



Welcome sport friends,

This past year was quite busy and eventful for our organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, particularly Vice President Lyle Roetemeyer, Secretary Michelle Testa and Treasurer Sean O'Kane, who consistently work hard in making our federation a success.

Our federation is growing. I have had the opportunity to work with several member clubs during this past term, and I would like to think we have solidified these clubs while working through some issues. We also have four new clubs seeking membership within our federation.

I would like to thank Mr. Mike Diehl and the OG Indianapolis Schutzhund and Polizei club for hosting our 2010 AWDF championship.

Some of the things we accomplished this year include the standardization of score books within our federation. This has been a long project, and we still have to work out some details. I am very confident working with one score book throughout our federation will be a real good addition to our federation members. Unification of our score books just makes everything so much easier for our judges, trial secretaries, record keeping, etc.

Last December, the AWDF was again invited to the FCI working commission judges workshop. This event was held at the new DVG headquarters, and our host Christa Bremmer, was fantastic. Johannes Grewe, Craig Groh and myself attended this meeting located in Hemmer Germany. Frans Jansen, Wilfried Schapermeier, Robert Markschlager, Eberhard Uekoetter, and Gunter Diegel all lead discussions relating to judging and rules interpretations. It is very important for us to continue to attend these meetings, as we have been allowed to express our opinions. That's quite an important relationship because in America, our member clubs are the protectors of the breeds that were developed by our European friends.

The RH (Search and Rescue) program is growing in America. Stephanie Dunion, & Karen MacIntyre recently attended an international RH seminar. This is another great opportunity for our membership, as we also have an invitation to the RH world championship.

As the AWDF president, I have spoken with the AVP of the AKC's performance committee, Doug Ljunggren. I have been assured that the AKC is well aware of our organization. I'm of the opinion Mr. Ljunggren feels as if we are the best qualified SchH based club in America, however with the way the AKC runs their programs, clubs, etc; it would be quite difficult to work with one another.

I had the pleasure of meeting FCI Vice President Karl Reisinger while in Austria. I was able to spend some time with Mr. Reisinger, who is also a working dog man. He is well aware of the strength of our federation.

Mondioring is making great strides internationally, and our people are very involved in this process, and are working hand in hand with the FCI.

A real highlight was that our FCI IPO Team finished 5th in the world. I had the pleasure of being a team captain, and a better group of people representing America would have been hard to find. Our team consisted of Phil Hoelcher, Carlos Rojas, Lisa Jacquin, Mark Natinski, Beth Bradley, & Frank Phillips.

There will be a new international rule book by 2011

There is a proposal in the FCI working commission for it to become illegal to provide cash or other substantial awards at competitions. Proper wording, and regulations are being worked out to be presented to the FCI delegate body in the spring.

There is also a proposal that a handler must present a recognized score book from THEIR country, in order to compete in a world championship. (as an example a SV scorebook for a GSD living in America would not be acceptable)

All countries, even FCI countries, do not have invitations to FCI working dog events.

FCI IPO Championship will be held on Sept 16-19 Finland.

We lost two great supporters of our federation this past year. I considered both dear friends. Eberhard Strasser, the past FCI working commission president, was a driving force for the working dog for many years. I considered Eberhard not only a friend but also a mentor. My closest SchH buddy was Mark Przybylski. Mark truly was a working dog man, and we are in strong national and international positions because of the work these men did on our behalf.

In closing, I would like to thank our membership for all of the support I have received in my past term, and my good friend Mark Przybylski for all of the memories.

Al Govednik
President AWDF