

CFODC ANNUAL REPORT

We apologize for the brevity of our annual meeting at Summerfest. We squeezed in our meeting between BIS and PetPAC's presentation of Nathan Winograd. Additionally, at the last minute, several of our board members were unable to attend so it was a de facto meeting to fulfill our bylaws requirement to have an annual meeting.

Before reading this annual report, please click on About Us at the top of this page, then click on Our History and read the background of CFODC.

We don't spend money on a PR firm or a lobbyist. We are, and always have been, a grass roots organization. Our board members work long and hard, almost always behind the scenes, getting the job done with the help of our members and volunteers. Most of us work full time, have families and life obligations as well as our dog activities, so we often meet ourselves coming and going.

Since the debut of AB1634, we have received occasional questions or comments from members and others as to what we, your organization officers and directors, have been doing in this fight against animal rights extremists and their supporters. First, let us reassure you that we understand your concerns and have not been sitting idle! However, it must be remembered that we are all unpaid volunteers, and that every dime of your donations and membership fees goes directly to support and defend the rights of pet owners, to promote animal welfare and responsible animal ownership, thereby strengthening the bond between humans and animals. None of your money is diverted to pay for public relations, or a professional lobbyist, and with all energies focused on our cause, it can be difficult to find the time to keep you abreast of all our activities, and for that we apologize, and would like to take the opportunity now to apprise you of the details.

Also VERY important is that when you send in a membership or donation, PLEASE give us a viable email address so that we can add you to our membership email list for alerts and timely information.

In no particular order, CFODC has, over the last year or so, done or participated in the following:

Perhaps the crowning achievement in the fight against AB1634, was the countless hours put in contacting every veterinarian throughout the state to inform them of the CVMA's support of the bill. Our board members and volunteers made copies, paid for postage out of their own pockets, visited vets in their areas, so that CVMA was forced to pull their support of the bill and take a neutral stance.

In April, 2007, President Susan Sholar, put together and presented a nutrition and keeping your dog looking good between grooming sessions seminar for local humane societies.

Vice President Judythe Coffman and several board members attended every AB1634 hearing in Sacramento in 2007 and continue to do so in 2008. We are committed to defeating AB1634.

In April, 2008, President Sholar, Vice President Coffman, and Directors Judith Brecka and Carol Hamilton manned a booth at the America's Family Pet Expo. Another director, Diane Amendola, helped man a booth for PetPAC/POWER and dropped in at our booth a few times over the weekend.

Vice president Coffman and director Janice Anderson worked for almost two years to defeat MSN and breeding permit proposals in Kern County as well as hosting a rally at Kern Co KC show to garner more support from Kern Co. residents to defeat the proposed ordinance.

President Sholar provided Huntington Beach with a report of reasons and statistics why the City Council should not pass their MSN and microchip ordinance. Director Judith Brecka and Secretary Carole Raschella came to the newly formed POWER group to offer advice, as did Directors Carol Hamilton and Diane Amendola who subsequently attended almost every meeting that followed. All of these board members drove long distances at night during their work week to do so.

President Sholar met with veterinarians in her area on her lunch hour as well as attending some political fundraisers to talk personally with politicians about AB1634.

Directors Carol Hamilton and Diane Amendola drove to Santa Barbara with a carful of other people to help support local residents in their opposition to a proposed MSN ordinance. Director Hamilton's and Amendola's discussions with the County Supervisors were instrumental in the decision to form a committee to study county problems rather than pass a law.

In September, 2007, several of our board members were involved in AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day events such as Paws in the Park in the LA area. VP Coffman and Director Anderson organized and manned booths at RDO Day in Kern County, and did the same at Bakersfield College's Gardenfest this past March. President Sholar chaired an RDO event at her grooming school in the San Diego area. We have three more RDO events in the planning stages for this coming September.

VP Coffman and several board members manned educational booths at various all breed dog shows all of last year and continue to do so this year. In addition, VP Coffman spoke at several community organizations in Antelope Valley, such as the Rotary, Kiwanis and Elks clubs. She plans to add more groups, including Chambers of Commerce, 4-H clubs

and FFA groups this year and in the future, to alert them to the dangers of the Animal Rights movement.

Last fall, we set up a Wildfire Fund to assist those affected by the fires in southern California and cooperated with the AKC's request to handle their donated supplies. The Fund is ongoing and available for the inevitable future disasters in the state, and continues to receive donations from all over the country as well as from state residents. This achievement was made possible through the generosity of our members and we thank all of you who contributed. Since this is a continuing fund, we are keeping it in a separate interest-bearing account so that it is available when needed. Support is needed on an ongoing basis, particularly now with the fires in northern California. If any of you have contact with anyone needing assistance in those areas, please contact one of us through this website.

And of course, all of us worked tirelessly faxing, emailing and writing to the Assembly members, and now Senators as well, who were and are involved in the ongoing AB1634 hearings.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We have been asked by several people what, in addition to financial or material donations, they can do to help in this ongoing battle. CFODC has a few urgent needs at present and would welcome your input.

First, to avoid future lack of information to the membership, we need all of you to give us a viable email contact so you can be added to our member information and alert list. We also would like to set up a Public Relations Committee for such things as press releases and need a volunteer to chair this group.

Second, we need a person experienced with running a website who would like to handle the CFODC site since our present web mistress has overwhelming obligations in other areas of her life and cannot continue to maintain our site for much longer.

We would also like to find a member with the knowledge required to write grants.

And finally, it would be helpful to have a volunteer willing to coordinate our ongoing efforts to assist those in need during various present and future disasters in our state.

Susan Sholar, President and
Board of Directors