

BCOA Region III Governors Report February 2012

I first want to thank the many members who voted me into the Region III Governor's position. I thank you for your trust and I look forward to bringing your ideas, concerns and thoughts to the board. I also want to thank RLynn Shell, my predecessor, for her many years of service as Region III Governor and for her continued service as Web-master and ASFA Delegate.

I held a short Governor's meeting in conjunction with the Lone Star Borzoi Club January meeting at the Nolan River show near Ft. Worth, TX. 1) As the Alexander, LA TSE was closing the following Wednesday I promoted the TSE. – Consensus was not much interest due to judges. 2) Requested feedback on upcoming issues facing AKC – how does the membership want the BCOA delegate to vote. Want delegate to vote for group split – more opportunity for group placements. 3) Discussed idea of multiday and back-to-back same day specialties – against idea as entries would have to be limited to 100 dogs for each event.

Alexander, LA TSE weekend – The Regional Governor's meeting was just one of several events over the weekend. I thank Veni Harlan and her committee for their hard work for putting on a successful weekend of TSEs. They had coordinated social events, had wonderful trophies, a Borzoi crating area, and most important the event drew MAJORS. The meeting was held in conjunction with one of the dinners where delicious Cajun food, enjoyable fellowship and spirited discussions were shared by all. Items of discussion included:

- Adding Borzoi Photos / videos to the BCOA Website – The BCOA and the website should first and foremost be the site the general public goes for information and photos of Borzoi. Currently the only pictures on the site are the Photo(s) of the Week. The group strongly believed the website should be loaded with photos of Borzoi in all their glory and craziness.
- Rescue - Information and Links to the rescue groups should be on the front (1st) Page of the website. Rescue is too important and those looking for it shouldn't have to dig to get the vital information.
- Communications Coordinator / Committee – Coordinate and act as a liaison with the members. Create a membership publication, both hard copy and electronic. Membership wants a BCOA Borzoi Breed Magazine again. The Borzoi News Lists goes to the world we need something just for us. Committee should communicate with membership on BCOA / member relationship.

This discussion was very spirited, as often it is heard from members / non-members "I get nothing from the BCOA" or "There's no reason for me to join the BCOA." My response is, "What would make the BCOA better? What do you want? What do you need? What aren't you getting?" Then my question is, "What can you give?" As President Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." It would be the Communication Committees charter to open channels of dialog with current and prospective members. Why those active Borzoi owners in the fancy who have elected not to join the BCOA. What does the BCOA need to bring to the table to get them to join. As Regional Governor, I serve as a channel of communication between the members and the BCOA Board of Directors. I also see my role as protecting and promoting the breed that is Borzoi.

- Put Teeth into Ethics – We need to create guidelines for the care and welfare of our Borzoi, then do a better job of enforcing those guidelines. Because the fancy has not been policing itself, it has allowed outside entities to create a hostile environment for breeders and fanciers of dogs.

- ROM Versatility Award – It appears the Obedience titles have more weight than the other Performance titles. Is this true? I will get clarification from Barbara Ewing. Floated was an idea for performance that may be a truer test of a Borzoi's versatility than the traditional Obedience/Coursing/Conformation. More to follow.
- Regional and Back-to-Back Specialties – The idea for multiple events and a Regional BCOA specialty was well received, as some areas can go years without a BCOA Specialty event. Also wanted to make sure performance events were included. Whippets, SD, IW and Bassets have very successful regional parent club specialties.
- AKC Group Split – Against, as we would be left with two very small groups with very low entries. These would not be viable groups.
- 2012 Futurity Judging Process – Clarification requested, how can there be “not be a clear winner”. Want the selection process to be more transparent. If not a clear winner, there should have been run-off between top vote getters.

Again I thank Veni and her team for their hard work. Thanks to the exhibitors who supported the TSE. For a small show the specials quality was outstanding, with winners from the National, Eukanuba, national-ranked dogs and regional specialty winners. In breed no matter to whom the judges pointed they were rewarding quality. In the classes, congratulations to Kitty Sawyer for picking up two dog majors to finish her Bred-By dog, to Nancy Hopkins for getting the last major on her beautiful brindle bitch and to Shirley McFadden for the major on her young 15-18 month bitch.

Plans are underway for a Louisiana TSE next year. Stay tuned for the details. Another TSEs in Region 3 is tentative in Houston July 20 as part of the Reliant shows. If you are in Region 3 and would like to host a TSE, especially Colorado, Kansas or Oklahoma, please contact me about the details.

Again, thank you for your support. If you see me at a show, please come up (after judging) and introduce yourself. I'd love to hear your ideas.

Respectfully,

Prudence G. Hlatky
BCOA Governor, Region III