

2014 ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

SENIOR CONFORMATION JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Website: www.scja.org Email Address: wally@scja.org

We are a little late with this!! A big thank you for those members who were on the ball and sent their dues in on their own realizing they were due. Please take the time to fill out the dues notice completely, and please print clearly responding to the questions and return this form as soon as possible!!!

 LAST NAME (please print) (**address label preferred**) FIRST NAME (please print)

E-MAIL ADDRESS (please print clearly): _____

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

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

Please send check payable to SCJA and return to: SCJA 7200 Tanager St. Springfield, VA 22150 or if using PayPal, PayPal payment address is scja@scja.org, BUT PLEASE remember to fill out this form and return to SCJA 7200 Tanager St. Springfield, VA 22150.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE, OR EMAIL:

 New Address (**address label preferred**)

 Phone Email Address (please print clearly)

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- One question we asked years ago on an SCJA questionnaire with results speaking loud and clear was whether our members thought a committee of three individuals, one an AKC Rep, on their own could decide unequivocally whether a judge is doing a good job judging a class of dogs. Regardless of the length of time you have been judging, we would like those of you who have been breeding your breed for at least 15 years and have bred at least 10 champions to answer the following question:

Question: If there were a class of 15 dogs of your breed in the ring, do you believe all of the individuals with the experience described above would select the same 4 top dogs?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ years breeding _____ number of champions bred

- What do you think about recording breed interviews? (If you care to add any comments, please do so on reverse of this dues notice.)

_____ Yes _____ No

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



Sound Judgment

Senior Conformation Judges Association, Inc.

Newsletter Vol. XXXI #1 January 2014

Dedicated to serving for the good of all associated with the Dog World

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In the past, we enclosed a self-addressed envelope to return your dues & answers. We would like to ask you to take an extra few minutes and donate a stamp to mail in your dues. Hope you won't mind the extra few minutes and \$.46.

WORTHY OF NOTE - **NO** SCJA funds have ever been expended by either the CEO or any member for office space, insurance or utilities except for communication. They have been donated by the CEO for the past thirty-one years. No member has ever received any remuneration at all for their services. A few of our Board and regular members have actually donated their own funds for travel and other expenses.

ON A SAD NOTE

In August of this year, Col. Pedé lost his beloved wife, Katie. Wally and Kay had been happily married for 60 years. Those members who knew Kay personally are aware of the news and will be sent personal correspondence concerning the details of her celebration of life on April 6th, 2014 and her funeral arrangements on April 7th, 2014. Since Lt. Col. Pedé is a World War II veteran, Kay will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

REFERENCE NEW YORK WESTMINSTER WEEK 2014

The SCJA went out with all details to everyone who had ever been to the ACEF-SCJA events in New York during the Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) week: members, ACEF patrons, observers and exhibitors. Some of you are aware of the major changes to the way the WKC show is now conducted due primarily to the WKC having to work around the reconstruction that occurred at the Garden prior to last year's show which resulted with the dogs exhibiting in the classes some distance from where the Groups are judged at the Garden in the evening.

REFERENCE NEW YORK WESTMINSTER WEEK 2014 (con't.)

In any event, we went out with a notice that received an extremely limited response. Some of you are aware we have had as many as 300 people at the ACEF – SCJA Sunday night reception and dance and have purchased well over \$10,000.00 of box seats for our members and patrons; however, our response was so limited this year we had to cancel our annual reception and dance. We believe the big drop-off in attendees started last year, and it could have been the result of both the Eukanuba event in Florida in December in addition to the changes mentioned above at the WKC show. We advised the affected individuals personally that you can still book rooms at the Hotel Pennsylvania. The hotel's information is: **NEW YORK'S HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA**, 401 7th 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.

Relatively few individuals were interested in box seats this year, so we advised them to purchase the tickets from the Westminster Kennel Club; however the WKC deadline was in December, so at this time individuals must purchase box seats from Madison Square Garden or from other ticket agencies.

The SCJA was the leader in outside events in coordination with the Westminster Kennel Club week back in the early 80's with special hotel rates and other monetary benefits for attendees. At this point in time, we would be newcomers in hosting an event in conjunction with the Eukanuba show. The SCJA is considering other major shows to hold our annual ACEF-SCJA fund-raising reception. Once details become available, we will, of course, advise everyone. (The dates during the Eukanuba event appear to be booked, but we will be considering the possibility.)

ENCOUNTERS WITH AKC FIELD REPS AND/OR AKC JUDGES DEPARTMENT

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 OR IN ANY WAY IMPROPER; INCLUDING ANY REPORT OR CONVERSATION WITH AN AKC REP OR ANYONE IN AUTHORITY AT THE AKC CONCERNING YOUR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR DUTIES AS AN AKC JUDGE. THE SCJA WAS INCORPORATED 30 YEARS AGO AND IS HERE TO HELP YOU IN ANY WAY AND ALL AREAS INVOLVING YOUR JUDGING CAREER. Often times judges are severely critiqued by an AKC Rep while pursuing their duties judging. The individual judges are left with the impression that sometimes the severe criticism might be justified. We want to assure you that in some cases through the years, the severe criticism has not been justified. We would ask anyone that has been treated in any sort of an unprofessional manner to let us know and to actually send us a copy of the letter or written report and to put the incident in your own words. We may include a few examples of the sort of criticism that some of our judges have received which were in some cases questionable and in others down right erroneous.

In those unusual circumstances when a member has what they consider an unprofessional experience or unfair treatment with an AKC Rep or the AKC Judges Department, feel free to advise the SCJA. All correspondence will be held in strictest confidence. No names are ever released without the specific approval of the concerned member. Do not, as most individuals do - - think your experience is a negative reflection on you. It often is not. **Likewise, if you have ever had a POSITIVE EXPERIENCE, be sure to let us know.**

ENCOUNTERS WITH AKC FIELD REPS AND/OR AKC JUDGES DEPARTMENT (con't.)

We have examples through the years of questionable treatment of our members. One very uncomplicated instance - - - an AKC Rep questioned in a derogatory manner a fairly new judge in asking the judge “Did you really think that dog was 30” tall?” The judge replied, “No, it’s a bitch and only has to be at least 28” tall.” The Rep didn’t like the fact that the judge made it very obvious that he didn’t even know the particular breed standard, and here he was evaluating the judge on their own breed. Other incidents have been related to us that are positively not acceptable, and in a good many cases, when they are brought up officially, they are denied by the Rep. It has been suggested that breed interviews be recorded. The cost is nothing since they can be done digitally. It would be such a simple solution to a long-standing problem of how some of the interviews have been conducted. For those judges who have gone through recent interviews, please let us know your thoughts on this issue. We think it solves the problem completely.

We intend to publish some of the letters that have been sent through the years on our website so that people can see they’re not alone receiving erroneous negative comments.

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE FORMER AKC DIRECTOR OF JUDGING OPERATIONS DESCRIBING A JUDGE’S RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY IN THE SHOW RING

The SCJA has a copy of this letter containing the following extract in quotes. The entire letter is well written by the former AKC Director of Judging Operations to make the point that no one can challenge a judge’s placements in the ring. One paragraph sums it up unequivocally, and I quote, “It is the responsibility of judges to interpret the rules and breed standards and apply them accordingly; therefore, how a judge conducts the ring and the specimens they select are at their sole discretion. ... Further, a judge’s decision is precisely what an owner seeks when he or she enters a dog in a show. Just as it is practically impossible for anyone to be completely objective about their own dog, it is equally certain that no two judges are going to see the same dog, even at the same moment, in exactly the same way. The whole point of a dog show is for exhibitors to put the question of relative merit up to one particular person at one particular time.” (underlining added)

The SCJA agrees 100% and has never questioned these statements by former AKC Director of Judging Operations. This being the case - - why on earth do we have the AKC expending hundreds of thousands of dollars employing a group of individuals to criticize and critique the judges and replace the judge’s opinion with their own? It’s about time we let the judges judge the dogs. It’s also about time the AKC Board of Directors realize they have been trying to fix the problem of judging approval for the last 30 years, and they keep changing the process every year or so with no success - - a good many believe the judging approval process is worse than ever.

The SCJA believes it would be most appropriate to forward personally each AKC Board member a few examples of the actual horrendous letters and experiences some of our judges have experienced.

JUDGING APPROVAL PROCESS

A FURTHER BIT OF HISTORY ON THE JUDGING APPROVAL PROCESS

January 2014 comment before reading the actual history:

For the record, in the mid 1990's, the SCJA conducted a study involving the input from eighteen of the leading individuals, organizations and publications in the country who submitted white papers on the subject which were then sent to hundreds of our judges and others for comments and input (similar to what we suggested the AKC do at the start of the fairly recent Smith Committee Report). Apparently, the AKC, at this time, is involved in the middle of some sort of still another comprehensive study involving individuals - the SCJA has not been officially requested for input. **Apparently, they realize they have sufficient input from the SCJA from the past 25 years and as recently as 18 months ago.**

The SCJA study in 1994 involved thousands of man hours, yes thousands of man hours, and included input from some of our leading publications through their writers, obviously with the consent of both the publication and the writers themselves. The only names we named at the time were those individuals who had given us their consent, both personal and through their publications since obviously they were published and had been previously read by a good many individuals. The inputs included were from some of the most experienced and respected individuals: Aubrey Nigel Jones, Matt Stander, Sari Tiejten and Herman Fellton. These were their detailed personal recommendations on the rights, wrongs and suggestions for the judging approval program at that time. In addition to these writers, there were a large number of senior individuals (their names were not included in their published comments sent out to everyone so that we received unbiased replies) who submitted their personal suggestions and recommendations which were also sent out to hundreds for comments. These thousands of words were distilled and put in final form.

This was going on when the Delegates Committee was appointed by the AKC Board to conduct a study on the Judging Approval Process. **The committee was chaired by Stanley Saltzman, a very experienced and respected judge and Delegate and subsequent AKC Board member.** There were quite a few exchanges between the SCJA and the Delegates Committee Chair during this time. Unfortunately, the SCJA study was already in progress when the Chairman of the Delegates Committee requested SCJA for input. Nonetheless, we shared information. The SCJA, upon completion of their study, agreed with the great job the Saltzman Delegate Committee did and informed the AKC.

Back to January 2014 - - History records that the AKC staff took no action and the AKC Board did not direct any further action. Literally the thousands upon thousands of man hours expended by some of the most respected and experienced individuals within the sport were for naught. This included the really great report from the Saltzman Delegate Committee and the extremely thorough report from the SCJA committee involving, as we said, some of the leading people in the sport. Interestingly enough, the majority of those observations and recommendations made are as pertinent today as they were many years ago.

It is really unfortunate that Stanley Saltzman didn't remain on the AKC Board of Directors to be able to effectively utilize his obvious leadership qualities. (There's a good chance things would be different today!)

JUDGING APPROVAL PROCESS (con't.)

Below is one of the many suggestions submitted through the years by the Senior Conformation Judges Association to the American Kennel Club President and Board of Directors for the Judging Approval Process. It is germane today as it was when it was submitted back in 1998.

SCJA'S RECOMMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE JUDGING APPROVAL PROCESS

Each of the three national judges groups will prepare their independent proposals for the revamping of the judges approval process to be exchanged with each other. The first stage will be an outline covering the major areas to be incorporated. Obviously, the thinking of each national judges group will include the views expressed by their members through the years as well as their experienced Board members. This would identify the major areas of agreement from which to work out the details. In this day and age of computers, phone, fax and e-mail, there would be a minimum requirement for face to face meetings. The major areas of agreement between the three judges groups and the Delegates Report on the judging approval process would, in all likelihood, be 90% or more.

In the final stage, the representative from the three judges groups could meet much as committee members representing the U.S. Senate and Congress do to iron out differences when writing legislation. Unlike Congress, however, there would be an understanding from the start that each national judges group would be able to include their independent position(s) which was not agreed to be the other two judges groups. (2014 note: at this time, using Congress is a very poor example!!!!)

The final report would be submitted through the AKC staff to the AKC Board. The staff would make no changes but would comment on areas of the finished white paper as well as commenting on their different positions. Again they would make no changes. The staff's comments would make clear to the Board the points they agreed with as well as the ones they differed on. It would then go to the AKC Board for their coordination, and they could accept it as is or make any suggested additions before passing it on to the Delegates for their approval to ultimately be included in the rules.

Would it not make things a lot easier for each AKC Board member to intelligently comment on a document that clearly showed the areas in which there was complete agreement on and include the very small percentage of areas there was a difference of opinion given? Once the Delegates Report was submitted, the three national judges groups would, of course, consider it and representatives of the original Delegates Committee could sit in on the final compromise session. Anyone with methodology analysis experience should realize that while offering everyone the opportunity for input seems fair, you nonetheless have created an administrative overload in attempting to meaningfully analyze the input from over 3000 individuals (judges). Without a system similar to that outlined, the review of the thousands of inputs would be conducted by inexperienced subordinates within the judges department or some appointed 5- or 6-man committee.

We believe it is in the best interest of the AKC, and the sport in general, if we take advantage of the filtering process and the vast experience within the three national judges groups and the experience of the members of the Delegate Committee. The AKC Board, in our opinion, should not be literally working on the details; rather, they should act as the coordinating authority and of course add any suggestions prior to submitting the entire matter to the Delegates for approval.

Note. These procedures were submitted years ago prior to the conclusion of the Delegates Report.

After all the extensive coordination, the final product would have been submitted to the Delegate Body (in accordance with the bylaws) for what should have been a super majority vote of approval.

SCJA WEBSITE – www.scja.org

We intend to do some work on our website to include some of the very pertinent letters that the SCJA has sent to and received from the AKC through the years as well as letters from members and different organizations, both within the sport and from state and federal governments.

SCJA ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Following are just some of the positions the SCJA has successfully championed for our judges through the years:

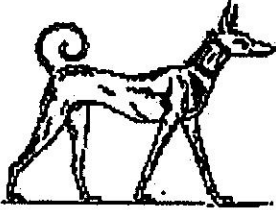
1. First and foremost, concerning a major SCJA achievement on playing a major role in having the AKC Board vote to revoke their ill-advised policy on judges' restrictions to prevent the judges from judging for anyone other than the AKC. We indicated the policy issued by the AKC Board was without the proper authority of the AKC Delegate Body. The SCJA also indicated the policy was in violation of the federal antitrust laws. A majority of AKC Delegates agreed with the SCJA's position. **Once the SCJA involved and coordinated with the federal government, the AKC Board revoked their policy.**
2. Recently, the SCJA objected when AKC management proposed an annual fee for all judges – they wanted to call it a user fee – the SCJA took the position it was a licensing fee – that if it looked like a duck, walked like a duck, quacked like a duck, IT WAS A DUCK and was a licensing fee. It was dropped and **NEVER** implemented.
3. The SCJA fought, and gained the right, for judges to get copies of negative letters written on them that are sent to AKC.
4. **SCJA - ALONE came on loud and strong to object to the judges disciplinary list proposed by AKC staff and adopted by the AKC Board – after a meeting with the entire AKC Board, IT WAS REVOKED.**
5. Concerning AKC's *Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges*, the SCJA has been successful in having the very objectionable phrase, **“FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE GUIDELINES SUBJECTS A JUDGE TO POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTION.”** removed from the inside cover of AKC's *Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges*. The SCJA has pushed for this revision for some time. We finally won the battle on the Guidelines of having the above bold quote **REMOVED!!!**
6. SCJA was told over and over that **“Hands On Testing** was here to stay” – thanks to the persistent, well-thought out and presented position by the SCJA, AKC agreed and “Hands On Testing” is no longer a part of the judges approval process. This was a terrible burden on the newly approved judges.
7. **THERE WERE NO JUDGES INSTITUTES BY AKC OR ANY OTHER JUDGES ORGANIZATION UNTIL THE SCJA LED THE WAY WITH THE FIRST WEEKLONG BASIC JUDGES INSTITUTE IN 1989 STILL IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN.** There was no Judges Educational Department at AKC until after the SCJA established their separate education foundation.

SCJA ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGH THE YEARS (con't.)

8. SCJA recommended the Judges Observation forms be given to all judges being observed, and that they be afforded the opportunity to comment when signing it. **DONE!**
9. SCJA recommended against AKC Reps commenting on how judges dress. **GONE!**
10. SCJA lobbied for our judges to be given more than 30 minutes for lunch. **APPROVED!**
11. There was no recognition of senior judges until the SCJA established the policy of our senior judges; the AKC and others have since adopted this worthwhile program.
12. The SCJA strongly opposed the complicated proposal to place further requirements on Best In Show judges – it was never implemented (this came up and again was opposed by the SCJA defeated with a vote within the AKC Board).
13. SCJA lobbied against closed book testing --- it was discontinued.
14. SCJA objected to the select “invitation only” policy to judges with more than four Groups - - it was never adopted.

Please take the time to let us know of your real concerns so we can devote our efforts for what the majority of our members feel need attention. Our members are free to call or write to the SCJA on any set of circumstances they feel needs addressing.

IMPORTANT – Always include a phone number with all emails. We simply do not have the staff to answer all the emails. The phone is another story. Board member Vicki Jordan will be taking a very active role as our Judges Liaison.



THE PHARAOH HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA

August 19, 2013

American Canine Education Foundation

Dear Wallace H. Pede,

Enclosed is a check for \$250.00 from the Pharaoh Hound Club of America in appreciation and support for the ACEF in promoting the proper education of our judges.

Keep up all the great work! We truly appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,

Sheila Hoffman

PHCA Recording Secretary and Judge's Education member

Added note by the SCJA:

We have received a few thank you notes and donations from some of the parent clubs, but the above was an especially nice thank you and generous donation from the Pharaoh Hound Club of America concerning our ACEF Group-specific presentations. Most of you know that unlike anyone else, the ACEF includes every breed within the Group. The ACEF has done all Groups with breed presentations for each breed within that Group for the past twenty-five years. If any all-breed or parent club would like to make a donation to the ACEF, it would be greatly appreciated. ACEF headquarters is 7200 Tanager St., Springfield, VA 22150. Worthy of note - - no member receives any remuneration of any sort and some even donate their travel and expenses.