

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members,

NETIQUETTE AND LEGAL LIABILITY. I have been contacted by members about the conduct of others on the Internet. Our present society lacks civility. This absence of courtesy is further encouraged by the Internet, where we communicate in the privacy of our home or workplace, without face to face exchange. Misunderstanding may occur since we cannot hear the tone of each other's voice. An essential rule for governing Internet use is: "Never send anything over the Internet you wouldn't want your worst enemy to see." **DON'T WRITE IN ALL CAPS. IT COMES ACROSS AS SHOUTING.** Shorthand and emoticons (symbols universally acceptable to convey humor, anger, sarcasm) can be used to remove some of the sting, and to be sure your message is not taken the wrong way. Examples: BTW=By The Way; IMHO=In My Humble Opinion; IHNI=I Have No Idea; LOL=Laughing Out Loud; ROTFL=Rolling On The Floor Laughing; :-)=smiling; :-D=laughing; :-t=angry; 1-1=asleep or bored. The communications you send and receive are conceivably readable by anyone with access to

any computer. Be careful when you select the addresses of your email. Mis-directed email can be embarrassing or sometimes disastrous. Use prudence. If you compose an angry letter, think about holding it until tomorrow before you send it. Resist the urge to send scathing letters or diatribes over the Internet. Be certain of the accuracy of your statements. A red-hot letter, or one that contains incorrect facts or untruths can cause you greater problems than you realize. The laws of slander and libel apply to internet communications. When the whole world is watching, a Judgement in court against you for damages can potentially be even greater.

YOUR 1998 NOMINATING COMMITTEE. They are Liz Heywood, Chairperson; Ginny Lukens, Ron McConnell, Kim Lindsay-Stroede, and Merle Taylor. I am sure you join me in thanking them for giving their valuable time to serve on this most important committee. They will nominate one member for a one year term for each office: Pres., V.P., Rec. Sec., Corr. Sec., Treas., and AKC Delegate; and four members to serve two year terms as Directors. Participate in the process. If you are interested in serv-

ing, or wish to recommend someone else, contact a committee member **IN WRITING**, stating qualifications and reasons, with the consent of any member recommended.

YOUR CENTENNIAL. Sooner than we realize, we will all have a once in a life time experience. Our STCA Centennial - Year 2000. Get involved now! Any great ideas? Any events you would like included? Contact our Centennial Chairperson, Jackie Seelbach, **IN WRITING** please.

YOUR HEALTH TRUST FUND. This request from me comes as no surprise: Send money to your Health Trust Fund, In Care of Bonnie Lamphear, Treas., 416 1/2 Laura St., Clearwater, FL 34615

BTW, IM ;-), as I write this message. I am sitting in our bedroom, with one eye on a whelping box, watching a dam care for her seven 3-day old puppies. This is what it is all about! This what makes the resources and time I give to STCA worth it!

Sincerely,

Fred

