

# THE SCOOPER



## ANNUAL ELECTION

The annual election of MOC Officers and Directors was held at the November General Membership Meeting. The Officers and Directors for the 2015/2016 term are:

### Officers

President - Patti Lieb  
Vice President - Trina Chicvara  
Treasurer - Peter Liu  
Recording Secretary - Cecilia Armesto  
Corresponding Secretary - Mylene Arza

### Board of Directors

Patti Lieb, Chair  
Trina Chicvara, Vice Chair  
Cecilia Armesto  
Mylene Arza  
Peter Liu  
Sally Richardson  
Jill Sidran  
Wien Yu  
Laurie Zisman

## WHAT DOES MOC MEMBERSHIP MEAN?

In recent weeks, there has been a discussion at the household where the Scooper is published about the meaning of membership in MOC. It is a good question. What does it mean to be a Member of MOC? What should it mean? Like any good question, it is best to start at the beginning.

As far as we can tell, there is only one way to become a Member of MOC. Attend two MOC meetings. Fill out an application and have two MOC Members sign it as sponsors. Pay your annual dues. Get voted in. This has been and continues to be the pathway to membership in MOC. We have all done it. Then, once you're in, you're in. You don't need to go to any more meetings. All you need to do is pay your dues every year and stay out of trouble with the AKC. Sure, there is this general statement that we have seen on the MOC web site and in old Scoopers about being willing to pitch in, but it doesn't seem to have any real definition or substance. For all practical purposes, once you become an MOC Member, all you need to do is send in a \$20 check every year. So what does it MEAN to be a Member?

Well, MOC Members are entitled to attend MOC meetings and participate in making Club decisions. MOC's Standing Rules state that a Member in good standing is a Member who participates in Club activities, is in good standing with the AKC, and does not owe anything to the Club. But what does it really mean to be a Member in good standing? Only Members in good standing may vote for Officers and Directors by absentee ballot. Only Members in good standing are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at a meeting or whether a sufficient number of Members have requested a Special Meeting or a proposed amendment to the Constitution. So being a Member in good standing has some meaning when it comes to MOC meetings and certain decision-making. The Standing Rules also state that an active Member is a Member who attends at least 8 MOC meetings within a 12-month period or who attends 6 meetings and works 2 events within a 12-month period. Active Members are eligible for AKC title commemorations, DACOF/DOCOF reimbursement and training discounts. But are these benefits all that there is to being an MOC Member?

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# WHAT DOES MOC MEMBERSHIP MEAN?

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As the Scooper household discussed this question, two words kept coming up: friendship and respect. Each of us has a circle of friends within MOC. Each of us has a circle of MOC Members that we respect. Not that every Member is a friend of every other Member or that every Member respects every other Member. After all, the world is not one big Coca-Cola commercial. Think of MOC instead as a number of overlapping circles. Circles that consist of people that any given Member likes and respects. Some of the circles are bigger than others, but they are all somehow interconnected. The friendship part of the equation is pretty straightforward. Respect is more subtle. Respect is something that is earned rather than freely given. There seems to be various sources of respect. Interestingly, the most immediate and relevant source of respect within MOC appears to be respect for the positive contributions that a person makes to the MOC cause.

So what does MOC Membership mean? Why would anyone make a contribution to the Club? Why would anyone spend the time and exert the effort to support MOC? Why would anyone want to continue to be a Member? The way the Scooper household sees it, the answer to all of these questions is the same. Friendship with and respect for other MOC Members. While it was our dog that led us to MOC in the first place, and it is our dog that provides the common bond to MOC activities, it is the people who provide meaning to the Club.

What does MOC membership mean to you? As our Holiday Party and the New Year approach, it is a question worth examining.

*“Friendship - my definition - is built on two things. Respect and trust. Both elements have to be there. And it has to be mutual. You can have respect for someone, but if you don’t have trust, the friendship will crumble.” - Stieg Larson, from The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*

# A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

By Carola Di Perna

"A trainer with a solid understanding of their dog's drives and motivators has a significant advantage above other trainers. The best trainers approach performance training with two equally important goals; to develop the drives and motivators for their dog, and to teach skills specific to their sport. Performance dogs that have their basic drives developed to a high level are the most reliable and intense competitors." - Denise Fenzi

I try to attend as many dog training seminars as I can afford. The latest was with Denise Fenzi.

For two straight days I spent a total of 16 hours in a chair up in West Palm Beach listening to lectures and watching demonstrations of dog training. It was focused on building drive and motivation for competition obedience. It was geared toward us who would like to gain an understanding of our dog's behavior and drives, and how to use this information to more effectively play with and motivate our dogs. It was well suited for those of us competing in any dog sport that values intensity, endurance and focus in a competitive environment.

I missed out on a working spot but was thrilled to at least get to audit. It was good to watch the other participants and hear the critiques of their performances, but every dog and every handler is different. We all have different challenges, and I really would have loved to get feedback that was specific to me and my dogs.

I have been taking online classes with Denise Fenzi for the past 2 plus something years. She owns Fenzi Dog Sports Academy in Northern California, which offer online classes with all kind of fun instructors from all over the world and in almost any dog sport you can think of.

The thing is, and I truly say this with no ego, it is difficult for me to find a seminar or a dog training class nearby that actually has a lot to offer in terms of "new" information or new training techniques - that shows the trainer thinks out of the box.

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# A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

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Typically I find that seminars reiterate things I am already aware of, or demonstrate techniques that I am already fluent in. This seminar did indeed reiterate a lot of things I already knew, but I also genuinely learned a lot.

Where the magic happened for me, besides in getting several pressing questions about the sport answered, was in watching Denise's kind and compassionate teaching style aimed at both the people and the dogs. She genuinely cares about dogs and loves the sport of Obedience, but she also truly wants to help people learn – and learn we did.

## AKC OBEDIENCE TRIAL CHANGES

Effective December 1, 2015, a number of changes are being made to the regulations that govern AKC Obedience Trials - 75 changes to be exact. A summary of these changes can be accessed through the following link:

[http://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/americankennelclub/Obedience/Summary\\_Obedience\\_Regulations\\_12012015.pdf](http://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/americankennelclub/Obedience/Summary_Obedience_Regulations_12012015.pdf)

20 Years Ago:

\*Tracy Hanna was MOC's President

\*Trina Chicvara was MOC's Treasurer

\*MOC had 56 Members

\*There was \$645 in the checking account

\*Meetings were held at Denny's on Bird Road

Miami Obedience Club Inc.  
HAS A NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

P . O . Box 557189

MIAMI , FL 33255

## THE SCOOPER IS GOING TO THE DOGS

Next month's edition of The Scooper is going to be very different. The January edition of The Scooper will be devoted exclusively to reporting what the dogs of MOC have to say. Let's call it the Annual Dogs' Edition. That means that YOU have an assignment. Find out what your dog wants to say, and let The Scooper know. If you have a picture of your dog to go along with their quote, that's even better.

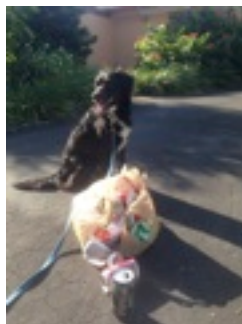
Dogs say the damndest things. Sometimes what they say is profound, sometimes it's silly and sometimes it's just plain nonsense. It doesn't matter, so long as they say something. For those of you with multiple dogs, your dogs can choose whether they want to be quoted separately or as a pack.

The January Scooper will be nothing but quotes from your dogs together with their pictures. If The Scooper gets a lot of quotes, it is going to be a fantastic edition. If the Scooper gets no quotes, it is going to be a one page edition of a blank page, and that would be very sad. So it really is up to you, the Members of MOC, to make it great. Let's hear from your dogs. Simply e-mail your entries to The Scooper at:

[mocscoper@aol.com](mailto:mocscoper@aol.com)

The deadline is December 28.

Confused? Greta has agreed to let The Scooper use the following example:



“We need to protect Mother Earth.”

*Greta Smith*

## PUMPKIN

### **A little bit for us, and a little bit for them**

Fall is in the air! We've all had our Thanksgiving feast, which for many of us included at least a sliver of pumpkin pie, or maybe more. For us pumpkin, typically, is seasonal. For many of "Them" pumpkin is, or should be, offered year round.

Now is the time to revisit and renew our love of pumpkin for our pets sake. Just Google "pumpkin for dogs" and many sites will be listed, each one of them reminding us of the proven benefits of pumpkin for our pets.

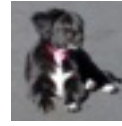
Canned pumpkin is readily available at this time of year. There are approximately, depending on how carefully a Tablespoon is measured, 25 - 29 Tablespoons per can. Pre-measuring and freezing these portions as cubes makes easy prep work for offering pumpkin to your pets.

Considering that 2016 is a leap year, there will be 366 days. For one dog, receiving 1 T per day, you will need around 18 cans of pumpkin for 2016. Keep your eyes open for sales so that your dog can benefit from pumpkin goodness all year round.





# CRUMBS IN MY POCKET



by Mike Smith

Sometimes when I sit down to write, inspiration strikes. The words flow easily and all is well. More often, however, I sit down and nothing comes to me. When this happens, I quickly start looking for other things to do. Lately I've been doing a lot of things other than writing. Unfortunately, avoidance does not usually overcome a lack of inspiration. The only real cure is discipline. By discipline, I mean forcing one's self to put one foot in front of the other and to get going and keep on going. Exercising discipline is not easy. Sometimes, though, it is the only way to get things done.

For me, training my dog is not that different from writing. Sometimes inspiration strikes. The training session is productive, the interaction between me and my dog is smooth, and the choices that I make seem effortless. But for the most part, training my dog requires me to discipline myself. There are usually other things that I would rather be doing. It is not easy to set training goals or to formulate and follow appropriate training criteria. I have a lot of reasons and a lot of excuses to skip a training session and my dog suffers from each one. Fortunately, I have found ways to overcome my inertia and exercise the self discipline necessary to keep my training on track. Classes are my biggest salvation. I may have trouble motivating myself to go out in my own back yard to train, but I can manage to make it to a class on time and do what my instructor tells me to do. Training sessions with friends are also a big help. Peer support is a wonderful thing. Even so, training should be a daily exercise, even a several times a day exercise, and there are a lot of days that are not covered by classes or peer sessions. I must admit that I miss more training opportunities than I should, all for a lack of discipline. But I will not give up. I will keep on trying. First the left foot, then the right foot, and on and on. If not today, then tomorrow.

When inspiration fails, discipline really does work. After all, this article got written. Now excuse me while I go out to the back yard for some training.

Happy holidays.

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO ALL MOC  
MEMBERS BORN IN  
DECEMBER*

Pat Kopco  
Jackie Kurzban  
Jill Sidran  
Mike Smith  
Patricia Weber



MOC'S  
DECEMBER  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING AND  
HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 2, 2015  
7:00 PM

SOUTH GARDEN CHINESE  
RESTAURANT

10855 SW 72nd Street (Sunset)

Appetizers will be served by the  
Club between 7 pm and 7:30 pm.

If you would like to participate in  
the gift exchange, bring a wrapped  
gift valued at \$15 or more.

The Scooper can be reached by e-mail at  
[mocscoper@aol.com](mailto:mocscoper@aol.com)

Thank you for reading The Scooper.