



July/August 2008

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Dear AWLMC Volunteers,

The July/August issue is fortunate to have some new writers and contributors. I would like to thank everyone who submitted articles and ideas.

The treasurer's responsibilities have recently transferred from Amy Jaslow to Debbie Sampson. Amy has done a tremendous job keeping the AWLMC on financial track and organizing the receivables and payables. Thank you, Amy!

Heidi Weber
AWLMC Newsletter Editor

Message from the New President

Hello fellow AWLMC volunteers,

The AWLMC board has elected me as President of your organization. I am extremely honored to be given the opportunity to hold this position, and thought I'd tell you a bit about myself.

I have been involved with cats in some way, shape or form since 1987, when I volunteered at the Anne Arundel County SPCA. They did not foster animals at that time, but I was able to see them go from a small facility, into the large complex they are today!

After moving from the Annapolis area in 1990, my husband and I settled in Gaithersburg. I became involved in cat shows, and met Linda and Polly Buell, as well as O'Shea one of the first years I started attending. I met numerous people from various walks of life, and have participated and helped in cat health issues and welfare for various organizations in those years. I became interested in the AWLMC when I received a mailer announcing the organization, and I decided that I wanted to be more active in the community in regards to cat welfare.

The board and I would like to encourage you to participate with any skills or talents that you have to help us make the AWLMC the best it's ever been! We've got some events coming up – the cat show in Winchester, VA the weekend of July 26, and again, we will have a booth at the National Capital Cat show in Chantilly, VA on September 6-7, 2008. This is the largest cat show on the East Coast, and this is great exposure for us! They have also asked if we'd be willing to have volunteers clean the cages between judging – we'll have more about that in several weeks.

Remember, the AWLMC could not exist without you – the volunteers and others - working to make this a great organization! You'll never realize how much everyone is appreciated!

I hope to get to some of the weekend adoption events and start meeting everyone! Have a safe and happy summer, for you and your cats! Thanks for your continued support of the AWLMC!

Cheryl Coleman
AWLMC President

Animal Control Visits the AWLMC Shelter

Reported by Pat Gagne

On July 15th, Fred Silver arranged for Steven Dickstein, the Director of Animal Control, Services Division, to visit our shelter. Mr. Dickstein's position is also in charge of the county shelter contract currently operated by the Montgomery County Humane Society.

Mr. Dickstein met with Fred, Lee Briggs, Bill Bonato and Pat Gagne who answered questions about our intake policies, shelter and adoption procedures. He commended the fact that our shelter has windows providing such great light for the cats and that we keep a lot of open space for the cats to play. He was impressed that our cats are given so much attention and play time out of their cages.

Mr. Dickstein would like to see lines of communication open up between the various animal groups in the county. He suggested we might want to create a listserv where we could share ideas and discuss problems and issues of general interest to all animal rescue groups.

He'd also like to see legislation proposed making it mandatory for people to spay and neuter pets. Another long-term goal is to have the public school system create a curriculum that would teach children about animals and how to interact with them. As he pointed out, every person deals with the animal world in some way even if it's only to notice a squirrel or a flock of birds. Children should be taught what to do when a strange animal approaches them or when they find an injured animal. They need to be made aware that animals are living, thinking creatures, not toys to be played with and then ignored or discarded. Children taught respect for animals early on will carry this into adulthood.

We really appreciate Mr. Dickstein taking time from his busy schedule to visit our shelter and speak with us.

Congratulations to Lee Briggs and Laurie Graham

Reported by Fred Silver

A few months ago, the AWLMC Board of Directors decided to establish a tradition to have an annual special award to be given to the volunteer that most made a difference the preceding year. And in keeping with the tradition of our shelter being dedicated to Polly Buell, the award was called "The Polly Buell Volunteer of the Year" award. The board reviewed a list of potential candidates to be the first recipient and unanimously selected Lee Briggs for her outstanding achievements as head of the Cat-Intake Committee. This award was presented to Lee at our June Election meeting by Fred Silver. Also, there is a plaque in the shelter that contains Lee's name and will list future recipients of this 'volunteer award.'

A new tradition was also established with the previous AWLMC President presenting a gift to the current and outgoing President. Fred Silver (previous President) presented Laurie Graham (outgoing President) with an engraved desk clock trophy and thanked her for all her hard work and leadership during the previous two years.

Project Orange and the Cat Smugglers

Summary submitted by Steve Babcock

This story requires a preface, because it is a small segment of a larger, international story that took place over a period of several weeks. The short version is that Project Orange involved the rescue of a cat by an About Cats forum member in Canada, and his subsequent adoption by Catherine, a forum member clear across the continent, in Alaska. The transportation details alone involved several relays, culminating in the long flight with Sasha, the daughter of yet another forum member. Are you confused yet? Hang onto your hats!

Link to the story: http://cats.about.com/od/funwithcats/a/bestandworstii_4.htm

A CARING HEART

Reported by Nona Silver

Anna Killingstad of Baltimore Maryland, pictured here with her mother, Virginia Killingstad, has a large heart for such a small second grader. Anna recently had her seventh birthday. Among her gifts was a check for eighty dollars. Anna thought about all of the wonderful things she could purchase with that much money. Instead, she chose to donate the entire amount to her great aunt Diane Stasewicz's favorite organization - the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County.

Diane is a volunteer with AWLMC so when Anna and her mother come to visit, Diane often takes them to see the cats and kittens at the shelter located at 18959 Bonanza Way in Gaithersburg. These visits obviously left a great impression on this sweet, young lady.



Photo courtesy of Chris Lyon

Goodsearch.com

As reported by Amy Jaslow, www.goodsearch.com is a charitable search engine. Simply use this instead of Google or Yahoo! (it actually uses the Yahoo! engine) when you do a search. The first time you do a search, you need to select AWLMC.

Every time you do a search, money is allotted to the AWLMC and we receive a check at the end of the year. It is an extremely easy, painless way to raise money. Let's make the 2008 check even bigger than what we got this year!

Grants Committee Report

Peg Webber

Our Grants Committee was reformed at a meeting with Fred Silver on June 10, 2008. Karin Remington, Sarah Stoycos, and Carl Wild will be working with the committee to obtain foundation funding for AWLMC.

Both Karin and Sarah are new AWLMC volunteers with extensive grant-writing and grant-awarding experience. Peg is eager to mine their knowledge to work towards finding and winning grants to strengthen the important services that AWLMC provides to Montgomery County.

We will initially concentrate on obtaining 15 large cages for our Shelter, animal shelter computer software, ongoing operational costs, and payment of large veterinary bills.

CALLING ALL RECIPES

Posey Fox

The Fundraising Committee is organizing a cookbook to print and sell to the community. This cookbook will help support our shelter. We need your recipes to make this cookbook a success.

Here are the rules to follow.

Category: Appetizers & Beverages, Soups & Salads, Main Dishes, Vegetables & Side Dishes, Breads & Rolls, Desserts, Cookies & Candy, This & That.

RECIPE TITLE

SUBMITTED BY: Be consistent with the spelling of your name for each recipe

INGREDIENTS:

List all ingredients in order of use in directions.

Include container sizes (e.g., 16-oz. pkg., 24-oz. can).

Use abbreviations: pt. qt. pkg. env. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.

DIRECTIONS:

Keep directions in paragraph form, not steps.

The New AWLMC Board

Roger Gagne, Director-at-Large

On July 17, 2008, the AWLMC Board of Directors elected the following Directors to serve as Officers of the Corporation.

President	Cheryl Coleman
Vice President	O'Shea Watson
Executive Director	Fred Silver
Treasurer	Debbie Sampson
Secretary	Janet Culp
Director at Large	Roger Gagne

Cheryl Coleman was selected by the Board to serve as President for a one-year term. The Board did this as the number of Board members elected by the volunteers was less than the open positions. Previously, Cheryl had served on the Board for a number of months as an invited director. Cheryl brings demonstrated leadership skills, a well spoken manner, extensive knowledge of cats, and enhanced stature in the cat community, and a willingness to take on responsibility. The one-year term was designated to assure an alternating year election cycle for the positions of President and Vice President. The one-year term was established to also balance the number of open positions up for election in a given year.

O'Shea Watson was elected to be a member of the Board by the volunteers on June 8 and was elected by the Board to be Vice President for a two-year term. O'Shea served as Vice President on the prior Board for a year filling the vacated position.

Fred Silver was elected to be a member of the Board by the volunteers on June 8 and elected by the Board to be Executive Director for a two year term. Fred had been an invited Director for almost a year also serving as Executive Director. Fred has extensive business experience and was President of the initial Board during the startup of AWLMC. Fred's focus will be on the business aspects of the AWLMC with special emphasis on efforts to "to grow the organization."

Debbie Sampson was elected to be a member of the Board by the volunteers on June 8 and elected by the Board to be Treasurer for a two year term. Debbie is highly qualified for this position working as a certified public accountant in her professional life.

Secretary Janet Culp and Director-at-Large Roger Gagne are incumbents to their positions and have one year remaining in their term of service.

The new Board looks forward to meeting the challenges facing the AWLMC as a team effort to meet the AWLMC Mission Statement and to allow AWLMC to grow and prosper.

August Adoption Events

AWLMC Shelter	August 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30
Kentlands Petsmart	August 9, 16, 23, 30
Bark!	August TBD
Pawlitics	August TBD

A Ride on the Wild Side?

Erie Insurance Company
Submitted by Holly Giesen

Your pet might prefer a driver's seat lap or the wind in her fur, but you know better. They give you that sad look every time you leave the house—cocked head, big unblinking eyes, perked ears. "Can't I come with you?" With more than 163 million dogs and cats in U.S. homes, lots of heartstrings are yanked each time we open the door. "There's been a change in attitude toward animals," says Kelly Connolly, issue specialist with the Humane Society of the United States. "We see pets more as part of the family, less as add-ons. So, just as we take our family with us different places, we're taking our pets, too." And how we keep ourselves and our pets safe in the car is becoming increasingly important.

Full article:
<http://www.erieinsurance.com/eriesense/issues/summer2008/ridewildside.aspx>

The AWLMC would
like to thank:

Bark!
Pawlitics
Petsmart
The Pet Pantry

Donations are always welcome
and appreciated!

AWLMC
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