

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Gerard C. Penta

This issue of The Voice is so far behind schedule that instead of identifying it as Vol. 20, No. 3, it is Vol. 21, No.1. The reason for such tardiness is the amount of time it has taken to complete the arrangements and contracts for the redesigned ADSJ Advanced Institute. All the details pertaining to the new Advanced Institute as well as a registration form are contained in this issue.

Regarding the major concerns of the past six months, we are all in a wait and see mode. The new judging approval process is just now going into effect. The strengths of the new process have already been pointed out, our concerns about it have been raised and alternatives have been submitted. All we can do now is hope for the best and wait and see.

We have been told repeatedly that this AKC Board election is the most important one in many years, if not the most important one ever. For some AKC employees this is undoubtedly true. Going into the election the Board is evenly split on the future course of the AKC. It will be the three new Board members who will decide which view will prevail by selecting the Chairman who will plot that course. In effect, three delegates, none of whom have ever served on the AKC Board, will determine the outcome of this momentous turning point in AKC history. If the newbies are divided, the future course of the AKC will come down to one new inexperienced Board member's vote.

Brilliant.

How could it be any different you might ask. Although I realize that this is simply not how it has been done in the past, I would suggest the following. Since the issues are supposedly so critical in this election, why not have the two factions on the Board present the best case they can for their position and then identify the candidates they think will support their position. At least the future course of the AKC would be determined by a better informed body of delegates.

Since so little is known about the views of these two Board factions and the candidates, the ADSJ Board has opted out of endorsing candidates in this election. As to the new AKC Board Chairman and the course he sets, we will just have to wait and see.*