

Regional Meeting
January 17, 2009
Parma, OH

The meeting was held during the lunch break at the Cleveland Persian show in Parma. Loretta explained that she want to hold the meeting in Cleveland to be sure that everyone had an opportunity to hear, first hand, about the Great Lakes Feline FoundatiOn

Great Lakes Feline Foundation. The Great Lakes Feline Foundation, a 501C4, is organized in Niagara County, New York. The foundation is owned by the Region IV clubs. The purposes of the Foundation are to:

- Safeguarding the funds raised in the Region (the monies raised in the Region should stay in the Region. The foundation will hold the Regions funds that are not needed for current operations,
- Allow the region to support exhibitors (injured by fires, floods, tornados, etc) and worthy causes within the Region, and
- Allow the Region to provide temporary support to Clubs.

Ron Pastor provided a brief write-up on the foundation that appears at the end of the minutes.

Scott McBane made a motion that all fundraising monies be deposited in the Foundation. The motion passed without dissent.

CFA Annual. Our next annual is 6 years away. Beginning with the Southern Region, the region will be responsible for selecting the site, negotiating with cities and hotels and contracting with the hotel. It is our intention to have cities/hotels compete for the annual.

Treasurer Report. At the beginning of February, Loretta will meet with Chris Simpson to pick up the treasurer's books and go over the income and expense of the Annual. As announced at the meeting in Lockport, NY, Jerry Hamza will assume the responsibilities as the treasurer for the region.

Regional Award Show. The show will be in Canton, Ohio. The award show has been licensed and all judges have been contracted. The theme for the show will be Carnival. John Hiemstra will be making arrangements for ring clerks. Hope Gonanno will be accepting Ring Sponsorships. Rick Mastin and Jerry Hamza will handle advertising, and of course, Wilma will be doing the trophies.

Breed Awards. The Region plans to award medallions to the Best, Second Best, and Third Best of each breed in Championship at the Award Show in 2009. (**Note:** Following the meeting, the Jerry Kithcart announced that medallions will also be awarded to the Best of Breed in kitten and premiership classes). The Medallion will have the Region's Logo, the breed award, and the cat's name. We are encouraging Breed Clubs to sponsor the award for their breed. Sponsorship for one Medallion will be \$10 and all five medallions for \$40. Contact Jerry to reserve sponsorship.

National Show Committee. At the current time the National Show Committee must approve any change in the show date and change in location of more than 50 miles.

GLR Web Site. The show information on the web site needs to be updated. Remember to send your show information to Sandy Douglass at lynxpt@att.net (new email address)

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Chaney

Members of the Great Lakes Region,

As everyone is aware the Great Lakes Region has formed the Great Lakes Feline Foundation. Regional meetings have been held at the Lockport and Parma shows announcing this move.

I would like to clarify our reason for going in this direction. Up to this point, the Regions of CFA operated with a check book. They were not filed as a non-profit organization (501/3c). After 9/11, the Federal Government required that all organizations have an IRS tax number filed with the bank for all checking accounts. Since the region was operating as an arm of CFA, the CFA tax number was filed with the bank. Technically, for tax accounting purposes, all monies in that account belonged to CFA. This was verified by the CFA accountant at a financial meeting of all regional treasurers at the 2008 Annual in Louisville.

Following the 2008 Annual there was a considerable amount of investigation and legal counsel to determine how to separate the Great Lakes Region's fundraising money from the operating funds into an account with it's own tax number. A decision was made in late fall to pursue the establishment of a foundation. When the economy began to falter, we were advised to proceed quickly to protect these funds.

The **Great Lakes Feline Foundation.** is a 501C4 corporation, organized in Niagara County, New York. The foundation is owned by all Great Lakes Region clubs. The purposes of the Foundation are to:

- Safeguard the funds raised in the Region. (The monies raised in the Great Lakes Region should stay in the Great Lakes Region.) The foundation will hold the Region funds that are not needed for current operations.
- Allow the region to support exhibitors (injured by fires, floods, tornados, etc.) and worthy causes within the Great Lakes Region.
- Allow the Great Lakes Region to provide temporary support to clubs in the Great Lakes Region.

Upon dissolution, the funds will be distributed to the Great Lakes Region clubs. The by-laws provide that show producing clubs will receive an equal share of the funds. Clubs whose corresponding secretary does not reside in Great Lakes Region will not receive shares. A committee will be appointed to establish guidelines for the disbursement of emergency funds as well as to establish parameters/criteria for disbursement of the funds to non-show producing clubs should the need ever arise. The Board has put a cap of \$1000.00 on any emergency disbursements to be made. No individual is eligible to receive these funds.

The Foundation has five board members. All Board Members (except the Regional Director) are elected positions. One Board Member will be elected each year. The initial board, appointed by the Regional Director, is:

Ron Pastor, Chairman

Jo Ann Cummings

Joel Chaney

Jerry Hamza, Great Lakes Region Treasurer

Loretta Baugh, Regional Director (Non-voting member)

The Foundation has its own tax ID number. The Region's operating account will continue to operate as it has, using CFA's tax ID number. It was moved and passed at the Regional Meeting in Parma to place monies raised from fund raising events in the Foundation.

Previously there was no mechanism in place for disbursement of Region funds. The Foundation and its By-Laws fulfil that need.

Ronald Pastor, Chairman
Great Lakes Feline Foundation