



December 1, 2017

Dear SOTC member,

If you are a Regular member but do not anticipate being active in the club in 2018, please consider helping us by switching to Associate membership when you renew.

### **Why are we asking this?**

To conduct business at our General Membership meetings, we need a quorum – 20 percent of our Regular (i.e. voting) members present. The more Regular members we have on the rolls, the more people we need at a meeting to make a quorum. We are having trouble meeting those attendance figures. Of the 235 Regular members on our rolls, 76 (over one-third) did not attend a GM meeting in 2017.

To address the problem, the AKC recommends that we ask our inactive members (those who have not attended a GM meeting in some time) to consider switching to Associate membership. Associates are non-voting members and so are not counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

### **What is Associate membership?**

- Per SOTC's Constitution & Bylaws (art I sec. 1): "Associate membership shall be open to any regular or junior member of SOTC who is in good standing with the American Kennel Club and SOTC but who is no longer training with the Club. Associate members shall not hold office or vote."
- Per SOTC's Working Policy (part II sec. 2): "Associate members shall receive all club mailings and have access to the electronic member areas. They shall not have any other privileges of Regular membership including, but not limited to, receiving annual awards, voting and holding office. They will not receive member rates or reduced fees in any instance where Regular members receive a price break."

### **How do you switch to Associate membership?**

- Fill out part 1b of the Membership Application (printed on the reverse of the enclosed Annual Dues Notice), and sign it.
- Make a handwritten correction to the same effect on the Dues Notice. Your dues will be lower.
- Mail with your revised dues to the address printed on the form.

### **How do you become a Regular member again?**

- Fill out part 1b of the Membership Application, and sign it.
- Bring it to a General Membership meeting to be voted on. You do NOT need to go through the 5-meeting process again!

### **Is Associate membership right for you?**

Associate membership is a way of putting your membership, and its benefits, on hold. In terms of benefits, Associates are essentially non-members. They may not do anything that someone from the general public wouldn't be allowed to do, like keep a crate at the building, have a key, open-train, teach, use points, or receive priority admission and discounted fees for classes and seminars. ***If you wish to use these benefits, then Associate membership is not for you!***

We understand that meeting attendance is not the only measure of "being active in the club." Some members cannot attend meetings at night but still teach, work trials, or take classes/open-train during the day. But if you have moved out of the area, are not currently training a dog, or are simply not using the benefits of Regular membership, please think about switching to Associate status – at least for now. You can easily switch back later.

Pam Renock, President

Questions? Contact:

Kathy Mosher, Corresponding Secretary ([SOTCCorrespondingSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:SOTCCorrespondingSecretary@gmail.com)) or  
Sallie Lennox, Membership Chair ([goldengalsal@twcny.rr.com](mailto:goldengalsal@twcny.rr.com))