

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to advise our membership that all three proposed amendments to the By-Laws have been approved both by the membership and by the American Kennel Club and are forthwith effective immediately. Your officers and Board express their appreciation to the membership for the approval of these amendments. It is indeed unusual for the members of any organization to vote themselves an increase in dues. Your action in this regard indicates that you truly understand the fiscal dilemma of STCA. Be assured that we fully intend to continue the austerity measures which have been implemented and to look for further ways to reduce or eliminate expenses. The combined effects of increased revenues from dues and other sources together with reductions in expenses should be sufficient to undertake several of the projects which have been delayed for some time. For example, by the time you read this the new grooming manual edited by Merle Taylor, hopefully will be on the way to the printer.

As many of you know, the generosity of Mr. Lehmann Byck has stimulated a great deal of enthusiasm for exhibiting in the Bred By Exhibitor Bitch Class at National Specialties. We have been casting about to find one or more persons willing to be equally generous regarding donations for the Bred By Exhibitor Dog Class at National Specialties. To date these efforts have met with no success. Therefore, Mr. Byck has exhibited further generosity in the form of a challenge. He has authorized me to advise the membership that he will make a similar contribution for the Bred By Exhibitor Dog Class at our Montgomery County National Specialty *IF* some member, or combination of members, will make an equivalent donation for that class at the next rotating specialty show. We will be happy to accept pledges from the membership in order to meet this goal. It is not necessary to send money now. However, if you wish to make a pledge to meet the generous challenge of Mr. Byck, please notify me or the corresponding secretary as soon as possible of the amount that you are willing to donate to help us match the amount donated by Mr. Byck.

J. Edward Ingram, *STCA President*

