



Obichaff

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.



May 2021

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No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you feel rich.

--Louis Sabin



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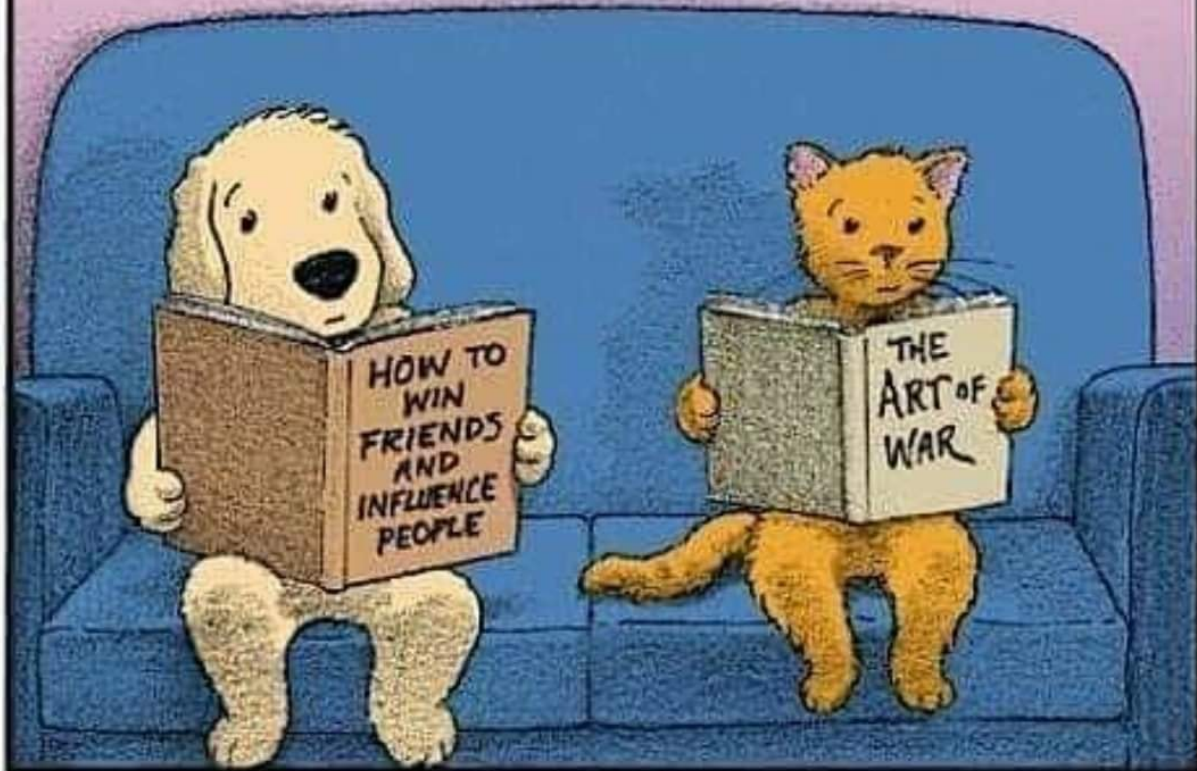
New Membership Information
[Shirley Blakely](#)



Pictured above are my friends, with Magic, Milo in the background and a seven year old girl doing her best to distract the dogs from their down-stay. My friends invited me, my wife and my two dogs to Easter dinner. I was touched that they thought enough of Milo and Magic to invite them to their home, especially when there were many people and lots of food on the table.

I was not planning to include this picture in the *Obichaff*, but a few days ago, I met my neighbor out for a walk. When I asked about her dog, she said that her dog was at home. She said she could not take her dog with her for a walk because "she pulls too much." It was sad to see someone who had given up on their dog. In her mind the dog could not learn how to walk on a loose leash. Nothing I said was going to change her mind.

This is why CDTC exists and why we train. We want our dogs to be well behaved so they can go to different places and, as much as possible, share their lives with us. My greatest pleasure in life is having my dogs at my side. I want my dogs welcomed wherever we go. That takes training.



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President's Message:

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Spring - never more fervently anticipated than this year! We can all enjoy the fine weather and train outside, perhaps with a friend or two. I hope we can organize another CDTC "Fit Dog" hike in the near future.

Our Recent Agility Trial was a success and a nice return to normalcy. I enjoyed watching the dogs run, helping out, and talking to friends that I seldom see. What a joy and a relief it was to participate in activities! Congratulations to all of you who helped make it so!

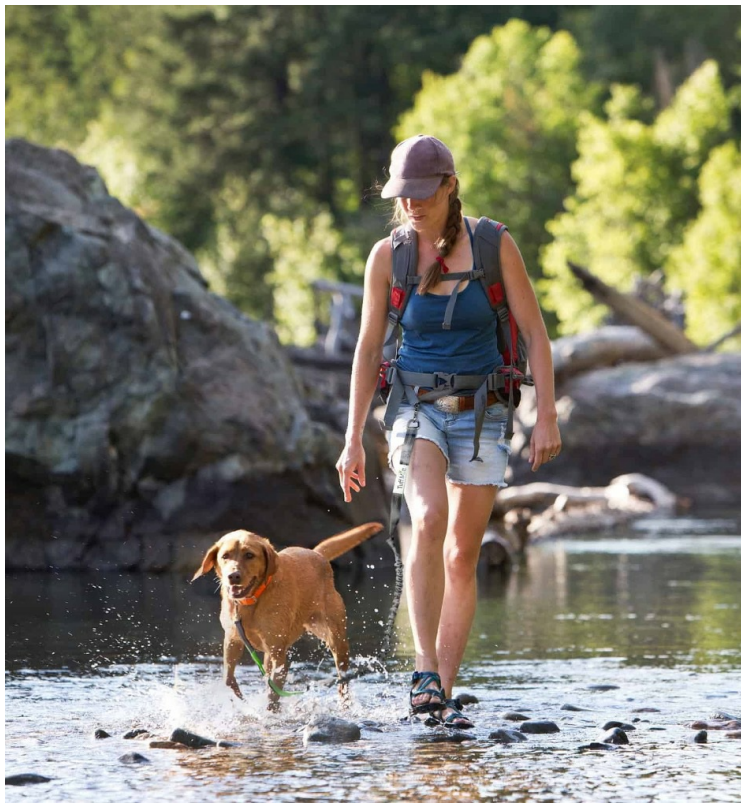
If there is anything we have learned during the past year, it has been to cherish the time we have together. The past year in semi-isolation has taught us how important it is to care for and to respect our fellow humans. We certainly have a more profound understanding of just how important our animals are to us. But I believe we must also appreciate how important our training friends are to us. This leads me to encourage all of you to think about how we treat

each other when we are together, in the club house, at events, and in our exchanges in “virtual” space. Everybody now knows, in a visceral way, how fragile and how important caring and respect are.

The practice of “Social Distancing” is actually a *return* to more formal social interactions of the past. Two hundred years ago, before modern medicine, people stood farther apart and did not touch or shake hands when meeting, but bowed to one another instead. Friends and even relatives and spouses referred to others using honorifics and surnames. Now mode of address is casual in the extreme, we don’t even introduce using surnames, only first names. I don’t know if I am reaching here, but I actually think this informality has a diluting effect on decorum and ultimately on respect for others. I hope I can take away from the experience of the past 12 months an increased respect for others and appreciation of life in society as represented in our little corner of the world: the Dog World.

Equipment Review: Must Have Gear for Hiking and Camping With Your Best Friend

With Covid-19 restrictions slowly relaxing, you and your best friend are probably yearning to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. If you are going hiking this summer, you need the right gear. If you are a runner or a hiker you will need a leash that attaches around your waist like [Tuff Mutt’s Hands Free Dog Leash](#). The four-foot hands free dog leash clips to an adjustable waist belt. You can choose from seven energetic colors.



If you are heading out for a longer hike into rougher terrain, consider outfitting your dog with



Kurgo's step and [Step-N-Strobe Boots](#). These boots are made for walking, in rough terrain, and in hot or cold weather. They are great when it's too hot outside and you want to protect your dog's paws from hot pavements. Or when it is winter and there is ice and snow. Manufactured with structured synthetic leather uppers and outsoles, these dog

shoes will give your pup the protection, stability and traction they need and the comfort they want.

If your dog is too young or too small for rough terrain you can just pack him up in [Kurgo's dog carrier daypack](#). The daypack has a padded laptop compartment, a pair of water bottle holders, and an ample supply of zippered storage, You think your dog is cute? Wait until you see his little face sticking out of the Kurgo backpack, watching the scenery roll by.



Of course, if you are staying overnight your dog will need a sleeping blanket, like the one sold by [RuffWear](#). The sleeping bag is a lightweight, compressible synthetic down sleeping bag.

Editor's note: My dogs



favor hotel camping, preferably in a nice dog friendly hotel with room service.

If you are into sledding, biking, riding a motorcycle or jumping out of an airplane and want to take your dog with you, your dog will need a good pair of goggles and possibly ear protection. Fortunately, [Rex Specs](#) sells a variety of eye and ear protection for your dog.



Whatever you do, whether it is a short walk along the C&O Canal trail, camping or mountain biking, life is better with your dog by your side, so gear up and get out.

Separation Anxiety and What You Can Do to Control It



Dogs with separation anxiety engage in unwanted behaviors such as destruction of property and excessive barking when left alone, causing distress for both the dog and the owner.

The emotional bond formed between dogs and humans is similar to that of adults and their

children. We love our dogs and want them to be healthy and happy, but we can't spend all our time with them. We cannot explain to our dogs that we are going out but will be back in a few hours. When separated, some dogs become anxious. Our first Weimaraner, Gretel, of beloved memory, was kept by her

owners in the garage and let out for walks or to play with their children. She was treated more like a bicycle than a living creature. After being rescued by us, it did not take Gretel long to figure out she had won the doggie lottery. She became very attached to us and consequently suffered from separation anxiety. It took several years and many boxes of treats before Gretel was comfortable with us leaving her alone.

Separation anxiety has been defined as distress in the absence of an attachment figure. It is estimated that up to 20% of dogs suffer from separation anxiety. Separation-related problem behaviors are commonly cited reasons for relinquishing dogs to animal shelters. Dogs with a wide range of experiences outside the home and with other people between the age of 5-10 months with stable household routines are less likely to develop separation anxiety. All the factors are not fully understood, and any dog can develop separation anxiety.

What can you do if your dog suffers from separation anxiety? First, make sure your dog is safe when left alone. Dogs that suffer from separation anxiety can hurt themselves and can be destructive of property. Studies have found that dogs confined to crates are less likely to engage in stress-related behaviors. If your dog does cause damage while you are away, don't punish the dog. Punishment will increase anxious behavior.

Behavior treatments, such as systematic desensitization are also very effective. Systematic desensitization is a technique similar to the treatment of phobias of humans. It involves exposure to mild versions of the feared stimulus. Initially, the dog is exposed to very short periods of owner absence. Because the separation-related problem behaviors begin shortly after the departure of the owner the initial separation period must be short to ensure that the owner's absence is not associated with problem behaviors and, presumably, anxiety. Initially, the owner leaves the dog for a few seconds, and then returns and praises the dog. The length of separation is gradually increased.

Systematic desensitization is often used concurrently with counterconditioning. The concept underlying counterconditioning is that emotional states like anxiety are incompatible with other activities such as relaxation and eating. If your dog is suffering from separation anxiety, leaving a chew toy or a hollow bone with peanut butter is a great way to relieve your dog's stress and thus eliminate or reduce separation anxiety.

If the problem is really bad, you might consider medication. Two drugs, clomipramine (Clomicalm[®]) and fluoxetine (Prozac[®]) are approved in the United States for the treatment of canine separation anxiety. Of course, see your veterinarian before you give your dog antidepressants.

Braggs

Teddy the rat terrier finished his Master's Rally title April 11 at Oriole Dog Training Club with his best scores ever. On Saturday he scored 98 (4th place) and 100 (2nd place). On Sunday his tenth qualifying score was 99, and in addition to his new title ribbon he got a first place blue ribbon. I am so proud of my rally partner! I'd like to thank all the club members who volunteered to teach rally and who helped us achieve this goal, including Dianne Harab, Lisa

Daniels, Sue Faber, Amy Cook and Sandi Atkinson.

Lois Kietur



Mary Carson writes: On April 4, 2021, under Judge Ann Marie Taylor at the Southern Maryland KC show in Doswell, VA., Holly finished her breed championship in style, going Winners Bitch and Best of Opposite Sex over a special. It was her 3rd consecutive major. She began her show career first with me, and then with my daughter Melanie, under the tutelage of Janice Kopp and Capital's

Conformation Working Group. She is my first Champion. Picture is Holly being shown by her breeder (Elizabeth Nemore) on her way to her 1st major in Raleigh, NC, during March.



Theresa Warner writes: Maddie earned her NACSW Nose Work 1 title on April 10th. Hooray Maddie!



Ed Read and his 2 year old fox red English Lab, Gigi, had some good success at Westminster's AKC Rally and Obedience Trial on March 21, 2021. Gigi earned her first Rally Novice leg and won her division! There weren't many other competitors in her group BUT she really did do well and earned lots of kudos from the judge as well as spectators! Gigi also qualified in her first Beginner Novice leg with a 190 which would have been a 200 had her newbie handler remembered to read the signs and speed up and slow down when told. Ugh! :-)) We learned a lot and want to thank the club, especially Tom Tathen, Sue Faber,

Barbara Glass, Mary LaDieu, and Marsha Iyomasa who helped and encouraged us along the way. We had previously NQ'ed on our first outing in August 2020, not having had much preparation or guidance. So this was a breakthrough of sorts for us: a confidence builder. We can do it. We did do it. And we even had fun! We especially enjoyed Rally, something we're definitely going to pursue in addition to Obedience. It's so much fun to be in a wider and more complete communication bubble with your partner! Thanks CDTC for providing us such a great introduction to competitive trialing! We love your courses, staff, and other members!



Kimberly Quach writes: Roux earned her Novice FAST at CDTC's Agility Trial, and her Open Agility Jumpers at the English Setter Association of America's trial!



It's spring time and Covid-safe dog events are popping up all over!

One of the activities I took up over the winter was starting scent work training with my dogs. I entered Tali in two weekends of trials (Novice containers) and she qualified in 3/4 trials, earning her SCN title with first and second places. The third leg was not a placement, but it was the Q I was most proud of, because I handled her better and started to better understand how to read her. We have lots of training to do before I try any more scent work competitions.

Tali also started up Fast CAT again, and is very happy to chase the white plastic bag and also seeing her Canaan Dog friends. Little Hermes tried a baby dog fast cat practice run and did much better than I had expected him to!

Both Tali and Hermes are finishing off April in fine style. In agility, Tali earned her first Masters Standard Q, and more Masters Jumpers legs, as well some T2B legs.

Hermes earned his virtual puppy home manners title and novice tricks title.

Then went to his first conformation shows (Toy Breed Specialty at Timonium), where he went Best of Winners and Best Opposite for his first championship points. Many thanks to Janice and the CDTC conformation program!

Jennie Larkin





Moose and Martha Perkins entered three weekends of shows in April. Moose earned two OH Sporting Group 4ths, five Best of Winners, and 9 championship points.



Teenager is Helping Shelter Dogs - One Bowtie at a Time



A New Jersey teenager, Darius Brown, is helping shelter dogs and cats get adopted one homemade bow tie at a time.

Darius was born with a fine motor skill delay, so when he was eight years old his mother thought it would be useful for him to begin working with his hands and taught him how to sew. He started making bow ties.

In 2017 Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma struck Texas and Florida. Darius saw the damage on television and wanted to

help. Darius saw online videos of animals who were being shipped to shelters near him from Florida and Texas following the hurricanes, and decided that his bow ties would be his creative way to help. Darius reasoned that bow ties would

make the animals more adoptable. He brought his first set of bow ties to the ASPCA. It was during that visit he learned that some shelters euthanize animals if they aren't adopted, and Darius decided he wanted to help as many animals as he could. Darius started making 15 to 20 bow ties per week. The more he made the greater the demand from shelters that wanted his bow ties.

Since Darius began his bow tie initiative, he estimates he has made 400 to 500 bow ties and has helped more than 100 animals find their forever home.

It just goes to show what one determined person can do. Well done Darius!



Did You Earn a Title in 2020?

by Amy Scheiner

Calling all CDTC members who earned titles with their dogs in 2020: please fill out the attached [Awards Application](#) and return it to me by June 1, 2021. Titles can be from any venue (obedience, agility, rally, conformation, tricks, etc.) and from any organization (AKC, UKC, NADAC, etc.) The Club will be holding its Annual Awards Dinner and Instructor Recognition event later this year (location and date still to be determined), and we want to honor all your accomplishments. This past year (2020) has been extremely challenging, and training and trialing opportunities have been few and far between. Those of you who did complete titles in 2020 deserve special congratulations.

We are planning a similar, outdoor socially-distanced awards celebration this year as we had in 2020. The picnic we had last October at Seneca Creek State Park was on a lovely

Want to Make a Donation for Hungry Dogs? It's Easy!

The food pantry is now accepting unopened containers of dog food. Cleverdog is accepting dog food donations in their front vestibule and then delivering them to the food pantry. Feel good by dropping off doggie food donations on your way to CDTC. It takes less than a minute and does so much good.

Brooke Holt Nominated for CDTC's Annual Award

Brooke Holt is to be the recipient of the AKC Sportsmanship Award for 2021. A retired veterinarian who has owned and trained many dogs, Brooke has been a Capital member since the late 70s. Among the dogs she has trained have been: several Toy poodles, Bloodhounds, a German shepherd dog, a Border collie, a Welsh terrier, and Afghan hound, Brooke is currently working a Yorkshire terrier in nose work. Her first search and rescue dog was a Rottweiler. There was also a dog she brought home from Russia. This dog, subsequently named "Lennie," was acquired when he was a pup during trip to Armenia. Brooke was a member of the DOGS East search and rescue team that went there after a horrendous earth quake in 1988.

Brooke has taught Novice classes at the club. Along with Marian Hardy, Brooke has been an interesting presenter at meetings, talking about search and rescue, and tracking. Brooke rarely misses meetings, and is a frequent contributor to ideas and discussions. She is also always on hand at CDTC obedience trials to volunteer as a steward. Brooke frequently stewards at club Run-Thrus. In the early years of Capital's agility trials, she would be the hauler of equipment to the trial sight. Brooke also participated on the Demonstration team. She also served on the Board as Treasurer. A person of many talents and interests, she maintains a small menagerie that includes not just the dogs, but a cat and a large hook-billed bird.

Brooke's long-standing and continuing service to Capital is a testament to her exemplary sportsmanship.

Dogs of the Rich and Famous

Lady Gaga's French bulldogs, Gustav and Koji were taken in a violent robbery in Hollywood on the evening of February 24, 2021. In the course of the robbery, Lady Gaga's 30-year-old dog walker, Ryan Fisher was shot in the chest. A third Gaga dog on the walk was not taken and was said to be unharmed. Lady Gaga offered a \$500,000 reward for the safe return of her dogs. Two days later they were found. "The woman found the dogs and reached out to Lady Gaga's staff to return them," the LAPD said in a statement.

"The dogs are happy," Joe Germanotta, Lady Gaga's father, said. "We had them checked out by the vet and everything is fine. The family is extremely happy."



Connie Cleveland

Obedience Seminar



The Capital Dog Training Club Presents a workshop with...

Connie Cleveland

Obedience Seminar

Theory, Working and Problem Solving

A Two-Day Workshop

★★★ Saturday & Sunday • June 26-27, 2021 ★★★

Registration opens for CDTC members on April 9, 2021
and to the general public April 16, 2021

About the Seminar



The seminar will begin with a discussion of how dogs learn. Connie will then work with each of the 20 handlers and their dogs individually while the participants watch and ask questions. Plan on

attending to solve your training problems, organize your training sessions and create long-range training goals.

If you want a working spot, please sign up early. Unlimited audit spots are available.



About Connie Cleveland



Connie Cleveland is an internationally recognized dog trainer who offers specialized weekend training seminars to competitive dog trainers around the country and overseas.

As important as Connie's achievements in training her own dogs is her passion for teaching others.

Her own experience included 11 Obedience Trial Champions (OTCH), 2 Field Champions (FC), 5 Amateur Field Champions (AFC), a UDT Maltese and a CDX Shih-Tzu.

Connie is the author of a DVD series, "How Dogs Learn, The Connie Cleveland Method" and a book entitled "Dogs Are Problem Solvers, Handlers Should Be." She is a regular contributor to *Front & Finish*, *The Golden Retriever News*, and the *Greenville Journal*.

For more information [click here](#).

Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

CGC TEST, CGCA TEST, Tricks TEST! (Saturday 5/15)

Puppy Kindergarten - new July class will be listed in June newsletter

Family Dog 1 - For dogs 20+ weeks or PK grads (Mondays, 8/16)

Family Dog 2 - For grads of Family Dog 1 or with permission (Sundays, 9/12)

Intro Obedience Skills for Rally – Next session listed in June newsletter

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1 - Next session listed in June newsletter

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 2 - Next session listed in June newsletter

Novice & Open classes on Monday nights are taking new students

Facility use remains at 50% capacity with masks required.

Click [here](#) to go straight to registration. Email [Karen](#) for questions.

[FLYBALL](#) has space for new participants, tell your friends!

Email [AGILITY](#) to get on the wait list for the next available class.

Click [here](#) for more class information on the CDTC website.

Members use your discount codes to register. Email [Karen](#) for questions.

NEW CLASSES!

Intro Obedience Skills for Rally Novice: This class provides a quick introduction to several obedience skills that are necessary for participating in Rally. Skills taught include heeling, fronts and finishes. At the end of the class students should be ready to enroll in Rally Novice. Students who are primarily interested in competition obedience are advised to instead enroll in Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1. This is a 4-week class. We recommend enrolling for Rally Novice (offered consecutively) as well.

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1 (FCO1) : This class slowly and systematically teaches heeling with sustained attention. Dogs will also be taught to stand, sit and down quickly and without moving out of position. Fast, straight fronts and sits will be taught. Ring entry and sustained connection between dog and handler will also be emphasized. Students enrolling in this class should have a strong commitment to excelling and will be expected to practice between classes. Permission of the Instructor is required. Email [Tom](#)

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 2 (FCO2) : This class teaches foundation skills necessary for competing in Open and Utility. It is not necessary to have earned a novice title before taking this class, but all dogs must have excellent heeling (on and off leash), and straight fronts and finishes that are performed promptly. Students will have typically completed Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1 prior to enrolling. Foundation skills that will be taught include: retrieving, go-outs, directed jumping, pivots and scent discrimination. The emphasis will be on providing a firm foundation in these skills and providing a roadmap for training the actual competition skills. Less emphasis will be placed on training these skills to the point of being competition-ready. Instead, students will be prepared to perfect these skills in open and utility classes. Ideally, this class will be taken upon completion of Fundamentals of Competition Obedience. Permission of the Instructor is required. Email [Tom](#)

Training Groups:

FCO Training Group meets some Saturdays at 1pm. Contact [Tom](#).

Conformation Training Group will meet Saturday mornings. Contact [Janice](#).

Thursday Open/Utility Training Group (Goldstein@ 12:30pm) has resumed. Contact [Karen](#).

Rally Training Group meets some 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 1pm. Contact [Sue](#).

Thinking of joining CDTC as a Member?

Active membership in the Capital Dog Training Club (CDTC) is available to an individual who:

- has completed no less than three (3) months as a training member paying the prescribed fees/dues, and
- whose dog has passed a Proficiency Test as prescribed by the Club with a dog that she or he has trained **or** has obtained a qualifying score toward an AKC title in any "dog companion sport" trial.

Active membership includes the right to attend meetings, vote, access to the Members Only section of CDTC's website, access to seminars, events, announcements of the Club, the right to hold an elective office in the Club, and all other privileges and benefits of the Club (including 2 free classes per quarter). Contact [Karen](#).

Our next Delegates meeting will be virtual in June.

On April 14, 2021, AKC announced the result of the annual election of officers held in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws of AKC. Dennis Sprung was reelected President and Chief Executive Officer, Gina M. DiNardo was reelected Executive Secretary and Theodore E. Phillips was elected Chief Financial Officer.

AKC announced the hiring of Gregory McCarthy as Executive Field Representative. He is from Avon, MA and will cover the Pacific Northwest territory. He has experience in conformation and obedience.

Those field representatives who were furloughed during COVID were given options. I found out that many of them elected not to return but to retire and start judging. I saw one at the Timonium show recently. In turn AKC gave them at least one group to judge without applying and going through the normal process of observations and evaluations by AKC staff.

Congratulations to Brooke Holt for becoming CDTC's latest awardee of the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. She will receive the AKC medallion at our annual awards dinner. The write up of the nominee's accomplishments in the sport is located in this issue.

CDTC Swag

Do you love CDTC? If so, you can purchase CDTC logo items at [Cafepress](#). Order now and get your stuff for the holidays. Capital gets a portion of the proceeds. There's a great selection from sweatshirts, to mugs to magnets.

CDTC Groups.io

CDTC members, if you have not done so already, please join <mailto:cdtc@groups.io>. It is a great way to keep up with the day-to-day activities of our club. To sign up, go to <https://groups.io/g/cdte> and click "Apply for Membership."



Visit our website