



A Letter From Our President

By Tracey Rodenbach

August 10, 2011

Dear Friends and Fellow Fanciers,

Greetings, I hope that you are well, and your flocks are surviving this brutal summer. The reason I am writing to you is to make you aware of some changes with the Dominique Club of America. As I'm sure you have noticed, our club has not been too active for a period of time. That is in the past now, but I would like to express our appreciation to those who have served in officers' positions in the past and extend our sincere thanks for all their efforts on behalf of the club. We are grateful for your time and dedication to the breed. Taking care of the membership and maintaining a club like this is no small task.

A group of concerned club members came together earlier this year to discuss the status of the club, as well as doing some of the foundational work to begin to make things better. Some wonderful ideas came out that and many other brainstorm sessions. In an effort to rebuild the club for our members, we wrote those in authority to ask what we should do. We knew the current officers were tired, frustrated, and needed help to accomplish this task. We wanted to preserve our club. If that could not be done, then we wanted to start fresh with a new club, and see where the members chose to go. The APA and some of our long time members were extremely helpful in providing direction in this endeavor. Please know that our goal is to preserve the rich history of our breed, our club, its assets and its membership intact in one active club.

The first big change is that there will be a new slate of officers for the club. I am its new President, Tracey Rodenbach of Pleasant Shade, TN, Fred Farthing of Seymour, MO is our Vice-President, Heaven Roberts of Madras OR is the Show Secretary, and Suzette Ellington of Prince George, VA is our new Secretary, and Julie Gupton of Louisburg, NC is our new Treasurer. For now, we still have Mark Fields's talent as newsletter editor, but we will need to find someone to take his place soon, as he agreed to

help until a replacement could be found. The next change is that the DCA will now have a set of Bylaws and a Constitution. When the DCA was originally founded, it was more of an informally formed organization. While this was fine at the time, it can place us in the position where we are not sanctioned by the APA as a club. The APA graciously allowed us to “slide”, as we are one of the oldest recognized breeds in the Standard. We have chosen to rectify that by starting off with a new set of Bylaws to bring us into proper standing with the APA. The next change you will see is that the DCA will have a new logo and a new website. Our goal is to present a completely new look to let everyone know that we “are under new management”. I am borrowing this list of goals for the DCA from one of our members, Caleb Dyer of Knoxville, TN, because he summed up perfectly much of what needs to happen with our club.

“1. Rebuild a solid structure of board members, new and experienced, and new members that are excited to see the club move forward (that type of momentum would be a huge asset to the club, especially when coupled with the knowledge of the more experienced club members).

2. Disenfranchised members need to be re-recruited back into the flock. This will require reliable and, in some cases, innovative communication. Once a solid board is intact and momentum is building, it will be easy enough to reach out to the base the club has had in years past and, seeing the new face of the club, re-recruiting even 40-50% of the old base would be plausible and great for the club. Something like this may even become a club goal as determined by the board members at a later date.

3. Club recognition needs to become very important to reach a critical mass of members. “

4. This is one that I’ve added on to Caleb’s ideas. Please come out and show your Dominiques. Our new Show Secretary is already busy scouting out shows to offer special awards at shows for our members. Spread the word and talk with others about our breed and our club rebuilding. Showing your birds gives each of us an affirmation of the effectiveness of our breeding programs and where the breed is heading. The best proof that our breed is alive and well is to see good representation at shows.

I realize the DCA has its work cut out for it at this point, but the Board welcomes your input and ideas as we move forward together. I am hopeful that we can all work together to breed the best birds we can, encourage new members, and educate those who are interested in our breed. There is a movement occurring right now among backyard chicken owners to desire heritage breeds. We are about as heritage as it gets! We as a club cannot afford to miss the opportunity to welcome, educate and

encourage those who are interested in our historic breed. I am excited and optimistic about all we can do to make your club as vigorous as it was in the past. It's a new day for our club, and I hope that you will take part in this transition. Please feel free to contact me by email at trodenb@gmail.com or call me at (615) 774-3117. I look forward to meeting many of you in my travels!

Tracey Rodenbach