Finnish Spitz Club of America

THE FINNISH LINE

OCTOBER 2025 **ISSUE Month #10**

Sheldon (GCHS Badgerden's Big Bark Theory)

Photo Credit: Holly Leftwich

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Finnish Spitz Club of America

WWW.FINNISHSPITZCLUB.ORG

2024-2025 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Matthew Davis	matthewdavis234@live.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Kim Raleigh	kimraleigh@outlook.com
SECRETARY	Linda Walawander	barkingfinn@aol.com
TREASURER	Joanne David	joannedavid.fsca@gmail.com
DIRECTORS	Holly Leftwich	hollywoodhandlr@aol.com
	Holly Horton	ajuaqshowdogs@gmail.com
	Michelle Leathers	michellesdivinecanine@gmail.com
AKC DELEGATE	Kim Raleigh	kimraleigh@outlook.com
NEWSLETTER	Joanne David Kelly Vantrease	FinnishLineNewsletter@gmail.com
WEBSITE	Erika David	erikasedge94@gmail.com

President's Message

Hello Again All! The board has been busy on behalf of our breed! I am Happy to announce that our new bylaws have passed our club vote by a huge majority! Linda put together our results and I have forwarded them to the AKC! My understanding is they will now be scheduled to be voted on at the next AKC board meeting. Pending their approval, we can then enact them for the club! I would like to extend a special thank you to John Shaw as he has been working with several people for several years to get them to this point. Thank you, John. I would also like to thank Anita Thomas and although she is no longer with us, she did play a major role in making this happen. I know she would have enjoyed this day with us.

Another major change the board has approved is a change in the newsletter to bring it more in line with our club's needs. Going forward all members will be receiving a monthly "New blast." This will include all the pertinent information that club members are entitled to and need. In addition to the news blast, the newsletter committee will also be producing a Quarterly Bulletin that will be on display on the website for the public to see and perhaps download for themselves. This will help us educate the public and promote our breed. Several great Ideas were put forth on this Idea. It will show case our breed and its versatility in many different dog sports. Another great idea put forth was to include photos from outside the club. If you have friends or people, you have sold dogs to, they

could submit photos through you to the finish line newsletter email. Please be aware though there will be some stipulations though. First, all submitted photos will be used or not used at the Finnish line newsletter editor's discretion. They may be used right away or at a later date, all photos need to be of high resolution and clear not blurry or out of focus. Lastly all photos submitted will become the property of the FSCA. We may have to tweak some things but I believe this is an excellent starting place to begin to engage the public about our breed. If you have questions or ides for the board on this topic, please reach out to any of us!

I am excited to bring all this news to you! I am also proud of all our volunteers who have worked on and are working on these things to make them happen and ensure the future of our breed!

- Matthew Davis

FSCA Annual Meeting followed by Board Meeting
Meeting Held via Zoom Call
September 23, 2025

PRESENT:
Board: Matt Davis, Holly Leftwich, Linda Walawander, Michelle Leathers, Holly Horton, Kayla Aquilar
Excused: Joanne David
Members: Valerie Horton, Logan Jenkins, Pat Land, Suzanne McAuliff, Kim Raleigh, John Shaw, Kelly Vantrease

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Call to order (Matt Davis): The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Davis at 9:09 p.m EST. Attendance was taken and it was noted that 13 members were present including Board and Regular membership. The Quorum was not met as we needed a minimum of 15 people for business to be conducted.

This was our first Annual Meeting conducted as a Zoom call so we were not certain how many would participate.

Minutes (Linda Walawander): The previous Board Meeting Minutes were read. It was noted that the Judges' Ed program would be presented at the Greeley show and that the Annual Meeting was approved to be scheduled on September 23, 2025. The minutes were approved.

President's Report (Matt Davis): Matt addressed several members to thank them for their service in the Club this past year. A special thank you to Holly Leftwich and Kim Raleigh for compiling and producing the Judges' Education Program. Thank you to Holly Horton, Kim Raleigh and Pat Land on the great turnout for the number of dogs required for the Judges' Education. Two Judges attended the program and two non-

judges. Kim Raleigh noted that they all worked as a team and it went well. The next Judges' Presentation will take place in Orlando.

A special thank you to Joanne David for continuing to produce the Finnish Line and for mentoring Kelly Vantrease and Kelly's part in the production, as well.

Secretary's Report (Linda Walawander):
*Attend all Board Meetings, take minutes
*Subscribed to AKC Finnish Spitz Titles earned
*Compile and distribute Membership Roster on a Yearly basis *Send and receive election materials and mailings to the Membership Membership
*Support FSCA as needed
*Follow-through and distribute pertinent AKC correspondence

Treasurer's Report (Joanne David): Checking $5,417.08 and Savings $4,937.34. Insurance in the amount of $600.00 was paid. The Website Domain was paid in the amount of $74.00 and the P.O. Box for the Finnish Line in the amount of $140.00 is due. Incoming received was in the amount of $600.00 for our participation in the MTB from AKC.

Committee Reports:

Show Committee 2026 (Holly Leftwich): Nothing to report at this time. Directors report:

Judges' Education (Holly Leftwich): Thank you to Holly Horton, Kim Raleigh, Pat Land and others who joined in. Great turnout for hands-on portion and great feedback. Everyone worked well together. It will be very engaging in future. 2 Judges and 2 non-Judges attended and the correct amount of dogs (5). The next presentation will be in Orlando. Handouts will be prepared and distributed at the Judges' Ed. Kim Raleigh

also thanked Holly for all of the work that she put into this effort and all worked as a team and all that came with dogs and worked together.

Bylaw Committee: Linda mailed out ballots with 30 days to respond. Need no fewer than 15 responses with no less than 2/3 response in positive on ballots to move forward with the Bylaw revisions.

Selection of Nominating Committee: The following stepped up to be on the Nominating Committee: Logan Jenkins, Kim Raleigh and John Shaw and Pat Land. An election and vote will be made by the Membership to determine the Chair of Committee and 2 alternates. Thus far, we have 4 volunteers and need one more person to volunteer so that we will have 5 members on the Nominating Committee. A Chair and 2 members and 2 Alternates.

*** Annual Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. EST***

****

Regular Board Meeting called to order at 9:17 p.m. by President Davis

The meeting started with Committee assignments for the coming year.

Audit Committee: John Shaw accepted this position. Joanne will provide material to John.

Awards Committee (Linda Walawander): Suggestions from Board on how to go about this. Reports from AKC that I'm receiving and National rankings in publications . (previous formula will be reviewed) Additionally, Linda suggested if a service, therapy dog or another remarkable. Michelle will work with Linda and Kim Raleigh asked for permission to speak and Kim will sit on Committee as well. (Linda, Michelle, Kim)

Breed Referral (Holly Horton): Holly will continue in this position.

Companion and Performance Events (Linda Walawander:) will continue in this position

Judges' Ed (Holly Leftwich and Kim Raleigh): will continue in this position

Legislation (Linda Walawander): will continue in this position

Membership (Michelle Leathers): will continue in this position (Membership Application needs to be change to send to Michelle)

Newsletter (Joanne and Kelly): Will continue in this position

Policy Committee and Bylaw Committee: John and Kayla and Matt

Rescue: Leslie Carlson

Sunshine: Kayla Rodrigquez

Website: Erika, Logan, Matt and Michelle

Introduction of officers: President Davis introduced the FSCA Officers to the Members attending this Annual Meeting; Holly Leftwich, Vice-President, Joanne David, Treasurer, Linda Walwander (Secretary) Matt Davis (President, and Directors; Holly Horton (3rd year), Michelle Leathers (2nd year), and Kayla Aquilar (1st year).

Unfinished Business: Committees: It was noted that if any Club Member wants to join a Committee that they are welcome to in the month of October.

New Business: Matt opened up discussion regarding Lifetime Membership recognition. (Proposal brought forward by Holly Leftwich) Open for debate. Cumulative not consecutive was suggested. Michelle

brought up that our Club is so small and many have 20 years or more in then who would help support the Club with Membership dues? Active status vs Inactive status pay dues or not would be another option. Holly Horton suggested maybe a reduced dues. Kayla agreed with reduction in dues. And, Awards Committee could recognize members as well. Matt motion consecutive at 25 cleared and opposed. Matt made another motion award with 20 cumulative years at 20 reduced dues ($15) and at 25 would go to zero. Kim Raleigh suggested without dues, dues are needed, would lifetime members donate. Would benefit retirees, etc. Logan had suggestion regarding Newsletter. Holly suggested to amend of $30 reduce to 20.00.

Motion to create Lifetime Memberships: Discussion ensued regarding the benefits and pitfalls of creating a lifetime membership.

Motion approved: To Create a Lifetime Membership Recognition for members of cumulative membership years of 20 years with dues reduced to $ 20.00 and 25 years down to $0.00 dues per year. All in favor.

Motion to expand board meeting to include Committee chairs: It was noted that Board Meetings are extending a welcome to include all Committee Chairs. This subject was opened to discussion. Chairs could give report at beginning of meeting or stay if they would want to stay.

Motion: to expand the Board Meetings to Committee Chairs. Committee Chairs are welcome and if staying for Board will need to ask to speak. All thought that this is a great idea. All in Favor: Motion approved. This information will appear in Newsletter, as well.

Motion to Look into a club management service (Clubistry): President Davis noted that this is a service that might benefit the Club in keeping records and minimizing some tasks that are now more time consuming. It

is free for Clubs with under 40 members. Matt made a motion to look into this Clubistry. All in Favor. Motion passed. (Erika, Michelle & Logan will receive update on this service from Matt)

Members' Forum: President Davis asked that any Members could bring up any topic for discussion at this juncture. Matt addressed Suzanne to ask if she might be interested in joining a Committee or initiating any Committee. Michelle brought up Suzanne as she has a companion Finnish Spitz and would like to know if she would like to offer insight in her ownership and Members' Forum. Matt asked her if she would like to serve on any Committee at this time. Continuing Education would be an option to delve into or History.

Adjournment:
The Board Meeting adjourned at: 10:00 p.m. EST. Michelle made a motion to adjourn meeting. All in Favor. (Consensus was that this format worked well and the Annual Meeting, as well). (The next Board Meeting will be held on October 28, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. EST)

Respectfully submitted:
Linda E. Walawander
FSCA Secretary

FSCA News and Notices

Dues

It's that time of the year…time to renew your membership! Please use the form included in the Finnish Line email and send in your renewal by January 1st, 2026

New Member

Name: Jill Benavidez
City/State: Austin, Texas
Have owned Finnish Spitz for 2 months
Interests: Open to serving on committees including Archives, Intl Correspondent, Public Relations
Sponsored By: Matt Davis

Upcoming Changes to Finnish Line

In an effort to serve our membership and promote this breed, the Board has decided to makes two changes to this newsletter. The first is each monthly newsletter will be in a "news blast" format, with the purpose to communicate information to the membership.

The second is we will now publish a quarterly newsletter geared towards sharing information about Finnish Spitz with the general public. We will share more about this new quarterly publication and how you can help next month.

Both of these changes will be implemented in January!

Correction

In the last issue, it was stated that Sozin received his Grand Champion silver title. The title Sozin received is Grand Champion.

Remove Watermark Wondershar PDFelement

FINNISH SPITZ CLUB OF AMERICA, INC

The National Breed Club since 1975

Organized 1975

THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO DO AS A MEMBER OF THE FINNISH SPITZ CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

Name: Jillia Barquidez Date: 9/20/2025

Please check to indicate how you would like to help as a member of the FSCA:

- [x] I would enjoy serving on a committee or in some other capacity as needed within my area(s) of interest as noted below.
- [x] I am not sure what I can contribute. I am open to being contacted for specific projects within my area(s) of interest as noted below.
- [ ] I enjoy my Finnish Spitz and support the Finn ish Spitz Club of America, Inc. However, at this time I do not wish to serve on a committee or in any other capacity in the club. If this changes at a later date I will notify a member of the Board.

Using the following list, please number your strongest area(s) of interest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc.

_____AKC Gazette Breed Columnist	4 Newsletter Editor
3 Archives	_____Newsletter writer/contributor
2 Awards Committee	_____Publications Committee
1 Community/School Package	_____Public Relations
_____Finnish-to-English translator	_____Rescue Volunteer
5 Fund-Raising Committee/ Country Store	_____Specialty Committee
_____International Correspondent	_____Trophy Committee
_____Medical Data Bank Committee	_____Other (Please specify)

For more information please contact FSCA Membership Chair Terra Santana,
** PO Box 820 Knightsen , Ca .94548 finnishspitzcutie@yahoo.com*

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FINNISH SPITZ CLUB OF AMERICA, INC

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*Please **PRINT** the following information using **BLACK** ink:*

Name Jillian Benavidez

Address 12217 Forsyth Dr Austin TX 78759
Street *City* *State* *Zip*

Phone (512) 653-0324 E-mail jillian.benavidez@gmail.com

Please answer each question in full. If you need additional space, please use the reverse side.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: *(Check one only)*

_____Regular (voting) _____Associate (non-voting)

X Junior (non-voting) _____Foreign (non-voting)

_____Upgrade from Associate to Regular Member

1. How many AKC-registerable Finnish Spitz do you own? 1 Co-own? 0

Do you own Finnish Spitz registerable with another registry? Yes_____ No X

UKC _____ Canadian KC _____ FCI _____ Co-own? _____

Does your dog have an ILP number from AKC? Yes_____ No_____

2. How long have you owned a Finnish Spitz? 2 months

3. Indicate which of the following best describes your involvement with Finnish Spitz. Check all that apply.

Conformation ____ Obedience ____ Agility ____ Breeding ____

Hunting ____ Pet X Other (be specific) _____

4. If you show, in how many AKC shows do you exhibit your Finnish Spitz yearly? ____

How many UKC, Canadian KC or FCI shows do you exhibit your Finnish Spitz yearly?

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5. If you breed, how many litters of Finnish Spitz have you bred? — Co-bred? _____
6. Describe your experience in breeding, training or showing Finnish Spitz.

7. List any dog clubs or organizations to which you belong: — Barn Hunt club (Whiskers in NY)

8. What other purebred dogs do you own? None How many? _____

Wondershare PDFelement

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9. Please explain your reason(s) for applying for membership in the FSCA:
I have my first Finnish Spitz

10. What is your experience and exposure in (to) the dog world?
Decades of dog (pet) ownership, barn hunt/FASTCAT, scentwork

11. List your occupation or other abilities/talents that could contribute to the well-being of the FSCA: Experience running clubs, publishing papers, animal-embryologist/genetics

12. Have you ever been suspended by the American Kennel Club? No (if yes, please explain)

13. Have you ever been denied membership to any breed clubs? No (if yes, please explain)

I hereby apply for membership in the Finnish Spitz Club of America, Inc. and agree to abide by its Constitution, By-laws and Code of Ethics and by the rules of the American Kennel Club.

Signature of Applicant — Jillian Benavidez *Print Name* — 9/20/25 *Date*

Dues:
$30.00 per year for REGULAR MEMBERSHIP
$20.00 per year for ASSOCIATE or JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP
$40.00 per year (US) for FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP (hardcopy newsletter)
$20.00 per year (US) for FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP (electronic newsletter)

Note: Applications may not be voted on for up to three months. New members approved by the Board before August 1 are responsible for a full year's dues. New members approved between August 1 and December 31 pay 1/2 year's dues.

Applicants must submit all completed forms (Application, Indemnification and Code of Ethics) with the appropriate dues payment (checks made payable to the Finnish Spitz Club of America). Mail to Membership Chair:

Linda Walawander
4604 State Route 3
Fulton, NY 13069

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FINNISH SPITZ CLUB OF AMERICA, INC

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MEMBERSHIP INDEMNIFICATION FORM

I hereby apply for membership in the Finnish Spitz Club of America, Inc. (hereinafter "FSCA"). I recognize that FSCA is an incorporated private nonprofit club. I agree to abide by FSCA's Constitution, By-laws, rules and regulations, and shall subscribe to its Code of Ethics. Regarding all activities relating to my membership in FSCA, including any charges of misconduct that may be preferred against me by another FSCA member, I acknowledge and accept jurisdiction of the FSCA Board of Directors as the body designated to manage the affairs of FSCA and resolve any disciplinary actions, pursuant to the Club's Constitution and By-laws.

In consideration of being granted membership in FSCA, I hereby agree to hold harmless and indemnify FSCA, its Officers and Board of Directors, from any demands, court costs, and attorney's fees and all other expenses incurred in defense of any action brought on my behalf, singularly or in conjunction with others, and against FSCA, its Officers and Board of Directors, and upon which I prove unsuccessful upon the merits.

Additionally, in consideration of being granted membership in FSCA, I hereby discharge and agree to hold harmless and indemnify each individual officer, member of the Board of Directors, and member of any Trial Board duly appointed by the Board of Directors, regarding any reasonable action taken by them in their designated corporate capacities from any and all liability, claims, demands, court costs, attorney's fees, and any other expenses arising from any action against any of them which I may bring, or which is brought on my behalf, singularly or in conjunction with others, and upon which I prove unsuccessful upon the merits.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, AND FREELY AND WILLINGLY CONSENT TO ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Jillian Benavidez — *Signature*

10/20/25 — *Date*

Please print or type:

Name Jillian Benavidez

Address 12217 Forsythe Dr

City Austin State Texas Zip 78759

Phone (512) 653-0324 E-mail JILLIAN.BENAVIDEZ@gmail.com

(This form must be completed and signed. Incomplete forms will be returned.)

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FINNISH SPITZ CLUB OF AMERICA, INC

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CODE OF ETHICS

In order to promote the highest ideals among Finnish Spitz owners and breeders, and to aim for the continuous improvement of the breed within the framework of the official breed standard, I pledge that:

1. I will follow the rules of good sportsmanship in all Finnish Spitz competition and activities.

2. I will fully explain to all prospective Finnish Spitz purchasers the disadvantages as well as the advantages of owning a Finnish Spitz.

3. I will attempt to help and befriend novice exhibitors and breeders.

4. I will keep well informed in the field of genetics and will work persistently to eliminate hereditary defects from the breed.

5. I will, before entering into any breeding agreement, carefully analyze the conformations and the pedigrees of the prospective sire and dam, and, keeping the breed standard clearly in mind, refuse the mating if in my opinion it will not be in the best interest of the breed. If I deny stud service, I will fully explain my reasons to the owner of the bitch.

6. I will refuse to deal with dog wholesalers or to sell puppies or dogs to pet shops, and will include in all stud contracts an agreement to be signed by the owner of the bitch that no puppies resulting from the mating will be wholesaled or sold to pet shops.

Signature *Date* 10/20/26

New Memberships

Per the By-Laws, new FSCA membership applicant/s profile/s will appear in two consecutive months of THE FINNISH LINE prior to a vote by the Board.

Please send completed forms to:

Michelle Leathers
820 W. Van Buren St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Website Photos Wanted!

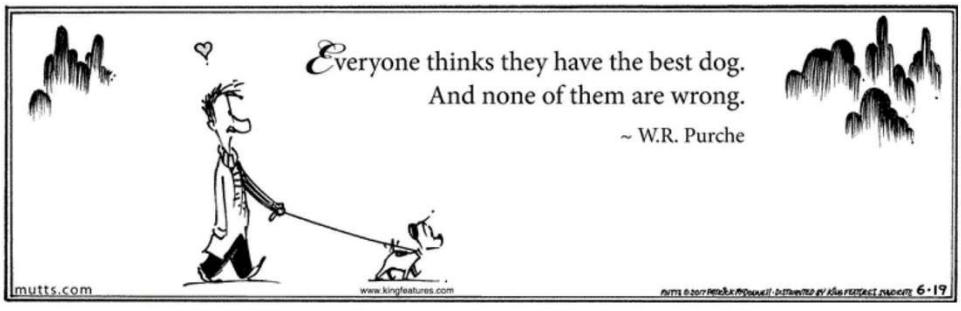
Criteria: No Show/Win photos
Pet/Fun/Candid photos only
High resolution is a must

Email photos to: FinnishLineNewsletter@gmail.com
Subject line: Website

Newsletter

Send photos, news, brag photos, title photos, litter announcements, dedications to that special Finnish Spitz who crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Suggestions for cover photo, or suggestions in general welcome.

Email to: FinnishLineNewsletter@gmail.com No later than the 5th of the month.



2026 Dues Renewal

*This form must be completed by each individual FSCA member in a household and returned to the Treasurer on or before January 1, 2026 with the appropriate payment.***

Please Print

Name_____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please indicate if there are any changes to any of the following by checking the box(es) below:

☐ Name ☐ Address ☐ Telephone # ☐ e-mail address ☐ Membership type

Regular Membership	**$30.00/year**	**$** _____
Junior Membership	**$12.00/year**	**$** _____
Associate Membership	**$20.00/year**	**$** _____
Foreign Membership	**$20.00/year**	**$** _____
20+ yr Membership	**$20.00/year**	**$** _____
25+ yr Membership	**$ 0.00/year**	**$** _____
Convenience Charge for hard copy of Newsletter mailed via USPS	**$25.00/year**	**$** _____
Donation for 2026 Specialty	**☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $_____**	**$** _____
Donation to FSCA General Fund	.....	**$** _____
Total	.....	**$** _____

Mail payment and this form to: Joanne David, Treasurer
314 S. 7th St – PMB 214
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Pursuant to FSCA By-Laws Article II, Section 6 (a) I hereby authorize electronic notification of all club communications and release FSCA from any liability should such notification be received late or not received due to circumstances beyond club control.

Signature_____ Date_____

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE AS OF JANUARY 2nd, 2026

****A member will be considered as lapsed if his/her dues remain unpaid after February 1st. If dues remain unpaid through February 28th, the membership is automatically terminated**

AKC News and Notices

Sheldon

I don't even know where to begin, but...
INTRODUCING THE ALL TIME BEST IN SHOW WINNING FINNISH SPITZ! 🎉🏆

Sheldon started his career by taking Winners at the national as a puppy followed by taking BREED the next year's national, making him the youngest dog to do so.

Since then, it's been a fun and crazy ride with several more nationals – wins in Orlando and Westminster. After only occasionally showing the past couple of years, and as his career winds down, my heart feels complete looking back. I will still spot show him on occasion as well as in veterans competition (He's 😎. I'm so proud to be the breeder/owner/handler of this spectacular dog! Thank you to judge Dana Cline for the group 1 and judge Jean Nelson for BEST! ❤️🤍💙

Also, the BIGGEST THANK YOU to my mom Michelle Badger. We have been in this together from them beginning of our finkies 22 years ago. Without you, there wouldn't be a Sheldon
❤️

GCHS Badgerden's Big Bark Theory

The FinnishLine

Joanne David, Editor
314 S. 7th St. PMB 214
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Finnish Spitz Club of America 2025/2026 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- November — Treasurer sends dues notice with Code of Ethics

DECEMBER

- December 5 — If needed, ballots for nominating committee (lack of quorum) mailed
- December 25 — Deadline to return those ballots
- December 30 — Results of nominating committee vote reported

JANUARY

- January 1 — Annual membership expires (please send in your renewal)