



# Faol Cu

The Newsletter of the Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club

Visit us on the web: [www.pviwc.com](http://www.pviwc.com)

## OCTOBER 2012

### Election News!

Elections will be held November 18, 2012.

The Slate of candidates as presented by the Nominating Committee is:

President: Lisa McKinney

Vice President: Diane Hartney

Secretary: Susan Morfit

Treasurer: Cie Hoffman

Board: (new members underlined)

Linda King

Susan Montgomery

Ann Flanigan

Rob Maloy

Carole Silverthorne

Thank you to the outgoing officers & board members for your service!- welcome new officers & board!

#### 2012 PVIWC Officers

President: Christina Kallay

410-519-5744

Vice President: Diane Hartney

703-759-6316

Secretary: Susan Morfit

301-330-0008

Treasurer: Gary Van Nest

410-263-6876

#### Board Members

Ann Flanigan: 410-442-1852

Rob Maloy: 410-984-7470

Carole Silverthorne, 540-338-8916

Jodie Jeweler, 410-266-8062

Lisa McKinney, 717-766-3125

PLEASE NOTE: PVIWC now has a Facebook page! "Like" it for info & updates on events & meetings!

## Events

### PVIWC 2012

**November 18** Meeting: Diane Reba, host

**December 19** Holiday party; Dee & Gary Van Nest, hosts



November 9-11– Md Irish Festival, Timonium State Fairgrounds.

Friday, November 9, 2012 6 PM – 11 PM

Saturday, November 10, 2012 12 Noon – 11 PM

Sunday, November 11, 2012 Mass – 10:00 a.m.

(Sunday festival opens 12 pm and closes at 6:00 pm)

Friday is concerts– probably best to attend without hounds. But the rest of the weekend, we need handlers, hounds & hawkers! That is, we need people who can share their hounds and tell people everything about the breed & the club. Contact Jodie or Ann Flanigan FMI.



The board reminds all active members that attendance at one REGULAR monthly meeting per year is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. Because members are not attending meetings, we have been unable to make a quorum or conduct business. The by-laws committee is considering changing the wording from “STRONGLY ENCOURAGED” to “REQUIRED” because of this. If you cannot attend meetings, please consider changing your status to “associate.” Or better yet, PLEASE attend a monthly meeting!



***We all join in wishing Judie Jeweler a speedy and complete recovery from surgery. We're thinking of you!***

# Help Wanted

## Specialty assistance

**Hospitality Extraordinaire:** (Works closely with Show Chair, providing updates often.) Requires experience in planning and organizing meals or other social functions. Must be organized, personable and accessible. Plans and arranges for pre-event dinner for the judges' (Saturday, March 30th) meal, if any. Plan, recruit, decide on lunch options for the exhibitors both days. Send the judges a fact sheet with pertinent local information, such as:

- information about the hotel and restaurants in the immediate vicinity
- usual weather conditions anticipated
- detailed travel directions and information on parking
- special local attractions
- a detailed map of the area

Ensure the following items are located and readily available at the Judge's Table: bottled water, soda, hot drinks, paper towels, Kleenex, ink pens, pad of paper, hard candy, etc.

**Judge's Coordinator/Transporter:** (Reports to Show Chair & Secretary) Responsible for judge's transportation to and from airport and show site. If using own vehicle, must be licensed to operate a motor vehicle & insured. Saturday before show but PRIOR to the arrival of Judge's flight:

- place two Judge's Transport signs and parking cones in a convenient location for the immediate arrival/departure of the judge.

-coordinate arrangements with Hospitality Extraordinaire to ensure that transportation is/is not required for Judge's dinner.

-Greet Judge at airport, transport to hotel to freshen up prior to evening meal.

AND MUCH MORE! (May NOT be showing or own a dog being shown. Duties extend Saturday– Tuesday)

**Publicity:** (Keeps Show Chair apprised) Create, secure and distribute publicity concerning the event. Obtain free publicity. Contact local radio and television stations that have a policy of announcing special events. Contact town authorities where the event is being held to obtain permission for displaying banners advertising the event.

**O/R Stewards:** (Report to Obedience/Rally chair) experience a plus but not required. Help set up ring, jumps, Rally courses. Facilitate smooth flow of hounds in & out of ring. Time exhibitor's runs, fills in paperwork, act as figure 8 pole, etc. 2-3 people, ready to work, are needed!



## BRAGS!

St. Leger Grafton (Owned by Berne Smith) won Best Of Opposite at IWADV Specialty from the Bred By Exhibitor (BBE) class. Grafton commented that he enjoyed the cool weather and the many kind congratulations. But the best part was that if it weren't for Doug Marks rounding us up just in the nick of time, we wouldn't have made it into the ring for judging the BBE class. Thank you again Doug!!

Corky, AKA Corcaigh O'Laoghaire O'Ros CD RE CGC, was pronounced Best Adult at PVIWC's Fun Day in September, continuing a family tradition– last year his littermate, Kyna, was best adult!

Best Puppy was Lido, Mary O' Malley's Hearhound's One for the Road, who also won best in match.

Susan & Tom Hertz's 8-month-old Quinlan's O'Cillian passed his Canine Good Citizen test at the Capital Dog Training Club on September 23, 2012.



## Braggs, continued!

After a nice ride to Rhode Island in July, the three 6-9 month old puppy girls gave a nice showing in their classes of Sweepstakes and Conformation. Mira placed first in Sweepstakes and was able to rest up for a few hours before competing again in the 6-9 puppy bitch Conformation class. As Judge Lewington was making his cut, the immediate pull was all three girls. Tammy is pleased with the 1, 2, and 3 placements of: MOR REGAL WAR ADMIRAL OF ELKHORN (aka Mira) handled by Joe Roland; MOR CADENCE WAR DANCE OF ELKHORN (aka Drill) handled by Linda King; and MOR LEGAL WAR EMBLEM OF ELKHORN (Citation) handled by Tammy. The second day of the show and after Best of Breed judging Mira was awarded Best Puppy.



The IWADV is a special show for us at Elkhorn. The beautiful grounds, excellent hospitality, and the company of friends and hounds made this year's IWADV very memorable. Elkhorn's puppies have grown and were entered in the 9-12 month old puppy girl classes in Sweeps and Conformation. The raw weather didn't stop these young girls from a nice showing in their classes. MOR CADENCE WAR DANCE OF ELKHORN (aka Drill - handled by Joe Roland) placed first in Sweeps with her sister MOR LEGAL WAR EMBLEM OF ELKHORN (Citation - handled by Tammy) placed third. As Judge Dr. Frederic Maison DVM continued his judging assignment through Winner's Dog and into the bitch classes, the wind blew, the rains came and went and the girls rested it was time for more competition. Placing first was MOR LEGAL WAR EMBLEM OF ELKHORN (Citation), second was MOR CADENCE WAR DANCE OF ELKHORN (aka Drill) and placing fourth was MOR REGAL WAR ADMIRAL OF ELKHORN (aka Mira handled by Darryl Meeks). Day two of the show and the final judging assignment was the Best Puppy competition, where Elkhorn is thrilled to announce the 2012 IWADV Best Puppy is MOR LEGAL WAR EMBLEM OF ELKHORN (Citation).



## Oweney and Gael at the Opera

In late August, we received an e-mail seeking Irish Wolfhounds (2) for an appearance in the opera *Ana Bolena* (Ann Boleyn) by Donizetti at the Kennedy Center Opera House. As it happens, our Oweney and Anne Flanagan's Gael have both appeared in a Christmas Pageant for the past few years in Haymarket, VA.

Both dogs were used to a loud bands directly behind them, Operatic singers, spot lights, and the audience. We talked with the Kennedy Center staff and agreed to "try out" at the beginning of rehearsals.

The first rehearsal was a walk through with no music and just quiet singing. Part of the idea was to stage who would handle the dogs. The director decided to have Henry VIII feed the dogs pieces of chicken while he was castigating Anna and her ex-lover. He was told to feed the dog with an open hand and he said he understood as he had dogs of his own. Of course, he forgot! Boom, Oweney's mouth was wide open and slammed shut, just missing Henry's thumb. After a goodly amount of unintelligible language, he fed him again as directed and the feeding went a whole lot smoother.

The next couple of rehearsals with orchestra and singers in full voice went without a hitch. At the full dress rehearsal, two things changed: They polished the stage, and 2. decided to put baby oil on two of the performers. The stage was now slicker than a hockey rink! Oweney slipped and spread eagled on the stage. When he saw it would be too hard to get up, he just laid there. One of the chorus members decided to help him up. He spread his legs, put his arms beneath Oweney and took his first try. He then spread his legs wider, got a better grip and helped him to his feet. Backstage, we pointed out that the boy is about 160 lbs., and

he said: "No kidding!!!!!!!"

After that, everything went smoothly. Each evening they would rush to their handlers at the back of the stage on cue (a hunting call sounded by French Horns), they went out on stage and got chicken from Henry with Oweney usually stealing more off the plate when the King turned his back. The dogs then faced the audience and watched the action behind and on the stage. They were being petted by both Henry and Ana during their performances.

After about 8-10 minutes they were done and we could go home. The interesting part was, before the show, almost the entire cast and crew would come by for "good Luck" pets.

The dogs made many friends. One evening, as we were leaving, they were having try-outs for the *Nutcracker* and there were about 200 young ballerinas waiting in the hall. The dogs got more love than they ever expected.

A cool souvenir that both dogs received was a picture ID indicating they were part of the cast of *Ana Bolena* opera at the Kennedy Center.

Until next time....





Gael & Oweney  
enjoying a snack  
during a perform-  
ance of the  
Washington  
Opera's "Ana  
Bolena



### *A Winter's tale, by Ban (AKA Melissa)*

I once went through a very bad time. Our 9 yr old IW Mikey died. He'd been our 2nd hound ever. A childhood friend died in a camping accident, then a friend of 20 years died. Our beloved 12 yr old IW rescue girl, Maire, died. Then IW Ailbhis died from bloat at 5 years old. My cat, Brodie, passed away unexpectedly at the age of one year and then my very dearest best friend, Phyl died. A few months later another dear friend passed.

At one time, I honestly think I would have ended up on meds or rocking in a corner somewhere, but something happened that changed the way I look at grief.

As Mikey grew older he got cranky. We had a younger male and at one time they were bonded friends. It was a pleasure to watch them interact. However, as Ail grew bigger, Mikey started repeatedly turning on Ail. Ail would back off and give deference to Mikey. Ail was a natural alpha. Mikey was what we call a "pretender".

We'd finally had to separate the boys and that worked for a year. One night there was a mistake and Mikey got to Ail again and really went for him. Ail turned and tried to rub out Mikey. Paul got them apart before anyone got killed, but bloodied himself in the fray.

Mikey was separated off again, all were medicated, but after 3 days of soul searching, I saw Mikey needed to be helped across the Bridge. His eyes...you know when there is no one there... our dear old fellow had already started his journey. We understood that keeping him here was selfish of us and unkind.

I had just gotten out of the hospital and I was bedridden, so Paul and our eldest son, Jack, took Mikey on his final visit to his vet. I sat on the bed with my youngest son beside me and we cried. Between tears we talked about Mikey and we shared Mikey memories. Sometimes being on the waiting end is worse than being "there". You just have to sit and wonder.

Suddenly, Ailbhis ran into the bedroom. He jumped on the bed and spun around, followed by Maire who did the same excited spin. They did that several times in quick succession and went into the "Timmy is in the well" look..."COME QUICKLY!!!!!!", as they ran back and forth from my room to the living room.

Dev and I wiped our tears and thinking Paul must be home, Dev helped me into the living room. We stood at the hall entrance and watched Ail and Maire as they stared at the kitchen door. They both dipped into play bows...to empty air. Tails wagged as they went up on their hind legs and danced around the middle of the room. They did not face each other, they were facing the same direction, though. Face fighting with...nothing. I swear, the hair on the back of my neck stood straight up and my goose bumps had goose bumps.

I whispered to Dev, "check the clock." He did. We continued to watch as the dogs frapped. They played with a empty spot in the room. Finally, they stopped and quietly walked to the kitchen door. Their heads seemed to follow...something... as it walked toward them and then past, as they hopped on their front feet. And then.....

They turned away from the door, trotted into the living room and jumped onto the couch. The two hounds laid their heads down like nothing had happened. They ignored Dev and me.

We went back in my room and a while later Paul and Jack returned. I asked what time our Mikey left. It was a couple of minutes before the dogs started acting up here at home.

Dev and I are sure that Mikey came back to say goodbye. Not to us, but to the other hounds. At one time all three dogs always played like that, as a happy threesome. A long time before. It may sound odd but you could FEEL someone else there that night.

Most importantly, the dogs were not sad. They played and they had fun. They did not act depressed, not then and not when Mikey didn't come home. It was the first time after a loss where the remaining dogs had NO reaction to the loss.

I think that set me up for what was to follow in my life. I think we saw that for a reason. That period was still the most horrible time in my life, but that little nugget was there in my mind. There WAS more...and Mikey was well enough to play again. The almost physical presence we felt the night Mikey died.

You have to cry and although you never think it will happen, one day you wake up with a gift. The gift of a smile at a sudden memory where once there had only been pain. You cannot rush it but know this, one day it will come.

~~~ Melissa Anderson



# help!

Help is needed on the Fun Day committee! We desperately need a chair and/or co chair, and at least 1 committed committee member who will help the day of next year's Fun day!

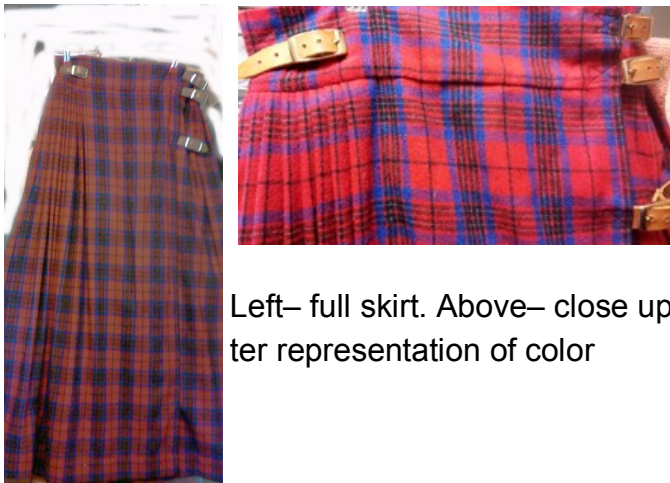
Tasks include finding & liaising with judge, finding awards and/or ribbons & judge's gift, coordinating raffle & finding someone to monitor & sell tickets day-of, verifying site reservation, finding stewards, helping with table stewarding day-of, helping take entries, arranging for educational programs, etc. Some help is needed before the event, but mostly day-of.

If you are interested in chairing– that is, taking over the whole shebang– I will co-chair & assist you in anyway you need. Or, I will remain as chair but I NEED a co-chair and another reliable body to be there & help next year. Contact me (Jodie) FMI– and thanks in advance for volunteering!



## For Sale!

Gorgeous, custom made wool women's hostess kilt skirt. Red with royal blue & black stripes. (I don't think it's an "official" tartan.) 42" long. Waist min 32", max 34", hip approx. 34-40". \$50.00 OBO. Contact Jodie FMI



Left– full skirt. Above– close up– better representation of color

Berne Smith has taken up ceramic sculpting at her local community center. How adorable are these pieces? Your editor thinks we need them in our boutique!



In progress





## Blessing of the Animals

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and Day School in DC adopted Wolfhounds as their school mascot, so what better way to celebrate St. Francis Day than with a visit from some real, live Irish Wolfhounds? The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman wanted an adult and a puppy to attend a Blessing of the Animals, so I packed Sage and Lido in the car and braved morning rush hour driving into DC on October 4. Everyone at the school was excited about the dogs' visit, and the dogs did a great job representing the calmness of the breed, even in the midst of occasionally squealing youngsters. After the main service we went upstairs to the Nursery School for a more informal service, where not only the Wolfhounds but also the class guinea pigs and tarantula (named Petunia) received individual blessings. It was a lovely morning and I was very proud of my Wolfhounds, especially little Lido, who was the best-behaved 4-month old puppy anyone had ever seen. And Sage looked deeply into Rev. Zimmerman's eyes while being blessed, drinking in every word. Personally, I think Sage was most pleased that she was wished always having enough to eat, although she and I disagree on how much is enough ;-)

The last line of the blessing from Rev. Zimmerman was very touching and one I'd like to share with all of PVIWC's IWs and other companion animals: May you always know how much you are loved.

