



ERIE KENNEL CLUB

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER

2012

OFFICERS

President:

Carol Maxwell

Vice President:

Bonnie Kotyuk

Secretary:

Thelma Kraut

Treasurer:

Janet Norman

Corresponding Secretary:

Cindy Stubenhofer

BOARD MEMBERS

Chuck Moyer

Lou Norman

Roberta Cutshall

Michelle Vincent

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Cindy Stubenhofer

BREEDER REFERRAL

Cindy Stubenhofer

ekcbreedreferral@eriekennelclub.com

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Melanie Shufan

(814) 825-9393

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Anthony Stefanell

WWW.Eriekennelclub.com

Contact

Webmaster@eriekennelclub.com

Club Elections And Important President's Message

Nominating Committee

Marilyn Flower, Pat Martin, Andrea Bubna, Janet Norman

The Nominating committee has made a slate for the next fiscal year's officers and board. These members are qualified and in good standing as per the by-laws. We have nine positions available per election. The two people currently holding the Secretary positions have agreed to stay in their job. Further, of those eligible, none would accept the President's chair, so Carol Maxwell has agreed to stay for another term.

Offices

President:

Vice President:

Recording Secretary:

Corresponding Secretary:

Treasurer:

Slate

Carol Maxwell

Roberta Cutshall

Thelma Kraut

Cindy Stubenhofer

Lou Norman

Pick Four (4) from this slate.

Board Members:

Michelle Vincent

Chuck Moyer

Andrea Bubna

Kathy Croft

Bonnie Kotyuk

Pat Martin

Must be present to vote.

Coming Events

September 8- Eye Clinic
Camboro Veterinary Clinic
Contact Esther Kostelnic
telme@verizon.net

September 15- Paws in the Park
Contact Cindy Stubenhofer
funpupcls@juno.com

October 19, 20, 21
EKC Agility Trial at Countryside

January 2013
EKC Agility Trial at Countryside

January 26 & 27, 2013
All Breed Conformation Show and Obedience Trial

April 12, 13, 14 2013
Agility Trial at Countryside

In the region

Sept 1
AKC sanctioned match B-OB including RallyO
Smithfield OH

Sunday, Sept 9
Doggie fun day, Alameda Prk, Butler PA
includes breed match, rally practice, obedience, CGC
test, microchip, and rabies clinics

Sept 15
Ashtabula Kennel Club
breed, obedience, rally match

Sept 23
Obedience and rally run thru
Geneva OH, also, Oct 14

NEW STUFF ON THE WEB SITE!

www.Eriekennelclub.com

A BIG THANK YOU to Andrea
Bubna for the fun and humorous
narrative "Why I got into Dogs"
page 5. Newsletter challenge!
Write your own happy sad fun
adventurous story for our club
Newsletter!
Submit to funpupcls@juno.com

Eye Clinic
Contact: Esther Kostelnic
telme@verizon.net

Paws in the Park
Contact Cindy Stubenhofer
funpupcls@juno.com
HELP always needed

APOTC & EKC October 19 – 21
Agility Trial
NOW Open
Trials have been filling .
Please be sure to enter soon!



President's Message

September 2012

Dear Fellow Members,

The property on Route 98 in Franklin Township seemed like an excellent fit for our needs, but, unfortunately, I had to withdraw our offer. We discovered a long-standing dispute over the southern property line between the current owner and the adjacent property. I terminated the contract according to the Due Diligence Clause (see below), which performed exactly as designed and as explained at several recent meetings. Even if the parties choose to cooperate, it will still take several months to resolve this issue.

DUE DILIGENCE CLAUSE: This contract is contingent upon the Buyer performing "Due Diligence. Said Due Diligence may include, but not be limited to the following: environmental audits, boundary survey, wetlands identification and / or delineation, structural, roof, plumbing, HVAC and electrical inspections, existing leases, common area maintenance assessments, deed restrictions, zoning classification and use, municipal assessments for public services including: water, sewer, street lighting, etc. If Buyer, in their sole discretion, is not satisfied with the results of said due diligence, then they must notify Seller, in writing, on or before (specified date), causing this contract to become null and void and the escrow money returned to the Buyer.

There were people at the August meeting who could not quite comprehend the concept of Due Diligence, but perhaps they will "get it" now. The good news is the club qualified for a mortgage at very good rates. Those of you who attended meetings where properties were discussed are aware that I had estimated annual mortgage payments of \$19,000. As it turns out, I vastly overestimated the cost. We would have had our choice of 5 year, 7 year, or 10 year terms, amortized over 20 years. At even the highest of our optional terms, our annual payment would have been \$12,464 per year and the lowest would have been \$9503. A huge factor in our ability to qualify for financing was our 5-year contract with the Bayfront Convention Center. I would like to offer a most sincere "Thank You" to Deb and Dave Anthony for securing that contract on behalf of Erie Kennel Club. We were also beginning an application to Franklin Township for Conditional Use of the adjacent 8.5 acres. This was not a difficult step, but the process was stopped when we terminated the contract. If the property line issue can be resolved, the Search Committee may revisit this site if we do not find another property of interest. With winter coming, it would be difficult to do adequate inspections so any possible activity will likely be in the spring.

At this time, I would like to review the search for a property, especially for members who do not regularly attend meetings. The first thing we did was to institute a random survey of members. Forty-two (42) surveys were mailed and eighteen (18) were returned. This is a return rate of 43%. Statistical experts consider a 20% return rate to be excellent. The following is a breakdown of the quantitative results. Of the eighteen (18) respondents, seventeen (17) believed the club should acquire a building to train, hold meetings & seminars, and to provide office space and storage. Fifteen (15) said they would be willing to drive 15 to 30 miles to participate in club events. Fourteen (14) said they would support annual dues increase between \$5 and \$15 and three agreed to support an increase of more than \$15. Fifteen (15) said they would volunteer to teach or assist with training classes, or to maintain a property/building. Since we have no reason to doubt the veracity of our members, a Search Committee began to seriously look for a property. Please be aware that over the past ten years or so, Dave Croft, Anthony Stefanelli, and others have been looking for a suitable property. There are very few sites in Erie County that can provide the square footage we need for training, matches, seminars, and other club activities. In addition, zoning is a necessary consideration. We were very fortunate to find an ethical and highly skilled realtor who has been unwavering in guiding us through this complicated process. In spite of a few setbacks, he has not abandoned us. The Search Committee and the Board of Directors have volunteered many hours and tirelessly strived to meet the needs of the club.

Notes about January All-Breed Shows; after listening to members' concerns, the board unanimously approved a motion to allow all members to attend the show free of admission charge. This includes those persons listed as part of a Family Membership; however, it does not include family members of those holding a Single Membership. Guests will be required to pay the gate fee. In addition, I encourage each of you to think twice before voicing mean-spirited complaints about the January All-Breed Shows. Suggestions and comments are always welcomed and considered, but members sometimes complain when they are not aware of situations and implications of why things are done in a certain way. Those who shoulder most of the responsibility are keenly aware of their obligation to maintain the club's well-being and I hope our members appreciate their efforts.

As we prepare for the next fiscal year, we must set a slate for the Board of Directors, which you will see elsewhere in this newsletter. The only qualification for a member in good standing to hold a seat on the board is to have attended five (5) business meetings in the current year (October through July). The Secretary maintains the records and presents the Nominating Committee with the list of eligible members. This year, as last year, we have eleven (11) members eligible for nine (9) positions. This translates to about 20% of the members doing 99% of the work. Further, of those eligible, none would accept the President's chair, so I have agreed to stay for another term. Please do not think that I or any of the others are complaining. This is simply a statement of fact and we willingly donate our time and efforts because we genuinely care about Erie Kennel Club and its mission.

With the above in mind, please consider that the board reports to members at regular meetings and I will also continue to offer information through this Newsletter. However, members who attend only a few meetings per year should not expect the rest of us to spend a lot of time with items that have been discussed at previous meetings. Board and committee members are always eager to listen to member concerns but those members who are not actively engaged in the club and not attending meetings should not expect individualized updates, either in person or via email. Those who volunteer their time for club business should be able to enjoy social events and training sessions like everyone else without being subject to interrogation.

The role of the board is to protect and fulfill the mission of the club. In addition, we are charged with protecting the whole while serving the needs of the membership. If you want to influence the actions of the club, you must attend a majority of meetings and participate in club activities. I always welcome an academic difference of opinion as I did throughout my professional practice—that is one way to effectively grow and learn. However, challenging the integrity of those who give so much of themselves and making threats to cause harm to the club are not acceptable behaviors.

Sincerely,

WHY I GOT INTO DOGS

I LOVE DOGS. I find them so enjoyable no matter their breed or use. Their personalities are so special. Like when you really work with your dog at home, train them, really bond with them, and then when you go to class (obedience, agility, conformation etc) you are suddenly being made to look like a dufus. In class the dog is given a command to do something that Fido has been doing all week, and then Fido looks at you like you are speaking a foreign language. To meet so many different people, and their dogs. To discover the most important use of plastic bags from stores, is to be used as poop bags. For the JOY of doing poop patrol in all kinds of weather. To discover that not all people do poop patrol after their dogs, especially at events !!! To get multiple dog supply catalogs in the mail, and use them for your Christmas shopping list. To meet so many nice and helpful people that really know their stuff and dogs, too. To meet, unfortunately, people who have been 'in dogs' for years and feel or sound like their opinion is the only one that counts. To meet people that truly love to have, train, and show dogs, and to pass on their knowledge and expertise to "newbies". DO YOU REALLY REMEMBER BEING A NEWBIE!!!! To watch or be someone that has really spent the time to work with and train their dog to succeed in whatever venue they are in. To feel the thrill of your "First leg" or your "First Blue ribbon" and of course your "First Title." DO YOU REMEMBER!!! Fido is someone to snuggle with, and tell all your problems and woes and have them be completely non-judgmental. To have them always act like you are absolutely the greatest thing around----except maybe their favorite squeekie toy or din-din!!! To see how willing dogs are, to do their absolute best for their humans and to be happy just to get a pat on the head for a job well done. To unfortunately see how some people act negatively if their dog isn't first, or high in trial, or number one. They forget there is more to it than winning!!!! Yeah, winning is nice, but, it isn't everything!!!! To get opportunities to join either your local club, a regional breed club, or even a national breed club and learn/benefit from that. To discover just what all a dog will eat that is not in a dog food bag, such as toys, underwear, socks, toads, cat litter, aluminum foil, garbage, Sunday's roast from the counter, dentures, bunny rabbits, and almost the neighborhood kitty !!! To meet people those truly want to promote dogs in general, and, are a wealth of information to others. To discover friendships with both dogs and humans that transcend the boundaries of sex, breed venue, personality type and species of animal. To develop a relationship with a 4 legged individual that will last a lifetime and that will be remembered forever. Remember your first dog?? To meet folks that know the pain you feel when you have to make THAT DECISION to euthanize a beloved friend, and support you as only another pet person can. They know that the animal was more than just an animal. To hear from people both dog people and non-dog people that "boy you really have a nice dog there!" You already thought that but it is nice to hear it from others. To see a litter delivered and have them all be healthy. And last but not least for the famous UNCONDITIONAL LOVE we hear so much about and the wet kisses we get so easily!!!! ENJOY ALL YOU CAN GET!!!!

Just a Dog Lover