August in Washington, DC.

Some subjects discussed at SCJA Annual Meetings:

- \$25 fee for each breed. It was pointed out the AKC has made millions of dollars as a not-for-profit corporation in recent years, and it was rather sad that they keep in place the \$25 per breed fee which was initiated with the reasoning that the judges operation costs were so high, and AKC's income was limited. This is hardly the case right now. It was agreed we would once again attempt to have the fee removed and a letter is now before the SCJA Board for coordination.
- The SCJA recommendation for an AKC Delegates Standing Committee on judges policies was adopted by the Delegates Advocacy Committee. We have been asked for initial input.

## **SCJA ANNUAL GENERAL & BOARD MEETINGS MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (con't.)**

- A discussion to conduct our annual fund raising dinner dance in other areas of the country in addition to our traditional New York event in February.
- The SCJA original concept of helping the provisional judges with their assignments. We were told once the *Guidelines* were rewritten, the AKC would reconsider our practice of having Group and multiple-Group judges donating part of their fee to allow the clubs to pay the provisionals out of the Group judge's regular fee. Now that the guideline change is out, we will once again ask to have our original program reinstated. If granted, we will ask for Group judges to volunteer part of their judging fee at one or two shows, and we will once again generate a list of Group judges who volunteer part of their judging fee to allow the show-giving clubs to pay for the services of the provisional judges. This was very popular with everyone: the provisional judges, the clubs and the volunteering Group judges. We will let everyone know that this greatly enhances our "Help The Provisional Judges Program".

## **AN IMPORTANT QUOTE FROM THE SCJA OCTOBER 2006 NEWSLETTER:**

### **"RECENT ACTION TAKEN BY SCJA TO OPPOSE AKC BOARD'S JUDGING CONFLICT POLICY"**

*Recently, the SCJA has taken strong and effective action concerning the unbelievable, and a good many believe "ultra vires" (without authority) action) the AKC Board took placing restrictions on all AKC judges. SCJA's open letter June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 addressed to all AKC judges and Delegates received wide distribution throughout the Dog World. At their personal request, SCJA's CEO furnished a copy of our June 9<sup>th</sup> open letter to AKC Chairman of the Board, Ron Menaker and Vice Chairman, Dave Merriam during the course of the June 2006 Delegates Meeting in Raleigh, NC. You will recall SCJA's open letter requested the Delegates to assert the sole power granted them in AKC's own Charter and Bylaws to change a rule.*

*All judges and the entire fancy owe a thank you to the officers and members of the Terry-All Kennel Club for acting on SCJA's request and on behalf of all judges by putting forward a proposed change to CHAPTER 7 "JUDGES" of AKC's Rules Applying to Dog Shows in accordance with Article XX of AKC's Charter and Bylaws. This action mandates that the Delegate Body must now vote on the issue. **THIS IS THE EXACT POSITION SCJA'S JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> OPEN LETTER REQUESTED**, i.e. that the AKC Board could not change a rule by making a policy. Thom Stanfield, the Terry-All Kennel Club Delegate, made the proposal at the September Delegates Meeting in Newark, NJ. **SCJA'S POSITION HAS RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM A GOOD MANY DELEGATES AND OTHER PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS IN THE SPORT.** To all of them, we express our thanks. You may view our June 9<sup>th</sup> open letter to the Delegates on our web site [www.scja.org](http://www.scja.org)."*

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!!!** It wasn't easy, but after three tough letters from the SCJA and the CEO's personal visits to lobby the Delegates and clubs, the AKC Board finally revoked their ill-advised policy restricting judges from judging for other registries. **The SCJA took the position all along that it was in violation of the federal antitrust laws.**

## **AKC GUIDELINES FOR CONFORMATION DOG SHOW JUDGES**

SCJA's first letter to the AKC Board pointing out the objectionable phrase, "*Failure to comply with these guidelines may subject a judge to disciplinary action.*" was written in 1989. Through the years, the

## **AKC GUIDELINES FOR CONFORMATION DOG SHOW JUDGES (con't.)**

SCJA has written six letters on this subject. The first letter was written in 1989 and all subsequent letters pointed out that this phrase was not in accordance with AKC's own bylaws. The last letter we wrote dated August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 was enclosed with our October 2006 newsletter.

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!!!** **Granted, it took eighteen years** and personal experiences of AKC's Chairman of the Board along with the subsequent appointment of the AKC Judges Conflict of Interest Committee to have it stricken as a threat to our judges.

Hope all our members appreciate the SCJA's tenacity and persistence when our judges are being intimidated. Time and time again, the SCJA members' views expressed through our surveys and through communication with our Board have proven correct. Of course, all of us have not had the opportunity to go over the new guidelines yet to see if the overall tenure is more friendly to the judges as promised. We are reserving our comments. We do know we requested that the judges groups have the opportunity to meet with the AKC Judges Department for the rewrite stage and certainly to coordinate on the guidelines **BEFORE** they were approved and published. Ironically, the judges groups were asked to coordinate on AKC getting involved with mixed breeds but **NOT** the dog show judges' guidelines???

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **ACEF'S 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JUDGES INSTITUTE 2007 A MUST FOR JUDGES WITH LESS THAN 5 YEARS JUDGING**

The American Canine Education Foundation (ACEF) will be conducting their Basic Judges Institute August 25<sup>th</sup>, through August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 in the Washington, DC area. Six days of top quality learning, camaraderie and fun in the Nation's Capital at the heart of tourist season at a most reasonable cost. After studying and learning all day, we believe it is a plus having an interesting environment for after-duty hours. On the one free afternoon and on evenings, you cannot top Washington, DC for sightseeing and visiting the country's most famous memorials from the latest honoring our World War II vets to the Lincoln, Washington and Jefferson Memorials. Complete brochures and maps are readily available. **COST WISE, IT IS A GREAT DEAL.** Tuition includes: six nights in the three-star Crowne Plaza Hotel, lunch everyday (except the afternoon off), graduation dinner, class book, Graduation Certificate and great networking. Cost is \$360.00 double; \$640.00 for single; \$160.00 local (no hotel). The course is the most comprehensive course available to our new and aspiring judges. It has been called the "Super Bowl of Judges' Education!"

The AKC has awarded full credit to ACEF's Judges Institutes since the very first one in 1989 and is well represented. For the past eighteen years, we have had an AKC Field Rep at our Institutes. This year for the first time AKC's Director of judging Operations, Mr. Peter Gaeta, who is responsible for all AKC Reps, will personally conduct that portion normally covered by a Field Rep. This is a **GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY** for all of our provisional and newer judges to meet and interact personally with Mr. Gaeta. There will also be time allocated for individuals to actually fill out application forms for initial or additional breeds. **THIS SHOULD BE A MUST FOR ALL PROVISIONAL JUDGES, AND WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US.** See enclosed registration form. We finish on the last day with the #1 authority on AKC rules, regulations and other administrative matters with AKC's Executive Secretary, Mr. James Crowley. Mr. Crowley's lecture covers AKC Rules, Regulations and Guidelines as well as Bench Show Trial Boards. Jim is our after-graduation dinner speaker, and his talk has been the hit of the week.

## **ACEF'S 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JUDGES INSTITUTE 2007 (con't.)**

SCJA members and ACEF patrons receive priority for the first 30 days. **Our newly approved judges should consider this a must and all non-Group judges should make every effort to attend.** A registration form is enclosed. You will learn everything you need to know for a judging career except for breed-specific knowledge which is covered at our Graduate Institutes. If you want more detailed information, go to the ACEF web site at [www.k9education.org](http://www.k9education.org) or email us at [scja@cox.net](mailto:scja@cox.net) or email the Director of Education, Nina Sherrer at [acef04@yahoo.com](mailto:acef04@yahoo.com). When emailing, please put **2007 JUDGES INSTITUTE WASHINGTON, DC** in the subject and also **include a day and evening phone number** with your emails.. You may also write us at ACEF 7200 Tanager St. Springfield, VA 22150 or call (703) 451-5656.

## **ACEF'S BREED-SPECIFIC JUDGES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM SATURDAY, JULY 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY**

The American Canine Education Foundation (ACEF) and the SCJA will be conducting a comprehensive breed-specific judges' certification program on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 in Owensboro, KY. An all-breed judge, the parent club education coordinator or parent club approved breed presenter together with a nationally recognized breeder of many champions will administer the examinations. Signed certificates by the three authorities will be issued to those who qualify. The certificates may be enclosed with your regular breed applications. We will be doing three HOUND breeds: **BASENJIS, BEAGLES** and **IRISH WOLFHOUSES** at Owensboro on July 21<sup>st</sup>. If you are in the HOUND Group, this is a golden opportunity to participate in the ACEF's certification program. This is a most impressive addition to your breed application. **THERE IS NO COST INVOLVED** for individuals applying for certification since the ACEF personnel donates their services and **ALL OF THE BREED EXPERTS AND THE ALL-BREED JUDGE** are donating both their time and travel expenses. This is a true indication of their devotion to their breed and to the interest of serving our judging community. If you are interested, please call CEO, Wally Pedé, at (703) 451-5656. More details are on the ACEF web site [www.k9education.org](http://www.k9education.org). A phone call is preferable to an email to enable an exchange of information.

## **ACEF FUND RAISING BUFFET DINNER & DANCE JULY 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY**

As you know, we have been holding our annual fund raising dinner and dance every year for the past 22 years in New York during the Westminster week. It has often been suggested that we have one or more additional events around the country. We have been invited to host our buffet dinner dance in Owensboro, Kentucky by the Owensboro cluster. If you plan on being at the cluster, be sure to attend! Cost is only \$30 per person. Come join us for a fun evening! Details are on the ACEF web site [www.k9education.org](http://www.k9education.org), or you can call to be faxed a registration form.

## **CONTACTING SCJA HEADQUARTERS FOR GUIDANCE/HELP**

**We are delighted that, in response to our written objection to the AKC Chairman and Board members, the AKC Board, with due diligence, instructed the AKC Judges Department to clarify the erroneous instructions on AKC Field Rep reports issued in the Spring 2007 AKC JUDGES NEWSLETTER.** Concerning contacting the SCJA for help and advice on any matter of concern with the AKC. For this, we thank the AKC Board. All of our members owe a vote of thanks to SCJA member, Sandy Wheat, who had the courage to stand by what was right and expressed in writing the inappropriate comments made to her. For a link to our May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 letter to the AKC Chairman and Board, go to [www.scja.org](http://www.scja.org).



**THE AMERICAN CANINE EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
**COURSE IN CANINE CONFORMATION JUDGING**  
 For Judges, Aspiring Judges and Breeders  
 Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007  
 Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1480 Crystal Dr, Arlington, VA – minutes from Washington, DC

**REGISTRATION FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name (please print) First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address City State & Zip Code

( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone Cell Phone E-Mail Address (please print)

**WEEK'S TUITION** includes: 6 night's hotel (Sat. Aug 25<sup>th</sup> – Fri. Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007: Arrive for 5pm Registration, Sat Aug 25<sup>th</sup>. Check out is Friday morning, Aug 31<sup>st</sup>), daily lunch (except Tuesday), all breaks, Thursday night's Graduation banquet, all course material, and a Certificate of Graduation for each student. Individuals are responsible for nights other than the six nights scheduled. Advise the Crowne Plaza Hotel if you plan to be there for more than the scheduled six nights at (703) 416-1600.

**CHECK ONE PLAN BELOW: ROOM OPTIONS**

- \_\_\_ 2 persons - double occupancy \$390 per person – for SCJA Members or ACEF Patrons \$360 per person
- \_\_\_ 1 person - single occupancy \$670 per person – for SCJA Members or ACEF Patrons \$640 per person
- \_\_\_ living locally (no room needed) \$160 per person

PLEASE FIND SOMEONE TO SHARE A ROOM Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ SMOKER Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
 (If needed, I can share room with smoker YES \_\_\_)  
 I have made arrangements to room with: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE: If you are bringing a spouse/companion (to share a room with you) who will not be attending classes and does not need a class book, please print their name: \_\_\_\_\_.** The cost will be the same as a double occupancy per person. They will have a "guest badge" and will be included in the lunches and Graduation banquet. Unattached spouses may wish to participate in sight seeing tours during class hours.

**TRAVEL PLANS** (detailed info on hotel and travel directions will be sent to enrollees nearer the date)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Flying. (Use Reagan Wash. Nat'l Airport). \_\_\_\_\_ Driving

**BACKGROUND (check one):** Judge \_\_\_ Yrs. Judging \_\_\_\_\_ Breeder \_\_\_ Yrs. Breeding \_\_\_\_\_

Original Breed \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL TUITION DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$150.)**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ BALANCE DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ No later than AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**  
No reminders will be sent.

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ACEF. MAIL TOGETHER WITH THIS FORM TO:**

**ACEF – 2007 DC Institute  
 7200 Tanager Street  
 Springfield, VA 22150**

**SPACE IS LIMITED. Students paying full tuition will be accepted by date registration is received. Those sending a deposit will be prioritized by date final payment is received.**

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PLEASE NOTIFY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address & Phone (include area code)

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE FOR FULL TIME STUDENTS - unless you have a guest for Thursday night's Graduation dinner, this section does not apply.**

**FOR THOSE STUDENTS ATTENDING LESS THAN FULL WEEK**

Fill out name, address, phone number and all other pertinent info on front. (A limited number can be accommodated since we are obliged to utilize a number of sleeping rooms and classroom seating is limited.)

**Exhibitors, local breeders, all-breed club members and others are invited to the Graduation banquet. For those students wishing to bring a spouse, friend, etc. to Thursday's Graduation Dinner, please print their name, indicate number below and include cost in check.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name (please print)

PLEASE CHECK DAYS ATTENDING (includes lunch except Tuesday)

Classes: Sun\_\_ Mon\_\_ Tues\_\_ Wed\_\_ Thurs\_\_ \_\_\_\_ days @ \$35 ea. ....Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Room nights: Sat\_\_ Sun\_\_ Mon\_\_ Tues\_\_ Wed\_\_ Thurs\_\_ Total nights \_\_\_\_ .....Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
@ \$100 single/double

**THURSDAY GRADUATION DINNER** - number of people \_\_\_\_ @ \$30 ea.....Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Full Refunds through August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**TOTAL DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**IF YOU WANT CONFIRMATION, PLEASE enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. You will not hear further from us until approx. two weeks before the Institute.**

**For Questions Contact:**

**Wally Pedé, CEO** - phone (703) 451-5656 / fax (703) 451-5979  
**Nina Sherrer** - email: [nina@k9education.org](mailto:nina@k9education.org) Subject: ACEF Jdg DC Institute

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
ID No: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Pd in Full \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rm With ID No: \_\_\_\_\_



**SENIOR CONFORMATION JUDGES ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**OCTOBER 2006**

The below results speak for themselves and need no amplifying. Most of the proposals come up from the staff, and we are happy to report that within the last few months, the AKC Board appears to be applying more due diligence in analyzing staff proposals. For example, one year ago when the staff proposed the JUDGING CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY, not one AKC Board member voted against it (there was one abstention). After nine months of reconsidering it on three occasions, half of it was revoked with all but three AKC Board members holding fast to their original position. A vote of thanks to the AKC Board. Our members' input to the SCJA Board and our subsequent action DO get results!

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**YES   NO**

ARTICLE XIX entitled "RULES" of AKC's Charter and Bylaws states, "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." (underlining added)

**93%** 1. Do you believe the AKC Board on its own can change a rule applying to dog shows by making a policy?

**96%** 2. Do you agree with the details of the AKC board's policy restricting AKC judges from judging at any event other than an AKC event?

A poll on the United States President's job approval has become routine. We believe a poll on the approval rating of the AKC Board would be meaningful.

**96%** 3. Do you approve of the manner in which the AKC Board of Directors is performing its obligated duties under AKC's Charter and Bylaws?

**94%** 4. Do you agree that it is advantageous to have a Delegate Standing Committee for judging policies rather than one or two staff members making proposals?

**93%** 5. Do you believe the AKC judging approval process is too complicated, too expensive and that it takes too long to achieve a license to judge a Group (especially when compared to other professional licensing)?

At this time, the AKC Judges Department is supervised and directed by individuals with little or no judging experience with all due respect to the individuals involved.

**96%** 6. Do you believe in view of this that it would be advantageous for all policies and directives affecting judges emanating from this office be coordinated with the judges organizations?

There have been numerous changes in the past 15 years concerning the requirements to become a judge and to advance.

**95%** 7. In view of this fact, do you believe it would be desirable to have the requirements, once fully coordinated, to become a part of AKC's rules so they could not be changed by each new appointee to the AKC show judges office or by an AKC Board with their own new ideas?

On a positive note, since we have DOG OF THE YEAR, MAN OF THE YEAR, JUDGE OF THE YEAR, etc., we thought it appropriate to name an AKC REP OF THE YEAR. We would like everyone to vote for 2 AKC Reps that they believe are doing an outstanding job in performing their duties.

1. Bill Holbrook
2. Allan Odom

**ALTHOUGH QUITE A FEW REPS WERE MENTIONED, THE ABOVE TWO REPS RECEIVED THE TOP TWO RANKINGS FROM OUR MEMBERS.**