

Spinone Rescue of America
Submitted by Patti Johnson

Last year was once again a relatively slow year for Spinone Rescue of America. We're always grateful when we only have a few dogs needing our assistance. In 2018 we had 11 dogs who required our help in finding new homes. That's up from 2017 but it's still a relatively low number for us and we hope that 2019 will be just as uneventful.

While the year wasn't exceptionally busy, we did have some large expenses in 2018 with the vast majority of the \$9804.04 being spent on veterinary services. We were very happy to be able to help a young Spinone obtain heart surgery which was necessary to save her life. This is why your support and donations are so imperative. This 9 month old Spinone now has a chance to live a long and healthy life.

We had a very successful fund raising auction which took place in April of 2018 in Frederick, MD. This event was part of the Spinone Club of America's National Specialty week which is held annually in a different location across the United States. It's always a lively evening of bidding and buying and we had some lovely items donated to benefit Spinone Rescue. We are so appreciative of each and every item donated, as well as each and every bidder, and we hope to have a successful event when we all meet again in Loveland, Colorado, in June of 2019. We also sold hoodies, Yeti style tumblers and some great dog cookies which, combined with the auction proceeds, brought in \$10,966.08.

If you haven't already signed up for the Amazon Smile program please consider doing so. In 2018 Spinone Rescue was the recipient of \$651.52 in donations made through your purchases on Amazon Smile. It doesn't cost the purchaser one cent more and Amazon makes the donation. Most items sold on Amazon qualify and all you have to do is log onto www.smile.amazon.com and choose the charity of your choice. It's very easy and it costs nothing to support your favorite charity.

Spinone Rescue of America would like to thank everyone who has supported us through the years. We are a 501(c)3 not for profit organization and your donations are tax deductible. Our financials are public information and can be viewed at:

www.guidestar.org

Awards Committee
Submitted by Diana Cannon

This year has been a busy year with the Awards Committee, starting with the 2018 National Specialty in Frederick, MD. There we introduced and awarded 2 trophies for the first time. These were the Rico Cup, presented to the SCOA member's dog with the highest point total achieved in the AKC NOHS series, and the Field Legends Award, presented to the SCOA member and dog achieving most at the hunt tests conducted annually as a part of the National Specialty. These awards were well received and the winners most deserving.

In addition, we added a new member to the Awards Committee, Sam Emmons. Sam and his dogs have experience in conformation, field testing, obedience, rally, and more. He has been a good fit and provides a knowledgeable voice. The nomination form was also revisited and clarified instructions added to aid nominators for improving and enhancing their nominations. The awards criteria were also revised, updated and added to the SCOA website.

While fewer nominations were received this year for the 2019 National Specialty than had been for the 2018 specialty, a good number were still had and all trophy categories received quality and deserving nominations.

ByLaws Committee
Submitted by Bob Steele

The SCOA Bylaws revision has been sent to the Board for review. The Board is nearing completion of that review after which the committee will continue to move forward with this process.

Calendar Committee
Submitted by Mary Campbell

Our entries for the National Specialty Photo Contest closed on April 15. Due to misinformation, the categories were not selected by Gayle and me, and seemed a bit constrictive. Entries were down about 40% compared to 2018, approximately \$420 this year with 150 photos, compared to \$662 with over 250 photos last year.

The Calendar Committee has a revised "Mission", which sets the specific rules and guidelines for both the Photo Contest and the annual calendar. We would love to explore an online contest, if anyone is willing to take it on. This year the option to pay online was introduced, and about half the entrants used it; hopefully that will continue to rise in the future.

We are excited to hold the contest and produce a beautiful 2020 Spinone calendar!

Health Committee
 Submitted by: Angela Hanson
 And Adrienne Barber
 Health Committee Co-Chairs

NOTE: excerpts from the fourth quarter of the 2017-2018 HC Annual Report Included

January-February 2018

The OFA releases 2017 Breed Statistics. Indicates no remarkable changes from 2016.

SPINONE ITALIANO							Evaluations through December 2017
Registry	Rank	Evaluations	Abnormal	Normal	Carrier	Equivocal	
ADVANCED CARDIAC	--	21	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
CARDIAC	20	259	1.2%	98.8%	0.0%	0.0%	
DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY	--	1	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
DENTITION DATABASE	--	2	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
ELBOW	49	763	6.4%	93.6%	0.0%	0.0%	
EYES	145	289	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
HIPS	71	1,489	15.6%	82.9%	0.0%	1.4%	
LEGG-CALVE-PERTHES	--	1	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
PATELLA	--	16	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
SHOULDER	--	38	5.3%	94.7%	0.0%	0.0%	
THYROID	14	268	9.0%	81.3%	0.0%	9.7%	

The AHT released its 2017 CA results and numbers and it rose considerably to 116 tests worldwide with 46 of those from American Spinoni. The HC attributes this to the attention that we paid to bring awareness of the threat of CA returning if testing is not maintained and that we cannot be complacent with this devastating puppy disease. We thank all the participants for these great results and the ongoing commitment that owners and breeders make to the health of the breed.

AKC CHF Annual SCOA Donor Advised Funds Report for 2017

- [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#)

Spinone Club of America Donor Advised Fund

End-Year 2016 Statement (12/31/2016-12/31/2017)

12/31/2017 Balance	\$2,453.44
Contributions	\$.00
PPCPP Contribution	\$454.32
Investment Earnings/(Losses)	\$261.29
MOU Grant Support	\$.00
Management Fees	\$.00
Research Support*	\$.00
12/31/2017 Balance	\$3169.05

Received an update through Denise Hanna-Nosko (SCOA HC Liaison to the Uni of MO) from the University of Missouri Epilepsy Study coordinator Liz Hansen. Some interesting side observations have been made from the WGS of the first Spinone. They have discovered rare mutations for other illnesses/conditions found ONLY in Spinone. These are just preliminary findings and more evaluation is needed. They have not assigned genetic names yet to these mutations so they have labeled them by position for the moment. They have listed the clinical association and/or known function for each of these mutations.

Position	Clinical association
49206747	liver cancer
19903169	anemia
48023267	dystonia/myopathy
24039849	immune gene, might have synapse function
22730670	Neurodegeneration (ALS, Chacot-Marie tooth axonal)
26354326	Dyskinesia induce sodium dependent transport of lactate and
47428287	nicotinate
13294246	Parkinson disease
25414952	Calcium channel
48968149	Hair/eye color
42711720	Hyperglycinuria
121547801	deafness, dystonia, cerebral hypomyelination
54388953	Slower nerve conduction velocity
22603772	many neurological
32520841	cerebral malformations/seizures
26529310	Neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation
64749882	joubert syndrome and other
40578362	megalencephaly-polymicrogyria-hydrocephalus syndrome

There are some associated with seizures or neurologic deficits. They obviously will be targeting those first for investigation. The hair/eye color gene 48968149 is one known to cause “blonding” The research team would like to know if anyone knows or have had a coat colour that faded? They are wondering if this gene mutation discovered could be the cause of colour fading? They also are sending a request that if there are problems in the list that you recognize or have seen before in the breed, to contact the research team to give more info to them and to arrange if possible to get DNA from the dog or dogs with that condition. They are excited about these discoveries in moving forward.

They held off with the second WGS Spinone as they wanted to see the results from the first Spinone being retested with the new technology and they experienced a backlog in processing the data, which delayed the necessary information to move forward. As you can see from the above, it was definitely worthwhile waiting to have the first WGS retested! The second Spinone sample is ready to go in the next group testing in next week or two. We look forward to the coming months for any info they discover with Spinone WGS #2.

The Health committee strongly requests that you consider participating in this groundbreaking study for Epilepsy in our breed. They accept all Spinone samples, there are no exceptions but of course they are most interested in epilepsy affected Spinone and their relatives as well as now any that may suffer from the above conditions or clinical signs.

March-April 2018

The planning of the 2018 SCOA National Specialty Health Clinics to be held in Fredericks, Maryland is well underway. The Pet Tech Canine First Aid and CPR course with as Susan Mityorn as our instructor has been confirmed. In order to facilitate keeping the course fees affordable to SCOA members participating in the 2018 Specialty, the HC made a proposal to the SCOA Board to utilize \$1100 of the PPCPP funds. The Board agreed and approved the funds to offset the expense of the Canine First Aid and CPR course.

The 2018 Annual Specialty Health Clinics will include an eye clinic with Dr Heather Brookshire, tentative heart clinic (cardiologist pending), blood draw clinic using Hemopet Lab, CHIC DNA donation and Uni of MO Epilepsy Study DNA donation.

The HC will be holding a fundraiser to help raise money to go towards a 3rd WGS Spinone (\$2500) for the purpose of the Uni of MO Epilepsy Research. The HC has decided to do a 50/50

draw with the 1st prize being 50% of the monies collected and 2nd prize an Embark DNA Kit generously donated by Embark Vet.

The HC will also have a booth set up at the Vendors Social scheduled for the Wednesday. Cerebellar Ataxia (CA) Testing will be offered at the Vendors social only and will not be offered at the Specialty Health Clinics held on the Thursday.

The HC will be providing Emergency crate cards for the 2018 Specialty Welcome bags.

The 2018 National SCOA Specialty was held April 13-20, 2018 and it proved to be a very disappointing learning experience for the Health Committee. Unbeknownst to any of the specialty organizers it seemed that the State of Maryland has unusual regulations with respect to out of State Veterinarians. All Vets performing any medical procedures in the Maryland must hold a valid State license in addition to their AVA board License. This was brought to our attention in the 11th hour. Although the CA testing on the Wednesday was a success, as it only required owners to perform a cheek swab, the remainder of the Health Clinics had to be cancelled due to this special Maryland legislation. Dr Heather Brookshire assisted the HC in locating an Ophthalmologist at the last minute to come for a few hours in the afternoon to perform eye exams. Not all was lost. We are grateful to Dr Brookside for helping us salvage some of the Health Clinics. This certainly was a big learning experience to check State regulations prior to planning the Annual Health Clinics, as a Board Certified Vet may not be enough to satisfy the State regulations.

June-July 2018

With the end of one Specialty, the next one begins. The Specialty Committee reached out to start the organizing of the 2019 Specialty to be held in Loveland, Colorado.

The HC continues to discuss adding Thyroid testing to the CHIC requirements. At this point it is an "optional" health test. Dr Jean Dodd's has graciously sent a very detailed Spinone thyroid analysis report using Hemopet statistics (please see attached report). OFA has published their breed specific statistics for 2017 (see OFA chart listed above). With OFA there was very little change in abnormal thyroid stats from 2016 to 2017 and was between 9-10% abnormal rate. The old MSU data from 2005 MSU Thyroid Registry (see attached data) also confirms an almost 9% abnormal rate and Hemopet confirms this data as well. So it does appear that our breed has a significant 8-10% abnormal thyroid rate range that has remained fairly constant over the years.

The HC would like to establish a gold standard in health testing and raise the bar to include TgAA to the CHIC requirements. The HC members have agreed to go over the information

presented thus far, so that the HC can recommend to the Board and membership the best practice in moving forward.

2017 HEMOPET REPORT for SCOA THYROID STUDY

W. Jean Dodds, DVM

Hemopet
 11561 Salinaz Avenue
 Garden Grove, CA 92843
 714-891-2022; FAX 714-891-2123
www.hemopet.org ; info@hemopet.org

This report summarizes our cumulative findings for the Spinone Club of America (SCOA) Thyroid Study.

Background and Cumulative Findings

Blood samples were submitted to us nationally and internationally for comprehensive thyroid antibody profile testing. As of the end of 2017, we have tested 364 Spinone Italiano.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR HEMOPET SPINONE THYROID STUDY

# Spinone	Testing Lab	THYROID STATUS *			
		Normal	Hypothyroid **	Equivocal Thyroiditis †	Autoimmune Thyroiditis †
Total 364	Hemopet/Hemolife	242	90/68	8	24

* **Normal** T4 \geq 1.5 ug/dL; FT4 \geq 1.0 ng/dL; T3 \geq 30 ng/dL; FT3 \geq 1.6 pg/mL;

TgAA \leq 10%

Hypothyroid T4 < 1.5 ug/dL; FT4 < 1.0 ng/dL; T3 < , or, \geq 30 ng/dL; FT3 <.,or, \geq 1.6 pg/mL; TgAA < 10, or, \geq 10%

Thyroiditis TgAA Equivocal = 10-25%; TgAA Positive = >25%

** includes 22 dogs that could have had non-thyroidal illness with or without true hypothyroidism

† Thyroglobulin Autoantibody

Summary of Findings

These results indicate that 24.7% (90 of 364) of the Spinone tested were hypothyroid, although some could have had non-thyroidal illness as T3 and FT3 were also low. **18.7% (68 of 364) were truly hypothyroid** as T3 and FT3 were normal.. Some of these hypothyroid dogs were subsequently retested after being placed on thyroxine therapy, but they were only counted once in the data base. **This is an unacceptably high prevalence of hypothyroidism in this relatively rare breed.**

Twenty-four dogs were diagnosed with autoimmune thyroiditis (6.6%), and another 8 dogs had equivocal TgAA results (when combined, these 32 dogs represented 8.8% of those tested). **These results compare favorably with the MSU Diagnostic Lab Spinone data as of 2005.**

As autoimmune endocrine disorders have a heritable basis, the above thyroid testing data support the need to actively screen all Spinone breeding stock, in contrast to earlier or even assumptions that this breed is at relatively low risk for developing hypothyroidism.

Review of the data collected so far indicates that the normal reference ranges for Spinone typically fall within those limits established by us for other large-sized breeds.

L. Jean Daniels, DVM

Michigan State University Thyroid Statistics

Note: Statistics from tests performed through 2005

Breed	Rank	Number of Evaluations	Percent	Autoimmune Thyroiditis	Percent Equivocal
SPINONE ITALIANO	52	100		8.0	3.0

August-December 2018

The Fall brought on a new motivation to tackle the Health tab on the SCOA Website which has posed to be a daunting, time consuming massive task for all. The HC thanks Tammara Morgan and Bobbi Benson for all their technical assistance and expert advice to develop this Health section of the website. We have endeavored to provide an easy to navigate site that contains the most up to date info as well as additional hyperlinks for further information or referenced sites. This is certainly a work in progress but encourage you to take a look at the information posted thus far.

Main Health Tab-Introduction and Overview (Completed)

Topic Categories

Health testing and Clearances *Overview *Hips * Elbows *Patellas *Shoulders *Eyes *Heart *Thyroid *Cerebellar Ataxia(CA) *von Willebrands Disease (Completed)

CHIC/OFA *Overview * Breed Certificate Requirements *DNA Repository * OFA Quarterly Reports (Completed)

DNA Testing (under construction)
Spinone Health Survey (under construction)
Annual National Specialty Health Clinics (under construction)
Purina Parent Club Partnership Program (PPCPP) (under construction)
AKC Canine Health Foundation (under construction)
Annual Health Committee Reports *2017 *2018 (Completed)
Research (under construction)
Articles (under construction)
Links (under construction)
Database (under construction)

Unfortunately, with the passing of new Privacy of Information Legislation in the UK (GDPR), this has negatively impacted open access to the Animal Health Trust (AHT)'s Cerebellar Ataxia (CA) Database. Up until now, this has been an open accessible database to all around the world and was available on the AHT's website. The entire database has been taken down. On behalf of SCOA and the global community, the HC wrote to the AHT to discuss alternatives to keep this information freely available to all. We have learned that the UK Kennel Club is posting CA test results on the individual dog registry for those dogs registered with the UK. This of course is limited available CA results posted for which the remainder of international dogs that have been tested will not be accessible. The HC on behalf of SCOA has proposed to the AHT that the SCOA website could be used as a portal for the CA Database so that it will preserve this invaluable data while maintaining its accessibility to the global Spinone community. The AHT replied that they will consider this but must first consult their GDPR regulation experts before making a decision. The HC Chair has the 2008-2018 AHT CA Database in a document form that can be shared via email for those interested. This document marks the tests completed prior to the legislation being passed. Email the Health Committee if you wish to receive the 2008-2018 AHT CA Database.

CA Testing Statistics 2008-2018

CA AHT
2008-2018

Year	AKC Registered Spinone	Total Dogs CA Tested	% of AKC Dogs
2008	45	236	19
2009	19	124	15.3
2010	12	95	12.6
2011	4	43	9.3
2012	6	38	15.8
2013	8	30	26.7
2014	7	66	10.6
2015	16	65	24.6
2016	15	44	34.1
2017	45	116	38.8
2018	28	111	25.2

January-February 2019

January 1st welcomed Adrienne Barber as a Health Committee Co-Chair.

The OFA releases 2018 Breed Statistics. Indicates no remarkable changes from 2017.

SPINONE ITALIANO		Evaluations through December 2018				
Registry	Rank	Evaluations	Abnormal	Normal	Carrier	Equivocal
ADVANCED CARDIAC	--	33	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
CARDIAC	21	268	1.1%	98.9%	0.0%	0.0%
DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY	--	1	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
DENTITION DATABASE	--	6	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
ELBOW	49	823	6.6%	93.4%	0.0%	0.0%
EYES	149	353	0.3%	99.7%	0.0%	0.0%
HIPS	72	1,551	15.5%	83.0%	0.0%	1.4%
LEGG-CALVE-PERTHES	--	1	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NEONATAL CEREBELLAR ATAXIA	--	1	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
PATELLA	--	22	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
SHOULDER	--	44	4.5%	95.5%	0.0%	0.0%
THYROID	16	282	8.9%	81.6%	0.0%	9.6%

AKC CHF Annual SCOA Donor Advised Funds Report for 2018

As a reminder, SCOA receives 5% of all Purina products purchased from owners who sponsor SCOA as the recipient of the Purina Parent Club Partnership Program (PPCPP). An additional 5% is donated by Purina to AKC CHF in the form of Donor Advised Funds that can be allocated by SCOA with recommendations from the HC. These Donor Advised Funds are donated to research studies for which the AKC CHF awards grant money.

If you are a Purina product purchaser, it does not cost anything to sponsor SCOA as a recipient of these PPCPP funds. It does not affect any of your own personal rewards that you receive from Purina. This is a very generous program by Purina and the HC encourages all Purina clients to go on the PPCPP section of the Purina website and indicate SCOA as your choice to receive the PPCPP sponsored funds. These PPCPP dollars helps to pay for health initiatives, annual specialty health clinics, and health related projects that the HC would like to participate in.

AKC Canine Health Foundation

Spinone Club of America Donor Advised Fund

4th Quarter 2018 Statement (1/1/2018-12/31/2018)

1/1/2018 Balance	\$3,169.05
Contributions	\$0.00
PPCPP Contribution	\$368.66
Investment Earnings/(Losses)	(\$219.98)
MOU Grant Support	\$0.00
Management Fees	\$0.00
Research Support*	\$165.58
12/31/2018 Balance	\$3,152.15

We are sitting on a balance of \$3152.15 for Donor Advised Funds. The HC is considering many research areas to donate these funds to and to ensure the most beneficial studies for Spinone.

Unfortunately, despite numerous requests to the University of Missouri Epilepsy Study for an update, there was no update provided at the time of the creation of the report. Should an update be received, the information will be forwarded to the membership.

The HC is in the home stretch of the organizing for the 2019 Annual Specialty Health Clinics and Presentations. The Annual health clinic will be held Tuesday, June 4, 2019 from 9-5pm in Loveland, CO. We welcome Dr Katherine Wotman to our Eye Clinic (12-4pm) and Dr Christian Weder to our Heart Clinic (1-5pm). We will be holding the blood draw clinic (9-5pm) that will offer thyroid testing, titres, CBC, CHIC DNA donation as well as a new offering of Tick Bourne diseases. We will not be offering CA testing this year as it was decided to offer the testing every other year in order to better fulfill the AHT batch requirement numbers.

The HC has 3 seminars/presentations to offer at the 2019 Specialty week. Dr Diane Brown from the AKC CHF will be presenting on Monday, June 3, 2019 with her topic of "Bringing Dog Lovers and Scientists Together. Updates from the AKC Canine Health Foundation". On Thursday, June 6, 2019 Dr Julia Solomon will present "Fun with Genetics...A Review!" followed by Angela Hanson of the Spinone Health Foundation speaking about the recent Embark testing findings with "Did we 'Embark' to discover von Willebrand's Disease Type 2 in Spinoni?"

Hunt Test Committee
Submitted by Alyssa Pease

The Hunt Test Committee is currently engaged in outreach to regional clubs to determine what hunting related events they are (or would like to be) offering. If you are a regional club official, someone on the committee has been assigned to you and we ask that you please respond to their enquiries. If you are not aware of having been contacted please email the committee directly at scoahunttests@gmail.com so we can make sure that we have updated contact information for your group and continue gathering information. We are trying to ascertain what role SCOA might be able to play in enabling and promoting these types of events, but we need feedback to make sure that we are capturing as much information as possible regarding the diverse scenarios that are reflected around the country. We will also have a booth set up at The Ranch Events Center during the annual meeting in Colorado, and welcome additional information from individual members whether they are affiliated with a formal regional group or not.

Additionally, we have had a request from a group of members in Pennsylvania to hold a standalone AKC Water Test and are awaiting additional information from them to formulate plans and work with the board to facilitate this event. We are also reviewing old informational documents on the website to determine if they need updating. As we make changes, we will be publishing information in upcoming newsletters. Planning is under way for the Annual Meeting events in 2020 and beyond, and we hope to see everyone out in the field.

Judges Education Committee / Illustrated Breed Standard Committee
Submitted by Suzanne Hudson

This last year has been another busy year for your Judges Education Committee. Work has progressed on the Illustrated Standard and we are about 3/4 of the way through and as always, hoping to finish up this year. It is far more difficult to Illustrate than it would seem on first thought. Our insistence that it is exact and correct has kept the process much slower than any of us wish. We will continue to work in this same manner.

As of January 1, 2019 the revised AKC standard has been presented to all AKC judges. The Judges Education Committee wrote an Introduction and Standard comparison for judges. This was published in the AKC Judges Blog, and it is included here for you also.

Karen Luckey , as JEC representative, attended the Judges Education Symposium at the 2018 AKC National Championship in Orlando.

This year we had Judges Education presentations at the Ranier Sporting Dog shows in Enumclaw WA, the Puyallup Kennel club in January and also, of course at our National in 2018. We will be presenting for the AKC/DJAA Judges Institute at the AKC National Championship shows in Orlando this year.

Liz Bodell and I are Co Chairmen of The Judges Education Committee and members are John Brading, Karen Lucky, Patti Johnson, Bobbi Benson and Kim Vanderbilt. Mike McLeland is the board Liaison for Judges Education.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about Judges Education then please feel free to contact one of us or Mike McLeland who is the board liaison. Those of us who work with Judges and in Judges Education can help you best to understand this committee. We enjoy and welcome interaction with club members. We continue to look for additional team members to work with judges.

Referenced items:

Judges pdfBlog letter.pdf
Spionne_standards_new vs old.pdf

Available for viewing on the SCOA website

Judges Selection Committee
Submitted by Patti Johnson

The Judges Selection Committee is totally new this year. The current committee members are Debby Forry, Pam Folz, Wendy Evans, Heather Jenner, and Patti Johnson, the Committee Chair.

We look forward to carrying on the work of the previous committee and we plan to focus on creating a list of potential judges for Regional Specialties, Supported Entries and Sweepstakes along with researching judges for the National Specialty and the Parent Club Specialty.

We plan to center our efforts on compiling a list of judges who've completed a judges education seminar and those who have judged a considerable number of Spinoni in the ring.

We hope to make it easier and more efficient for those who are choosing judges for regional specialties and provide a comprehensive list of candidates for the membership to consider when voting for the judges for our National and Parent Club Specialties.

We are looking forward to serving the Club in this endeavor.

Junior Showmanship Committee
Submitted by Leslie Miller and Patti Miller

With significant help and encouragement from the Board, Debby Forry, and the Awards Committee, the Junior Showmanship Committee has continued to learn and work towards some of the goals initially established at the transition of leadership. One of the ways that we have been learning is through the AKC Juniors Facebook page. This group has been a great source of information and feedback for us, keeping us apprised of scholarships and other opportunities for juniors and giving us insights as to what juniors (and their parents) value in clubs & shows.

Based on the feedback from the AKC Juniors page, we are offering reduced entry fees for Junior Showmanship competition at the National and Parent Club specialties, with Junior Showmanship free as an additional entry. We are also very pleased to report that the registration fee for the National week events is waived for juniors. We are hopeful that these reduced costs, combined with the timing of the National, will provide increased incentive for juniors to participate. We are planning to host handling workshops for juniors in conjunction with the National, and will have goodie bags for all Junior Showmanship participants, in addition to the great Best Junior Handler prizes being offered.

One goal that we have pursued and achieved is creating a Spinone Club of America Junior Handler of the Year award. This inaugural award will be presented to the highest ranking SCOA member junior based on the American Kennel Club's recently introduced Junior Recognition Program system. The points in this system are earned in a variety of venues, including junior showmanship, companion events, and performance events. More information on the Junior Recognition Program can be found at <https://www.akc.org/sports/conformation/junior-showmanship/junior-recognition-program/>. We believe this system fits really well with our highly versatile breed, and provides an opportunity to recognize all juniors—even those who excel in areas other than the show ring.

One noteworthy challenge that we have experienced is that of contacting juniors. Since juniors are minors, we want to respect their privacy as much as possible. In addition, some juniors do not have accounts through Facebook, so communicating through that platform is difficult. We ask that the membership help us in our endeavors to connect with juniors. If members have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, puppy buyer, or general acquaintance between the ages of 9 and 18 who is working with a Spinone in AKC events, they can let us know, and we can get helpful info out to those who need it most.

With the help of our membership, we hope to continue to encourage junior membership by reaching out to juniors as much as we are able. We will also try to keep the club informed about scholarship opportunities for juniors, available through the AKC and other clubs.

Thank you for your support of our juniors!

National Specialty Manual Committee
Submitted by Sue Acquistapace

Work continues on this lengthy and complex document to make it user-friendly, concise, and complete. A number of people have been asked to participate with descriptions of how to work on the events or committees they have chaired and those are trickling in. Anyone who has chaired or worked on a show committee or who has a working knowledge of putting on any event or portion of a National Specialty week is welcome and encouraged to provide information . Please contact Sue at SCOASecretary@gmail.com if you would like to help with this project. Meanwhile, work continues, slowly but surely, and hopefully at minimum, the basics will be completed soon.

Newsletter Committee
Submitted by Tony Arduino

I would like to introduce myself as the new editor of the SpinoneNews. I was asked in March if I would consider doing this and after reading newsletters on the website I agreed because the need was very apparent.

My name is Tony Arduino and I have been a member for more than a year. I am retired from 39 years with King Soopers, and I have been a photographer for 40 years. I was a manager with King Soopers for 23 years and produced a corporate newsletter for them for 4 years. Concurrently with my job at King Soopers I also ran my own photography business. I began my photography business doing aerial infrared photography of farm fields for farmers, then magazine work, then advertising, and finally weddings and portraiture. I have been with Photography from film through digital so there are a great deal of technical changes that have occurred. When I retired from King Soopers I also closed my LLC.

Because of the broad activities we are all engaged in, creating a newsletter for this Club is an amazingly complicated job. The AKC itself has 9 newsletters on its website. The process by which this newsletter has been created in the past is difficult with too many steps. We need to simplify those steps so that you don't need special training to create a newsletter.

In order to have a newsletter for the membership that has timely news, educational information, health issues, showing, hunting, training and awards it needs to be shorter and come out more often. The only way to do this is to migrate it to the Spinone Club of America website. Much of the production can be automated, easily updated, and searchable if we could do this. Articles and information could be updated monthly or even weekly if needed.

Producing the newsletter on the website would not allow the extensive graphics that were in the last newsletter that I produced but they would not be necessary. We could have a distinctive look that would assure everyone that they were reading the SpinoneNews.

The other issue that we must address is mailing the newsletter to members who only desire a mailed copy. I would not minimize how important this may be to some members so I will endeavor to find a format that might accommodate this. The length of the newsletter becomes a very big issue when it must be printed and mailed. It does not mean it should not be done it just means how and how much. I think it is safe to say that most members access the newsletter from the website. It only makes more sense that we produce it for the website, and then address a printable version using a different format.

Toward this end I would like to invite anyone willing to contribute to the newsletter by way of articles, stories, and awards and achievements. Please email them all to

SCOANewsletter@gmail.com If you are interested in being a feature writer for the club newsletter do not hesitate to contact us.

In closing all of these issues will be presented to the Board for their approval. I would like the membership to think hard about what they would like to see in a newsletter and how we might achieve that. We should always keep high standards and be unafraid to change to achieve those high standards.

Tony Arduino

Nominating Committee
Submitted by Sue McGregor

This year the nominating committee (Sue McGregor, Wendy Rollins-Evans, and Dan Graff) was charged with selecting nominees for the positions of President, Treasurer, and Board Member. After discussing the three incumbents (none of whom were termed out) it was decided that they were the best candidates. No other candidates stepped forward , and all three incumbents agreed to run again, so our job was pretty easy this year!

Registry of Merit

The Registry of Merit Award is a historical register for the Spinone in the United States. Breeders are encouraged to take advantage of this record when contemplating their breeding plans. To date, we have 26 dogs who have achieved a ROM.

This award is given to a sire or dam who has demonstrated the ability to produce offspring reflecting the breed's character and purpose, as evidenced by the titles achieved by their offspring.

There are 4 Categories:

Registry of Merit Conformation, Sire or Dam

Registry of Merit Field, Sire or Dam

Registry of Merit Performance, Sire or Dam

Registry of Merit Versatility, Sire or Dam

How Does My Dog Earn the Registry of Merit? To find out if your dog qualifies for this recognition, go to the SCOA website, www.spinoneclubofamerica.com. Go to About SCOA > Titles and Awards > Registry Of Merit. There you will find requirements information, applications, fees, and mailing address. You can also contact any members of the Registry of Merit committee for more information at scoarom@gmail.com.

Supported Entry Committee
Submitted by Debby Forry

The Supported entry submissions from year to year have been pretty consistent with a similar number of Supported Entries from year to year.

For the year 2018, we received 7 supported entry submissions. (Montana, Iowa, Michigan, New England, Washington, Colorado, Virginia) All supported entries had a decent entry of dogs entered, with the Michigan supported entries topping the list with over 50 dogs entered.

The submission process has been a lot easier since the online application was put in place; I'd still suggest that the club set up an actual form to fill out online and skip the scanning process. It can be a problem for some.

Results have been sent in on time for the most part, but the committee is still finding that most clubs do not take the time to submit an overall summary of their event. I'd like this process made a bit easier, so that they can be submitted online as well with a standard online form that does not require any report to be scanned.

To date, we are on track with three supported entries received for 2019.

Volunteerism Committee
Submitted by Becky Tevis

Our Volunteerism Committee has been enlisting volunteers to fill club needs, with the main focus on matching volunteers with the many jobs that need to be done at our 2019 National Specialty.

Going forward, we will be compiling information received on all membership renewal forms to simplify this task.

Ways and Means Committee
Submitted by Kathy Cooper

This past year the Ways and Means Committee has continued to look for local artists that can provide Spinone themed items. The merchandise store on the website has worked out the glitches and we can now supply items year round by online shopping. This past year we added unique luminaries and hand-made ornaments items from Miry Clay Pottery (who also supplied trophies for the 2018 specialty). From the east coast came hand-made bag/crate tags and a few very special silver items made for SCOA by Salvatore La Spada came from Italy. A special edition of Lo Spinone written in both Italian and English sold out quickly as well. Stop by our table at the National Specialty to shop in person and look at our inventory and new additions. The famous grab bags will be available (no peeking) again this year. As we ask every year, be our eyes during your travels and pass along any ideas for Spinone themed items.

Website Committee

Submitted by Bobbi Benson, Kim Vanderbilt, Tammara Morgan

It has been a very busy year for the SCOA Website. Here are the areas where extensive work has been completed. We sincerely hope you are taking advantage of the club site.

1. **Health Committee** – a complete remake of the Health area was undertaken.
<https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/Health> please visit the many tabs created in this area and thank the Health Committee for their hard work.
2. Under Education the **Judge Information** area was reworked.
<https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/Education/Judges-Information> there is a lot of content that not only benefits judges but also our membership.
3. The **Registry of Merit** application forms are now on-line.
<https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/About-SCOA/Titles-Awards/Registry-of-Merit> this is an area that is sorely underused. After this many years, there have to be a much larger number of dogs who would qualify to be listed in this prestigious area of the website. Please take a look at the various options and consider getting your dogs submitted for recognition.
4. The annual **SCOA calendars** can now be purchased on-line.
<https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/Merchandise/Calendar-Orders> this is a terrific fund raising project for the good of the breed and a ton of fun to look at each month. Keep your eye open for the 2020 calendar.
5. **Membership new and renewal** are both available on-line. The renewal form is only available during the renewal period. You can find the links to the forms from the Home page and from Membership. <https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/> (see the right side part way down) <https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/About-SCOA/Online-Membership-Application> and <https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/About-SCOA/Membership-Renewal>
The renewal link is deactivated after March 2nd and re-activated at renewal time.
6. Keep your eye on the **announcement section** of the Home page. Announcements vary and may be added any time. <https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/> Scroll down to find this section.
7. **Titles and Awards** moved from the top menu bard to About SCOA. Hover over About SCOA to see the list of items available under there and at Titles and Awards when you hover there, you will see an additional list of all the different awards that are available to click on.
8. Also under About SCOA you will find the **Breeder Listing**.
<https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/About-SCOA/Breeder-Listing> This area underwent a complete redesign. The old format, while somewhat eye catching was not necessarily user friendly when it came to searching for breeders or adding/deleting a breeder. In the new design every state is listed and when selected will open and either show the breeders listed there are state there are currently no breeders listed.
9. The **National Specialty website** was designed and is being used for the 2019 NS information.
<https://specialty.spinoneclubofamerica.com/> this was a major undertaking but will allow us consistency from year to year when posting NS information.
10. The **NS Specialty Store** links from this site.
<https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/Merchandise/National-Specialty/c/national-specialty>
this allows on-line registration/participation and payments for Trophy sponsorship, Event Registration, RV Registration, Merchandise, and Grooming space reservations. Once order deadlines pass the items are marked 'Out of Stock'

11. The **Photo Contest** allowed for on-line payment of photo submissions this year for the first time. The deadline has passed now but this make another way to pay for Calendar Photo Contest entries. <https://specialty.spinoneclubofamerica.com/Seminars/Photo-Contest> Photos are still mailed to the Calendar Committee by snail mail. This method allows for everyone attending the NS to see the photo board and vote for their favorites. Pretty cool project.
12. The **Members Only** area has new information added to it regularly, especially in the area of Board minutes and quarterly financial reports. Don't forget it also contains a Member Library, past Newsletters, and a variety of other information. Please take time to sign in and take a look.
13. We were even able to allow Top 20 for the NS to be completed and paid for on-line. <https://www.spinoneclubofamerica.com/National-Speciality/Top-20-Registration> this is another area where the deadline has past so the form is currently not visible but it can now be available any time a Top 20 event is offered at future NS events.

As you can see it has been a big year for the website. A lot of changes were made to improve your experience when using the site. Routine updates are made on a regular basis and member assistance is one of the things we handle fairly frequently.

Remember to sign in to the members only area your sign in is firstname.lastname and then your chosen password. This area is case sensitive.

If you have questions, issues, or suggestions regarding the website you may contact us at SCOAWebmaster@gmail.com