

Greetings to all AWMA members!

The General Board Meeting is only a day away and I hope that you are attending, we will need your input, this is your Club.

All things considered, 2021 has been an interesting year, AWMA had both struggles and successes.

I was not surprised and knew that it will take some time for us to pick new momentum and find ways to unite the community.

As you go through the reports, you will get more detailed information and we will have discussions as needed.

From the Treasurer's report, we can see that AWMA is financially stable.

There have not been any unforeseen expenses in 2021.

Moreover, the Auditing Committee did perform an audit and everything was in order.

The Membership Chair - Anne Camper has shown a decline from 432 members to 362 this year.

See the DOJ report for more detailed data on this.

The former Membership Chair Katie Finlay resigned midterm and Anne Camper was voted in by the Executive Board to replace her until the General Board elects the new Membership Chair at the meeting.

DOJ Randall Hoadley proposed a rule that makes it mandatory for the club that is hosting the National Championship to request at least one AWMA judge to judge one phase at the Championship. This was approved by the Executive Board. At present time our DOJ is the only licensed judge. The apprentice judges have dropped from 3 last year to 2 this year. Dana Miller is very close to finishing her apprenticeship and Natalia Balabanov is continuing.

Regional Directors. We have a great team of newly elected Regional Directors – Katie Smart, Sonia Parisi, and Tony Milazzo

The Southern Region has 10 clubs and one pending club and hosted 4 IGP trials, 2 Training day events, and 2 Seminars

The Western region has 11 clubs and 6 of them are new clubs. The region hosted 4 IGP trials this year, 1 seminar and 1 training day

The Northern Region has 19 clubs! They hosted the 2021 National Championship, 8 club trials, and 4 other events.

National Championship 2021

Thanks to the OG Keystone Belgian Malinois Club and James Honda AWMA was able to have a National Championship this year once again! We even had the privilege to have one of the 2020 FMBB judges in the stadium. Because of our collaboration and friendship with DVG LV/America and The USA- Boxer Club, we secured the other two judges for the event. It was great to see the many new dogs' and new trainers performing. However, something else became apparent that we haven't witnessed in quite some time at our Championships - The comradery on and off the field, the excitement, and unity, which lead to many productive conversations and ideas which I will like to share with you during the meeting.

After you elected me as your President, I know you were looking for a change and fresh ideas.

I was truly struggling to find a way to contribute, motivate and excite You (our members). I knew I had to do something different, something that did not exist before, something that no one could put breaks on!

After some thinking, and long discussions with many of you and collaborating with the National Events Committee, I came up with the idea that AWMA must be very proactive in uniting all IGP trainers, regardless of the organization they belong to, and regardless of the political landscape at the present time.

This is how the AWMA Training Days came about. We have already hosted two and they were welcomed by the IGP community with insane interest and response!!!

As I am writing this report, there is already an announcement for our 3rd event, this time in the Midwest.

This isn't going to end here, in fact, we are just picking up momentum. There is already a plan for events in Florida as well as the Northwest. I am excited about this, and I know so many of you are too.

There are already discussions about Helper education and Tracking as well.

In our community we have an incredible amount of knowledge and experience, even though AWMA has less than 400 members today, we are one of the most dominant IGP clubs in our country and in the world, yes in the world!!! These events will only motivate us further in accomplishing our goals and most importantly continue to unite us as dog trainers.

I know that you already knew about the AWMA Training Events, and this is because we now have Acacia Jean and Jose Moreno our team that works relentlessly on AWMA's presence on social media. This is another great initiative that was decided on, collectively by various committees and extremely dedicated individual members.

I'd like to end my report by repeating myself - I hope that as a delegate of your local club you will attend the meeting this Saturday. We have other ideas we would like to share with you, but we also want to hear yours.

In closing, there are **critically important elections** that will take place at the meeting which will shape the direction AWMA will take on in 2022!



Jose Moreno photography

Yours truly, Ivan Balabanov
AWMA President

November 18th, 2021