

### **President – Kim Kramer (NJ)**

It is with great pride that I present the concluding annual report from the 2012-2014 COA Board of Directors. Before I 'sled' off into the sunset, I would like to publicly thank each and every board member for their service to the club. Their hard work, and 'can do' attitude made my job remarkably easy. I look forward to my next two years as Immediate Past President, under the leadership of President Kathleen Riley Daniels. Her calm, confident voice will serve the club well.

Please take a look at the Annual Report to get an idea of what we've been up to in the past twelve months. Sound like fun? The COA is ALWAYS in need of members willing to assist on a committee, and hopefully one day leading the club forward. Exciting times are ahead, and YOU should be part of it! 2017 is Chinook's 100th birthday, and big birthdays take lots of planning. The Chinook Pedigree Project is beginning to produce data that will need to be considered carefully. The UKC is imposing some significant changes to our bylaws, and we as a club need to take a sober look at them. Social media is becoming a huge part of the club's infrastructure, both for publicity, and membership communication. We need member moderators to foster conversation, and be a calming influence when the talk get heated. The National Specialty happens every year, and the planning committee is a heck-of-a-lotta fun.

We are a club because our members want to be here, to support our dogs and each other. Make this year, the year you join in the fun and excitement of shaping our future!

### **Vice President – Kathleen Riley-Daniels (MN)**

This past year has been spent continuing to evaluating the Constitution and By-Laws for updating. Numerous calls were put out to members asking for input on what areas the members felt needed to be addressed with very limited feedback. A draft of potential changes was sent to the membership with a request for feedback on any needed adjustments and four members responded, all stating the document looked good. This revised document and process stalled when the United Kennel Club sent out their new guidelines which included language requiring the COA to ask members if they were felons. I have been in contact with UKC numerous times regarding this and other newly required language from the UKC requesting clarification and have received zero responses. This project is on hold until more information has been gathered.

### **Secretary – Karen Schiller (CO)**

The Minutes of all COA Board of Directors meetings have been posted on the COA website. In the minutes you will find summaries of meeting discussions and text of motions acted upon by the Board. It has been an honor to work with so many talented people on the COA Board, and I look forward to serving as Secretary again in the coming term.

### **Treasurer – Vicky Delfino (ME)**

*Please see the Financial Statement elsewhere in this issue.*

This is my third year as Treasurer. During this past year, the COA rallied to assist a member in need when a large, unexpected vet bill arose. It was wonderful to see our membership rally around one of our own. It continues to be a pleasure to work with the Board in meeting the financial reporting needs on a monthly basis and other reporting needs as they may arise. I look forward to the coming Board term.

### **Bench –Dave Schiller (CO)**

The 2013 Chinook National Specialty and Reunion Weekend was a great success. Not only did we generate one of the largest income totals from a Specialty weekend, we provided a wonderful slate full of entertainment, camaraderie and overall Chinook bliss. It was great seeing old friends and making new ones and the goal of ensuring everyone had a good time, was achieved!

Many thanks to the 2013 Specialty Committee consisting of Karen Hinchy, Tammy Gibson, Diana Fowler, Mary Malkiel, Mary Jo Crance, John Habermehl, Karen Schiller, Maria Sommer, Penthea Burns, Vicky Delfino, Rachel Fentzke, Carol Carlson, and Kim Kramer for their creativity and energy in providing one of the most memorable Chinook National events ever.

In 2014, I will be leaving the Bench Chair position, but will remain on the Specialty committee to ensure a smooth transition to the new Bench Chairperson. The Specialty is set for October 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year, we're trying something a bit different by holding our alternate year Specialty location at Gray Summit, MO in conjunction with the UKC Gateway Shows (This, as opposed to Premier weekend in Kalamazoo, MI). The Honorable David Arthur has agreed to serve as our Specialty judge.

I strongly encourage you to show your Chinook, as it's really quite a lot of fun for both you and your Chinook! Looking forward to seeing you at the Chinook National Specialty in October and at other UKC shows throughout the year.

#### **Membership – Kris Holleran (NH) Chair**

December 15, 2013 through June 23, 2014

The COA welcomed 20 new puppy members and 9 new members in 2014. One hundred and nine members showed their support for the COA by renewing their memberships. The COA currently boasts 227 memberships, both single and family. Many thanks for all your support!

#### **CrossBreeding – Donna Boatwright (ME) and Karen Hinchy (NJ) Co-Chairs**

The CrossBreeding Committee has made a couple of noteworthy updates to the CrossBreeding Guidelines in the last year. First, the criteria around eye health tests has been updated to accept results from the OFA Eye Certification Registry, which has effectively taken over the CERF Registry. Second, the program has been revised to allow qualifying dogs to apply for Cross to Purebred status at the third generation (previously fourth). This latter change was guided by input from the Mars DNA Study and the Chinook Pedigree Project, which both recommended including crosses in the purebred population at an earlier generation in order to increase the genetic diversity offered by the outcross. Finally, the Committee has asked for a proposal from the population geneticists to review the CrossBreeding Program Guidelines in the context of the Chinook population analyses and to provide feedback on strengths and opportunities.

#### **Health – Karen Hinchy (NJ)**

The Health Committee has been focused on supporting the Chinook Pedigree Project and obtaining the population analysis of the Chinook. An updated Chinook pedigree database was finalized in March and submitted to the scientists. The analysis has recently been completed and may be found online: <http://www.instituteofcaninebiology.org/chinook-population-genetic-analysis-0514.html>. A "layman's summary" of the results is being documented for the Fall CQ.

#### **Historian - Ed Bigos (MA), Chair**

Bob Cottrell has continued to give presentations on Chinook history in New Hampshire. Bob and I have been discussing the best way to archive and search digital assets.

#### **Publicity & Advertising – Ginger Corley (WA) Chair**

Over the course of the last year, we have continued to work to the Advertising & PR Communications Plan published in September of 2012. That plan will be due for revision and expansion later this summer as we begin another two year term and Board of Directors.

The **COA three-fold flyer** is completed and available to members.

Work is in process on a **web-magazine article on the COA's successful Cross Program**. There is a lot of background work to do before it is ready to turn over to the Editor. First we need to do a lot of background research and we also need someone from the Cross Program to work with us on the rough draft writing of the article. I anticipate that this project will take at least six months to complete because it is very labor intensive and requires a lot of research and creative thinking.

A rough draft is also in the works of a **long form brochure that will focus on the history of the Chinook and the history of the COA**. It will include a recap of the various presidents of the COA since it was founded in the 1980s when Wollperts led the charge to rescue the remaining Chinook breeding stock, then reinvigorated in the late 1980s after the problems with lax breeding records at Northdown Kennels made it obvious that we could not rely solely on the records that Harry Gray was keeping. Because of the research required, this project will take at least a year, if not more to complete. It will be available on our website as a PDF that can be downloaded in the History section.

In the meantime, work is continuing on the **Register of Merit** and a draft program is being prepared. I'm waiting for the reports from UKC now. As soon as we have the data on the Top Producers, we will develop criteria and present it to the Board for comment and implementation.

Our Advertising & PR Committee has also been more formally charged with **the COA Website and Facebook page** too. Kristy Jolly has responsibility for the Facebook page and has been tracking the stats each month. Jon Jolly is working with Chester Holleran and me on the revision of the website to add more current content and to make the organization easier to follow and navigate. This will be a near constant process since websites are something that are never done.

#### **Registrar – Penthea Burns (ME)**

In the last year, two graduates from the COA CrossBreeding Program were UKC registered through the Single Dog Registration process. GreatMountain Callie and Callicoon Hawkeye received 'PR' pedigrees. The COA Registrar has also worked with the UKC and Chinook owners to resolve Chinook registration and DNA issues. The Registrar has served as a member of the COA CrossBreeding Committee and a resource to the Chinook Pedigree Project.

#### **Rescue – Dan Silvertree (OR), Chair**

This year we were able to prevent two Chinooks from being rescued and found a home for one boy that was headed for the shelter. By leveraging social media and the COA email list we found a foster home for Koda with in hours of being notified of his situation. Happily, that foster home has become his forever home, one which he gratefully shares with two other Chinooks and a wonderful Human family.

Thanks to everyone in the greater Chinook community for the continued support, both financial and otherwise, helping us provide that last safety net for dogs in dire situations. This community continues to show how dedicated they are to the well being and future welfare of these wonderful dogs- adding so much value to Chinook ownership.

We are continuing to research further options to make donating and volunteering easier and more impactful. Please join us at [facebook.com/ChinookOwnersAssociation](https://facebook.com/ChinookOwnersAssociation) and [facebook.com/ChinookRescue](https://facebook.com/ChinookRescue) for ongoing efforts.

#### **WORKING DOG PROGRAM – Corine Lindhorst (MT), Chair**

The Working Dog Program has awarded two titles and 9 certificates in the last 12 months:

Pack Dog Excellent to Callicoon Arya owned by Tiffany Sparks

Working Pack Dog to Granite Hill Ooli owned by Karen Bourque & Robert Horton

Novice Pac Dog to Desert Sol Great Surya owned by David Hassilev

Novice Pack Dog to Granite Hills Kewalik owned by David Hassilev

Novice Sled Dog to Frontier Halona Joy Katsute owned by Susan Fletcher

Novice Pack Dog to Bashaba Tobias Jackson owned by Kelly Shekiro

Novice Pack Dog to Intervale Kali's Echo owned by Bryan & Suzanne Flagg

Novice Sled Dog to Southwind in the Willows owned by John & Carlynn Booth

Novice Pack Dog to Intervale Hiking the Whites owned by Darcy Davenport

#### **Chinooks New England – Ed Bigos (MA), Representative to the Board**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Chinook Winter Carnival was held at the Remick Country Doctor Museum and Farm on February 22, 2014. The Museum is under new management and has changed the format for 2015. We are looking for a new location for 2015.

**Mid-Atlantic Chinook Club – Kim Kramer (NJ), Representative to the Board**

MACC continues to be in hibernation.