

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Having been in office for nearly a year, I am now able to report the status of STCA affairs to the membership. Unfortunately, we face both the best and worst of times.

On the bright side, your Board has taken steps to finalize and publish the new grooming manual to be edited by Merle Taylor. We also have established an editorial staff to commence work on a new supplement to the Handbook. A committee has been formed to consider and recommend changes in the breed standard. A tentative program has been approved to solicit funds for health related research programs in areas of particular concern to our breed. We are launching efforts to participate with AKC in its newly evolving program for the education of judges. The Standing Operating Procedures Manual for officers and committees has been substantially completed subject to some fine tuning. The Constitution, By-Laws and Policies Manual is all but complete subject only to imminent proposed By-Law amendments. Eventually, we hope to publish the Constitution and By-Laws on an annual basis in the Membership Roster. Financial controls have been tightened internally and we have survived an IRS audit. Every reasonable savings and cost cutting opportunity is being explored diligently.

On the dark side, revenue shortages continue to plague us. Many programs and projects are being deferred because we simply cannot afford them. Our membership is not growing as it should. There are far too many Regional Club members who are not STCA members. Our dues structure drastically needs reworking. Presently on a cost basis the value of the literature in our membership packet exceeds the dues of a new member. Membership support of the Bagpiper through advertising has not materialized to the point that we can eliminate subsidies to this fine publication. We will have an operating deficit this year forcing us to use already slim reserves.

I sense that many of our members and Regional Clubs feel disenfranchised. You want to know more about what STCA is doing for you. It is my hope to improve our dialogue—to open lines of communication with you. However, you must remember that the STCA IS YOUR CLUB. Your Officers and Board use their best judgment for your benefit in running STCA. If you are dissatisfied with something or if you have a suggestion you feel is worthwhile, it is your DUTY to let us know. We want to hear from you. I invite each of you to write to me with your complaints and suggestions. I cannot promise they will all be acted upon favorably. However, I give you my solemn commitment they will be considered.

I thank each of you for the honor and trust you have bestowed upon me. I will do my very best to live up to your expectations and to make STCA an even better and more responsive organization.

Ed Ingram