

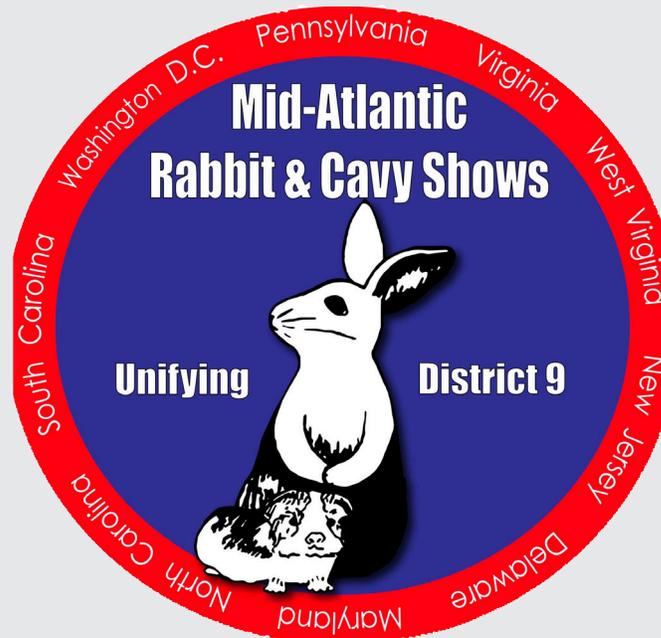
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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-ATLANTIC RABBIT & CAVY SHOWS – SPRING 2021



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – RUTH-ANN BELL

Happy spring, everyone! I don't know about you, but I am definitely ready for the joyful promise that is associated with spring. 2020 was definitely an interesting year. With COVID on the forefront and RHD lingering in the wings, the hobby took a large hit as shows, events, and meetings cancelled and postponed. As you know some within the hobby tried to make some lemonade out of the lemons being thrown around and came up with creative ways to overcome the many restrictions for in-person events, creating virtual shows, youth contests, and fun events for members to participate in so that comradery could continue and folks could still feel a sense of purpose.

For the Bell household, life seemed to have stayed the same and yet changed dramatically. While most kids were adjusting to virtual and homeschooling, our kids continued with school with no disruption since homeschooling is already

the norm.

What we did experience was an even stronger sense of connection as my military career was quite busy, causing us to readjust priorities.

Serving in various capacities at home and then being called to serve overseas from August through just recently, we took every moment together as a family and cherished it.

I'd like to thank Michelle Forry, Dana Bramble and Ally Rudy for really stepping up to help drive the virtual National Rabbit and Cavy Expo that MARCS hosted. It was about a year ago now that Brian and I held several conference calls with folks and then met with the board to make the heart wrenching decision to cancel the in person ARBA convention and show. When I made the suggestion to instead go a virtual route, Michelle took the bull by the horns and worked tirelessly to make it happen.

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