

## SIAMESE BREED COUNCIL NEWSLETTER CANDIDATE EDITION

As you are all aware, we have a large group of new individuals running for the position of Director At Large this year. I have sent out a poll to all of them to help us understand their positions relating to breed issues, and their answers are included in this newsletter.

First I would like to say a few words about the Annual. We will be having a breakfast meeting this year, going back to our traditional time of 7:30am. I know that this makes a lot of you shudder, but it can't be helped with the limited time slots available to breed councils due to the amount of things that need to be scheduled into every Annual. To further complicate things, the Breed Council Secretaries meeting with the Board had to be rescheduled to Saturday at 10 am, making it necessary to start our Breakfast earlier than we would have preferred.

Along with the traditional awards for our best of colors and top ten Siamese in each category, we have asked Dr. Susan Little to speak on feline reproductive issues. She will be giving her talk this year after the awards are presented, in order to allow time for all the additional questions that usually arise from one of Dr. Little's excellent presentations. Once again we will be offering other breeders the opportunity to come to this talk for a small charge, which will help defray any costs from having a speaker at our Breakfast.

Dr. Little has generously offered to donate her fee to Siamese Breast Cancer Research, which will kick off our next round of efforts to fund another study. We would like to have an auction again, and are looking for a volunteer to run the auction. We also need donations to the auction and people to coordinate the donations. Anyone able to volunteer to help in this effort please contact either Betty White or myself.

And now to the candidates:

I chose to poll only the new candidates this time, as they are not people we are very familiar with, in fact, several of the names were unknown to me when I received the ballot. This year the flyers that have been sent out by all candidates speak mainly about their business experience, what they think is wrong with CFA and in broad terms what they wish to do to fix it. There is very little information on their beliefs or philosophy about breeds and their relationship to the business of CFA, so I decided that we as a breed council needed that information in order to make a decision if it was in the best interest of the Siamese breed to vote for any of these individuals.

The other candidates, Stan Barnaby, Linda Berg, George Eigenhauser, Joan Miller, Robert Molino, Elizabeth Watson and Annette Wilson have very clear records that we can review on issues important to our breed. Stan, Joan, Bob and Annette have records as staunch supporters of a genetic registry and of respecting the Siamese for itself as well as its contributions to other breeds, while Linda, George and Liz's voting records reflect

the opposite. The other candidates have not been called upon to put forth any written statement on these issues, so this poll was designed to put them on the record, so to speak. I have included their responses as they wrote them in the newsletter. I hope that this will help all of you as you make your decision to pick seven from among the fourteen running.

Two candidates did not respond to the poll, Jan Roger and David White, in spite of all my attempts to reach them. I am concerned that their unwillingness to respond to some very basic questions posed by a large breed council does not bode well for a future responsiveness to breed council issues in general, should they be elected. Breeders are the largest part of CFA, and are responsible for the revenues generated for CFA. If breeders are ignored even before a candidate is elected, it is hard to see how we will be represented fairly if these people are on the Board.

I was very pleased with the responses of the other candidates however. They took time to answer the questions in a very thorough manner, and even if they have given answers that will not be favorable to our position of a genetic registry, they are all to be commended for taking the time to seriously consider our questions and to answer them honestly and forthrightly. I have printed them in full for everyone to read. I hope that you all will take the time to read in depth what each candidate has said and to use this insight into their own philosophies on breeds and their connection to CFA when you make your choice for our future. Your vote for DAL is very important, as its possible these new people will chart the course for CFA for a long time to come.

Respectfully,

Debbi Stevenson