



SUNSHINE THEMES NEWSFLYER

February 2017



Secretary's Notice

Below are the nomination for the 2017-2018 slate of officers and board. I have included the bylaws which cover this.

At our April meeting nominations from the floor will be accepted.

President Lesley Hammar
Vice President..... Cindy Smith
Secretary Dianne Tharp
Treasurer..... Gail Steinmetz
Board Member..... Debbie Gapsch (2 year term)

Many thanks to our nominating committee for their work. Committee

Chari Magnan - Chairman
Maggi Paine
Rebecca Beard

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Carter, SPWCC Secretary

President's Comments

Hi Sunshiners,

Since we will not be having our Specialty until December we were hoping to schedule some sort of club activity in the February/March time frame. There were a number of thoughts and suggestions that we tried to pull together but sorry to say they didn't come to fruition.

We will have our supported entry the beginning of April in Elkton with a membership meeting - this is when nominations from the floor are accepted.

Our Annual meeting will be with the Orlando shows in June.

The time from June thru the Fall would be another time frame to hold an event plus meeting. This cannot be just done by a few people - WE NEED INPUT AND WORKERS FROM THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP.

Thank you all for your support over the past 3 years.

It has been a pleasure to have served as your President.

Sincerely,
Chari

ARTICLE IV

The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections

SECTION 1. Club Year

The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day July and end on the 30th day of June. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the Annual Meeting and shall continue through the election at the next Annual Meeting.

SECTION 2. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of June at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot when there is more than one nomination for a position from those nominates in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his/her successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

SECTION 3. Elections

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidates for other positions on the board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. Nominations

No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of February, the Board shall

select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members, not more than one of who may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee members of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairperson for the Committee and it shall be his/her duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held not later than March 15.

- A. The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and one candidate for each expired position on the Board as per Article III, Section 1, and after securing the written consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.
- B. Upon receipt of the nominating committee's report, the Secretary shall, at least two weeks before the April Meeting, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- C. Additional nominations may be made at the April Meeting by any voting member provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his/her name is proposed and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his/her proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.
- D. Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section

Sunshine Themes Newsflyer

February 2017

Editor..... Gail Steinmetz gail@keredpwc.com

The Editor & Board of Directors reserve the right to edit or refuse advertising or articles that are inappropriate or not considered of interest or value to the members and fancy.

SPWCC Logo designed by Judy West

ADVERTISING Will be in the Annual Issue Only

No part of Sunshine Themes may be reproduced or transmitted electronically without written permission from the editor and Board of Directors.

Sunshine Themes is free to members.

Annual Publication Deadline: December 30, 2017

Email NewsFlyer

February • April • June • August • October • December

Officers

President..... Chari Magnan
Vice President Cindy Smith
Secretary Grace Carter
Treasurer Gail Steinmetz

Directors

Debbie Gapsch (2nd Year)
Deb Shindle (1st Year)
Dianne Tharp (1st Year)

Standing Committee Chairs

Events Coordinator Dianne Tharp
2017 Agility Chair Bonnie Hansen
2017 Show Chair Chari Magnan
AKC Compliance Deb Shindle
Breeder Referral..... Dianne Tharp
Facebook Page Coordinator..... Grace Carter
FAKC/AKC/Legislative..... Chari Magnan
FL Combined Specialties Dianne Tharp
Judges Selection Coordinator Gail Steinmetz
Membership Grace Carter
Newsletter Gail Steinmetz
PWCCA Liaison..... Cindy Smith
PWCCA Talebearers Column Deb Shindle
Rescue Sunshine Corgi Rescue
Sunshine Maggi Payne
Ways & Means Lesley Hammar
Website..... Gail Steinmetz

Coming Events and Meetings

MEETING SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 8, 2017 (Time TBA)

General & Board Meeting
St Johns County Fairgrounds, 5840 S.R. 207
Elkton, FL
Breed Judges:
Saturday: Roger Hartinger
Sunday: Paula Hartinger

Saturday, June 24, 2017 (Time TBA)

Annual Meeting & New Board Meeting
Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 W Colonial Dr.
Orlando, FL

COMING EVENTS

Friday December 15, 2017
SPWCC Specialty
Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, FL

Wednesday and Thursday, December 27 & 28, 2017
AGILITY TRIAL (all day)
Manatee County Fairgrounds,
1402 14th Ave West
Palmetto, FL

BREEDER REFERRAL

Please email me if you have puppies or adults available so that I can send your information out.
Please include: Your name; Your email and/or phone number that you would like to use for contact; and any other information which you would like me to give out.

Also, if you do not wish to be on this list, please let me know, and I will remove your name from it.

Thank you,
Dianne Tharp, SPWCC Breeder Referral Coordinator
spwcc.breeder@gmail.com



STAY INFORMED

Visit our website or Facebook page
website:

www.sunshinepwcc.com

facebook:

Sunshine Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club

FAKC SECRETARY-TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Usually we have a message from the President, Susan Smith to lead off a new edition of the Notes, but this time she has been far too busy preparing for the public hearing on odious modifications being pushed for the animal control laws in Pinellas county which will be held before the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, February 21 at 6 PM to 7:30 PM at the Pinellas County Courthouse, 5th floor, 315 Court St in Clearwater. Yes, I know that it is far too late to be giving notice of this meeting, especially as this was a show weekend. (Was that done on purpose?) I would feel much worse about not being able to get the word out to everyone if our many previous attempts to get a good showing of dog people to attend this type of meeting had been successful. FAKC will have some people there, of course, but the animal rights fanatics of Pinellas County will have LOTS OF PEOPLE there and most county commissioners understand numbers of voters more easily than facts. A big group of people, especially if wearing a particular color to draw attention to their numbers will have more effect than a few informed speakers however well prepared and logical. And the animal rights people are well aware of this. In a posting on the internet they called for everyone to wear red to show how many more supporters they have than the dog people do. "We have them there" was their comment.

We did contact the officers of the four main AKC dog clubs claiming Pinellas County as part of their service area asking them to try to get people to attend the hearing, but did not receive a reply from any of them. Perhaps they were able to drum up a little concern locally.

My message to the dog fancy is:

If we want to avoid being legislated out of existence, we are going to have to learn to play the political game and play it very well indeed. Our opponents have numbers, lots of money, great enthusiasm for the cause, legal and public relations expertise and apparently no scruples. We have?

Elizabeth Page, Secretary-Treasurer

Since it seems that every month brings another county into the list of those which have bad animal control ordinances backed by animal rights fanatics, Sarasota, Pinellas, Escambia, it seems like a good idea to reprint the account of how a group of animal owners working together successfully turned around a bad situation in Lee county and got an awful law repealed.

Editor

THE STORY OF LEE COUNTY, FL ANIMAL ORDINANCE 14-04 OR WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

I'll never forget the date, January 31, 2014. Checking my email I open one from Sarah Sprouse, AKC Legislative Liaison informing me of a County Commissioners' meeting on February 4 where they were going to vote on a new animal ordinance. In our world today nothing strikes terror in the heart of responsible breeders and owners of multiple dogs than reading an ordinance that will further restrict your rights to breed and to own while the ignorant, misinformed, and greedy continue to remain under the radar. Couple that with the righteous rants and raves of the animal activists against anyone wishing to breed, buy, or own a purebred animal and it becomes a matter of fighting for our right to do so.

For the next few days I took to social media. Facebook

was never so welcoming especially in the form of Odalys Hayes, a Chow Chow breeder whom I have known for a long time. What I didn't know was how active she has been in the legislative arena of Miami and not only how knowledgeable but also how vocal. She attended the February 4 meeting, spoke and some commissioners thought she was a lobbyist. I also emailed the few members of our local dog club and other dog people I knew from living over 30 years in the community. I even formed an email list of these people rather than sending individual messages urging to attending upcoming meeting; and in addition, contacted local TV and radio stations. I was "mad as hell and not going to take it any more". The licensing fees were already outrageous and what was being proposed would be an even heavier burden and, in my opinion, a violation of our Second Amendment rights. (\$65.00 per unspayed/neutered dog as opposed to \$10-\$15 for one that is spayed/neutered).

February 4 dawned and I made the trek to the old courthouse and filled out my required speaker's card. The Commissioners meeting room was packed and I was pleased to see "dog" people that I hadn't seen for a long time. When it came time for public comment I was astounded at the number of people speaking. Each person had 3 minutes to express their opinion and those opinions, about evenly divided for and against the ordinance, went on for about three hours. In the end the ordinance was passed with a "sunset" clause which meant it would be revisited in a year. However, the Commissioners, also astounded at the number of people speaking, ordered the Director of Animal Services to set up a meeting with those parties who had not had any input in the ordinance content.

The essence of Ordinance 14-04 was as follows:

1. Mandatory Spay/Neuter on the 2nd pickup
2. Mandatory Microchipping (County Data Base Only)
3. Anti-Tethering (Everyone agreed this should not be done)
4. Breeder's Certificate
 - a. Cost unknown but usually \$150-200.00 in Palm Beach & Collier Counties. Some counties also require a business license which increases the cost.
 - b. Required if you have a litter or use your dog at stud
 - c. Allows site inspections by Animal Services qualifications of the inspector unknown.
 - d. Not having the certificate could result in your animals being confiscated.
5. Animal Services later admitted that this ordinance would be complaint driven. (neighbor vs neighbor)

After that meeting I called Sarah Sprouse. We had a lengthy conversation regarding the ordinance. She informed me that letters had been sent to local breeders with no response. When I stated that I had not received one she told me the names had come from the inspections list. Of course these people would not complain. They would continue to stay under the radar. She shared with me emails that had been sent to our local club officers which had never been shared. Also there was a Vizsla breeder and his attorney that had been meeting with the LCAS Director since the previous May to no avail. Sarah put me in touch with him. It was a sad situation and a daunting task to organize an offensive. A few days later I sent an email to the few club members, my local puppy buyers, and the few dog people I knew informing them of the possible consequences. I urged them to share this information with anyone they knew would be interested and from this first Update Lee Alliance for Responsible Dog Ownership was born. A few days later

I received a call from a news personality from the local Fox Radio station and a pet lover who was also concerned about the impact of the ordinance. A week after the meeting the Platinum Coast Cat Fanciers' Assoc. asked to join us and the name was changed to Lee Alliance for Responsible Dog & Cat Owners. This added a number of names to the ever growing email list which I kept supplied with news in a timely manner making suggestions to them as to what they could do to help.

By February 25 the Alliance Steering Committee was formed with two cat people, a representative from the local agility club, the obedience club, three from the all-breed club, Odalys Hayes, and the Vizsla breeder and his puppy buyer attorney who graciously offered his conference room for our meetings. We immediately started reworking the ordinance wording. A few days later the NAIA with Patti Strand and her team of experts began offering their support and advice as well as the FAKC and the NAIA Trust of FL. This support gave us new confidence but we still had a very long way to go.

At the open meeting on March 16 the Animal Services Director arranged we were able to secure a meeting date with the Director. From our Steering Committee of 10 five of us began to sit down with her and present our rewording and the rationale for it. We met a number of times and every time we thought we were making progress the Director would throw us a curve demanding instant approval of changes she had made. By the end of March we had what we thought was an ordinance, while not perfect, it was one we could live with. We were told that it went to the county Attorney for approval for and was scheduled for the Commissioners May 20. Just before that date we found out the revised ordinance was pulled from the agenda and the Director fired. We were most disheartened since we were back to square one and did not know what happened. We continued to have Steering Committee meetings trying to seek a solution. Meanwhile the AR people were becoming more vocal especially in the media by calling for enforcement of Ordinance 14-04.

Fortunately by the middle of June the County Manager, Asst. Co. Manager, and the newly appointed Interim Director contacted all factions and set up individual meetings with them. At this point we found out that the AR people were going en masse to each commissioner demanding enforcement of the current ordinance. This helped us to determine our course of action. A notebook was compiled containing factual information about mandatory spay/neuter, value of breeders, FL law 828 one of the nation's strongest, opposition to the breeders' certificate, vaccination information, Nathan Winograd's Myths of Pet Overpopulation and NAIA's article – Animal Rights vs. Animal Welfare to name a few. We then set up meetings with each Commissioner, presented them with the notebook, outlined what it contained and discussed why 14-04 was not the answer. One commissioner who has been a public servant for a very long time suggested we return to a previous ordinance after we explained the FL Statute 828 already was more than sufficient. After reviewing the previous Ordinance 6-12 we presented our recommended changes to the Interim Director then we sat back and waited. We continued to attend any Commissioner meetings where there was a possibility to speak to the ordinance change and I also continued to send email updates, There was a total of 27 updates.


Finally the December 2 agenda was published and the Ordinance was on it. After a number of people again speaking for and against 14-04 was repealed and replaced with the new ordinance that was much less specific and less punitive. Gone was mandatory spay/neutering, breeders' certificate, and

mandatory microchipping. The zoning ordinance limiting the number of dogs is still on the books but no one seems concerned or ready to enforce that. Animal Services has been turned around by its new director with much less influence from the AR people. Another positive direction that has been taken is the formation of an Animal Services Advisory Board though it has yet to meet.

I have been told by a number of people that we have accomplished a marvelous thing and how did we do it. I have been surprised by this. It was just something that needed to be done to protect our rights. However, if I were to summarize a plan of action I would suggest the following:

1. **KNOW your local law and how it pertains to your situation.**
2. **Do NOT think that you are immune. That is what a longtime breeder judge from Collier County told me. "They know we're here but it doesn't affect us." Big mistake.**
3. **Take the responsibility to spearhead a group of people that have the same concerns and form a Steering Committee. You can do it in this age of emails and social media.**
4. **Contact the Media—Radio, TV, and Newspaper urging their coverage.**
5. **Attend your City Council and/or County Commissioners' Meetings. It's very easy to look up the meeting times and agendas on the internet. Be prepared to speak with facts and not emotions. After my first speech I prepared a written statement that could be read within the 3 minute allotment.**
6. **Seek outside help. The CFA, TICA, NAIA, and AKC are wonderful resources that can offer legal expertise. They have been dealing with situations like this all over the country.**
7. **Above all act and speak rationally encouraging your group members to do the same. One commissioner told his secretary, "These ladies can come back any time but don't let those other ones in. (AR people)"**
It was a very long 10 months while I put other things in my life on hold; but it has given me a great feeling of accomplishment and the knowledge and courage to do it again if I have to in order to protect my rights from the encroachment of big brother.

Ann Meyer/SIMBALI



FAKC Notes is published and distributed by the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, Inc, which accepts no responsibility or liability for misinformation, misprints or typographical errors. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of FAKC.

Please send your suggestions for topics of interest, questions, comments, other suggestions and articles for publication to:

FAKC, PO Box 802, Mims, Florida 32754 or
sioned@digital.net.

Please visit our web site at FAKC.org