

Letter from the President and Vice President

(August 2009)

We are well into the trialing season with many of you planning on attending the National Finals in Klamath Falls Oregon. For all of you competing we wish you the best of luck.

The past few months have brought many opportunities for the Association that the officers have been working on. With the exception of a hand full of individuals it has been a misconception that because MPBCA was a non-profit corporation it was considered a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity. This has never been the case. As the current officers we cannot give a valid reason why this was never resolved in prior administrations but now with the current officers possessing the expertise to apply for and be granted this significant operating advantage we acted in the best interest of the Association and moved forward with the compliance requirements as set forth by the Internal Revenue Service. This status will not only bring more professional managerial standards but endless funding and grant opportunities. Anyone who contributes to the Association will have the opportunity to have that contribution qualify as a charitable deduction for tax purposes. Many doors open to a 501(c)(3) entity that are unavailable otherwise.

The process to acquire this special tax exempt status began the end of April with much work by the officers in acquiring and cataloging the required documentation to provide the IRS with proof of our true purpose of education about the Border Collie breed. During this time a committee of some of the Association members approached MPBCA officers with a request of the Association's involvement as the underwriting fiscal agent and tax entity for the 2011 National Sheepdog Finals at the Strang Ranch in Carbondale. They perceived this to be a significant opportunity for the Association to show the USBCHA the strength and commitment of the Association and its ability to be able to put together such a huge undertaking. The committee was under the assumption that the Association held the designation of a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity as this is critical to their fundraising and grant writing requirements. Due to the level of membership involvement for this undertaking to be successful your input was requested and what was reported back to the officers was a very positive affirmation of agreement to proceed with the proposal to the USBCHA for consideration of the 2011 National Finals. On August 3rd we received one last request from the IRS that the current Articles of Incorporation of the Association be changed from its current wording of

“The purposes for which the corporation is organized are to promote the Border Collie breed as the working stockdog it has been bred for; educate the public on the abilities, working characteristics, variations in type and recognized registries for the breed; promote maintaining purebred dogs and encourage selective breeding to eliminate and control genetic defects that may be found in the breed; conduct organized workout sessions, fun days, and field trials to encourage members to develop their dogs to the fullest extent of their natural abilities; keep membership informed of workouts, training clinics, trials, and other matters concerning the breed through regularly published newsletter or other publication.”

to the following text:

“Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.”

The response deadline for compliance receipt to the IRS was August 7 so as the majority of the officers we made the determination to proceed with their request so as not to lose the apparently granted 501(c)(3) tax exempt status that we worked so hard to obtain.

This change in the Articles of Incorporation does not change any of the previously listed purposes of the Association as they are repeated in the Association By-Laws as the specified objectives of the day-to-day activities of the Association. It does allow for more expansion in all of these purposes and opens the opportunity for more activities under the premise of education and scientific study about the breed.

Although now, after the fact, we are requesting the membership ratify this amendment to the Articles of Incorporation for the Association. Your vote will determine the MPBCA involvement in the 2011 National Finals proposal to the USBCHA and whether we keep the 501(c)(3) status and its benefits to the Association or revert back to our previous status.

This change in the Articles of Incorporation does not come without a price. Although the damage done to the Association has been corrected it has left a vacancy of the Secretary position that needs to be filled. Due to Pam Bruns resignation we would like to request nominations for the vacant officer position that can be voted upon at the Annual Meeting on November 7, 2009. The time and place are yet to be determined as we would like the membership input as to the type of meeting you would like to have. There is a blog set up for your input or you can complete the form on the “Contact Us” page of the web site: <http://mpbca.com/page7.php>

Lastly, it has become painfully apparent how lacking in guidance and clarity the current Association By-Laws are. As your officers we have looked to them for guidance and found nothing but generalities with no direction or clarity. A copy of the current By-Laws can be found on the website at <http://mpbca.com/page2.php>. If you have a desire to help draft the new operating By-Laws please contact the committee chair, Victoria Long at (303) 840-7772 by August 31 to be included on the revision committee. The first meeting will be held in September for completion by the Annual Meeting in November.

Within a few days you will receive an envelope from MPBCA. Inside will be a copy of this letter and a stamped post card ballot. Please take the time to vote on the requested items and suggestions for nominations for the open Secretary position and return the ballot as indicated.

On a lighter note, please check the website for upcoming clinics and lessons. One that should not be missed is the upcoming Aled Owen clinic in October. If you have ever seen his video “Time Well Spent” you will know what an incredible instructor he is. You can check out his long list of accomplishments at his website <http://www.aled-owen-sheepdogs.co.uk/>. This is a rare US appearance so we highly recommend that you attend.

Sincerely,

Deborah Terry	President
Victoria Long	Vice President
Dale Goodell	Treasurer