

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .



Some have lost jobs and gas prices are still too high! Who knew that corn would become more valuable in the gas tank than on our tables? The nation's highest office allows us a choice between a newbie and a long-time maverick, and yet . . . some of us are looking forward to a good time in Texas! How can that be? As every year, folks from all over the country have been or will be working tirelessly to make sure that things go as planned and that those who attend the national events have a great time. Just go to the BHCA website and take a look at the action-packed agenda and it will make a believer out of you too.

Some go to the nationals to win but most go to have a great time, to learn something new, to see hounds that they've only seen in pictures, to meet new people and to be with old friends. To enhance not only the event but also as an educational and historical project the Board has approved **Christina Wannamaker's** committee assignment of facilitating the digital recording of the national ring activities. Now . . . even if you cannot be there, you can still order the DVD and be a part of the action. Order forms and pricing are already on the website at the 2008 Nationals link.

As once said by writer/humorist Sam Ewing (1920 – 2001) . . .

***"Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses and some don't turn up at all."***

With that said, I'd like to pay tribute to **Terri Ralenkotter** who will have completed four years of Yearbook duty and now needs a break and to **Mark Chryssanthos** who has recently completed a total revamp of the club's website and is ready for another to step in. Will you be that person? These are volunteer duties that require some skills but that also provide lasting rewards. Let us know if you are interested in helping the club and yourself by taking on the challenges of either of these positions.

The above is a reminder that we also need to thank all of the committee members who do the work of the club everyday and make everything seem as easy as just receiving your **Tally-Ho**. Long-serving in one educational role or another is **Claudia Orlandi** and unsung computer heroine, **Sue Frischman** as they helped to move the BHCA's educational processes forward by leaps and bounds over these past several years. Let me not forget the fact that with this issue, our TH Editor, **Carol Ann Hunt**, celebrates her tenth anniversary of serving the club as TH Editor. If you get a chance maybe you can drop her a note since not many in the club's history have put up with the headaches, twists, turns, pushes and, pulls that the position has to offer. Carol continues to produce a great **Tally-Ho** magazine as the official newsletter of the BHCA and we all thank her for her dedication to quality.

This year's Board work has at times seemed a bit repetitious. And, yes, I'll say it, a bit boring. Okay there were some unusual requests and/or matters to consider but for the most part, fairly routine. That was until we began work on the use of the ramp in all-breed rings. At that point, things got very interesting, very fast. According to the reports we're getting from many of you at the shows, we can feel really great about how it has all worked out. For you Junior Handlers, the ramp will soon be making its debut in an all-breed Jr. Handling ring near you. The proposed revised By-laws are at the AKC and within it a new club objective that will help us to move forward in helping rescue organizations do what they do best. With the influx of new requests to have more BH rescue websites linked to the BHCA's, the word must be out that progress is being made.

For those of you who might be flying or braving the roads to get to this year's national events, take care and to all . . . travel safe . . .

*Randy*